

Nova Liberty

Volume 5, Issue 1

January-February, 2005

NOVA EVENTS

www.lpva.com

NOVA POT LUCK DINNER
PARTIES, 7:00 P.M.

January 22, 2005
RSVP Fred and Marcia,
703-533-0330, email chil-
dress.fred@bls.gov,
3015 Aspen Ln., Falls
Church, VA 22042.

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 jo-
hansendr@starpower.net

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

LP OF VIRGINIA STATE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE
MEETING. JANUARY 15,
2005, RICHMOND
The SCC meeting is
open to all members.
Contact the Chair, Steve
Damerell, for more infor-
mation, at
Chair@lpva.com or 703-
851-4674

*Would you like to help
the LPFC Committee?
Volunteers are needed
to organize events,
staff outreach booths,
support our local can-
didates in 2005, and
more. See page 2!*

Greetings from the Chair

By Tony Torres

I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Holiday season and a wonderful New Year. For those who don't know me yet, my name is Tony Torres and I am the recently elected chair of the Libertarian Party of Fairfax County.

Before returning home to Fairfax County, I served as Vice President, President, and helped found the Libertarians at Virginia Tech. That group is now thriving down in Blacksburg and I can now turn my attention to my vision for Northern Virginia.

The past few years have not really been good ones for liberty in this country.

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LPFC Meets, Sets Goals

By Marianne Volpe

The County Committee of the Libertarian Party of Fairfax County (LPFC) met on Monday, December 13, at the Harvest Moon Restaurant to discuss goals for 2005, campaigns for House of Delegates, and to fill other committee positions.

Attending the meeting were Chairman Tony Torres, County Committee members Fred Childress, Chuck Eby, Donny Ferguson, Marianne Volpe and Milan Zacek. Visitors included Libertarian Party of Virginia Chairman Steve Damerell, Marcia Childress, Martin Fick, Molly Smith, Mike Stollenwerk and Jim Turbett.

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Think Globally, Act Absurdly

by [Scott McPherson](#)

"We didn't run for office just to rake the leaves and tend to tree trimming. We've got ideas."

— George L. Leventhal, vice president,
Montgomery County (Maryland) Council

That statement sums up the essence of so-called progressivism. If you've got ideas about the way things are supposed to be, take control of government, impose your vision through the force of law, and tax people — especially rich people — to pay for it all.

After all, there are far more important things to consider than just raking leaves and trimming trees when you're in charge of the government: "For those of us who have the values that we have," says Leventhal, "there is a great desire to show what government can do."

Note to the people of Montgomery County, Maryland: Hold on to your wallets and get ready for disaster — they're from the government, and they're here to help.

Faced with political setbacks in the last two major elections — Republican George W. Bush was re-elected president and Republican Robert Ehrlich was elected governor — leftists on the council plan to focus on promoting "progressive" ideas by means of their near-complete control of that county's government. "This is an activist council," says Leventhal.

Out of nine seats on the council, Democrats hold eight. "There has never been a more important time to be in local government," says council president Tom Perez. "Because of gridlock on Capitol Hill and Annapolis, we are going to take the bull by the horn and we are going to be innovative because I believe in progressive government.... We are going to push the envelope."

"Do we wait another four years to see if there is going to be a Democrat in the White House, or do we

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Volunteers Needed for the Libertarian Party of Fairfax County

* Campaigns, House of Delegates. There are four candidates for House of Delegates seats next year in Fairfax County and your help is needed. Please contact Chairman Tony Torres to find out how you can help them make a difference next year at Fairfaxlp@lpva.com or 571-214-8356.

* Adopt-A-Highway road clean-up, tbd. This is a fun way to let people know Libertarians care about their community. If you have a few hours on a Saturday in the coming months, please contact Chuck Eby at Webmaster@lpva.com or 703-855-8767 to volunteer.

* Event Volunteers. We always need volunteers to staff tables and booths for outreach events, and next year we will have several summer events. This is a great way to spend time with your fellow Libertarians and to share your political beliefs with others. If can spare a few hours, please email or call Chuck Eby.

* Fundraising, Membership, Volunteer Coordinators. We need more volunteers to champion these activities to help us grow in 2005. Please contact the Chairman at Fairfaxlp@lpva.com to find out how you can help.

DON'T HAVE TIME TO HELP? YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE MUCH APPRECIATED, SEE PAGE 3

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With the September 11th attacks, the PATRIOT Act, the War in Iraq, and now the recently passed Intel Reform Act, Libertarians often feel like our country has been under attack from within by people who do not trust Americans to govern themselves. The focus is often on Washington and Richmond and many Libertarians fail to focus on the sometimes smaller, but often more aggressive attacks on liberty and limited government at the local level. The Fairfax County government recently convinced voters to approve several new bond referendums that will force all county residents to pay more in the future, while providing more inefficient services. One of these, the education bond, is largely being used to finance a new huge administrative building instead of going to building new schools. This is just one example of how our elected officials force more debt on us (though at least in this case the people were able to vote on the bond itself) and then waste the money on projects residents did not want. There were several other referendums passed on issues that may or may not be as controversial, but that should be because of the use of debt to pay for them. I am sure that similar bonds were passed in other local counties.

I have come to the conclusion that we absolutely have to better coordinate the efforts of our separate county parties. Each county can continue to have its own local Libertarian Party, but we need to start to operate whenever possible as a "super-group." My goal is to meet with other local county chairs regularly in a group and plan strategy. At these meetings we can come up with area-wide strategies to take back to our individual parties, coordinate large events, and bring ideas from our groups to the other chairs. It simply makes no sense for small parties (or small numbers of volunteers) to be doing three different events across the area when we could have fifteen or twenty people doing a single larger event. People who live in Fairfax County regularly drive through, shop, or work in Prince William, Loudoun, and Arlington Counties and we can grow our outreach abilities by working together. I also want to see more coordination with Libertarian Parties in Maryland, Washington, DC, and the state and national Party.

I ultimately would like to see even more support from the state and national Libertarian Parties in all events, but I think the party will have to grow more before that can be something on which we can regularly depend. In the meantime, I think the Northern Virginia region should be as self-sufficient as possible and different groups in the area should begin to share the resources we already have or that we can raise. In the coming months I will bring more specific proposals to you from this column and through other communications. Until then, have a Happy New Year and I look forward to an exciting new year.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Outreach booths like the one we sponsored at the Fairfax County Fair are an important way for us to educate voters and find new members. Please help the LPFC by pledging your support on a monthly basis, or by making a one time donation. Mail the form below to: LPFC, PO Box 31, Merrifield, VA 22116.

Yours in liberty,
Tony Torres, LPFC Chairman

Yes! I would like to support the LPFC by making a monthly pledge.
I would like to pledge \$_____ per month.
Here is my one time donation of \$_____.



Charge my Visa Mastercard AMEX Discover
 (I understand that my credit card bill will show a charge to the LPVA)

_____	_____	_____
CARD NUMBER	EXPIRES ON	SIGNATURE
_____	_____	_____
OCCUPATION*	EMPLOYER	EMPLOYMENT LOCATION**

*Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. Contributions are not tax deductible
 **Virginia law requires all committees to report the name, mailing address, job title or profession and name of employer or employer's specific field for each individual whose cumulative contributions aggregate is in excess of \$100 in an election cycle.

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act locally?" asked council member Steven Silverman. "The answer is, we act locally."

Translation: Fearful that Washington and Annapolis might take a break from forcing government mandates, and the heavy taxes needed to sustain them, down people's throats (would that that were true!), Montgomery County will become the flagship for activist government. And boy! do they plan to act!

Last year the council voted to provide all county residents with discount pharmacy cards, and recently the county executive, Douglas Duncan, "announced plans to spend \$20 million by 2010 to make sure 40,000 uninsured residents — about half of the county's uninsured population — have free access" to health care, according to the *Washington Post* (December 12).

Montgomery County now has the distinction of being "the first in the nation to approve standards for cable modem service," which is a nice way of describing a law that gives county government the authority to micromanage cable companies' customer service — even how quickly they answer their phones.

Other ideas under consideration are laws designed to harass "predatory lenders" (read: "easy places for poor people to get loans"), increases in subsidized housing, and encouragement (read: "more subsidies") for "clean energy" and "environmentally sensitive buildings." All are bound to strangle county residents and businesses with millions more in taxes, miles of red tape, and mountains of regulations.

Montgomery County will also expand a program that "matches day laborers ... with employers." Are employers actually having a hard time finding day labor? Not likely, but let's not let common sense get in the way of grand ideas. Councilman Silverman also wants to forbid county residents from throwing away cardboard, part of his greater vision for adding to an already draconian and expensive county recycling regime.

At least one council member is hesitant to launch blindly into this brave new world. Councilman Phil Andrews told the *Post* that he was "concerned the county is getting spread too thin" by all this government spending. "We need to make some hard choices," he said. "We need to keep the tax burden reasonable."

Not low, mind you — just "reasonable." Bear in mind that Montgomery County residents already pay a county income tax of 3.20 percent — the highest in the state.

Which raises an important question: How left-wing does someone have to be to deserve the accolade of "progressive"? Montgomery County's elected officials are proposing a massive expansion of government spending, suggesting that they must pick up the slack for the failure of the federal and state governments to act in a similarly "progressive" manner.

But as of 2003, the federal government was spending \$744 billion per year on Social Security and Medicare payments alone. Direct payments to individuals for retirement, health, disability, and welfare programs exceed \$800 billion annually. In fact, total welfare spending is almost what the government was spending to fight World War II. Today, the welfare industry is actually larger than the defense industry, with a price tag in the hundreds of billions of dollars every single year.

President Bush has yet to veto a single spending bill that has landed on his desk and proudly declared that "the role of government is to stand side by side with our citizens to help them realize their dreams."

Between 1996 and 2000, Maryland spending on child welfare services almost doubled, from \$188,895,827 to \$355,526,643. Then there's food stamps, school lunches, housing subsidies, earned-income tax credits, the "Family Investment Program" — the list goes on and on.

Yet regardless of how much is being spent, "progressives" will always lobby for more. And once they've

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got it, a new, higher standard for “progressiveness” is unfurled.

This strategy not only keeps the welfare state machine growing, it provides job opportunities for “progressive” politicians. The *Washington Post* reported that “county leaders say they are ready to use the county as an incubator for progressive policies.” Such “activism” may keep politicians employed in Montgomery County, but it sucks the life from a free and prosperous society.

Scott McPherson is a policy advisor at The Future of Freedom Foundation. This article is reprinted with permission.

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Chairman Torres asked the announced candidates for House of Delegates seats to talk about their campaigns. Donny Ferguson will run in District 36 against incumbent Ken Plum, a Republican. Ferguson said that his campaign would focus on the fight to stop a county income tax proposal and transportation solutions, such as encouraging public/private partnerships.

Marianne Volpe is running in District 44 against Democratic incumbent Kristen Amundson, a former Chairman of the Fairfax County School Board. Volpe said she would campaign on lowering taxes and transportation issues, emphasizing the opening of HOV lanes to all vehicles.

Chuck Eby will face incumbent Republican Gary Reese in District 67. His campaign will address tax issues. Fred Childress, campaign manager for Scott McPherson, said that he will run against Chap Peterson in District 37. McPherson’s campaign would focus on the \$1.4 billion tax increase, transportation issues, and would offer a lower property tax for families that home school and send their children to private schools.

Torres said he wants to encourage the recruitment of more members, because the Committee’s ability to support campaigns was dependent on the number of members. There is no limit on the amount someone may contribute to a candidate for House of Delegates, and only 125 valid signatures are needed to put someone’s name on the ballot.

Growing the Party

The next item on the agenda was the goal of increasing membership by re-enrolling lapsed members and recruiting new members. Torres said that he would start calling lapsed members to renew, and he wants to send out several fundraising letters in 2005.

Outreach events at which the LPFC could participate were discussed. Some events are the Bill of Rights Day, December 15, 2005, with planning needed in September, 2005; the annual HFStival, sponsored by radio station WHFS in Maryland; the Apple Blossom Festival in the Spring; George Washington Birthday Parade and St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Alexandria, VA; the Shenandoah Valley Festival.

The members talked about the creation of a speaker’s bureau that would feature speakers that would appeal to Libertarians and non-Libertarians alike. A volunteer would be needed to set up the speaking engagements.

Torres said that he would create a system to track the outcomes of events so that the LPFC could repeat successful efforts and avoid activities with low results. Torres said he would give all ideas that

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Arlington County LP News

The Arlington County LP will meet on Tuesday, January 4, 7:00 p.m., at the Silver Diner in Clarendon. Please contact Chairman Shaun Whelden for more information. His email address is: shaunw@liberateschool.com, and his phone number is 703-534-1488.

LP of Fairfax County News and Annual Convention Results

The County Committee met on Monday, December 13, 2004 to talk about goals for 2005, the campaigns for House of Delegates in Fairfax County, and to fill volunteer positions.

The next meeting of the LPFC will be Monday, January 17, at 7:00 p.m. at the Harvest Moon. For more information about the LPFC, contact Chairman Tony Torres at Chairman@lpfc.com.

LP of Loudoun County News

Libertarians in Loudoun County are organizing again, and if you live in Loudoun County, contact Kate Eisenlohr for more information. Eisenlohr can be reached at Loudoun@lpva.com.

LP of Prince William County News

The LPPWC meets on the second Monday of the month at the Pizza Gourmet, 12425 Hedges Run Dr., Woodbridge, VA 703-491-9343. The Social Hour kicks off at 7:00 and the business meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome! Please contact Chairman Kathy Mullin for more information at 703-221-9875 or PrinceWilliam@lpva.com.

Adios, Auf-wiedersehen, Adieu, Aloha, Arrivederci, Attorney Ashcroft *by Myron Pauli, November 10, 2004*

But not au revoir - please let us not see you again! You have earned straight A's in terms of adios in my book. Yes, we can dissect the Patriot Act and the like but, as you yourself state it, the number of people affected have only been " a few ". So, why stop at a few and just boil it all down to one, Jose Pedilla, who can be the poster boy for the John Ashcroft School of (in)Justice.

In 1776, Congress adopted a Declaration of Independence that stated why we have governments: " *That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men* ". Eleven years later, in the very same building, a preamble was attached to a Constitution that was designed to " establish justice ". Four years after that, a Bill of Rights was adopted that stated in Amendment 6, " *In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.* ". George W. Bush, having sworn to " preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. ", appointed this same John Ashcroft to be the leading law enforcer of the United States. In other words, the primary job of John Ashcroft was to insure our rights and our liberties. YOU, John Ashcroft, were in charge of **our** liberties.

Of course, Ashcroft gave us memos justifying torture and prisoner abuse in Guantanamo that later was transferred to Abu Ghraib but let us stick to Pedilla. Why Pedilla? Well, why not? I wish to stick to Pedilla just as the movie Judgment at Nuremberg focused on "the Feldenstein case" where an elderly Jewish man was sentenced to death for illicit relations with an Aryan even though he was

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innocent. Sure, Pedilla is just one person but he was a US citizen, undeniably a citizen, unlike the American born but Saudi bred Hamdi. Pedilla was an American arrested in American soil. His case is as American as apple pie.

When Pedilla was arrested, Ashcroft chimed in from satellite from Moscow of the importance of Pedilla's capture. Pedilla was GUILTY, we were told, of crimes A, B, and C. Something about stopping the Dirty Bomb or so. Other Justice flacks added details in the Trial By Press Conference. Yes, this is the War on Terrorism - Pedilla was guilty as sure as Jacob Marley was dead (as in Dickens' Christmas Carol).

And so, the guilty Pedilla was locked up. And the key was thrown away. No lawyer. No arraignment. No grand jury. Even in Alice in Wonderland, the Queen of Hearts had "Sentence First, Verdict Afterward" but Pedilla had neither a sentence nor a verdict - just solitary confinement. And during the confinement, the US got some more "confessions" out of the lawyerless Pedilla. Yes, said the Trial By Newsleak, Pedilla had confessed. But not to crimes A, B, and C but now to crimes X, Y, and Z. But what the heck! Guilty is Guilty. No need for and indictment. No need for the Bill of Rights. No need for the Constitution. Not even the Magna Carta. Ashcroft has set the clock back past the year 1215. No, we are at War and Pedilla is Guilty.

Yes, we should all have those bumper stickers " **ASHCROFT SAID IT - I BELIEVE IT - THAT SETTLES IT**". After all, I am not a lawyer. Who am I to understand the U. S. Constitution? Ashcroft knows. And Pedilla is Guilty. And who is Myron Pauli to think differently? Because he is an American citizen ???- oops, Pedilla is an American citizen as well! We don't want to be tied in with a known terrorist. Note, I cannot say convicted terrorist. In fact, he is not even an accused terrorist or an indicted terrorist or an arraigned terrorist. Skip all that sissy Bill or Rights stuff and lock the man up and throw away the key.

And, several months later, it turns out that Pedilla did not commit a crime nor was one about to happen but he was planning on maybe doing L, M and N (as opposed to A, B, and C or X, Y, and Z). In the Trial by Devine Revelation of Ashcroft, we learn that Ashcroft saved us from yet another disaster by the dastardly Pedilla. In fact, it gets to be like a Hardy Boys series of novels: " Pedilla and the Dirty Bomb ", " Pedilla and the Natural Gas Explosions ", " Pedilla and the Anthrax Attack ", " Pedilla and the Cooties from Mars ". The next installment will be on Mustard Gas, and then " Pedilla and the Fertilizer Truck ". Give him another 50,000 volts and he will confess to poisoning our resevoirs. Every six months, as Pedilla rots in the can, Ashcroft can claim saving an additional 10,000 lives from the likes of Pedilla.

Why the obsession with one insignificant little schnook like Pedilla? After all, he *must be guilty* or the government wouldn't have locked him up for nearly 3 years - right? How important is Jose Pedilla? About as important as one slave like Dred Scott or one concentration camp inmate like Fred Korematsu. And, unlike Scott and Korematsu, Pedilla may be guilty of something. But what has become of the assumption of innocence? What has become of the Declaration and the Constitution and the Bill of Rights? Just one person and a few sheets of paper, after all. Adding a few words to those of Reverend Martin Niemoller, he might have said this:

First they came for Jose Pedilla,
and I didn't speak up,
because I wasn't Pedilla
First they came for the Communists,
and I didn't speak up,
because I wasn't a Communist.

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Then they came for the Jews,
 and I didn't speak up,
 because I wasn't a Jew.
 Then they came for the Catholics,
 and I didn't speak up,
 because I was a Protestant.
 Then they came for me,
 and by that time there was no one
 left to speak up for me.

And what is the long range impact of Ashcroft and his Holy War on Terror? Who can tell? In the end of the movie Judgment at Nuremberg, ex-Judge Jannings (Bert Lancaster) asks Judge Haywood (Spencer Tracy) to believe that he never knew that the injustices would go as far as they did in the multi-millions-dead Holocaust. Haywood replied that the Holocaust happened when the first innocent man was sent to die. Every flood started as a raindrop. The more holes we punch into our liberties, the less liberties will be left when we need them.

But I harbor no personal animosity towards Ashcroft. Enjoy your retirement. I hope you enjoy it as much as I will enjoy your retirement.

Libertarian Party of Virginia Contacts

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 Tenth CD: Chuck Eby 10CD@lpva.com
 Eleventh CD: Ken Morrison 11CD@lpva.com

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If you would like a copy emailed to you, send a message with "subscribe Nova Liberty" in the subject line to Marianne Volpe at: mvolpe@starpower.net.

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have support from the members a chance.

Coordination between area affiliates was another important goal. Torres said that he would meet regularly with the other Chairs of Northern Virginia county parties. He said he wanted to create a “super group” of county affiliates that could bring a greater number of activists to events. Torres said he would seek to coordinate activities between the local affiliates in Northern Virginia and the Libertarian Party of Maryland and the District of Columbia Libertarian Party. There would be events for all House of Delegates candidates and coordination would result in greater impact.

Volunteer Positions Filled

The next item of business was the filling of several committee positions. Torres established a Media Relations Coordinator, and asked Mike Stollenwerk if he would serve. Stollenwerk said that he would consider it.

Fred Childress and Marianne Volpe were nominated by Torres to fill the positions of Social Committee Coordinator and Newsletter Committee Coordinator, respectively. Torres will pick up some additional tasks until volunteers can be recruited.

Two positions were not filled at the meeting: Volunteer Coordinator and LPFC Webmaster. Torres said that he would contact a friend and try to recruit him for the Webmaster position. Filling these positions would be addressed at the next LPFC meeting. Business was completed when Treasurer Marta Howard made her report.

The meeting concluded with several announcements. Mike Stollenwerk said that on January 8, 2005, there would be a speaking opportunity at the Fairfax County Government Center. Individuals and groups like the Fairfax County Taxpayer Alliance and the Fairfax County Privacy Council could address the Board of Supervisors for up to three minutes. The Virginia Citizens Defense League would meet on December 15.

Torres said that Jim Lark, Chairman of the Local Affiliate Parties Committee, has funds to support activities and that we should consider this for funds for activities. Torres also invited the members and guests to visit TimWest.Blogs.com, a new libertarian blog to discuss realistic goals and issues.

The next meeting of the LPFC will be on January 17, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the Harvest Moon Restaurant.

Need to Renew Your Membership? Join the LP?

Renewing your membership is easy, and during this important Presidential campaign year, you won't want to miss news about the campaign and your party. You can renew your membership by calling the National office, 202-333-0008, ext. 231, or at the website, <http://www.lp.org/members/>. If you are ready to join us, just go to the National website, <http://www.lp.org/action/join.php>, or call Marianne Volpe to request a membership form at 703-960-2973.

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 Tony Torres at Fairfaxlp@lpva.com or 571-214-8356.

County Committee:

- Tony Torres, Chairman
- Fred Childress
- Chuck Eby
- Donny Ferguson
- Marianne Volpe
- Milan Zacek

Committees:

- Booth**
- Chuck Eby

Fundraising

Vacant

Membership

Vacant

Newsletter

Marianne Volpe

Social

Fred Childress

Website

Vacant

Nova Liberty is published six 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

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In This Issue...

Greetings from the Chair, LPFC Sets Goals for 2005, Articles by Scott McPherson and Myron Pauli, Volunteers Needed

NOVA MONTHLY DINNER PARTY!

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, Marta and Nat Howard, Chuck Eby and Judy Herzog, and Fred Childress and Marcia Strasel. This is a great way to get together with other Libertarians and share laughs and good conversation in a relaxing environment.

The next dinner party is at 7:00 p.m, January 22, 2005, at the home of Marta and Nat Howard at 216 Elm Street, S.W., Vienna, VA. 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 Marta at 703-938-4878 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 Chairman Tony Torres at 571-214-8356, or by email at Chairman@fairfaxlp.com – the more hosts, the better.

