

The Connecticut Libertarian

October 2001

The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut

www.lpct.org

State Central Committee seeks Judicial Committee Members

by James Madison

The State Central Committee (SCC) is facing a bit of a dilemma: we don't know who all the members of the LPCT Judicial Committee (JC) are. This might sound like a bad thing at first, but keep reading and you will see it is actually a fairly positive commentary on the efficiency of the state party operations.

The LPCT has two governing bodies, the State Central Committee and the Judicial Committee. Both of these committees are established by the bylaws of the party.

The SCC has 12 members who are elected during the annual convention. The JC has six members with two being elected during each annual convention and serving three-year terms.

The purpose of the SCC is to make decisions on the day-to-day business of the party such as allocating funds, tracking candidates, dealing with the Secretary of the State, keeping the membership database up-to-date, etc.

The purpose of the JC, in short, is to keep the SCC in line. This could be compared to the Supreme Court's job of keeping Congress in check by overturning laws that are unconstitutional (for now, just forget that the U.S. government seems to have ripped up the constitution long ago and follow me on the analogy).

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School Security: Jumbo Shrimp

Ten reasons NOT to send your kids to public school

by Ned Vare

To the familiar oxymorons such as "Military intelligence" and "Elevated subway," now add "School security." Have school people examined the causes of unrest? No, but to many observers, it's the schools' own boring classes, bad programs, and unfair restrictions that create the frustrations and rage leading to violence. It's unsafe because too many of the people involved are disgruntled and extremely unhappy. Public school makes everyone its victim. It's a simmering pot; turn up the heat and it boils over. Is any type of security available there? Consider the following:

1. Safety from violent assault. Anyone serious about it could not be stopped. The more schools become armed fortresses, the less educational they will be. Violence is an ever-present possibility.

2. Do you want basic civil rights? No chance. Federal District Judge Melinda Harmon ruled, "When you drop your kids off at Public School, you lose your civil rights."

3. Freedom from coercion? Are you kidding? Coercion is the bread and butter of government school. Ask any teacher or parent.

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Thomas Paine Seminar

WILLIMANTIC—The public is invited to attend a seminar hosted by the Connecticut Chapter of the Thomas Paine National Historical Association on Thomas Paine, the "Rights of Man," and the French Revolution. The seminar celebrates the 210th anniversary of the publication of "Rights of Man and will be chaired by TPNHA President Gary Berton of Bordentown, NJ, and University of Connecticut Professor Marvin Cox. The date is Sunday, October 14, 2001 at 1:30 p.m. The place: Windham Textile and History Museum, Union and Main Streets, Willimantic, Connecticut. Parking is available in the Windham Mills lot across Main Street..

For additional information please contact Marvin Edelman and Thomas Beardsley, program coordinators and LPCT members, at 202 Scotland Road, Windham Center, CT 06280. Telephone/fax: (860) 456-7455. Email: frogpond01@earthlink.net

Bylaws Now on Web Site

The bylaws of the LPCT are now available on the web at www.lpct.org. The bylaws were adopted in June 1975 and amended in 1982, 1985, 1991, and 1994. The Secretary of the State requires political parties to establish and adhere to bylaws. The bylaws contain 11 articles: Aims and Purpose, Membership, Organization, Selections (for committees), Meetings, Finances, Convention Rules, State Law, Secession (from the national LP), Dissolution, and Amendments. The bylaws may be amended at a state convention by a two-thirds vote.

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Suppose, for example, the SCC decided to run an openly socialist candidate for office. This would be a direct violation of section 2.2 of the bylaws which states that the only candidates who can be supported are those who “will work for individual freedom and against all forms of involuntary collectivism.” It would be the responsibility of the JC to overturn the decision of the SCC. Like the Supreme Court, the JC does not have the power to initiate decisions or actions. The JC’s role is a strictly negative one—it is there only to stop decisions that are a violation of the bylaws.

And this is where the good news that I promised at the beginning comes in—the SCC operates so smoothly and its members work together so effectively at addressing party business that no one ever challenges the decisions.

Thus, in the recent memory of all those who attend the SCC meetings (which are open to all members), the JC has never had to take action, and no one has ever felt the need to go to the JC for any type of ruling.

The result has been that no one is quite sure who all the members are. But despite the positive aspect, it is critical that we know who the JC members are in case they are ever needed.

The SCC is now asking those who are JC members or those who know who they might be to contact TCL@lpct.org or call 860-635-8334.

Going forward, we will make a point of putting the names of the members of the JC on our web site so everyone will know who they are and can bring any concerns to their attention.

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Jumbo Shrimp

4. Freedom from verbal assault? Sorry. Taunting, harassment, prejudice, etc. are part of public school culture – the unavoidable result of forcing unwilling people together in ugly impersonal institutions with apathetic staffs.

5. Academic security? Even in the highest rated schools only about forty percent of the students are at grade level. The incompetence is staggering. Dumbing down appears to be the guiding principle of the system.

6. Emotional security? Students are at the mercy of psychological and political evaluations and conditioning by individual and group therapy.

7. Drug-Free Zone? What a joke! The schools recommend and administer Ritalin and other mind-altering drugs to kids who are anxious, stressed, and bored with the tedium. If they’ll do that to children, what won’t they do?

8. Integrity? Honor? Virtue? You will find none. Since the system fails in its basic tasks, can we expect it to reach for such higher goals? The system exempts itself from morality. It is evasive, secretive, and deceptive; it is devious, profligate, unaccountable, and arrogant; it is corrupt and self-serving

9. Looking for financial responsibility? The system uses every ruse and trick to take money from taxpayers in order to enlarge its empire.

10. You want local control? Stop kidding yourself – there’s no such thing. Public school is run by the state and federal governments. The local school board is by law a puppet of the legislature and state bureaucracy, hand in hand with the teachers’ union. By letting government run our schools, we’ve lost our control, our educational freedom, and our security. In Connecticut the law (CGS Ch. 170) says, “Local school boards are not agents of their towns; but creatures of the state.”

Let’s face it, there’s no safety of any kind in public schools, for children or their families. What permeates the schools, in fact, is insecurity.

What to do? The answer is simple: Let school be voluntary. Let those who want to be there, stay and enjoy it; let those who don’t, go elsewhere. Let anyone who can teach, do so. (The better the private school, the fewer certified teachers they hire.) Charge those who can pay, and offer scholarships (with tax credits or other means) to those who need help. Remove all government involvement so that teachers and parents can control what goes on. Remove government, and you get accountability and eliminate corruption. Where there’s no compulsion, there’s no resistance. Where there’s no coercion, there’s no rage. Increase choice, and you increase contentment and security. Happy, free, responsible people don’t harm each other.

In colonial days, religion was a government program, a one-size-fits-all coercive arrangement – if you didn’t fit the congregation, you left town. Eventually, that problem was solved by the First Amendment, and both church and state have benefited. The same separation from state is now needed in education.

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Meeting Notice: Due to the convention on October 6, the regularly scheduled Strategy Session of October 12 is canceled. The State Central Committee felt that since we’ll all be together for seven hours on the 6th, there would not be much left to discuss a week later! The normal meeting schedule will resume with the SCC meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 20.

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