



LP ILLINOIS NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2007

Should We Trust Government Employees with Our Health?

Walter E. Williams wrote an excellent article in the Washington Times on the push for socialized medicine titled "Government vs. Private Healthcare. It provides a good series of questions to ask anyone who thinks socialized medicine is a good idea.

"Do we want the government employees who run the troubled Walter Reed Army Medical Center to be in charge of our entire health-care system?

Or, would you like the people who deliver our mail to also deliver health-care services?

How would you like the people who run the motor vehicles department, the government education system, foreign intelligence and other government agencies to also run our health-care system?"

Why people want to trust something as important as our health to government bureaucrats is a mystery.

An important tenant of libertarians is "There's no such thing as a free lunch." So-called "free" healthcare would cost us much more than money.

Spending Circus in Springfield Continues

While details on the state budget continue to shake out, there is one thing we do know: Illinois officials will spend a record amount of taxes in the next fiscal year.

According to the Illinois Taxpayers Education Foundation (www.NTUI.org), over the past five years total state revenue is up \$14 billion dollars. That's 29.1%, nearly 2½ times inflation. There's no reason to believe revenue will not continue to climb similarly in FY2008.

But in spite of all the extra dollars flowing in, each year a budget circus is staged, where political clowns jockey to spend even more money while hiding, avoiding, or pushing the resulting tax increases on easy targets.

This year, as in many years past, additional state spending will be funded by increasing taxes on smokers, possibly adding 90 cents per pack. These same bureaucrats outlawed smoking in almost all private businesses starting January 1, making this a gross insult to injury.

Has your paycheck gone up 30% in the last 5 years? If it did, do you think you could find a way to get by? Tell the clowns in Springfield to live within their means and help elect Libertarian legislators who would pull down the circus tent in Springfield.

In This Issue:

- Should We Trust Government Employees with Our Health?
- Spending Circus in Springfield Continues
- The LP Illinois Convention and Business Meeting
- Proposed Bylaw Change
- Convention Early Bird Prices Extended
- Convention Press Release
- On the Right to Self-Protection
- Imperial Presidents

LP Illinois Convention

This year's LPI Convention "Redefining Patriotism" will be the weekend of October 12-14 at The Cliffbreakers Riverside Resort in Rockford.

An Action-Packed Agenda

The convention kicks off Friday night with registration beginning at 6 p.m. followed by scrumptious appetizers and a full service cash bar. Enjoy a Carnival that evening inspired by our Bill of Rights.

Saturday morning and early afternoon will include a number of breakout sessions on activism, skill building, the Constitution, and a libertarian-themed movie.

Libertarian Jeopardy will also be back, with Chapter Champions competing for the LPI title.

The 2008 LP Presidential Candidate Debate will star on Saturday afternoon. The Candidates who will speak are: George Phillies, Alden Link, Christine Smith, Barry Hess, and Steve Kubby.

The Saturday night banquet will feature a presentation by Michael Cloud, co-founder of the Center for Small Government, author of "Secrets of Libertarian Persuasion," and winner of the prestigious "Thomas Paine Award" for the best Libertarian Communicator in America. We'll also host our silent and live auctions Saturday night.

The Convention continues Sunday with the annual business meeting.

LP Illinois Business Meeting

Our Business Meeting is open to all Party members at no charge. We invite your participation in our Libertarian Party. The LP Illinois is exactly as strong as its members make it.

The agenda is expected to include:

- LPI Officer Reports
- Selection of our 2008 U.S. Senate Candidate
- 2008 National Convention Delegate Nominations
- Bylaw Changes - Proposed amendments must be sent to the LPI Secretary by August 30.
- LPI Officer Elections - Vacant officer positions will be filled. You can see the list of LPI Offices on our website in the About Us section.
- LPI Judicial Committee Election - Two of the five seats on the Judicial Committee are up for election this year. Each has a 3-year term.
- Elector Selection - When you vote for President, you are really voting for the "electors" from that political party to go to the Electoral College. We will choose 21 members to be the LPI Electors for 2008.

Additional details about the Business Meeting, the LPI Bylaws, and the LPI Convention Rules can be found on our website in the Convention area.

Proposed Bylaw Change

There is a proposal afloat to modify the paragraph of the LP Illinois bylaws regarding the membership statement. The current language is:

A member, upon joining the Libertarian Party of Illinois, must sign a statement that says, "I have read and agree with the following statement: We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose."

The reasons to change this statement are:

- 1) With the advent of online membership registration, we do not have "signed" statements from members.
- 2) The membership statement is at a PHD grade level as measured by the Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level Rating Scale. Our membership statement should target a 6-8th grade reading level, as newspapers do, to appeal to a wide audience. Simpler wording will help more people support our Party.

If you would like to participate in a discussion to choose a new membership statement to propose, please call our office. As noted above, bylaw changes have a deadline of August 30, so call today!

Convention Early Bird Prices Extended to August 31st

We want to see you in Rockford October 12-13. Choose one of these Convention packages:

* 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)

These Early Bird prices have been extended, but will end August 31, so register today.

You can find more about the Convention on our website, LPillinois.org. Registration is available online or by mail.

Questions, suggestions, and notice of auction items can be sent via email to

Convention@LPillinois.org or call our office at 800-735-1776.

Convention Press Release

We've sent our Convention announcement to Illinois newspapers, radio, and TV. If you see/hear anything about our Convention in the media, please drop a line to

Convention@LPillinois.org, so we can track our reach. Thanks!

If you would like to read the announcement, you can download it on our website from the Convention Overview page.

Favorite Quote

"The burden should not be on people to prove why they should be allowed to do something, but on the authorities to prove why they shouldn't."

- Charles Moore

On the Right to Self-Protection

Illinois and Wisconsin are the only states where it is illegal to carry concealed weapons. However, Illinois law allows the transport of weapons as long as they are "unloaded and enclosed in a case...or other container by a person with a Firearm Owner's Identification Card."

Shaun Kranish, who has a valid FOID card, was arrested and charged with aggravated unlawful use of a weapon, a felony, for carrying an unloaded pistol in a specially designed holster that completely covers the weapon.

A Winnebago County judge recently dismissed the charge, a victory for our unalienable right to protect ourselves. If you are interested in learning more about the work going on to fix Illinois laws against concealed carry, Shaun's website is ICarry.org.

On a related note, our friends at IllinoisCarry.com have released a short

YouTube video addressing the need for women in Illinois to be able to protect themselves from violence by carrying a gun. Women (and the men who love them) can check it out on their website, IllinoisCarry.com.

Imperial Presidents

Jonah Goldberg wrote another great column recently titled "Imperial presidents: In our guy we trust." The article slams both Democrats and Republicans for supporting abuses of presidential power when their own guy is in office and denigrating them when he's not. "Both sides are open to charges of hypocrisy, and neither is immune to partisan amnesia. The only consistent crowd are the Libertarians, who distrust all government power."

You got that right. Libertarians know that power corrupts and that free people need to constantly push back against the growth of government power at all levels.

Thank You

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

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