



LP ILLINOIS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2007

Convention Wrap Up

Wow! What a weekend. Our 2007 Convention was packed with engaging people and activities for the libertarians who attended from around the state. A few highlights:

- Larry Stafford won the grand prize in our Friday night "Bill of Rights" carnival and Dan O'Connell claimed the 2007 LP Illinois Libertarian Jeopardy Champion title
- We heard glowing comments about our workshops on public speaking, the Illinois Constitutional Convention, coalition building, petitioning, the Bill of Rights, and the Illinois legislative process
- The Presidential Forum and Debate had candidates George Phillis, Michael Jingoian, Christine Smith, and Alden Link each scoring points in their bid for the LP Presidential nomination
- Our keynote speakers delivered: Michael Cloud taught us the power of possibility; Bumper Hornberger, advantages of libertarian thought; and Tony Ryan, the idiocy of the War on Drugs
- We presented LP Illinois 2007 awards to Chris Bennett, Crystal Jurczynski, and Dianna Visek for their service to the Party

- Our auctions and other fundraising brought thousands of dollars to support future libertarian activism
- At Sunday's business meeting we prepared for the 2008 Presidential election and passed a new membership statement

Photos from the Convention and more details can be found on our website, LPillinois.org/convention.

A gigantic thank you to the Convention Committee, donors, attendees--everyone who participated in making this one terrific weekend for liberty.

Convention Publicity

Our Convention is a great opportunity to bring more libertarians into the Party fold. Prior to the Convention, we distributed a 2nd News Release to Illinois newspapers and other media outlets.

In addition, the Media Secretary for the Rockford Area Libertarians, E.J. Pagel, has been soliciting donations and working Rockford newspapers, creating radio spots, and printing flyers to spread the word around town. Our hats off to E.J. and our Rockford supporters!

Our friends at The Advocates for Self Government also mentioned our Convention in their excellent e-newsletter, *Liberator Online*, which has 69,000 subscribers.

In This Issue:

- Convention Wrap Up & Publicity
- State Organizing Committee Meeting
- LP National Convention
- Chris Bennett Announces Candidacy
- Technology an Ally Against Tyranny
- Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Atlas Shrugged
- LP Illinois Campus Coordinator
- As Stated by Jay Leno on the Tonight Show

Thank You

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

State Organizing Committee (SOC) Meeting

The SOC is comprised of the LP Illinois Officers (State Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, etc.) plus the representatives from each local Chapter (Bond-Fayette County, Chicago, Rockford Area, etc.)

We had an SOC meeting immediately following the Convention and Kent McMillen volunteered to fill our Public Relations Chair position. With the 2008 election season upon us, his help will be invaluable. Thank you Kent!

We still have openings for a Fundraising Chair and a Newsletter Editor. The Party is open to either volunteers or for-profit proposals to fill these positions. If you would like more information, email Chair@LPillinois.org or call the office at 800-735-1776.

The SOC agreed to meet in person quarterly (on the 3rd Sunday of the month) and by teleconference the other months (on the last Thursday).

So the next SOC meeting will be a teleconference on Thursday, November 29th. A hot item on the agenda will be filling the U.S. Senate Candidate spot. If you are interested in becoming that candidate, contact Campaigns@LPillinois.org.

LP National Convention

Now that the Illinois Convention is over, LP Illinois members and delegates will be gearing up for the National Libertarian Convention in Denver, on May 22-26, 2008.

We'll be electing our President and Vice President Candidates and voting on the national platform, so you will definitely want to be there. Visit DenverLPCon.com for all the latest info.

Chris Bennett Announces Candidacy

LP Illinois Legislative Chair Chris Bennett has thrown his hat into the ring for the Libertarian Party's nomination for U.S. Vice President. The announcement of his candidacy rated a front page story in the *Springfield Journal Register* on October 15!

Chris' anti-war and anti-tax, pro-civil liberties and pro-constitutional rights stances will be popular with libertarians. Also his connections with minority communities and young people are most welcome.

Our best wishes to Chris in his journey to the nominating convention next year. If you would like to help support Chris and his campaign, contact him at ChrisBennett2008@yahoo.com or 217-801-3367.

Technology an Ally Against Tyranny

Myanmar has been making headlines recently as the country's military government responds to peaceful protesters with violence. You may have seen footage of the demonstrations led by Buddhist Monks in saffron robes.

The Myanmar people are protesting the government relocation of 1.5 million citizens and the use of forced labor—the basic human rights to life, liberty, and property that libertarians stand for.

In previous years these crimes would have gone on unnoticed by all but a few. For example, it is estimated that 2 million Cambodians died at the hands of the Khmer Rouge Communist regime by starvation, torture, and execution in the 1970s. The outside world was ignorant of the horror until the "killing fields" were found, filled with the dead.

Now, thanks to the power of technology, stories of the Myanmar protests are getting out of the country, in spite of government efforts to stop them. Videos on YouTube, emailed reports, cell phone photos, and other electronic communications have helped bring supporters to the cause and international pressure to bear.

Is technology a cure for government abuses of power? No.

But as Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis said "Sunshine is the best disinfectant."

Technology can help us shine the light on government abuses at all levels.

Celebrate the 50th Birthday of *Atlas Shrugged*

This classic novel by Ayn Rand was published in 1957 and has probably brought more people to the Libertarian Party than anything else. It hammers home both the moral and economic foundations of a free society.

In celebration of the anniversary, you may want to read or re-read the book, check out the websites for the *Ayn Rand Institute*, the *Atlas Society* and Its Objectivist Center, or *The Atlasphere* if you are looking for personal or professional contacts who are also Randians.

You can also hope against hope that the long-awaited movie version of the book will be released as planned in 2008. It is now in production. Angelina Jolie has been signed to star as Dagny Taggart and Brad Pitt is rumored to appear as either Hank Rearden or John Galt.

Just think of the numbers of people who would never tackle a 1200-page book, but would see a movie with that kind of star power.

Favorite Quote

"Government help to business is just as disastrous as government persecution... the only way a government can be of service to national prosperity is by keeping its hands off."

- Ayn Rand

Thank You

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LP Illinois Campus Coordinator

The Libertarian Party is actively seeking an Illinois Campus Coordinator.

Our Campus Coordinator would develop and maintain libertarian groups on college (and possibly high school) campuses throughout the state and work with Dr. James Lark, our National Campus Coordinator.

No experience is necessary, just enthusiasm and a desire to work with young people. Training is available through the Libertarian Leadership School.

Contact Membership@LPillinois.org to get the job description and more information.

As stated by Jay Leno on the Tonight Show

"This week, President Bush said that Congress needs to give him more power to spy on Americans by making changes to the 'Protect America Act.'

Did you ever notice they always give these pieces of legislation names you can't disagree with? The 'Protect America Act' ... Give it a fair name. At least call it the 'Ignore The Constitution Act.' "

Our thanks to John Howell for passing this along.

