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# Virginia Liberty Online Edition

## March/April 2001 - Volume VI

### Issue 2

**Editor: E Tiller - Producer: M Montoni**

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# VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION 2001: ELECT CHAIR; ENDORSE CANDIDATES

by Marc Montoni

Come to the 2001 State Libertarian Convention and meet fellow Libertarians from across Virginia, as well as some of the 2001 Candidates!

There will also be an opportunity for members to vote for a new Chair.

RICHMOND -- The Libertarian Party of Virginia announced this month that its annual Convention will be in Richmond on Saturday March 10, 2001.

It will be held from 1 to 4 pm at the [Richmond Hotel and Conference Centre](#), 6531 W. Broad St., Richmond. This is two blocks from Exit 183B off of Interstate 64 just west of downtown Richmond.

For directions or lodging information, please see the hotel's website:

[http://www.meristar.com/properties/index.cfm?Prop\\_ID=160](http://www.meristar.com/properties/index.cfm?Prop_ID=160)

The meeting is free and all Libertarian Party members or those non-members interested in learning more about the party are welcome.

"People who are current, dues-paid members of the Libertarian Party are allowed to vote at all Party mass meetings like this," explained John Mitton, Convention 2001 Chairman.

"Your membership must have been current for at least 30 days prior to March 10. Eligible voting members will vote on such important issues as endorsing possible candidates for Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General; and selecting a new Chair of the LPVA (the current Chair is stepping down). The candidates will be given a chance to speak prior to the voting."

Mitton said that anyone "interested in running for local State assembly seats should attend and introduce themselves to the crowd."

The complete Agenda will be published shortly before the convention and distributed to all preregistrants. There will also be copies available at the door.

"Anyone who wishes to bring up business items to be discussed by this convention must ask the Secretary to add it to the convention Agenda," Mitton explained. He noted that agenda items may be emailed to the Secretary, faxed to 540-984-4608, or left as a voicemail message on the Party voicemail line: 800-619-1776.

A meeting of the state governing body, or "State Central Committee", will follow the close of the convention and will be held in the same location.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Membership Chair will be on hand to help you check your membership status, accept your renewal, change your address, etc. Party literature will be available for purchase at the meeting.

There will be a Lunch Social at 11:00.

Reams for Lt. Governor committee will be hosting a reception following the convention.

Hotel rooms are available on site for \$69 per night. The reservations number is 804-285-9951.

Date: Saturday, March 10th

Time: 1-4 pm

Place: Richmond Hotel and Conference Center

Cost: Free

# *Please Register Early!*

To speed our task at the registration table, please email, fax, or mail in your registration EARLY.

Please take a few minutes to register now.

You may register by fax:

540-984-4608

... or leave a voicemail with all the requested info on the Party voicemail line:

800-619-1776.

## **Your registration reply should include your:**

- name**
- address**
- email, and**
- phone number(s)**

Pre-Registrants will have a preprinted name tag with the voting credential sticker waiting for them at the registration table. Remember, only Party members may vote at Party conventions. If you register the day of the convention, you will still be able to participate, but you will have to wait while we look up your membership status and write out your name tag.

If you are bringing others, even if they are non-member guests, please copy the form and send it along with your own. We will also have "guest" name tags ready for all of those folks.

Thank you for your attention!

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# **OPINION**

- **What happens to the 15% of your income that is taken away in the form of social security tax?**
- **Do you feel "secure" that the government will take care of your retirement with your hard-earned dollars?**
- **What can be done to "fix" social security?**
- **How much more money will be taken out of your wallet before the failed social security system is finally taken down?**

# Fixing Social Security

By Scott Elston

In one sense, it is helpful to Libertarians when Washington politicians vow to "fix" Social Security. For by doing so, they are disclosing that it is a government program that is indeed broken. Too often the burden of such disclosure falls to Libertarians.



What the politicians don't admit is that they are not "fixing" Social Security in the way that a plumber would "fix" a leaking faucet. They are "fixing" it in the way that a gangster would "fix" the outcome of an athletic event upon which he has placed a wager. They fail to acknowledge that all of the "fixes" they propose are variations on a theme of smoke and mirrors, tax increases, and benefit cuts.

Fortunately, most Americans recognize Social Security for the Ponzi scheme that it is. Few of us believe that the program will deliver on all of the false promises that it has made, and many are convinced that it will not deliver at all when their time comes to draw on it.

This presents an unusual opportunity for Libertarians to bypass the problem description phase of the public dialogue, and move directly to the solution phase.

It is simple enough to demonstrate that the politicians are lying when they say that it is

dangerous to dismantle Social Security. (For them perhaps it is). It is simple enough to demonstrate that 12.4% of the average wage earner's salary invested in a personal retirement account would yield higher benefits than those provided by even the false promises of Social Security, let alone the paltry benefits that are more likely.

We even have real world examples of how the Libertarian model of personal retirement accounts can work. Countries like Chile, Mexico, Britain, and Australia have made the transition from failed Social Security systems to healthy systems based on individual retirement plans.

However, evil cannot be immediately eradicated simply by demonstrating it to be evil. What remains in the public dialogue is to craft a message, and devise a solution that speaks to the natural human fear of the unknown (Few of us remember a time when there was no Social Security).

We must also address the very valid concerns of those who do not have sufficient time to make their own retirement preparations. Regardless of what is right or wrong in theory, this large portion of the population will fight (literally to the death) the dismantling of Social Security if they have the sense that it will mean their own ruination. It is to these people that we need to say as gently and compassionately as possible, that the politicians have stolen their money. They have used it for, among other things, the purchase of assets that are unnecessary to the Constitutional function of our government. There is no Social Security trust fund. Social Security is a tax subsidized welfare program and those receiving it are welfare recipients.

The only safe and dignified course of action is to insist that the government liquidate these ill-gotten and unnecessary assets, and use the proceeds of the sale to purchase private annuities for the victims of the theft, so that they can remove themselves from the welfare system into which they have been forced.

Social Security is an idea whose time has come and gone. Americans have realized it will not work and, much to the chagrin of the politicians, they are seeking Libertarian alternatives. Another crack has formed in the very foundation of American statism. Patience, ladies and gentlemen, we grow stronger every day.

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***Scott Elston is the Treasurer of the Libertarian Party of Virginia.***

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# The Biggest Pyramid Scheme

By Ben Malisow

We Americans tolerate some fairly inane - albeit creative - interpretations of justifiable capitalist practices: telemarketing, Ponzi (pyramid) schemes, multi-level marketing enterprises (MLM), pet embalming, etc. The grandest and most clever of these has been, without question, the Social Security system of the United States. Take a fairly basic premise: at any given point in time, there will be more persons in the workforce than there were one generation prior. Add an emotional appeal - the former workers who laid the foundation for the current crop deserve some sort of sustenance in their waning years. *Walah*, you've got a simple means of transferring wealth from one group to the other in a seemingly-non-intrusive and non-cumbersome manner.

It's not an altogether bad idea. Which is to say, the intent is far from evil, and spreads the burden quasi-evenly across the providers, giving the recipients just as even a return, with the promise that the former will become the latter at a certain future date. It just doesn't work. Mathematically or practically.

There was probably a time when Social Security made sense, as it was the only humane way of accomplishing something that needed doing (requiring that Americans provide for their neighbors who could not do so for themselves), and, at least on paper, did so without visible detriment to any involved. But, like so many well-intentioned social programs, this one failed to take any use of foresight into account.

Maybe that's not a fair assessment -- even reasonable people could not have predicted the phenomenally dramatic increase in health care technology and science that we currently have at our disposal. However, the idea of forcibly taking from one group and giving to another is not completely fair, either, so I think it's safe to make the previous assertion.

So Social Security, in effect a Death Lotto, has been overtaken by events. As the older generation of Baby Boomers moves confidently out of the workplace, Gen X is left to shoulder the burden. Unfortunately, instead of the ratio of ten workers to one retiree that the system was designed to facilitate, we are facing a 2:1 measure. Pin the blame where you will: medicine for keeping folks alive much longer than heretofore expected, the Me Generation for steadfastly taking care of themselves (as everyone figured they would) and not having as many kids (as nobody did), or the world and Congress for not providing a tidal wave influx of employable-age immigrants ready to pick up the slack.

Wherever the blame, the result is the same -- we can't afford Social Security.

Oh, it's already started to slip; just a couple years back, Gen Xers were told that they won't be getting benefits at the same age their elders did, that they'd have to wait (and work) a couple more years. But it's probably a foregone conclusion that nobody currently in the 22-35 age group will be getting any Social Security checks -- from a realistic standpoint, it's just not feasible.

So now what? Where do we go from here? Should we keep on dropping coins in a bottomless bucket and hope the problem solves itself? Should we try further modifications to the failing pyramid (like, say, continuing to push the recipient age back further until we find some sort of parity between the actuarial tables of American life expectancy and taxable production base, until the four living mummies who are 127 years old in the year 2067 are the only ones getting Social Security)?

Or do we just ditch the whole thing, cash out our chips and call it a day?

The last option is probably the most unfair in an unfair paradigm. The folks who have been paying in for all these years should, in fact, get some return, paltry as that may be.

So here's a suggestion we could probably all live (although not be entirely happy) with: recognize the failure and append the travesty to minimize the damage. Anyone over 40 gets their payments found in the regularly-scheduled program, with the caveat that there will be no cost-of-living increases or proportional additions further down the line -- you get what you gave, sorry, no substitutions. Anyone 40 and under gets an option (as they're the ones footing the bill): either continue paying at the same rate with the (feeble) hope of some return at some point, according to the rules of the current system; or continue paying at the current rate until age 40 with no chance of getting even Dime One back, but with the guarantee that none of their income earned after their 40th birthdays will have any Social Security deductions extracted or imposed.

It's a pretty rough plan, on the face of it, and a bitter pill (bill?) to swallow. But I think all parties involved (i.e., all of us) could come to terms with it and grudgingly accept it, eventually. The seniors get the solace of some form of safety net, sparse and shaky as it may seem, but set in stone to alleviate some bit of concern for their future years. The youngsters get a light at the end of the tunnel -- and a pretty darned bright one at that. Ages 35-55 are allegedly the Prime Earning Years, and sacrificing the first five for the hope of a SSA-deduction-free final 15 is a pretty promising trade-off. (And, heck, we're working a lot longer in our longer lives, too, so anything after age 40 would be free of that particular burden, and a boon to those facing the prospect of hefty prescriptions, MRIs, dialysis, etc.). Is it nice? No. Does it sound good? Not particularly. Is it fair? Nope. But it might be the only shot we've got at avoiding the risk of disenfranchising and burdening the current work force to the point where they simply can't haul it anymore. A lot of empty-nesters were shocked and appalled to find their Gen Xers moving back into the family home in their mid-twenties as a way of mitigating skyrocketing costs and "getting back on their feet." A good many more might be alarmed -- to the point of inducing that final cardiac event --

to find the same brood returning in their mid-forties for the same reason.

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*Ben Malisow is the Communications Director for the [Libertarian Party of Virginia](#).*

## *What do you think?*

Tell us! Send an email to the editor, or write via the Post Office:

Letters to the Editor  
PO Box 28263  
Richmond VA 23228

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How does government-run Social Security compare with private investment? Check out [Cato's Social Security privatization calculator](#)!

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# REDPATH ANNOUNCES CAMPAIGN FOR VIRGINIA GOVERNORSHIP

-- By Marc Montoni (mostly from a media release by John Buckley)



**RICHMOND** -- The Richmond Libertarians have come a long way. From humble beginnings in 1991 and a brush with death, the Richmond Libertarian Party has made a strong comeback. The group began its history with impressive attendance of thirty-five people, when Richard Boddie was brought in to speak. Then, attendance dwindled to the point where only two or three individuals were showing up regularly. Giving the meeting a new name (to the "Patrick Henry Supper Club") and bringing in new management in the mid-nineties revived the group, and to this day the Richmond Libertarian Party meetings are the largest regularly-scheduled local meetings of Libertarians anywhere in the state.

Just look at them now. Candidates for office are now kicking off their campaigns by announcing their intent at the Patrick Henry Supper Club. At that meeting on January 2, 2001, William Redpath announced that he is seeking the endorsement of the Libertarian Party of Virginia as its official candidate for Governor in 2001.

The actual endorsement process will occur at the LPVA's 2001 convention on Saturday, March 10 from 1 to 4PM at the Richmond Hotel and Conference Centre, at 6531 W. Broad St. in Richmond.

Redpath, 43, of Herndon, is a former Libertarian Party (LP) National Treasurer, LPVA Chair and LP National Ballot Access Chair and led the LP's presidential ticket to 50 state ballot status in 1992 and 1996. He also has personally gathered many thousands of signatures for Libertarian candidates since 1988, including the 1,179 signatures he gathered for the Libertarian Party of North Carolina on Election Day 1996, which is thought to be a single day petitioning record. A member of the LP since 1984, he has run for office twice before, in the 1993 general election for the Virginia House of Delegates and in a 1998 special election for the Virginia Senate.

Professionally, Redpath is a business appraiser and expert witness in civil litigations, specializing in media and telecommunications. He is a Certified Public Accountant, a Chartered Financial Analyst, and an Accredited Senior Appraiser in Business Valuation in the American Society of Appraisers.

Redpath plans a campaign that will be devoted mostly to workable Libertarian policy solutions to public problems and one-third to changing the electoral system in Virginia, specifically, Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) for single winner elections (i.e., President, US Senate, Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General) and a Virginia Senate elected through a proportional voting system in order to allow political minorities, such as Libertarians, to have representation in the Virginia Senate. He also supports instituting Initiatives & Referenda in Virginia.

After the fiasco in Florida and with redistricting and the associated district gerrymandering that

will occur in Virginia and all other states this year, there may never be another time like the present to get the public to listen to new ideas on how to create a better electoral system -- one with more competitive elections and more effective choices at the ballot box for the voters of Virginia. With proportional voting, the voting public would suffer no more with the "wasted vote syndrome" associated with minor party candidates and would take a serious look at our candidates, some of whom would then likely win election to the General Assembly," he said.

With respect to substantive Libertarian public policy positions, the campaign theme will be "Anything That's Peaceful," which is the title of a libertarian book written years ago by the late Leonard Reed, the founder of the Foundation for Economic Education (FEE). The meaning of the phrase is that anything that is peaceful should not be illegal. "That phrase truly distinguishes Libertarians from the people in the two older parties," said Redpath.

Redpath proposes serious reductions in state spending and taxes, a Universal Tuition Tax Credit (UTTC) for parents of students in Grades K-12 to make options other than government operated schools much more affordable to parents and bring the public school system some much needed competition, the total withdrawal of state government from colleges and universities in Virginia, market-based solutions to transportation problems, repealing all consensual crime laws and ending capital punishment in the Commonwealth.

If he gets the nomination on March 10, a public announcement will occur at the convention or follow very shortly thereafter. Bill intends to work on the campaign on a part-time basis until Labor Day, then go at it full time through Election Day.

The Redpath team includes campaign manager John Buckley; and web specialists James Haworth and James Turney.

The official Redpath campaign address is PO Box 5246, Herndon, VA 20172. Volunteers are being sought for the petition drive for Bill and for Gary Reams for Lt. Governor. Redpath's phone number is 703-430-1316.

Although it is currently under construction, the campaign's web address is [www.Redpath2001.com](http://www.Redpath2001.com).

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# *Opportunity for Action!*

by Shelley Tamres, LPVA Ballot Access Coordinator

Two Libertarian candidates NEED YOUR HELP! Bill Redpath and Gary Reams, both former

State Chairs of the LPVA, are running for Governor and Lt. Governor, respectively, this year. But they won't be running for anything if they can't get on the ballot.



They EACH need to turn in a candidate petition with 10,000 valid signatures and a minimum of 400 from each of the 11 congressional districts (current boundaries). State ballot access funds were exhausted last year on our paid drive to get the presidential petition completed. There are NO FUNDS for one, much less two, paid drives this year. WE MUST COMPLETE THESE DRIVES AS VOLUNTEER DRIVES!

We are also operating within the shorter timeframe for statewide candidate petitions other than president. The final deadline is the primary date for the statewide offices (2nd Tuesday in June). But in order to be CERTAIN of success, we are aiming at APRIL 30 for completion.

PLEASE HELP us get our first-ever non-presidential statewide candidates on the ballot in Virginia! If enough of us just get out there and do it, it won't take long. Petitioning is a numbers game...get a lot of people to circulate them and gather a few signatures each, and we're DONE.

I can mail out copies of BOTH petitions, plus petitioning instructions. Just email me, give me a call at 703-450-0218; or enter this web address in your internet browser and simply download them:

<http://reamsreeferendum.com/petition/>

Many of our local parties will be organizing groups of petitioners and places to petition; if there is none in your area, contact the campaigns directly.

Other ways to help:

- Volunteer to make calls to organize places and/or people to staff them.
- Become a notary public and notarize petitions.

Let's get this behind us so Gary & Bill can hit the campaign trail and spread the word of Freedom!

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## ***1ST CD CHAIR ANNOUNCES ANNUAL CAUCUS***

by Marc Montoni

YORKTOWN -- Remember those famous Iowa caucuses, and the world-famous New Hampshire

primaries?

Libertarians do the same thing. Maybe not on the same scale as what most people might see of those others on television. Nevertheless, Libertarians hold caucuses to allow members to decide who will run the state Libertarian Party, just like those other guys.



The Virginia LP's "board of directors" are collectively called the "State Central Committee" -- unbelievably, a government-mandated name! Political party State Central Committees are required to have eleven representative members, one from each one of the eleven congressional districts in Virginia. These members may be elected by a convention or caucus of the Party in that district, or the LPVA state convention -- or SCC may appoint them.

Another function district caucuses perform is to add a stamp of legitimacy to our candidates. Do you want *just anyone* to be able to tell the world he or she is the "Libertarian candidate"? The way we prevent that is this: our convention or caucus delegates may choose to endorse that candidate, some other one, or None of the Above (NOTA). This way, it's on a legally recognizeable paper (the "minutes" of the organization) whether a candidate is ours or not.

Carol Mitton, currently the SCC-CD rep for the 1st CD, is organizing the 1st CD caucus -- only the third to occur in known LPVA history (the previous two being the 7th CD convention in 1996, and the original 1st CD caucus held last year).

Unafraid of competition for the spot, Ms. Mitton invites any 1st CD Libertarian Party members who attends the caucus to nominate themselves for her position: "Don't be shy, I won't have any hurt feelings if you choose to run against me!" she said.

She explained her job, in a nutshell: "The SCC-CD rep duties include: attending quarterly State Central Committee meetings, maintaining the 1st CD newsletter, recruiting new members and retain current members as time permits, conducting the yearly caucus, and asking people to run for public office."

"Please come out to the caucus," she said. "You may raise any issue that you wish at the caucus. Even if you are not yet a member, you are welcome to attend so that you can find out more about our growing party," she said.

"After all, it's free!!" she reminded.

Directions are as follows: From I-64, take exit 250B for Ft. Eustis Blvd. Head East on Ft. Eustis

Bldv. Follow Ft. Eustis Blvd until it intersects with Rt. 17. Turn left onto Rt. 17 north. Proceed north on Rt. 17 for about 1 mile. The library is on the right side of Rt. 17 and is set back from the road so watch carefully for the sign.

The caucus will be held on Saturday March 24, 2001, at the York County Public Library, Yorktown; from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Currently, items on the menu include:

- > Gary Reams: Seeking the Party's endorsement in the race for Virginia Lt. Governor.
  - > Bill Redpath: Seeking the Party's endorsement in the race for Virginia Governor.
  - > All other candidates (as yet unannounced) are invited to attend.
  - > Elect a representative to the LPVA State Central Committee for the First CD.
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## *Around the State*

### *-- 1st District Libertarian Committee --*

FREDERICKSBURG -- John & Carol Mitton started a 1st CD newsletter many moons ago, and it has always been lively and information packed. The Mittons are now moving it into the space age, sending the newsletter for free via email to those who have email addresses listed; rather than via the government postal monopoly. Current projects for this group:

- > planning for the 2nd annual caucus;
- > recruiting candidates to run for public office;
- > starting an LP chapter on the Eastern Shore;
- > encouraging local members to write letters to the Editor of local papers and their representatives in the General Assembly.

[Don Chewning, for example, was published recently in the *Free Lance-Star*. His letter argued in favor of allowing all candidates to state their party affiliation next to their name on the ballot. Currently, only the Democrats and Republicans have their party affiliation listed. Towards that end, HB1690 is currently in front of the State Assembly. This bill would provide for the listing of party affiliation next to all candidates on the ballot.]

## -- *Fairfax Libertarian Party* --

FAIRFAX -- The Fairfax Libertarians met on January 15. Local members attending included Gary Brown, Peter Claymore, Dana Johansen, Carl Milsted, Garry Myers, Rodney Smith, Mat Thexton, Jim Turbett, Marianne Volpe, Scott Wakeman, and J Turbett. The Treasurer of the group reported LP-Fairfax had about \$700 in the bank. The group reports that it presented stellar volunteer and candidate Robert McBride with an appreciation award for all of his hard work and dedication to liberty. Fairfaxers are starting to work on producing a local newsletter; to be edited by Garry Myers. The next meeting was set for the Harvest Moon restaurant. It will start at 7:00 sharp so those dining will need to arrive early.



## -- *Northern Virginia Volunteer Party* --

SPRINGFIELD (From a media release by the Dunbar News Service) -- 29 adults and 6 children witnessed an appreciation presentation for Robert Macbride on January 13. Mat Thexton made the presentation on behalf of grateful libertarians around the state.

[include picture of McBride & award]

Hey what's this doing here? It appears to be a young Bush supporter claiming his place as first in line for the inaugural party.

[include photo of Nick's kid]

## -- *Fredericksburg LP* --

FREDERICKSBURG -- The most recent meeting of this group was February 8; LP member and Governor candidate William Redpath spoke. The manager of this group suggests that those who have declined to attend in the past because they have small children should not be shy -- people frequently bring kids who are free to play quietly in their own section of the room.

## -- *Northern Neck Libertarians* --

TAPPAHANNOCK -- This club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month; 7:00 pm at Roma's Italian Restaurant on Route 17 in Tappahannock. The most recent meeting was held on February 14. Future meetings have been set for March 14, and April 11. The group invites anyone

residing in the Northern Neck to come on out and get involved in your new club! LP membership is not required.

## *-- Richmond Libertarians --*

RICHMOND -- The PHSC still reigns as the largest continuing local Libertarian Party; with regular attendance greater than 20 and approaching that magical barrier of 30. New LP-Richmond manager Tricia Cooke has run the meetings effectively, raising enough in donations from each meeting to send out flyers announcing the next meeting to every last one of the 1100 people on the Richmond-area mailing list. Tricia has been excellent about recruiting the help of her business associates; as the flyers are printed for her for free and the address labels are affixed by the copy shop -- all she has to do is set up the original and send it to the shop, and they do everything else. The barrage of mail is showing results: people are coming back to the meetings who haven't shown up in years, and they are donating and joining.



I'm looking for a great future for this group. They will continue to grow, they will run some candidates this fall (we hope), and they will continue to be one of LPVA's star players.

## *-- Virginia Beach Libertarian Party Formed --*

VIRGINIA BEACH -- The Virginia Beach LP had a whopper of a first meeting: 55 people attended, as did a newspaper reporter and a tv crew. The meeting was a breakfast meeting at a new Chick-Fil-A restaurant owned by a sympathizer. So many folks were in the room it was just jammed! Robert Dean was elected chairman of the group. Magically, all major volunteer positions were filled at the first meeting! Gary Reams spoke about his upcoming campaign, and the group laid plans for future meetings and activities. A petition for official recognition by the LPVA was circulated, and twelve members signed it (ten are required for official recognition; along with a copy of the group's official Bylaws).



The group has a great future, just like the Richmond LP. Whether it will overtake the Richmonders in sheer size remains to be seen. I'm not going to tell you which group I've put my money on, but I will tell you I was a Richmonder for 27 years. Let the competition begin! First group to 100 members in attendance wins!



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# Letters to Liberty

## Chesapeake Council Neither Civil nor Servants

Dear Libertarians,

The City Council of Chesapeake, VA is made up of 5 Republicans and 4 Democrats. They voted in November to do away with homeowners rights by establishing a Historical District that restricts what a homeowner may do with their property. They put into place "deed restrictions" for the taxpayers who live in that area. As far as I'm concerned that is the last time I will vote for any of these SERVANTS OF THE PEOPLE. My next vote will be for a LIBERTARIAN (I already did vote for Harry Brown).

You shall see my application for membership and my donation soon. I also passed the application and information that Marc Montoni sent me on to another friend, and he too shall be joining the LP.

If anyone is interested in starting a Chesapeake city committee, I would do what I can. However, I'm quite busy with other activities within the community. Just to name a few: Chairman, Mayor's Commission on Veteran's Affairs (Chesapeake); Life Member Marine Corps League; Member, American Legion Pound Keeper, Military Order of the Devil Dogs, Tidewater Pound 126 (MCL); Assistant Scout Master, BSA Troop 55; and Parliamentarian of our local Civic League, just to name a few.

-- W. Sarapata

## Virginia Liberty's New Format Impressive

Dear Editor,

The new newsletter shows a dramatic improvement.

First, the larger, more newspaper-like format looks more professional than the 8 1/2 by 11 format it replaces, and at the same time affords more space for news, information or just plain white-space.

Second, the articles in this edition had much greater appeal to me. I especially liked the election results, Jason's debrief of managing two campaigns, and the call on the front cover for 2001 candidates. This is exactly the type of news I would expect to find in an LPVA newsletter. The Ritalin articles did not interest me, and I did not read them.

***[Editor's note: There seems to be roughly a 50-50 split on this; which confirms a suspicion I had. We're going to focus a couple of pages on one issue in every edition, the same way we did this time, but the majority of news will be, well, news. Seems we have people interested in in-depth discussion of issues as well as those who just like the nuts-and-bolts reporting. -- MM/ET]***

Third, the "Election 2001" page is a great way to get the word out as to what offices will be available in next year's election, and I have not seen this before. Although I expect I will never run for office, if I was inclined to do so, this would be exactly what I would need to plant the seed in my head, and I expect there are others out there for which this page does exactly that.

Fourth, the "Around the State" page presented very succinct news from local affiliates. Had they been longer, I would have been hesitant to read them - they were just the right length. I especially liked the tidbit from the Shenandoah Libertarians, on your recent victory. You are following the lead of the LP News in presenting LP victories - very important to the morale of party members. By the way, my congratulations and thanks go to you and those who supported you for this victory.

***[Editor's note: Unfortunately, that kind of reporting will be difficult to maintain. As you might tell from the photos, I attended just about every one of the meetings reported on; and I took the photos with my own camera. I doubt I will spend another month with as much on-the-road time as I did in November-December for quite***

***awhile. I know from many years of experience that the leaders of local groups have enough on their minds just putting together local meetings and activities; much less taking pictures of it all and sending them to your humble reporter. -- MM/ET]***

I have thought hard about your new newsletter, and really cannot come up with much constructive criticism for it. Perhaps you could put some sort of "Activism" page in future editions which outlines constructive things that we can do to support the cause such as letter writing on specific issues, letting us know what bills are coming up for vote in the state Legislature, and such.

***[Editor's note: Unfortunately, when we know what bills need to be hammered, the next issue will be too late. Email is really about the only truly effective way to get out the word on pending legislation. -- MM/ET]***

You have done an excellent job with this edition. Keep up the good work, and continue to keep it positive. I look forward to reading the next issue.

***[Editor's note: Thank you, and know that we appreciate your input very much. -- MM/ET]***

-- C. Eby

## **Ritalin Issue is Complex**

Dear Editor,

This is a complex issue. I completely agree with you that drugs are over-prescribed and should be the last means available. Diets frequently play an important part in the child's temperament. Too much junk food is often the culprit and a change of diet can do wonders to avoid use of drugs. My daughter is a first grade teacher in Virginia - this is her first year of teaching and it has been rough because of two students who are completely uncontrollable, so it seems a blessing if they can be controlled by drugs since their disruptive behavior harms all the other children.

However, the basic problem of the schools is not addressed. It seems to me it has to do with the education system as it exists with its federal mandates and lack of "common sense" solutions.

For starters, the district boundaries are drawn to accommodate racial balance, which means inner city children, mostly black, are bused to schools far from their homes, even though there may be a school next door to them - which happens to be the case in one of my daughter's children. Since the mother works and has no transportation and there is no busline, it means using a taxi

and it is difficult to make an appointment to even talk with the parent. It took 2 1/2 months of daily effort to finally arrange a meeting. It turns out there is a school in the same block where the child lives and the Grandmother who is the "disciplinarian" in this extended household would be able to come over when the child misbehaves had the neighborhood school been utilized.

I remember neighborhood schools, but I wonder how many have? They were GREAT! They were small in size and everyone knew everyone else. Each child was accountable and cared for. Parents were easily approached if necessary, but usually that was not necessary. We always had at least 28 students in a classroom, so class size was not a factor. Things got out of hand when schools got large and a child became merely a statistic. Teachers have a hard time maintaining discipline. Any teacher who has been teaching for 20 or more years can tell you the difference in today's children. There are definitely more discipline problems.

We must nourish and care for our children in small neighborhood elementary schools to get them off to a good start. When there are problem children, there must be alternate classrooms so they do not disrupt and rob the "good" children of their educational opportunities and environment. One bad apple spoils the whole lot is often true in the classroom experience. My daughter has been struggling for 5 months to get special attention for two of her students and the problem still is not solved because of all the mandated federal controls in assessment, etc. Meanwhile, the other children are suffering by learning bad habits and not getting the attention they deserve.

-- N. Dargle

## What do you think?

Tell us! Write:

Letters to the  
Editor  
PO Box 28263  
Richmond VA  
23228-0263

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## -- *Classified Ads* --

**WANTED:** File cabinet. We are currently in need of a 5-drawer file cabinet in good shape (letter size); preferably locking, and preferably black -- but 5-drawer is the main concern. Call LPVA voicemail, 703-715-6230.

**WANTED:** Old computer hardware, W95 compatible. These will be outfitted with Carl Milsted's "Quiz2d" software and loaned to local groups for LP information tables at fairs and shows. Call LPVA voicemail, 703-715-6230.

**AVAILABLE:** Four older computers with "Quiz2d" installed, for local LP groups LP information tables at fairs and shows. No charge for use but you must pick up/drop off Edinburg VA. Call LPVA voicemail, 703-715-6230.

**FOR SALE:** 1991 Honda CRX, 140k, 5 speed, AC, AM/FM/CD, runs good, recent tires, current inspection, well maintained with regular oil changes, \$3000 and 10% goes to LPVA. Call Marc, 540-984-4608 (Woodstock, VA). Digital photos available via email upon request. This car has attended almost as many LP meetings in the state as I have!

**VOLUNTEER CALL:** More spare time than money? Start a local LP group. We are now organizing in every city, county, and town jurisdiction in Virginia. Call LPVA voicemail, 703-715-6230.

**VOLUNTEER CALL:** Outgoing individuals needed to become Precinct Captains for every precinct, including YOURS. Meet new libertarian party members and prospects within walking distance of your own home; help sign up those prospects, help recruit candidates. Call LPVA voicemail, 703-715-6230.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** Monthly Pledgers needed. Support the LP -- help us become the mainstream Party of the century. Call LPVA voicemail, 703-715-6230.

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# Election 2001

It's time for a real change. It's time to stand up for liberty. For freedom and responsibility for all Americans.

With over 300 positions across Virginia coming up for election this year - there is an incredible opportunity to have Libertarians elected to office.

What kind of people run for local office? Ordinary people like you and me. People that believe everyone should be free to run their own lives, and not some bureaucrat in Richmond or Washington D.C.

Look at the election schedule below and sign up today to become a candidate, manage a campaign, donate money, or volunteer your time to spread the powerful message of freedom across Virginia. Wouldn't you do a better job than some Demorepub that wants to take your freedom and money?

May 8, 2001

Town Council, Town of Vienna

November 6, 2001

Governor

Lieutenant Governor

Attorney General

House of Delegates (100)

Soil and Water Directors:

Counties:

Alleghany (2)

Bath (2)

Buchanan (2)

Charles City (2)

Clark (2)

Dickenson (2)

Dinwiddie (2)

Essex (2)

Frederick (2)

Highland (2)

James City (2)

King and Queen (2)

King George (2)

King William (2)

Loudoun (3)

New Kent (2)

Prince William (3)

Scott (3)

Shenandoah (2)

Spotsylvania (2)

Stafford (2)

Warren (2)

Wise (2)

York (2)

Cities:

Covington (2)

Fredericksburg (2)

Petersburg (2)

Williamsburg (2)

Winchester (2)

Covington (2)

Fredericksburg (2)

Commonwealth's Attorney

Sheriff

Commissioner of the Revenue

Treasurer

Board of Supervisors

(40 counties)

School Boards

(35 counties)

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Cut-and-paste the text in this section into your word processor, fill in, and mail to the addresses shown below.

You can also paste the text into an email message, replace the blanks with your info, and send it to us via email.

Yes! I would like to stand up and be counted for liberty.

I am interested in (circle choices):

- Running for local office
- Being a campaign manager

- Being a campaign treasurer
- Being a campaign volunteer
- Fundraising for a candidate
- Writing letters to the editor in support of a Libertarian candidate

---

NAME

---

ADDRESS

---

CITY ZIP

---

PHONE EMAIL

Send this form to : Marc Montoni, Libertarian Party, PO Box 28263, Richmond VA 23228. Ph. (703) 715-6230.

-- end of cut-and-paste form --

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# What Is A Libertarian?

A Libertarian is someone who believes you should be free to live your life the way you choose -- politicians in Richmond or Washington D.C. are simply not qualified to control you.

The word Libertarian comes from the word "liberty", meaning freedom.

Libertarians believe you have the right to keep your hard-earned money, or spend it the way you choose - and would demand that government not steal it from you by taxing you.

Libertarians believe government projects end up hurting those who they are supposed to be helping; and that when government runs anything it is always inefficient. Libertarians believe you should have the freedom to give your money to support charitable organizations if you want, and not be forced to support a government pet project that is doomed to failure.

Libertarians want you to be free to do with your body what you want - as long as you don't hurt anyone else. If you choose to work out, eat right and live a long healthy life - that's your choice. If you choose to smoke, take drugs and eat all the wrong food - that is also your choice. Libertarians think you should make your own decisions, and take responsibility for your actions - and not be told what to do by politicians.

Libertarians also believe that you have the right to defend yourself in whatever way you choose. Libertarians support the second amendment - without the rules and regulations that take away your right of self-defence.

Libertarians believe that getting government out of the schools will not only save you thousands of dollars in tax, but also improve your child's quality of education. You should have the right to choose where you send your children to school, so that they receive the kind of instruction and teaching that you want.

Libertarians want you to be free to run your life, the way you want.

Choose freedom for yourself and for everyone.

Join the Libertarian Party today.

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## LiberFunnies



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