



The Connecticut Libertarian

The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut

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www.lpct.org

Libertarian Party Makes Tax Day Protest a Big Impact Event

Freedom of speech suppressed by Post Office police

Libertarian Party of Connecticut activists struck statewide on April 15th with protests in Hartford, New Haven, and Stamford. LPers handed out many hundreds of brochures and million dollar bills. Their signs frequently brought expressions of appreciation from last-minute income tax filers.

In Stamford, Libertarian Party activists covered several hours in the evening. The protest was covered on



Hartford Tax Day Protesters

the front-page of the Stamford Advocate newspaper, including a picture. This protest was organized by the Stamford Town Committee.

New Haven had coverage from 12-2 and again in the evening, from 6 until 10:30. Activists participating included two candidates, Darlene Nicholas from New London, and Abe Arias from Hamden. There was only slight difficulty with an unusually aggressive Postal security guard.

At eight o'clock libertarian activists from Yale, numbering over a dozen, joined the New Haven protest. Thanks to their numbers, New Haven can boast (we believe) the largest number of participants ever at any Libertarian Party of CT Tax Day protest. We look forward to more coordinated activities with the Yale folks in the fall campaign season.

The Hartford Post Office included eight activists, including one arrested

(see separate article). At that location the Postal Security guards kept all demonstrators, except the IRS, across the street. Since the Post Office itself is set back at least 100 feet from the street, this effectively removed the protesters.

In addition, protesters were not allowed to hand out literature. At one point, a Post Office guard crossed the street and spoke directly to the Libertarian Party group in an angry and intimidating manner. He said that he was well paid and felt that they were threatening his job. He reminded them that one of "your people" had already been arrested and that it would be best for them not to be there at all.

Words were exchanged and the guard left without further incident. Later, under cover of night, two Hartford activists did manage to hand out some literature. Occasionally citizens came to the group and asked for literature.

Overall the city police at all sites were cordial and even friendly. At least two officers asked for brochures, in sharp contrast to the Postal guards.

In preparation for tax day and other activities thousands of brochures and million dollar bills were printed by the Libertarian Party of Connecticut. Five sets of four signs each were also professionally created and donated by an activist. Remaining materials will be used at other upcoming events.

Editorial Note: People who benefit from taxes and wasteful expenditure are becoming aggressive in their response to protesters. Postal Nazis were rude and threatening this year at two of three sites. The IRS was present in force at two of the post offices, and had been granted the prime spots. *It's later than you think.*

Activist Arrested in Free Speech Conflict

One Libertarian Party activist, Richard Lion, last year's LP mayoral candidate in Hartford, stood his ground on the sidewalk outside the Post Office. After a brief exchange with a Post Office security guard, the PO guard handcuffed him and called a police officer over to have him taken away.



At the time of the arrest Richard was approximately 100 feet from the Post Office building, near the road. In his position he was facing the passenger side of cars that were sitting in line, constantly stopped by the activity from the IRS employees in front of the Post Office. If someone wanted literature from Richard, they would lower their passenger side window and reach for it. Under this arrangement it is difficult to see how Richard could have been interfering with traffic.

After Richard's arrest the PO guard tried to seize all of his literature and signs. When activist Linda Rasch tried to stop him, the guard argued that the materials were "evidence". Eventually the guard relented, taking just one sample of the bill and the brochure.

For the next hour the Hartford police were uncertain about what to do with Richard. At one point they put him in a cruiser and rode around the block. When asked where they would ultimately take him, they responded that they weren't sure what to do with him.

Richard was booked for trespass and released. At his court appearance on the 17th, the prosecutor's first question was about the nature of Richard's literature. The prosecutor then informed Richard that he would have to do six hours of community service for the charge of obstructing traffic.

Richard objected that he had not been in the street or near traffic, only on the sidewalk.

See Activist Arrested, Page 3

Chairman's Corner *By Leonard Rasch*

A few weeks ago we had the pleasure of attending a campaign fund-raiser thrown by one of our newest activists, Abe Arias. It was inspiring to share in this event in his home, and see his coworkers and friends assembled in support of him. We also enjoyed meeting his wife Michelle, and Isaiah, their baby boy.

Abe delivered a brief talk about why he was running for office. He focused on the money-hungry government and its effect on his family. He made the need for the transformation to a Libertarian society very real as he discussed the impact of today's increasing governmental control.

Abe is running in the 91st district, with only an otherwise unopposed Democrat in sight as of now. Libertarian activists from Yale as well as a few Party members have promised to help in this race. Abe has an energetic and committed campaign manager, Jose Lopez. And Abe has translated our key LPCT brochure to Spanish, facilitating an outreach in his district.

Abe's district is a city area of Hamden and comprises six precincts. It's very walkable. With any luck, given the manpower promised so far, every household could get a Libertarian visit. That's the kind of grass roots activity that turns into political success.

It's thrilling to see this kind of enthusiasm, not only from Abe, but also from his friends and LPers who are willing to help him in his efforts. Also running for State Rep this year is Michael Costanza, who's race is discussed elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter.

Michael is another promising candidate, having pulled 26% in his attempt of two years ago.

The Fifth Congressional district, covering Northwest Connecticut, is the target for Walter Gengarely. Walter, a longtime Libertarian, is currently petitioning for the ballot. We are planning some Libertarian Party activities in his area, which will in turn lend support to his candidacy. The situation is confused for R's and D's in the area, so the opportunity for an impact race exists here, too.

We now have the list from the Secretary of State's office (on CD) that holds all of the registered Libertarians in the state, as well as other third party (and R's and D's) voters. We will be contacting all of them, when they are not found to be in the Party, to join, and to contribute and volunteer. We will also be able to provide voter information to our local candidates.

When voters cast votes for "third" parties, they tend to do so when there are candidates for most or all of the listed offices in the voting booth. In this newsletter we have made a special plea for you to run as a candidate. State Rep positions are the main focus, and it is easy to petition onto most of them. Even a "paper candidacy" puts the names on the ballot that help us garner more votes for all of the positions.

If you can consider candidacy for the LP, please send an email to political@lpct.org. We'll take it from there. You will be surprised at the opportunities you will have this year for combined LP/Candidate activities and impact. And you'll have a lot of fun.

You Can Be on the Ballot

by Steve Weitzman

In most districts, the Libertarian nomination for State Assembly is still open. If you live in one of those districts, you can be on the ballot as the Libertarian candidate for State Assembly. It's easy. All you need to do is get 50 to 100 signatures on a petition. That's it. The party will do the rest. 50 to 100 signatures gets you on the ballot, and on the way to a memorable enjoyable unique experience.

Once you're on the ballot, the party will support you and guide you each step of the way. You can campaign to whatever extent you want – very mild to very active. Either way, your being on the ballot will be making the Libertarian party more prominent to the voters and will be giving Libertarian leaning voters a local person to vote for. It will also make dissatisfied voters aware of the Libertarian alternative.

Even more, rounding out the Libertarian voting line in your district will help bring votes to Libertarian candidates running for Congress and for statewide office. If you get 1% of the vote, the Libertarian State Assembly candidate from your district in 2004 will get an automatic spot on the ballot. No petition signatures at all will be needed. Your being on the ballot will be an important step towards bringing Libertarian government to Connecticut, and, let's not forget, you may win!

If you'd like to be on the ballot for state assembly, please contact the political director at: political@lpct.org or the chairman at: chairman@lpct.org. Or by phone at: 860 585-8246

LP Participates in Daffodil Parade

Ninety four different organizations, including the Libertarian Party of Connecticut, were greeted by a beautiful spring Saturday in Meriden for the annual Daffodil Festival and parade.

Six Libertarian Party of Connecticut members from each corner of the state joined Arline Dunlop, lifelong Meriden resident and former, (and future?!), candidate for Mayor of Meriden. Joining a parade of diverse organizations from high school bands to veterans groups and fife and drum corps, the small Libertarian contingent proudly marched with the blue "Libertarian Party" banner leading the way held by Ned Vare and Arline. The body of our parade group included Rich Connally, Darlene Nicholas and Rich's friend. They marched with various Libertarian signs and small American and "Don't Tread on Me" flags. Bringing up the rear were Allen Nicholas and Ken Gordon carrying Allen's large yellow "Don't Tread on Me" flag stapled to the front of a long 1"x2" with two of the new LPCT signs stapled to the back.

With the kind consideration of Always Entertaining of Greenwich, Allen and Ken were adorned in American flag vests made from sequene and drew many favorable comments from the crowd. Other favorable comments or questions about Libertarians also came from the crowd and were answered by



handing them the latest LPCT brochure. The crowd had been estimated to be in the 70,000 range for the Daffodil Festival and the weather seemed to ensure that sort of crowd thus providing good exposure for the LPCT. The Meriden Republicans had one of the many food concessions in the large main tent, something the LPCT might consider for next year.

Legislators Hang Up on Your Rights

by Steve Weitzman

The anti-freedom fighters in the Connecticut Legislature have decided on their latest target – freedom of communication. The State House of Representatives has passed a bill that would make it illegal to talk on a cell phone while driving. The bill would apply even if the driver is driving perfectly. The bill has now gone to the State Senate. Wouldn't it be nice if the Republicans and Democrats got their agenda backwards, and started increasing our freedom and reducing our taxes? Unfortunately, that's not likely to happen and it certainly isn't happening now. However, this bill is about more than loss of freedom. It's about loss of productivity and loss of safety.

The cell phone is a great tool for business and personal productivity. For example, a manager can notify a sales team that a meeting has been canceled by cell phone in their cars. Therefore, the several team members do not have to waste hours of company time and fuel driving from all over the state, to be told in person the meeting was canceled. Likewise, if a person is late for an appointment, a cell phone call will prevent people from waiting indefinitely and wasting company resources. Furthermore, an employee can be reached at a moment's notice to be dispatched to a customer site. This allows all services and products to be available in a much more efficient manner. Not to mention, there are countless municipal employees and emergency personnel who rely on cellular communication to keep radio traffic low. The 2-way radios that were previously depended on can not be reached in many areas. Lives are saved due to more pervasive communication options that cellular phones permit. This especially saves gas and resources due to the traffic jams we have in Connecticut. The enhanced productivity strengthens the economy of the state, and consequently improves the quality of life of everyone in the state.

The Republicans and Democrats in the State House of Representatives claim their cell phone bill is necessary to enhance safety. This is the common refrain of those who take away our liberty. However, in actuality, the cell phone bill will greatly diminish our safety. The cell phone bill targets hand held cell phones. Yet, no evidence exists that hand held cell phones are any more dangerous than cell phones with hands-free devices attached. On the contrary, studies by the University of Utah, Carnegie-Mellon University, and the National Safety Council have proven that hand held cell phones do not cause

any more of a hazard while driving than hands-free cell phones do. Furthermore, AAA did a study that showed that hand held cell phones are one of the most minor forms of driver distraction. The study showed, for instance, that drinking coffee or changing a CD are among a number of activities that are much more distracting to drivers than talking on a hand held cell phone.

What Can You Do?

Say NO! to bill 297 that would allow Connecticut to be one of the most repressive states in the country on cell phone use.

The Connecticut State Assembly has passed a bill that will take away your right to use a cell phone while you're driving. How can you stop this latest attack on your freedom? Two steps:

1. Call and write your state senator. Tell him that you're contacting him about bill 297 and that you don't want Connecticut to be one of only two states in the country that has this repressive law. Tell him that you want to keep your right to use a cell phone while driving, and that you urge him to vote against the cell phone bill.

2. Vote libertarian in November and encourage your friends to do the same.

While the use of cell phones while driving does not pose a safety risk, banning such use certainly would pose a safety risk. The use of cell phones while driving is actually a great safety enhancement in many ways. Examples of how cell phones in cars increase safety include the following: hospitals being able to contact family members of a patient in an emergency, schools and baby-sitters being able to contact parents in an emergency, family members being able to contact each other in an emergency, people getting directions while driving so they don't get lost, people talking on the phone while driving so they don't get drowsy, a parent who's running late notifying the baby-sitter, someone seeing a stalled motorist and calling for help, someone who feels they are being followed calling their spouse or friend for help, and a parent who gets caught in traffic calling a neighbor to ask them to meet the child at the school bus. These examples, although numerous, are only some of the ways in which cell phones in cars increase safety. Banning cell phones while driving will cause a safety hazard not only by impeding communication, but also by causing people to take dangerous actions to avoid missing potentially urgent communication. For instance, if someone is driving and his phone rings, he doesn't know if the call is an emergency such as one of his children calling in need of help. He's

certainly not going to risk missing the call. So, he tries to quickly pull over to the side of the road to answer the phone before it stops ringing, a very dangerous maneuver. The cell phone law would cause cars to constantly be pulling on and off the shoulder of the road. In cases where there is no shoulder, cars would frequently be stopped in the right lane, causing congestion, pollution, and road hazards. The other option that some drivers might have would be to try to connect wires to a hands free device while they're driving, also a very dangerous maneuver.

The Democrats and Republicans in our State House of Representatives would have us believe that cell phones in cars cause a great danger. Why would they do this? Democratic and Republican politicians have a long history of trying to make headlines for themselves by creating a crisis and then rescuing us all by solving the crisis. Facts usually don't get in their way. In addition, every law they pass that takes away our rights, results in more of our money going to them to spend. If the cell phone law is passed, the fines will act as one more source of income for our state legislators to play with. In reality, it will be another tax. The danger is not in cell phones and cars. The danger is in politicians taking away our money and our liberty.

Activist Arrested

Continued from Page 1

The prosecutor responded by noting that the plea would be "not guilty". At the arraignment hearing the charge of trespass was also brought. The hearing was interrupted by the prosecutor's request to speak with Richard in his office. There the prosecutor warned Richard against using a free speech defense, boasting that he always defeated accused persons who sought protection on Constitutional grounds.

The trial is set for May 26th. The Libertarian Party is looking for a free speech attorney to defend Richard, who was blatantly harassed because of the nature of his materials, as the evidence above indicates.

The materials consisted of the million dollar bill and a brief summary of the Libertarian platform, in a special brochure created by the CT party. Seven other protesters continued the tax protest in Hartford, which, like the other protests, ran from 6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Move Over Republicrats, the Libertarian Party has Arrived!

We've got a great opportunity happening for the Libertarian Party of Connecticut. We need your support to make it greater!

Our preparation for this November's election is well underway. We already have candidates for a number of positions, and we are in the process of recruiting more. Our petition drive to place our candidates on the ballot will be starting soon. We are developing plans for production of Libertarian promotional materials, support for and coordination of our candidates' campaigns, and publicity and outreach programs to strengthen the party and spread the Libertarian message as we continue on the road to November.

The 2000 election effort provided a valuable foundation for success. We placed eleven candidates on the ballot in Connecticut! The other third parties ran only three candidates. Our most successful candidate, Michael Costanza, received 26% of the vote in a three-way race for State Assembly in the 43rd district. Michael Costanza is running again this year. He provides the Libertarian Party with an exciting opportunity to achieve election to state office.

The task ahead of us this year will require much work and money, but will be well worthwhile. Volunteers do much of the work. We always need volunteers, and a small commitment of time can yield great results. Furthermore, it may be necessary to hire paid petitioners in order to ensure that all of our candidates are placed on the ballot. The cost of promotions, advertising, and marketing will be significant. We ask for your help in bringing the Libertarian message to Connecticut. Any contribution you can make to this effort would be of great value. Volunteers can contact us at www.liberty@lpct.org. Monetary contributions can be made on line at www.lpct.org/DonateOnline.html or they can be made by mail to: The Libertarian Party of Connecticut, P.O. Box 551, East Granby, CT 06026. Please make checks out to Libertarian Party of Connecticut.

We look forward to a successful year in the effort to bring to Connecticut the Libertarian message of small and honest government, low taxes, and individual liberty. As always, we thank each of our loyal members for making it all possible.

Party Time!

On June 9th, come on out and join your fellow Libertarians for some fun at Churchill Park, Main Street, Newington. There will be a strategy session from 10:00-11:00 and then family fun from 11:00 on. We have reserved the pavilion on the lower level next to the pond. Bring your family and friends. Come about 10:00 and stay for the day.

This will be a potluck event, so please contact Dawn at barryfam6@juno.com to let her know what you'd like to bring. We have the softball field reserved from noon 2:00 p.m. so bring your equipment (or maybe a kickball instead?). There are horseshoe pits, tennis courts, basketball court, playground equipment and a nature trail. Mark your calendar today!

Directions:

From the Berlin Turnpike (5/15) traveling north: Take a left at light onto Main Street, immediately after Bertucci's. (If you go too far, DOT building will be on your right) Park is on the left.

From the Berlin Turnpike (5/15) traveling south: Take a right at light onto Main Street, immediately after you see the DOT building on your right. Park is on the left

Calendar of Events

- May 17 – Tax Freedom Day in Connecticut - the first day you get to work for yourself!
- May 21 – Libertarian Party State Central Committee meeting in Wethersfield
- May 27 – Libertarian Party to march in a parade, watch web site for details
- June 9 – Libertarian Party Family Day & Campaign Strategy meeting, 10:00 a.m., Churchill Park, Newington
- June 18 – Libertarian Party State Central Committee meeting in Wethersfield
- July 3 – National LP Convention in Indianapolis

MEETING NOTICE

The State Central Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21st, at the Wethersfield Town Hall, 505 Silas Deane Highway (Route 99) in Wethersfield. All members welcome.

Agenda:

- Minutes of the last meeting
- Treasurer's report
- Political Director's report
- Membership report
- Communications Director's report
- Chairman's report
- Old Business
 - LP materials printed and availability
 - Petitioning efforts
 - Fund-raising letters campaign
 - By-Laws Committee report
 - Legislative research
 - Fairs planning
 - Convention report

- New Business
 - SOTS CD
 - Candidate recruitment
 - Best use of intern volunteer
 - Presentations arrangement
 - Other campaign strategies and needs
- Adjournment

Directions:

From North: I-91 South to Exit 28 (See Rt. 5 & 15 South).

From South: I-91 North to Exit 28 (See Rt. 5 & 15 South).

From East: I-84 West to Exit 57 (See Rt. 5 & 15 South).

From West: I-84 East to I-91 South, to Exit 28 (See Rt. 5 & 15 South).

Route 5 & 15 South: Take Exit 85 (Route 99/Silas Deane Hwy) South. At the 4th traffic light, turn right onto Church St. Turn into first driveway on left.

Alert: Vote NO!

“An Act Concerning Public Health Emergency Authority” is a proposed bill that is a threat to liberty in the extreme sense. It allows the Director of Health to order vaccinations, without informed consent. It also allows persons with communicable disease to be confined and the place to be confined will be determined by the commissioner.

The most disturbing section of the raised bill is the power that it gives to the Governor to: “take possession of (1) any land or buildings, machinery or equipment; (2) of any horses, vehicles or motor vehicles, aircraft, ...or any means of conveyance whatsoever; (3) any cattle, poultry or any provisions for man or beast or any fuel, gasoline or other means of propulsion and any antitoxins or other biological products ...for the better protection of the welfare and the public health...” This text was quoted from the online source which can be found at: <http://www.ctvia.org/>

This language is far too vague and can be enacted in the event of a public health emergency. What constitutes such an emergency? Those who will acquire the power of this bill determine the answer to that question. Be sure to protect your rights and call your local legislator and say NO to Raised Bill 5286.