



LP ILLINOIS NEWSLETTER

JULY 2007

LPI Convention

Registration is Open

The LPI 2007 Convention is October 12-14 in Rockford. This will be a non-stop weekend featuring Libertarian Presidential Candidates, Libertarian Author and Speaker Michael Cloud, and our election of a Libertarian U.S. Senate Candidate for 2008.

Registration is now open. Choose a Convention Package with an Early Bird price:

* Platinum - all meals and events plus speaker table seating for lunch and dinner - \$145 (regular price \$175)

* Gold - all meals and events - \$120 (regular price \$150)

* Bronze - workshops and speakers - \$65 (regular price \$75)

The Early Bird pricing ends August 17, so sign up today.

Business Opportunities at the Convention

At each LPI Convention we set aside space for donors who want to sell merchandise or services either at a table at the Convention itself or through advertising in our Convention program.

A vendor table or business-card-sized ad can be yours for a \$25 or more donation. Get both for \$45. If you are the first person to contribute \$200 or more, you will receive a full-page ad on the back of the program.

We have a limited amount of space, so act now if you would like to get in on the action. The FairTax organization has already purchased their space. Here's a quote from them about last year's Convention: *"Thank you for all of your work on the Convention. I appreciate the amount of time and energy it takes to organize an event of that size. We have been to a lot of events, many by major political parties, which were not nearly so well run - or so much fun!"*

Donations along with registrations for the Convention can be made on our website, by phone, or mail.

Something to Talk About

The '08 elections will be hot, hot, hot. At your next Libertarian Chapter meeting or in talking with friends and family around the BBQ, we ask you to think about potential candidates for U.S. Senate.

With strong Presidential and Senate candidates, we can make major advances in the fight for freedom. There may also be a great opportunity in the 8th U.S. Congressional District with rumors continuing to swirl that Dennis Hastert may not run again.

Send David Kelley, our Campaigns Chair, your candidate ideas via email at campaigns@lpillinois.org or call him at (815) 874-6345.

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Got News?

Send your feedback and libertarian news to Web@LPillinois.org or call our office.

Libertarian Party Growing Fast

National Libertarian Membership is up 18% this year. It's so startling a jump that The Washington Times did a story on it.

Damon Dillon, our Membership Chair, reports that the LPI is on track for a 14% increase this year. Hey, that's great and all, but we can't let other states outgrow us.

If you haven't joined the Party yet, visit us at LPillinois.org and sign up today! Every registered libertarian makes our voice stronger and more powerful.

Media Hits

LPI Member On Internet Radio

Chris Bennett, our Legislative Chair, spoke on Angela Keaton's radio show, *The Liberated Space*, on July 11th. The topic was how we can bring more ethnic/racial minorities into the libertarian movement. If you missed it, catch the replay at www.blogtalkradio.com (search for Chris Bennett).



Chris Bennett (center) and his son (left) at a recent habeas corpus demonstration in Springfield

Letters to the Editor Published

A shout out to Greg Brannan for getting his Letter to the Editor published by the *Pantagraph* newspaper July 1st. He took the suggested letter from the last LPI News, did some timely editing, and named it "Turn to Libertarians to throw out tricksters."

Congratulations to Dianna Visek, who got the following Letter to the Editor published in *The News Gazette* (edited here for space):

As a Libertarian, I'm appalled at the inability of the Republican and Democratic parties to address the important issues facing our state. Although the Legislature is a month into overtime, it still hasn't produced a budget for the current year.

We don't have a sensible plan for maintaining our infrastructure. Service providers aren't paid on time. Our pension systems are a mess. And our public school system continues to produce poor results in spite of increased spending.

Libertarians believe that reducing government will allow citizens to devise creative solutions to our problems and free up resources to fund better ways of doing things.

When you get your Libertarian Letter to the Editor published, please let us know. Letters to the Editor are read by a lot of politically informed people--people who we need to reach. Thank you Greg and Dianna!

Honesty in the Chicago City Council

Red-light cameras, the ones that generate \$90 tickets to motorists who enter an intersection after the light changes, are popular with Chicago politicians. They are sold to the public with claims that they will increase public safety.

Manufacturers are now selling devices that warn motorists about the cameras. You would think elected officials would be happy that these devices provide warnings about upcoming dangerous intersections where the cameras are placed. Obviously, with such warnings, public safety would further increase.

But no. Chicago Alderman Ed Burke has announced his intent to ban the devices, according to the Chicago Tribune. And he was surprisingly clear when explaining why. Revenue from the cameras "is budgeted in our annual appropriation ordinance," the alderman said. "That is why all these cameras are being installed. ... The reality is that people blow through these intersections and they are going to be caught and they are going to be fined. It has become a big revenue source, absolutely."

The city received nearly \$20 million from camera-generated tickets last year.

"The urge to save humanity is almost always only a false-face for the urge to rule it."

- H.L. Mencken

Protecting Property Rights

When Target wanted to build a new store in Arlington Heights, they chose a location with a shopping plaza that was occupied by a number of small businesses. Village trustees declared the shopping plaza blighted, so it could be taken by government force through eminent domain.

A number of LPI members took part in the effort to support the rights of the affected business owners. One of these was Dave Kaufman, who went door to door surveying residents, and told us "Most people I spoke to were knowledgeable about the issue and opposed to eminent domain abuse." We also participated in a vigil that was staged before a Village Board meeting and walked precincts to support Village Board candidates who favored property rights.

In the face of this opposition, Target has backed down. It's a good reminder that people working together can protect individual rights. We thank the Libertarians who got involved in this and other eminent domain abuse cases around the state.

Guest Welcome Pack

When people visit a Libertarian meeting for the first time, they appreciate being provided with a warm welcome and helpful information.

Here is a suggestion for your Chapter's Guest Welcome Pack:

Favorite Quote

Vote Libertarian – win a free country

Thank You

This newsletter and our other liberty-promoting activities are only possible because of your support.

- * A welcome letter from your Chapter Chair
- * Either a Chapter brochure or the LPI brochure
- * General info about the Party, like the "New Visions" brochure
- * Two World's Smallest Political Quiz cards
- * A Chapter Membership form

Examples of Chapter documents and links to purchase the others can be found on our website in the About Us section on the Leader Resources page.

LPI SOC Meeting

The State Organizing Committee met on July 15 in Bloomington. Topics included a Convention update, our membership increase, website improvements, and Campaign '08 activities.

We also decided to restart the monthly hardcopy edition of the LPI Newsletter. (This is the first!)

The next SOC meeting will immediately follow the Business Meeting at the Convention.

Folly of Trusting Government

According to the 7/18/07 Chicago Tribune, government regulators recently bypassed Indiana environmental laws to give a BP refinery near the Illinois-Indiana border a new state permit. The permit includes permission to dump an average of 1584 pounds of ammonia (a 54 percent increase) and 4925 pounds of sludge (a 35 percent increase) into Lake Michigan every day.

As this example illustrates, all the environmental laws and government agencies in the world won't protect us from polluters. With sufficient political clout, corporations like BP simply get permission from the regulators to bypass the laws. Join the libertarian movement and help us work toward a real solution. Only individuals protecting themselves and their property can ensure a healthy environment.

(Feel free to send the above to the Editor of your local newspaper.)