



— 2007 LPI Convention to be held in Rockford, Illinois **Debra Aaron, Conv. Chair**

Mark your calendars now and save the date for the 2007 LPI Convention to be held the weekend of October 12 through the 14th in beautiful Rockford, Illinois. The convention committee has selected Cliffbreakers Riverside Resort * 700 W. Riverside Boulevard * as this year's venue. Cliffbreakers is a unique property that features a walking tour of their facilities filled with dramatic antiques such as big game mounts, a pair of glazed terracotta lions, and the Bronze Boar sitting in a bronze fountain. According to legend if you rub a shiny penny on the boar's tongue and drop it into the water you will have good luck.

Cliffbreakers offers 104 suites on 4 levels and all rooms are equipped with refrigerators and microwaves. The hotel has an indoor swimming pool, exercise room, business center, and wireless internet throughout. Our discounted room rate is \$89.99 plus tax.

The committee continues to work on the details of the convention and will be offering pre-registration and further information as the planning proceeds. As the hotel rooms tend to

fill up very quickly in October we recommend you make a room reservation as soon as possible.

Our headline speaker at the Saturday night banquet will be Michael Cloud, co-founder of the Center for Small Government and author of "Secrets of Libertarian Persuasion". We will also host a debate or panel discussion with LP Presidential candidates. Invitations have been extended to all the candidates. At the time of this writing, three have accepted.

One way we can keep the registration cost low is for you to sponsor the convention as a whole, a speaker, or a presidential candidate. Low registration fees enable many more libertarians to afford to attend the convention. To become a sponsor send your check or money order to our office. You can also donate on-line at our website: LPillinois.org. Make sure to note with your payment that your donation is to be earmarked for the convention. All sponsors will be recognized at the convention and within the convention program.

Not to be missed this year will be an exciting Friday night festive event.

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A Turning Point Toward Liberty

By Jan Stover

Thinking back, we can all remember turning points in our life: marriage, divorce, the birth of a child, a promotion, a career change, a move across town or out of state ... some major, some minor, some the result of careful planning, others simply thrust upon us.

Many members are aware of my mother's recent passing. It was a turning point thrust upon me. But before Mom died, we shared many conversations about the future and the way I could best serve my two passions: Family and Liberty.


Her death has caused me to take a long hard look at my life. And those conversations we shared have made my decisions since then easier.

The opportunity to have served the Libertarian Party of Illinois, first as the 2005 Convention Committee Chair, then as Interim Director, followed by my appointment this past year to the position of Executive Director has been rewarding and I am grateful for the experience. But the time has come to move on ...not away from the cause, but towards a new endeavor that shares the cause of Liberty.

In past articles, I have mentioned the Mothers for Liberty Yahoo Group which I began after attending an LPI Convention and wanting to encourage more women to attend. The initial goal of the group was to engage women, particularly mothers, in a libertarian dialogue which would encourage liberty-minded women to join the Party. The dialogue has been a good one and its membership has grown steadily, boasting nearly ninety mem-


bers with close to eight-hundred liberty-oriented posts.

The evolution of the group includes the establishment of personal, professional and networking relationships as well as the basis for a new non-profit educational organization to be called The Mothers Institute. The Institute will dedicate itself to "mothering with the purpose of raising the next generation of libertarian thinkers: children who understand and implement the time honored traditions of individual freedom, personal responsibility, civility, creativity, debate and dissent." By creating this organization, I will be able to combine my passion for family and liberty and hopefully draw upon the unique experiences of the last 25 plus years - from homeschooling mom to Executive Director of the LPI. Recognizing such life experiences and the conscious decisions that were made during these past years, it seems this turning point, in many ways, was a long time in coming.

Before stepping down as Executive Director, I had the opportunity to discuss my decisions with members of the Executive Board and thank them for their assistance and commitment. I would also like to publicly extend a sincere thank you to the leadership and membership of the LPI for the trust and friendship shown me during my appointment as ED. The experience has been invaluable to say the least and, no doubt, I am better equipped for life and future endeavors having had the good fortune to serve the Party and the cause! 

Convention...continued from pg. 1

All we'll say for now is that you will have a chance to play some games with your rights and if you're good you might win a prize or two. A couple of other items worth mentioning are our Silent and Live auctions and vendor opportunities. If you would like to donate something towards the auction please email: convention@lpillinois.org. If you would like to participate as a vendor whether you are selling a product, service, or promoting an organization we'll have 15 – 20 tables available for a donation of \$25. You will be provided a table, chair, linens and customers.

That's the latest update on the convention. We'll be offering early-bird pricing soon, so stay tuned. 

— An Opportunity to Serve!

With the resignation of Jeff Jones, the LPI is actively seeking a new Publicity Chair. If you have an interest in Public Relations and an enthusiasm for spreading liberty, this is a great opportunity to make an impact. If you can contribute 1 hour per week to PR activities, we want to talk to you. Please call the office 800 number for more information.

— Libertarians Re-elected!

Our congratulations to David Kelley, who won re-election to the School Board in Rockford and Guy Finley, who won re-election to the Round Lake School Board. Another libertarian, Scott Hamilton, lost his bid for the Pecatonica School Board, but we thank him and all libertarians for running election campaigns to make their communities a better place to live.

Advance Liberty!

Become a
Monthly Pledger ...

Visit the LPI website, www.LPIllinois.org and
make your MONTHLY PLEDGE today!



The Libertarian Current

The publication of the Libertarian Party of Illinois

Val Vetter - State Chair

Debra Aaron - Treasurer

Don Stover - Newsletter Editor

Crystal Jurczynski - Webmaster

www.lpillinois.org 800.735.1776

Libertarian Party of Illinois

P.O. Box 1605

Chicago, IL 60609-1605

—What Ever Happened to Civics?

by Don Stover

It is said that politics can make strange bedfellows. I think we can all agree. Richard Dreyfuss might be just such a bedfellow. Last November, Mr. Dreyfuss appeared on HBO's Real Time with Bill Mahr, and went into a rant. A rant that many professed Libertarians were happy to see on national television. He makes some interesting arguments and causes me to wonder why I didn't pay more attention in class!

This piece will remain timeless. It's available on video.google.com. Just search for the words "dreyfuss maher" and you'll find it. Dreyfuss?...whodathunkit!

A definition of civics... "the multiple processes through which children and young adults acquire the knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed for effective democratic citizenship. Civic knowledge and participation are not passed down through the genetic code — they require that each generation of students learn civic facts, explore democratic ideals, and connect such concepts to the responsibility of citizenship."

LPI's New Address!!!

All LPI correspondence should go to
the new party address in Chicago!!!


Please make a note of the *new* address:

**LPI, P.O. Box 1605, Chicago, IL
60690-1605**

— New Speakers List Forming

As we grow our Chapters and our overall marketing presence we are getting increasing requests for speakers. One of the LPI goals for 2007 is to publish a list of speakers available to present on a variety of Libertarian topics. Speakers may be asked to present at a local Chapter meeting, the LPI Convention, or an outreach opportunity like a school or activism event.

Each speaker will have one or more topics they will speak on as well as the general area they are willing to travel to. Topics can be general, like an "Introduction to Libertarianism," or specific, like "The Inflation-Proof Liberty Dollar," "The Homeschooling Revolution," or "Liberty at the End of Life."

If you are an experienced public speaker who would like to volunteer your services, please contact Crystal Jurczynski at 630.876.1935 or Crystal@Jurczynski.com. This is a great opportunity to share your knowledge of libertarian solutions, so seize the day. 

What The LPI Needs Most

by Val Vetter, State Chair

In this newsletter you will find our Executive Director's resignation. It has been my genuine pleasure to work with Jan Stover and for much too short of a time. She was instrumental in helping the LPI through a very challenging time: getting our vendor and donation records straightened out so we could pay our bills and file our federal reports in an accurate and timely fashion. Were this all she had done for the party, she could still be nominated for sainthood.

Jan also became the friendly, available, reliable voice of the LPI that answered many inquiries on the party 800 number. Her easygoing, conversational manner, made her the first-responder that won the party many new members and a few new contributors. In perfect concert with Don Stover, our Newsletter Editor and Jan's fellow patriot, she turned Greenville into a dynamic, fun hub of operations for the party. Many a newsletter was assembled on the Stover's dining room table by party officers and dedicated volunteers – more than made welcome by Don's home cooking. (Hey, I never said she did it all!)

Jan has decided to follow a new "calling" – still centered on re-establishing liberty – but even better suited to her situation and life experience. Though Jan's resignation is a loss for the LPI, we wish her success in her new liberty-oriented activities.

The ED's duties have been divided and assumed by party officers. Phone calls now come directly to me; "snail mail" is handled by our Treasurer; and our Webmaster has streamlined web inquiries and e-mail forwarding to route these directly to the correct officer. The only activity formerly handled by the ED that the party will continue to pay for is the outgoing communication on the LP-Illinois-News Yahoo group. These duties have been assumed by our Webmaster and are paid on a contract administrative duties basis. I suppose one good thing that comes out of Jan's stepping down is that the LPI Executive Board is continuing to find ways to save money as our administrative tasks are reduced, eliminated, or assumed by volunteers.

Unfortunately, Jan's loss exacerbates an already serious problem affecting the LPI: Not enough people to perform the duties of the party.

Jeff Jones' resignation as our PR Chair brings this problem into even sharper focus. (For those of you who were not aware, Jeff is Jan's brother and the same event forced them to re-evaluate their life situations and make the decision to step down.)

The loss of Jan and Jeff leave the LPI even more shorted-handed than before – and we already had more work to do than people to do it. This creates two very serious problems:

- Remaining officers and volunteers become even more overloaded and are likely to "burn out" even faster than normal.
- Important, even critical, party functions either remain undone or experience serious delays.

Sometimes, I think people have the wrong impression of our party. I get that impression when people ask me "What is the LPI doing about (for example) the smoking ban?" or "Why doesn't the LPI do something about eminent domain?"

Do they think there is a room full of lawyers ready to draft motions and file complaints? Do they picture a network of lobbyists ready to spring into action when I pick up the phone and give the order? Maybe they imagine a small army of people ready to drive to Springfield and march in front of the state capitol carrying signs.

I don't know which of those impressions they have – but I do know that every one of them is completely wrong.

The LP-Illinois consists of a very few volunteers; the party's officers, a few loyal volunteers, a handful of loyal donors.

The LPI is YOU – or it should be you. Without PEOPLE, real, live, flesh-and-blood breathing people – the Libertarian Party of Illinois is just a name. (OK, it's a file folder in the Federal Election Commissions file cabinet too, but let's not go there.)

EVERYTHING the LPI accomplishes is accomplished by individuals – concerned citizens just like you and me – but there are too few of us actively engaged in the fight.

The party needs volunteers: leaders, organizers, writers, speakers. We need people to write letters to the editor, people to call their congressmen, people to write newsletter articles, staff Operation Politically Homeless booths, collect signatures on petitions...

There are two ways I know of to be successful in politics – work for it or buy it.

We can do it either way – but we'll either need a lot more workers – or a lot more money. Right now we have very little of either of those precious commodities. Do you have a "pet" issue; smoking bans, eminent domain, Second Amendment rights, government pork?

Do you have skills or abilities or resources we can use? You have both. I know you do – and your using that passion for an issue and the skills you have to fight for liberty is what will make the LPI successful.

What the Libertarian Party of Illinois needs most is YOU! Active and involved. Having sympathizers is great – but being interested in a cause doesn't further it. Having members is wonderful – but a name on a database does not accomplish anything.

Think of a libertarian issue that "resonates" with you. Think of what YOU can do to bring about the change you want to see. THEN call me and say "Here's what I'M willing to do to help the LPI on this issue..."

THAT is what we need most.



Ballot Access News

by Dianna Visek

Last September in *Lee vs Keith*, the 7th Appeals Court declared part of Illinois' election law to be unconstitutional. David Lee of Heyworth had planned to run as an independent candidate for the Illinois Senate, but was forced from the race by the stringent filing requirements. He filed suit and the court struck down three provisions: that independents file 323 days before the November general election; that independents collect petition signatures equaling 10 percent of the vote in the last general election; and that voters who signed the petition of an independent candidate couldn't vote in the primary. Note that this court case only applies to independent candidates running for the General Assembly.

In early February, Rep. Bill Black (R) introduced House Bill 632 in order to address the first two issues of the court case. HB 632 would make the petition requirements for independent General Assembly candidates the same as for independent candidates for any district or political subdivision office. It would make the filing period for all independent candidates the same as for new parties. (It's now the same as for established parties.) Later this bill was amended to remove the prohibition against voting in the primary if one had signed the petition of an independent or a different party or voted in another party's primary within the last 23 months. HB 632 passed unanimously on May 2 and is now in the Rules Committee of the Senate.

In February Rep. Black also introduced HB 158 which would make the petition requirements for new parties the same as for established parties for both state and local office. Rep. Black told me that Speaker Madigan doesn't like HB 158, which is why it's still in the Rules Committee.

Also in early February, Sen. Michael Frerichs (D) filed Senate Bill 733 which would make the petition requirements for independents the same as for candidates from an established party for the same office, and the filing period for independents the same as for new parties. In addition, petition requirements for new parties would be the same as for established parties for both state and local office. Although this bill addresses the first two provisions struck down by the court, it doesn't address the third. And the filing period for new parties would still be different from that of established parties. SB 733 passed the Senate unanimously on March 30. Rep. Black agreed to sponsor it in the House. I was surprised that the Rules Committee assigned SB 733 to the Executive

Committee rather than the Elections and Campaign Reform Committee. When I asked why that happened, Rep. Black said he didn't know but it might make it easier for the Democrats to control the bill's fate.

Rep. Black says that both the Legislative Research Unit (which researches new bills) and the Illinois Board of Elections have told him that HB 632 would apply to third party candidates. Its major flaw is that it only addresses candidates for the General Assembly. SB 733 is clearly a much better bill, since it addresses candidates for ALL offices. If you would like to help pass this bill, please contact members of the Executive Committee and ask them to discharge it so that the whole House can vote on it. Contact information for each member of the House Executive Committee can be found on the Illinois General Assembly website, www.ilga.gov. Look under the House section and click Committees. From the Committees page, click Executive.

To watch the progress of this bill from the ILGA.gov website, enter bill number SB733 in the search by number box on the left side of the screen. If you aren't online, call our office for contact information.

Both Sen. Frerichs and Rep. Black have agreed to sponsor additional legislation to eliminate the full slate requirement and other obstacles to ballot access. Currently new parties are required to field candidates for all offices at a particular level. For example, when we run a candidate for Governor, we also have to supply candidates for Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, etc. At the county level, we also have to provide candidates for all county board districts.

I will be working over the summer to identify the issues we want addressed. In the fall, Sen. Frerichs and Rep. Black will ask the Legislative Reference Bureau to prepare suitable bills to be introduced next February. While this is good news for the future, we need to work on passing SB 733 now. Please call your representative and ask for his or her support for this landmark legislation.

2007 LPI Convention!



Friday October 12 - Sunday October 14

Cliffbreakers Riverside Resort
700 W. Riverside Boulevard
Rockford, IL
Visit: www.cliffbreakers.com



“Don’t Tread on Me!”
Libertarians learned firearm safety and enjoyed target practice at a gun range social outing in Des Plaines hosted by the Libertarian Party of Chicago.



Libertarian Party of Illinois members hosted a table at this popular Cato Institute Luncheon in February. The main speaker was P.J. O’Roark, talking.



Determined to find the law that requires American citizens to pay income tax, Producer Aaron Russo (*The Rose* and *Trading Places*) set out on a journey to find the evidence.

This startling examination of government exposes the systematic erosion of civil liberties in America since 1913 when the Federal Reserve system was fraudulently created. Russo connects the dots between money creation, federal income tax, and the national identity card

See this feature-length film - free - at your choice of two locations!

Sunday May 20, 2007 7 p.m. at Don’s Alley, 101 S. Viking, Lee, IL. This showing is presented by the Libertarians in DeKalb. For more information call Michael Fogelsanger at 815 899-2351 or email at mike60178@comcast.net.

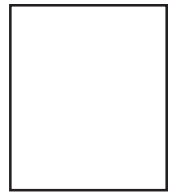
Thursday May 24, 2007 7 p.m. (doors open at 6) at 333 N. Michigan Avenue, Tavern Club, 25th floor, Chicago, IL. This showing is being presented by The Libertarian Party of Chicago. RSVP 877-LPC-VOTE

“To prefer a Democrat to a Republican is at best to prefer death by a clean bullet to the skull, to death by a thousand paper cuts!”



Scenes from the anti-war march in Chicago to protest 4 years of war in Iraq.





Bond-Fayette County Libertarians

The Bond-Fayette County Libertarians (formerly the Okaw Valley Libertarians) meet the third Thursday of each month. The May meeting will be held at Jay's Restaurant, 730 W. Gochenour St. in Vandalia. Dinner/socializing begins at 6 p.m. followed by the business meeting/guest speaker at 6:30 p.m. Monthly meeting locations will rotate between the 2 counties with meetings held one month in Vandalia and the following month in Greenville. For more information, contact Jan Stover at 618-664-4760, email donjans@sbcglobal.net or visit <http://libertarian.meetup.com/316/>.

Capital Area Libertarians

CAL meets the second Wednesday of each month starting at 6 p.m. in the Lincoln Library's Bicentennial Room in Springfield. For more information, contact Chris or Evonne Bennett at 217-529-6753 or email Chair@CAL.LPillinois.org. You can also visit their website at CAL.LPillinois.org.

Champaign County Libertarians

CCLP meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Urbana Free Library's Auditorium. For more information contact Dianna Visek at chair@LPChampaign.org or 217-367-5027 or visit www.LPChampaign.org.

Can I be an Activist too? Yes ... Join Libertarians in your area today!

DuPage Libertarians

The DuPage Libertarians meet on the first Tuesday of every month. Socializing starts at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting runs from 7 - 8:30 p.m. For more information, contact Crystal Jurczynski at 630.876.1935 or visit: www.DuPageLibertarians.org.

Chicago Libertarians

Libertarian Party of Chicago meets at Goose Island Brewing Co. at 1800 N. Clybourn in Chicago on the second Tuesday of each month (5:30 p.m. socialize and 6 p.m. business meeting). For more information call 877-LPC-VOTE or visit: www.lpchicago.org.

Cook County-Northwest Libertarians

CCNW meets on the second Sunday of each month at the Silver Stallion Restaurant in Des Plaines. Contact Kent McMillen at 312-701-7491 (day) or 708-865-9170 (evenings) for more information.

Lake County Libertarians

The Lake County Libertarians meet at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at Gino's East Pizza, 561 W. Rt. 22 in Lake Zurich. For more information, contact Eric Dubiel at (847) 438-7776 or visit lake.il.lp.org.

Metro East Libertarians

MEL meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Southwestern Illinois College in Belleville. For more information contact Mark McCoy at mark@rightonthemark.com visit <http://libertarian.meetup.com/217/> or www.mel-lp.org.

Rockford Area Libertarians

The Rockford Area Libertarians meet at Villa Di Roma on the corner of Harrison and 11th St. the first Thursday of the month, starting at 7 p.m. Come early for dutch treat dinner and conversation. For more information, contact Kathy Kelley at (815) 874-6345 or liberty@lprockford.8m.com for details.

Southern Illinois Libertarians (SIL)

SIL meets the third Sunday of every month at 2 p.m. Meetings are located in the Carbondale Civic Center, 200 South Illinois Avenue in Carbondale. For more information, call Jennifer Caudel or email sil@mchsi.com, or visit SIL.LPillinois.org.