

Sandhills Libertarian Gazette

A NEWSLETTER FOR LIBERTARIANS IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA MIDLANDS

1985 Looking Ahead

It's official - the Libertarian Party is now stronger in South Carolina than it has ever been before. Even though David Bergland and Jim Lewis didn't receive quite as many votes as Ed Clark and David Koch did in 1980, Steve Davis more than doubled Clark's total in his race for the U.S. Senate. Other candidates also had respectable showings. However, no Libertarian candidate came close to being elected. We made a lot of progress in 1984, but we still have a long way to go.

Unfortunately, the Demopublicans are still running the political machine. Despite all the talk about freezes in federal taxes and spending, there is no reason to believe that real tax and spending freezes will come soon. Significant cuts are out of the question. On April 14, Libertarians all across South Carolina and the nation will hand out leaflets at post offices telling people exactly what we think of taxation and how the government wastes our money. We need all the help we can get. Everyone who wants to help should contact Cynthia Sullivan (798-7659).

In South Carolina, many significant issues loom ahead for the coming year:

EDUCATION -

Despite the 25% increase in the state sales tax (which was opposed by most South Carolina citizens), officials are saying that more money is needed to fund the "Education Improvement Act." One thing is certain: politicians and state officials will always say that more of our hard-earned money is needed to improve education. Where is the incentive for schools to be efficient? What we really need is education tax credits so that parents can send their children to whichever schools offer the best education for the least money.

BLUE LAWS -

When stores in Spartanburg, Rock Hill, Myrtle Beach, and Charleston stayed open on Sunday last month in open defiance of the Blue Laws, and when law enforcement officials in those areas refused to enforce the laws, Governor Riley became worried and called a meeting to discuss the problem. Several merchants in Richland and Lexington counties also opened their stores the Sunday before Christmas, but most were closed down by

1984 L.P. CANDIDATES	OFFICE SOUGHT	NUMBER OF OPPONENTS	VOTES RECEIVED
David Bergland & Jim Lewis	U.S. President & Vice-president	4 (in S.C.)	4,359 (0.5%)
Steve Davis	U.S. Senate	2	13,333 (1.4%)
Cynthia Sullivan	U.S. House Dist. 2	2	2,010 (1.2%)
Bob Madden	U.S. House Dist. 3	2	1,510 (1.0%)
Ray Pike	U.S. House Dist. 4	2	1,431 (0.9%)
Linda Blevins	U.S. House Dist. 5	2	4,185 (4.1%)
Hugh Thompson	U.S. House Dist. 6	2	2,050 (1.3%)
Howard Johnson	S.C. Senate Dist. 4	1	762 (4.8%)*
Wayne Crews	S.C. Senate Dist. 10	1	71 (0.4%)
Steve Vandervelde	S.C. Senate Dist. 21	3	183 (1.3%)
Jan Chapman	S.C. Senate Dist. 23	3	298 (1.2%)
Ron Heaton	S.C. Senate Dist. 25	2	246 (1.1%)
Mitch Olinger	S.C. Senate Dist. 29	1	845 (6.7%)
John Compton	S.C. House Dist. 13	1	427 (7.2%)
Bill Griffin	S.C. House Dist. 88	2	148 (2.0%)
Mary Lou Seymour	Aiken Co. Council Dist. 3	2	121 (3.2%)
Tony Thomas	Florence Co. Treas.	1	1,250 (5.0%)

*Johnson's name was omitted from ballot in Abbeville County.

Richland County Sheriff Frank Powell and Columbia city police. Several persons were arrested, and one store owner spent the night in jail. According to Tom Mosely (the jailed clothing merchant), allowing clothing to be sold on Sundays would help the state's textile industry. However, according to Sheriff Powell, "If we were to decide...not to enforce the Blue Laws, what about prostitution, gambling, and so on? We must enforce the laws as they are, and I intend to do it."

Libertarians have spoken out against these absurd laws for years. Fortunately, their days seem numbered.

TEXTILE IMPORTS & AGRICULTURE -

South Carolina's textile industries are clamoring for import restrictions to protect them from foreign competition. Apparently, they don't mind forcing American consumers to pay more for clothing, and they don't mind destroying thousands of jobs in other industries. Farmers will be seriously harmed if imports are restricted, for other countries will cut their imports of American grain and soybeans. A decline of \$1 billion in agricultural exports means a loss of 25,000 jobs.

The real way to help the textile industries is to deregulate them and to abolish the Blue Laws.

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DRINKING AGE -

As the legal drinking age continues to go up, Libertarians wonder where it will stop. If 21 is good, then why isn't 31 even better? Some persons even want to outlaw Happy Hour.

As long as attention is focused on persons other than drunk drivers, hundreds of persons will continue being killed and injured on the roads. We need fewer laws, and drunk drivers need to be punished and forced to pay restitution to their victims.

UTILITY MONOPOLIES -

Ma Bell is already calling for higher phone rates, and power companies will do the same soon. S.C.E. & G. wants for consumers to pay for white elephants such as the V.C. Summer nuclear plant. Municipal governments are challenging the authority of the "Public Service Commission" to decide who provides power to newly annexed areas. Why not let individual consumers decide?

Libertarians have preached deregulation for years. How long will it take for people to realize that coercive monopolies are not cost-effective? There are competing power services in Lubbock, Texas. The free market is what S.C. consumers need.

POVERTY & UNEMPLOYMENT -

One thing is certain: higher sales taxes don't help the poor, and neither do higher property and income taxes. Government regulations strangle small businesses and destroy thousands of jobs. As mentioned above, import restrictions destroy many jobs. The poor will be hardest hit by the rising rates of phone and utility services. Libertarians realize that tax cuts and deregulation are the only way to really help the poor.

Medical care for the indigent will continue to be a hot political issue. Instead of finding ways to spend more of the taxpayers' money, politicians should focus on the real root of the problem: government regulation and licensing of health care, which drives up health care costs.

PROSTITUTION, PORNOGRAPHY, POT, GUNS, & CRIME -

Libertarians pose the following question to those who support laws against victimless crimes: If you had only \$100 to spend fighting crime, how would you spend it? Consider the following choices:

- a) Harassing a prostitute.
- b) Forcing an adult book store to close.
- c) Arresting someone who is growing marijuana in his/her back yard.
- d) Stopping someone who is breaking into your neighbor's home.
- e) Bringing to justice someone who has raped a woman.

Sensible persons would focus on d) and e), especially if they had a limited amount of money to spend, but people seem to forget that all the money spent by government comes out of their own pockets in one form or another.

Legislative efforts are underway to further restrict the sale of handguns. Most

A Meeting for Freedom-Lovers

The Lexington County Libertarian Party and the Richland County Libertarian Party will hold a joint meeting on Monday, February 11, at Quincy's Family Steak House on the Charleston Highway (near K-Mart) in West Columbia. All interested persons are invited. The meeting will start at 7:30 P.M., but everyone is encouraged to come at 7:00 to eat supper (go through the line) and to meet new friends.

The meeting will be brief and will focus on plans for activities during the coming year. Former Libertarian candidates will share their views on the current political scene. Following this will be an opportunity for interested persons to ask questions about the Libertarian Party (or anything else). Please come, and bring your friends, too.



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politicians don't realize that gun control laws increase the rate of violent crime and bring us closer to a totalitarian police state.

Prison overcrowding is a serious problem in this state. It costs over \$8,000 to keep one person in prison for a year. Instead of asking for millions of our tax dollars to build more prisons, it would make more sense to release those hundreds of prisoners who have not committed any real crime (murder, rape, arson, theft, vandalism, assault, or fraud). Real criminals should be punished and forced to pay restitution to their victims, but it is wrong to imprison someone who hasn't harmed anyone else. People's freedom should only be restricted if they initiate force or fraud.

During 1985, we Libertarians will try to publicize our solutions to these and other problems. How successful we will be depends on how hard we work, how much help we get, and how much money we raise.

PLEASE HELP!

Editorial

USPS Socks It To Us Again

A recent editorial in The Columbia Record deplored the new postal rate hikes, but there was no mention of the only solution to the problem - deregulation.

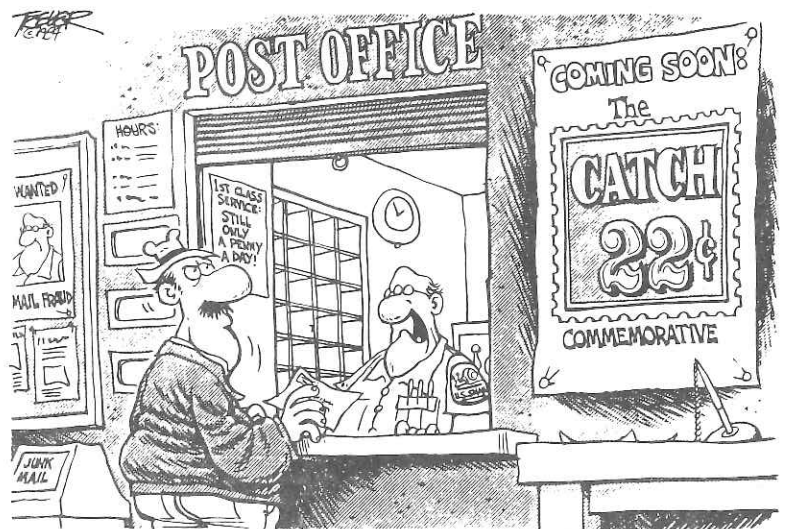
The U.S. Postal Service is a monopoly created by the federal government. Competition is against the law. Even though you own your mailbox, it is illegal for anyone other than the U.S.P.S. to put anything into it.

A few years ago, Ms. Pat Brennan of Rochester, N.Y. gained national recognition when she and her husband went into competition with the U.S. Postal Service. They were able to deliver mail faster and at a lower cost than the Post Office, and their business thrived until the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a lower court decision forcing them to close down.

Surveys have shown that there is public support for ending the U.S.P.S. monopoly on first class mail delivery. Aren't congressmen supposed to represent their constituents?

Fortunately, parcel delivery is deregulated, allowing consumers to shop around for the best deal. In addition, the expected growth of electronic mail will bypass the postal system altogether. The free market has a way of asserting itself despite the intransigent schemes of government!

- D.M.



"... BECAUSE IF THE PUBLIC DOESN'T BUY IT, THEN WE'LL HAVE TO INCREASE IT AGAIN!"

* * * * *

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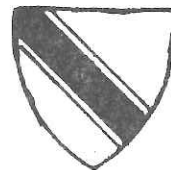
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A newspaper is not for just reporting the news as it is, but to make people mad enough to do something about it.

— Mark Twain

the Southern Libertarian
Messenger



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The Lexington County Libertarian Party is an affiliate chapter of the Society for Individual Liberty and, as such, endorses its Declaration of Principle, which is printed below.

SIL DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLE

Adopted October 1969

As Advocates of Individual Liberty We Affirm:

That every person has an inalienable right to their own life, liberty and property;

That the only proper use of force is in retaliation against those who violate human rights;

That the basic violation of human rights consists of the initiation or the threat of the initiation of force against the individual;

That all proper social organization can only be a consequence of voluntary association between individuals;

That the only economic system consistent with human prosperity and happiness is laissez-faire capitalism;

That the ideologies and instrumentalities of coercive collectivism are the basic threat to human rights and the existence of moral human societies;

And that both moral individuals and moral societies have the obligation to act in their own rational self-interest to protect themselves from those who seek to coercively control, direct and enslave them.

With the apostles of coercion increasingly predominant in the councils of man, it is the duty of all those who value their life, liberty and property to take appropriate action—intellectual and social—to preserve and extend their freedom.

We as libertarians resolve to resist all forms of involuntary collectivism and all programs and activities of government which violate our rights and attempt to take from us the ability to set our own goals and to determine our own destiny.

We work for the day when all individuals are free, and we look forward to a society of peace, plenty and freedom where the individual's rights are truly politically inalienable. As advocates of reason and liberty we seek and will settle for no less than:

FREEDOM IN OUR TIME



The Sandhills Libertarian Gazette is published by the Lexington County Libertarian Party. Ad rates available on request. Please address all correspondence to the Editor.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- February 13, West Columbia - Midlands-area meeting at Quincy's on the Charleston Highway. Supper at 7:00 P.M. (go through the line). Meeting starts at 7:30. Everyone is invited.
February 24, Columbia - S.C.L.P. Executive Committee meeting, probably at the Richland County Public Library. Contact your county chairperson later for details.
April 15, Everywhere - TAX PROTEST DAY! This is our most important event of the year. Volunteers are needed to hand out leaflets at post offices. Please contact Cynthia Sullivan (798-7659) or your county chairperson if you can help.

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