



Lone Star Liberty

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Texas

February 2004

LP Candidate's Media Coverage

An article titled "Libertarian Plans to Run in the 19th District" announced Chip Peterson's January 13th filing for Congress. The story described Chip as "a retired Texas Tech. University finance professor" and devoted a paragraph to his issues including "bearing arms, due process of law and protecting against unreasonable search and seizure."

The story also mentioned LP candidate Steve Kirby who had not yet filed for the race, but did so later. The winner of the LP nomination will face two incumbents in November in this

high profile race.

Candidates in Jefferson County were mentioned in the Beaumont Enterprise and on Channel 12. Jefferson County is setting a record this election cycle with candidates running for Congress, State Representative, Sheriff, Tax-Assessor Collector, both County Commissioner Precincts, Clerk, and Justice of the Peace. Also, lawyer Thomas Oxford running for statewide office is from the county.

A list of the approximately 77 Libertarians who have filed for office is available online at www.lptexas.org.

Hays Hosts former Chair Jim Lark

By Mike Neel

Dr. Jim Lark, former Chair of the Libertarian Party's National Committee, spoke Jan. 18, in the San Marcos Luby's conference room, on the importance of third parties in politics and how best to present political philosophy. According to Dr. Lark, the country's third largest party, the Libertarians, offer some of the best solutions and can influence politics even at our relatively small size.

In his talk, and a heated question and answer session, Dr. Lark stated that while third parties like the Libertarians may have difficulty winning political offices, they have historically exerted great political power by focusing on neglected issues and forcing the larger parties to change policies in the smaller party's direction. "Third parties are becoming more important as the lines between the two main parties become more blurred," Dr. Lark said. "A vote for a major party often indicates only that the voter is strongly against the

other party's candidate. Only a third party vote sends the message of what the voter is for."

Dr. Lark analyzed various approaches to communicating political ideas, and stressed that anyone presenting ideas outside the mainstream must carefully listen to objections in order to answer not only the question asked, but address the concerns behind the question. The arguments must be accurate, sincere, and supported by reason, he said, so that the hearer is able to convince him or herself.

While no longer the party Chair, Dr. Lark, a professor at the University of Virginia, still devotes himself to assisting the Libertarian cause locally and nationally. He has served as visiting scholar at the Center for the Study of Public Choice (Virginia Tech) and Earhart Foundation Visiting Fellow at the Center for Research in Government Policy and Business (University of Rochester).

Update Contact Info.

County Chairs, SLEC members, and Candidates please check your contact information as listed on the state party website. Corrections, changes, and information about your conventions can be sent to Laura @Libertyworks.org. Thanks!

Outreach Roundup

Harris County Vice Chair Jeff Daiell spoke to students at Wharton County Junior College January 26.

Montgomery County Chair Ron Hard will be addressing the Montgomery County League of Women Voters this month.

U.S. Representative District 5 candidate John Gonzalez, a columnist for the Dallas Observer, reports that the paper has agreed to let him devote several of his columns to his campaign.

Lubbock Fights Silly Law

Lubbock County LP Chair, Marshall Phillips, addressed a group of concerned citizens committed to opposing a City of Lubbock proposed cat leash ordinance January 26.

Phillips was consulted by the group about how to lobby the city council to vote no on the proposed cat leash ordinance as well as petition for repeal of the ordinance if passed.

"What the Lubbock City Council needs to realize is that there are thousands of Lubbock cat owners who could exercise considerable political clout if the Lubbock City Council chooses to pass a silly, draconian ordinance such as the one proposed to leash cats," Phillips said.



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Mail: Texas Liberty Club & BCRA

Do you believe, as the Founders of our country did, that a foreign policy of peace, friendship, free trade, neutrality, and non-intervention is best?

If so, allow me to introduce the Texas Liberty Club. Our goal is to promote awareness of the wisdom of the Founding Fathers by donating books that relate this wisdom to current events to libraries in Texas. One such book is *Terrorism and Tyranny*, by James Bovard.

Those who support the government's current War on Terrorism—and those who oppose it should both read this book. For the former, the book shows, in the starkest terms, how government failed. Bureaucratic blundering, caused the U.S. government to ignore warnings that terrorist attacks were imminent. Afterwards, it used the attacks as an excuse to ram through oppressive laws (like the USA/Patriot Act) and to invade Iraq, a nation that had no connection to 9/11. It made air travel less safe by federalizing airport security. In the name of fighting terrorism, it increased funding (with your money) for tyrannical nations around the globe that have killed more people than terrorists ever have. And it has dramatically expanded the power of the U.S. government.

Those who oppose the War on Terrorism, will find the book confirms everything you fear is true. This war is one of the greatest threats to freedom the United States has ever faced. It threatens our economic liberty, our civil liberties, and our long-term security. In *Terrorism and Tyranny*, Bovard doesn't make assertions. He proves them with a barrage of (foot-noted) anecdotes, statistics, and facts.

If you shop at Krogers, Randalls, or subscribe to the Houston Chronicle, you can help the Liberty Club with no out of pocket cost. Contact Tom Clark at texaslibertyclub@aol.com and we will mail you a Kroger card and a short, simple form for

Randalls. Chronicle subscribers can visit www.houstonchronicle.com fundraiser to extend or renew your subscription using offer code TXLC.

The Texas Liberty Club is a 501 c-3 non-profit organization.

Tom Clark

The First Amendment is dead.

In December the Supreme Court ruled that the words "Congress shall make no law" didn't really mean that Congress should make no law restricting free speech. According to the ruling, if Congress believes that corruption is present—or could be suspected- then free speech may be restricted anytime it wants to.

The Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act—commonly called the McCain-Feingold act—severely restricts political parties and candidates in fundraising. It puts hard limits on what you, the individual, can donate to support a candidate. Worst of all, it restricts several kinds of campaign advertising, including a blanket ban on any advertisement mentioning any federal candidate 30 days before a primary or 60 days before the general election.

Those currently in power are elated—they have been assured they will retain their current offices until they resign or die. The system makes it so difficult to unseat them that they need no longer worry about re-election.

Is it too late to save free speech? Perhaps not.

You must take action this year. Find out who supported BCRA, or who wants to expand it and vote against them. Find those who want to repeal campaign finance and advertising restrictions, and vote for them. If you don't do it now, chances are very good you'll never have the chance to do it again.

For when they take away our right to speak, what is there to stop them from taking away our vote as well?

Kris Overstreet

Check any that apply:

_____ I **will petition** during March, April and May 2004.

_____ I will **host a Precinct Convention** on the evening of Tues. March 9, 2004.

_____ I am a **notary public** and will volunteer for the petition drive.

_____ I can provide **room and board** to petitioners from out-of-town.

_____ I am a **printer/copier** and will help with printing petition sheets.

_____ I am enclosing a donation to **fund the petition drive**.

_____ I am enclosing a donation to **support party activities** (outreach, newsletter, etc.)

My best donation: _____ \$35 _____ \$75 _____ \$100 _____ \$150 _____ Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & Zip code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Precinct #: _____

County: _____

Please make checks payable to the Libertarian Party of Texas. Include this form with any donations and Mail to: PO Box 27932 , Houston, TX 77227.

Donations can also be accepted online via PayPal at the State Party website: www.lptexas.org/donations.

Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. The Libertarian Party of Texas also submits finance reports to the Texas Ethics Commission.

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Events of Interest to Texas Libertarians

Feb. 9 (Mon.) Last day to register to vote to be eligible to participate in the March precinct conventions.

Feb. 11 (Wed.) 5 p.m. Deadline for filing Personal Financial Statement with the Texas Ethics Commission. All statewide, SBOE, State Senate, and State Representative candidates must file or face a fine. County candidates should file same form with their County Clerk or Elections Administrator. The form is available online at www.ethics.state.tx.us. To have a copy mailed or if you have questions call the TEC at 800-325-8506.

Feb. 15 (Sun.) Meet Candidate Gary Nolan event in Austin. Benefit for Texas Ballot Access and Gary's campaign. Contact Pat Dixon for information at telppatjdixon@earthlink.net.

Feb. 16 (Mon.) Meet Candidate Gary Nolan event in Arlington. Contact Justin at campaign@garynolan.com for information.

Feb. 17 (Tues.) 7 p.m. Meet Candidate Gary Nolan event in Houston at the Spaghetti Warehouse, 901 Commerce, downtown. Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. For information or to get tickets contact Laura@Libertyworks.org or 281-997-8141.

Feb. 21 (Sat.) 1 p.m.-4:30 p.m. SLEC meeting in Austin at the Cepeda Branch Library, 651 N. Pleasant Val-

ley Rd. Delegates to the National Convention will be selected at this meeting.

March 9 (Tues.) Precinct Conventions. Contact your County Chair for the exact time and location. County Chairs are listed on www.lptexas.org. If there is no Chair for your county contact the Vice Chair for an appointment. Precinct conventions should create a sign-in list of all those attending including their name, address, and voter's registration number. A form for this is available on the state party website. These lists must be forwarded to the county and state chairs. Convention is open to all registered voters who did not vote in the primary.

March 10 (Wed.) Ballot Access Petitioning Begins. Volunteers are encouraged to join our organizing group by sending email to lptx_ballot_volunteer-subscribe@yahoo.com. For more information, forms by mail, etc. please contact wesliberty@aol.com

March 13 (Sat.) County Conventions. Contact your County Chair for exact time and location. A list of convention locations will also be posted www.lptexas.org. All Precinct Convention participants are delegates.

March 20 (Sat.) District Conventions. Held for multi-county races. Times and locations will vary. Check www.lptexas.org for more information.