

Nova Liberty

January 1, 2004

Winter Quarter

Volume 4, Issue 1



NOVA EVENTS

www.lpva.com

LPVA SCC MEETING
SATURDAY, JAN. 17,
2:00-5:00 P.M.
Aunt Sarah's Pancake
House, 5426 Jefferson
Davis Hwy, Fredericks-
burg. All members are
welcome.

NOVA POT LUCK DIN-
NER PARTIES, 7:00
P.M.

January 17, 2004

RSVP Fred Childress,
703-533-0330, email
fchildress@fastmail.fm
3015 Aspen Ln., Falls
Church, VA 22042

February 21, 2004

RSVP Chuck Eby, 703-
378-1188, 4572 Fair
Valley Dr., Fairfax,
across from Fair Lakes
Shopping Center

March 20, 2004

RSVP Scott Wakeman,
703-426-4573, 10133
Red Spruce Rd., Fair-
fax, VA 22032

NOVA SOCIAL HOUR
Wednesdays 5:30 p.m.-
7:30 p.m. Hamburger
Hamlet Crystal Square
shopping center. Call
Dana Johansen, 703-
960-9120, or email Far-
landria@lpva.com

LPFC MEETINGS.
Third Monday, 7:00
p.m. Harvest Moon
Restaurant, 7260 Ar-
lington Blvd. (come at
6:45 p.m. for the buffet
dinner)

Libertarians in Fairfax Elect New Committee, Chairman

by Marianne Volpe

The annual convention of the Libertarian Party of Fairfax County (LPFC) was held November 8, 2003, at the home of members Chuck Eby and Judy Herzog. The business session of the Convention was limited to the election of a new County Committee and a discussion of issues of interest to Fairfax Libertarians. The Fairfax County LP is fairly unique in that the members elect the county committee and then the committee selects its own chairman. So, immediately following the Convention the new County Committee met to elect a new Chairman.

Fred Childress, Chuck Eby and Jim Turbett were re-elected to the County Committee while Paul Cox, Dana Johansen, and Marianne Volpe were elected to join them. There were seven candidates for the six member committee, and there was a tie between Chuck Eby and Marta Howard. Marta Howard graciously withdrew, making Chuck Eby the sixth committee member.

LPFC Chairman Jim Turbett invited the members to discuss issues of interest in Fairfax County. Paul Cox talked briefly about the new plan by the County Board of Supervisors to subsidize a metro rail stop at Tyson's Corner, and suggested that this was an issue the Committee should consider.

(See CONVENTION page 2)

SPECIAL NOTICE

This newsletter is normally sent out in electronic format. This is a special hardcopy issue. It is being sent out to Fairfax LP members and to other LP members and inquiries in the Northern Virginia area. In the future, Fairfax LP members will continue to receive this electronically. If you are NOT a Fairfax LP member or would like to continue to receive a hardcopy, see page 5.

Table of Contents

LPFC Convention	1
McBride Campaign Sets Vote Record	2
COVT Forms, LPFC Sets Goals, Appointment to Boards, Committees	3
LP of Prince William County to Adopt New Platform	4
Local Events, Volunteer for LPFC, Subscribe to Nova Liberty	5
Jim Lark Addresses SIL Meeting	6
Chairman's Message	7
Nova Pot Luck Dinner Party	8

(CONVENTION from page 1)

Mat Thexton passed out two versions of a resolution on the Patriot Act, Ron Crickenberger's version and his own revision of the resolution. The resolution is based on a resolution by the Libertarian Party of Virginia (LPVA) condemning the Patriot Act. Ron Crickenberger, the LPVA Campaign Committee Chairman, first brought a resolution written for Fairfax County to the October 20, 2003 LPFC meeting. There was a brief discussion of the two versions, and one, slightly modified, was adopted at the Dec 15th 2003 LPFC Committee meeting.

After the convention was adjourned the new County Committee started its business session with the election of a new Chairman. There were two candidates: Dana Johansen and Jim Turbett, and they each made a short statement on why they would like to serve. The vote ended in a tie, and Jim Turbett resolved it by graciously withdrawing from the race, making Dana Johansen the Chairman.

Chairman Johansen scheduled the next meeting of the LPFC for November 17, 2003 at the Harvest Moon restaurant in Falls Church.

The monthly pot luck party began immediately following the LPFC meeting, and it was attended by more than 25 people, including LPVA Chairman Steve Damerell and Vice Chairman Leonard Harris.

McBride Campaign sets Vote Record

Though victory is elusive

By Chuck Eby

Occoquan – November 5, 2003 – The McBride campaign set a new high water mark for Virginia Libertarian candidates going against both major parties. Receiving nearly 20 percent of the vote, McBride topped by a large margin the previous mark of 15 percent set by Paul Gagnon in his 1991 race for Fairfax County Board of Su-

pervisors. Although quite an accomplishment from an historical standpoint, it was not enough to claim victory in the race.

The Occoquan district seat of the Prince William County Board of Supervisors, vacated by the retiring Republican Ruth Griggs, was picked up by Republican Corey Stewart who defeated both McBride and Democrat Keith Scarborough. Stewart received 3,110 votes to Scarborough's 1,790 and McBride's 1,196.

Griggs surprised county Republicans last September when she withdrew her endorsement of Stewart, preferring instead to endorse Libertarian McBride. In a letter to the Potomac News and Manassas Journal Messenger, Griggs called herself a "coward" for not endorsing McBride earlier. Saying that she had felt that McBride was the better candidate all along, she had endorsed Stewart because she did not want to break with the Republican party.

"It took a lot of courage for Ruth to switch her endorsement," said McBride campaign manager Paul Miller. "To my knowledge, this type of endorsement is unprecedented in state party history. Ruth's courage showed that Robert was clearly the better candidate", he added.

McBride had also received the endorsement of the Northern Virginia Journal newspaper in October.

The campaign, one of the most exceptional in the history of the state party, was boosted by dozens of volunteers including forty who staffed the district's eight precincts on Tuesday. "I felt like the surfer dude with this great wave of energy pushing me along; all I had to do was keep my balance," said McBride to his volunteers at a post-election party Tuesday night.

(See MCBRIDE page 6)

Fairfax County LP Committees

Were you wondering who serves on various FCLP committees? Glad you asked, here is a list – and if you are interested in helping, please contact Chairman Dana Johansen at Fairfaxlp@lpva.com or 703-960-9120.

County Committee:

Dana Johansen, Chairman
Fred Childress
Paul A. Cox
Chuck Eby
Jim Turbett
Marianne Volpe

Committees: Booth Vacant

Fundraising Mat Thexton

Newsletter Marianne Volpe

Social Judy Herzog

Website Fred Childress

Nova Liberty is published four times a year by the LPFC.

If you would like to respond to any articles, or send articles, forward them to the Editor, Marianne Volpe at: mvolpe@starpower.net

Copyright LPFC.

The Council of Virginia Taxpayers Forms

By Paul Cox

The Council of Virginia Taxpayers (COVT) has just recently been founded and funded. The COVT is the brainchild of LPFC Committee member Paul A. Cox, and the organization opposes the proposed Dulles Special Tax District.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors would like to fund an extension of Metrorail from West Falls Church to Tyson's Corner with a special tax assessed on local businesses within the proposed rail corridor. The tax district would tax commercial interests from Tyson's Corner to Dulles, with Tyson's Corner guaranteed to receive Metro stations before 2009, while Reston, Herndon, and Dulles would have no guarantee of the rail line ever reaching their areas. The proposed project would cost an estimated \$3.4 billion, and is spearheaded by a group of Tyson's Corner landowners.

The plan has already been opposed by the Herndon Town Council. In a recent vote the Council approved the commercial tax, but only if the rail ended at the proposed Herndon- Monroe station, instead of in Reston at Wiehle Avenue. The fight for this tax to fund the rail extension is not over, however, and the landowners and their supporters on the Board of Supervisors may try to fund it with two special tax districts instead of one. For more information, or to join COVT, contact Paul Cox at info@covt.org or go to the website at: <http://COVT.org/current.htm>.

LPFC Adopts Resolution Against Patriot Act, Goals for 2004 Petition Drive

By Marianne Volpe

The LPFC has recently adopted a resolution opposing the Patriot Act and established goals for signatures to be gathered to get the Libertarian Presidential candidate on the ballot in 2004. The resolution was drafted by LPVA Political Director Ron Crickenberger, discussed at the November 8 LPFC meeting, and passed with a few minor amendments at the November 17 meeting. The test is available at the LPFC website, <http://fairfax.LPVA.com>.

Chairman Dana Johansen advised the Committee at the December 15 meeting that the numerical goal for signatures gathered by LPFC volunteers next year would be 3,671. This number is proportionate to the number of members in Fairfax County compared to all of Virginia.

Make an Impact for Liberty - Get Appointed!

By Marianne Volpe

Have you wondered how you can influence public policy as a Libertarian? Would you like to effect changes in the way local government operates? There are ways to do this that do not start with running for public office. You can seek appointment to one of the many boards, authorities and commissions in your county.

Fairfax County has around 70 committees that are staffed by citizens with an interest in the work of the committee. The types of committee range from the Commission on Aging to the Water Authority, and they assist the county government in areas of policy and procedure.

The requirements for appointment to these boards and committees are usually a letter of interest and your resume, sent to the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. In Fairfax County you would contact the Clerk at 703-324-315 or contact your Supervisor.

To find out what is available, you can request the booklet, Citizen Participation in Fairfax County, A Guide to Boards, Authorities and Commissions.

Prince William LP to Adopt New Platform

By Paul Miller

Woodbridge - December 9, 2003 - The Libertarian Party of Prince William County voted to distance itself from the national Libertarian Party platform and develop its own platform at the affiliate's December 8 meeting. The motion, which the affiliate posted on its web site for almost a month, was sponsored by Chairman Ken Morrison and Secretary Paul Miller, and seconded by former Communications Director and candidate Jim Simpson.

After a lively roundtable discussion, in which each affiliate member present spoke for up to two minutes on the motion, Morrison opened the motion to vote. The motion passed easily – more easily than expected – with only one dissenting vote from among the 10 members present. The motion was: To adopt a revised platform, emphasizing “direction,” and distance our affiliate from the national “destination” platform.

Following the completion of the McBride campaign, the campaign staff and LP-PWC leadership analyzed the race with intent to identify and capture lessons learned. [The campaign staff sent its 29-page “after action” report to the LPVA Chairman Steve Damerell and will present the report at the January SCC meeting.]

This post-campaign analysis points to several primary conclusions – one of which is a need to revise our party platform. The current platform is unique among political parties in two respects. First is the level of detail. The major parties use broad-statement platforms. The Republican platform is short, only a few paragraphs. The Democrats have a longer document – longer than ours in fact – but still a platform that is far less detailed than our own. These platforms leave the details up to each respective candidate, according to that candidate's personal views and the dynamics of the race at hand.

Our party platform contains detailed references to positions that, while consistent with an ideal state of libertarianism – or libertarian destination – are not realistic given the current and foreseeable situation.

Second is the focus. The major party platforms discuss the direction in which they intend to move policy.

Ours doesn't. It focuses on the destination rather than the direction. These destination statements strike mainstream voters as radical, to the point of insignificance. Voters cannot envision the realization of many of these positions, and therefore are baffled as to why anyone would promote them – assuming they even bother with us enough to be baffled.

They don't often take that time – we are easy to ignore. When we field an easy-to-ignore campaign, voters will do just that, and our opponents will do the same. However, when we field a potentially viable campaign, in which our opponents no longer perceive the luxury of ignoring us, they can and most likely will use the party platform against that campaign. This is an important point. Our platform will be used against any viable Libertarian Party candidate. We give our opponents the ammunition to sink our viable candidates.

For example, Republicans used the abolishment of public schools, child pornography and even foreign policy against Robert McBride. A Republican newspaper columnist brought up the child pornography and isolationist foreign policy attacks. The county Republican Party used abolishment of public schools as well the abolishment of current land-use tools against McBride in a direct mail piece.

McBride's experiences were not unique. The platform has been used against other viable candidates, and this will continue to happen whenever we field a serious campaign. We should remove this specific imbalance by replacing our destination platform with a simple directional platform.

The platform will be debated and revised at the next national convention, but there is little reason to believe we will see a meaningful revision of the document. We believe any meaningful change will only happen from the bottom up – and somebody has to be first.

We propose that our county affiliate adopt its own directional platform. One proposal is to replace the detailed platform with a single line: “We believe in small government that respects the rights of individual citizens.” This is the time to drive this issue, and we are arguably in position to drive it. We see it as an essential next step in our party's future.

Arlington County LP News

The Arlington County LP met at the home of Marcia Strasel, but since her move to Falls Church a new location is needed. Would you like to host meetings, or do you know of a good restaurant where meetings could be held? Would you just like to be involved in the ALP? Please contact Chairman Shaun Whelden at shaunw@liberateschool.com or 703-534-1488.

LP of Fairfax County News

The LPFC meets on the third Monday of each month at the Harvest Moon Restaurant, 7260 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m., but come early for the buffet dinner (only \$6.95). Chairman Dana Johansen invites everyone with an interest in local Libertarian activities to attend. Are you interested in running for office in 2004? Please attend the meeting, or contact the Chairman at faxlp@lpva.com, or 703-960-9120. There are local elections in May, 2004 and federal elections in November, 2004.

Volunteers Needed for the LPFC

The LPFC needs your help in 2004 to grow the LP, staff outreach events, coordinate activities and recruit candidates. We need:

- Booth Coordinator – Staffs and runs the booth at event like Celebrate Fairfax (County Fair).
- Candidate Recruiter – Seeks candidates for local, state and federal races.
- Event Scheduler – Finds events for outreach and petitioning activities.
- Media Relations – Develop and maintain friendly relations with media people in the NoVA area.
- Precinct Organizers – Develop and maintain local party structure at the precinct level.
- Petition Coordinator – Works with Fairfax volunteers on petition drive.

Please contact either Dana Johansen per the above, or Marianne Volpe at 703 960 2973.

LP of Prince William County News

The LP of Prince William County holds its annual convention Monday, January 5, 2004, at the Sea Sea & Co. Restaurant in Occoquan, 201 Mill Street. New officers will be elected at this meeting, and only LPVA members residing in the county can vote, but the meeting is open to all. The event starts at 7:00 p.m., and attendees are asked to order dinner.

For directions to the restaurant, call 703-494-1365. Information about the LP of Prince William County or events, please contact Chairman Ken Morrison at kennmorr51247@comcast.net or 703-494-3107.

LPVA State Convention

The Regular State Convention of the Libertarian Party of Virginia is March 26-27, 2004, at the Richmond Marriott Hotel, Richmond, VA. For information, please contact Jim Lark at: 434-973-5958, or email: Affiliates@lpva.com. Speakers TBA.

Subscribe to Nova Liberty by Email or Receive a Hardcopy Subscription

We are sending this newsletter primarily by email to keep costs down. It goes to Fairfax LPmembers and supporters for free. But if you would like to receive a copy by mail, you can buy a subscription for the low-low-low price of **\$5.00**. The subscription rates are as shown in the table below.

To subscribe for email delivery: Members, just be sure we have your address; send an email, with the words "subscribe NoVA Liberty email" in the subject line or in the body of the message. Non-members, send your address and \$5.00 to the address below.

Subscription Rates		
	Fairfax LP Members & Supporters	Non-Members
By Email	Free	\$5.00 per year
By Post	\$5.00 per year	\$10.00 per year

To subscribe for hardcopy by US mail, members send \$5.00 and non-members send \$10.00, by check or money order payable to the Libertarian Party of Fairfax County at: LPFC, PO Box 31, Merrifield, VA 22116-0031. Be sure the letter contains your address and a statement that it is sent to subscribe to the NoVA Liberty.

(MCBRIDE from page 2)

Over the past several months, McBride and his volunteers were able to distribute campaign literature door-to-door to 23,000 households in the district. This was augmented by 26,750 pieces of direct mail, six large newspaper advertisements including the whole back cover of the Potomac News 2003 campaign special section, and 10,000 phone calls to likely voters.

The campaign can count another first for the state party - attack ads by the opposition. Stewart took the threat by the McBride campaign seriously enough in the waning days before the election to mail out thousands of ads attacking McBride as a member of a party that wants to abolish public schools and legalize drugs.

McBride singled out his campaign manager Tuesday night. "Special thanks to the giant brain behind this all, the Sherry Lewis to my Lambchop, Mr. Paul Miller," said McBride. Although this was Miller's first campaign as manager, he showed adept skill at the position, and worked long, hard hours on McBride's behalf.

Jim Lark Addresses SIL Meeting "Regulation May be Hazardous to Your Health"

By Josh Dunn

On Oct. 28, George Mason's libertarian organization, Students for Individual Liberty, hosted "Regulation May be Hazardous to Your Health." At this talk, Jim Lark, former national chair of the Libertarian Party and an assistant professor of systems engineering at UVA, introduced about a dozen George Mason students to some of the unintended consequences of regulation.

Informing people of unintended consequences of government control is a way of making people more sympathetic to libertarian views, in this case on the issue of safety regulation, without convincing them to change their ideology. When altering the scope of regulatory agencies' powers or changing the procedures for adopting regulations, politicians are at least somewhat accountable to public opinion. If the public becomes more familiar with how compliance costs can lead to loss of life or health and regulators need to consider factors other than health and safety to keep their

jobs, there will be more of an incentive for politicians to reduce administrative agencies' power and for regulators to avoid excessive control over the private sector.

To inform his listeners of the concept of moral hazard, Lark explained how what the public perceives as improvements in auto safety can increase the number of traffic accidents. Lark borrowed a famous example from public choice economist Gordon Tullock: If airbags were replaced with spikes, people would drive more carefully and there would be fewer traffic accidents. Speeding, which is often blamed for high traffic fatality rates, would be almost nonexistent if those spikes came out of the steering wheel when a driver started his car and came closer to the driver's chest as he accelerated and farther from the driver as the car slowed down. By popularizing the notion that airbags make cars vastly safer, car manufacturers' propaganda campaign in favor of airbags may have already eliminated any safety improvement airbags created. Lark also cited the increased depth of mine shafts and the tendency to mine under more dangerous conditions after modern breathing and eye protection became commonplace.

A great deal of the talk was devoted to FDA drug approval. Regulators can be resistant to approving new drugs because the consequences of approving a new drug or medical device that later harms people are so much more severe than would be the case if the FDA's refusal to approve the same treatment harmed the same number of people the same amount. Harm caused by a drug is more visible than harm caused by a medical treatment not being approved.

Lark also gave examples of product liability litigation reducing safety. Safety improvements a car manufacturer makes from one model year to another may be used as evidence in court that earlier models were unsafe.

The audience seemed to find such arguments persuasive despite the fact that Lark did not rely on the right to make one's own decisions as an argument against safety regulation. Although he did not ignore the role that rent seeking plays in the promulgation of many regulations imposed in the name of safety, he made those attending the event more open to the idea that if regulation really is about safety, regulation is not accomplishing its purpose.

Why Fight if We're Just Going to Lose?

"A just question, my liege" quoth Grima Worm-tongue.

For those of you who are fond of the "Lord of the Ring" saga, you'll recognize the draining nature of such a question. Just asking drives down hope and prevents people from running.

This question has been whispered about in various hidden and not so hidden forms lately. I hope those of you who value and seek freedom can see it for what it is, a means to destroy the value, the "win" that is earned in any real race for any level office.

Any time the Libertarian Party and its members actually run a candidate (that is, do something more than just enter the race and sit at the starting line, aka a "paper candidacy") the party potentially gains power. True, getting enough votes to take an office confers immediate and direct power proportional to the office taken, but getting ANY votes conveys an amount of power, and that amount is proportional to the votes received.

Over the next several years, Robert McBride, who ran an excellent race, can go to Prince William County Board meetings and expect to be heard. He can go to his County Board members, and because of his race can expect to be afforded more than constituent levels of attention. **One out of ever five voters in his district supported him.** That, my friends, is significant. And the man who took the office knows it and will respond appropriately. We must not let the nay-sayers, the Grima Worm-tongues of the party, destroy our gains. Robert's victory (yes, I said victory) is too important a source of power for the LP.

What, you don't think so? Well our experience applying our power has proved otherwise, any time we have sought to make use of it.

There have been several of OUR bills that have gotten through the state process and have been signed into law. Each of them was introduced at our request by a person against whom we ran a good, clean race.

So you see, it is IMPORTANT to the LP for our people to run in any race they choose to have an effect in. Local, state, federal, ALL are important. All have the potential for a victory of one size or other.

If you have ever thought of running, please contact me. I am looking for a battalion of good candidates, and several battalions of good supporters.

Robert, if you are feeling anything less than pleased with your race, rest assured that some of us recognize and truly value what you have accomplished. Thank you very much!

Dana Johansen
Chair, LPFC

Yes! I would like to support the LPFC by making a monthly pledge.

I would like to pledge \$_____ per month.

Please split the pledge _____% to the LPVA and the rest to the LPFC

Charge my ___ Visa ___ Mastercard

I understand that my monthly bill will show a charge by the LPVA.

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE

PRINT NAME

SIGN

NORTHERN VIRGINIA LIBERTARIANS

LPFC
c/o LPVA
4201 Wilson Blvd. Ste 100-164
Arlington, VA 22203-1859

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Email: Fairfaxlp@lpva.com

LPVA: www.LPVA.com
Fairfax County LP: <http://fairfax.LPVA.com/>

Nova Liberty

NOVA POT LUCK PARTY - YOU ARE INVITED!

Every month the Northern Virginia Libertarians have a pot-luck dinner at someone's home, and you are invited. The recent hosts of these parties are Anne and Scott Wakeman, Chuck Eby and Judy Herzog, and Steve and Libby Dasbach. This is a great way to get together with other Libertarians and share laughs and good conversation in a relaxing environment.

This is a "pot luck" dinner, so all you need to do is bring a dish of your favorite fare, something you would be proud to share with others, and come casual. If you cannot think of something to bring, just call Judy or Chuck at 703-378-1188 for menu suggestions. If you have kids, please bring them – and please help with a bit of "kid watch."

Would you like to host a party at your home, community center, or friend's home? Please contact Judy and Chuck and tell them – the more hosts, the better.

