

◆ Nova Liberty ◆

Volume 6, Issue 1

January-February, 2006

NOVA EVENTS www.lpva.com

NOVA POT LUCK DINNER PARTIES, 3RD OR 4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:00 P.M.

January 21, 2006

At the home of Scott and Anne Wakeman, 10133 Red Spruce Rd., Fairfax. Call 703-426-4573 or email Scott at scott.t.wakeman@verizon.net.

February 18, 2006

Eighth Congressional District Meeting, 4:30-6:30 p.m., and Convention, 6:30-7:00 p.m. to nominate candidates for local elections, 2006. Pot luck follows Convention. Home of Steve and Libby Dasbach's home, 2803 Flagmaker Dr., Falls Church. Call 703-241-8436 or email Steve at stevedasbach@aol.com.

NOVA SOCIAL HOURS
Wednesdays 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Now at two locations, see the event calendar at www.lpva.com.

LPNOVA MEETINGS
Third Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Harvest Moon Restaurant, 7260 Arlington Blvd. (come early for the buffet dinner). Libertarians in Northern Virginia are welcome. Contact Chair Tony Torres for more information at LPNOVA@lpva.com.

Greetings From the Chair

By Tony Torres

I hope everyone is having a wonderful holiday season. In the past two months the Libertarian Party in your local community hasn't been resting on its laurels. Fairfax Libertarians Donny Ferguson, Chuck Eby, and Scott McPherson ran for the House of Delegates and these gentlemen represented the party well in their contests. Donny Ferguson gained an impressive 21% of the vote in a tough, two-way race against long-time Democratic incumbent Ken Plum. Chuck and Scott did not do nearly as well, but they were also facing two and three other candidates respectively. All three candidates received numerous supportive comments from voters thanking them for running and for spreading our ideas.

In the coming year we have a single campaign so far, but we are choosing an important race in which to make our stand. Bill Wood, Chair of the Libertarian

(Continued on page 3)

**BILL WOOD KICKS OFF CAMPAIGN—SEE PAGE 5!
STATE CONVENTION APRIL 22-Mark Your Calendars!**

LP-NOVA Expects Great Things

By Chuck Eby

Northern Virginia - November 20, 2005 - Virginia's newest local Libertarian party, the Libertarian Party of Northern Virginia, was formed in convention on November 12th. This new organization will represent members in Fairfax and Arlington counties, as well as Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church cities.

LP-NOVA replaces the former Libertarian Party of Fairfax County and Libertarian Party of Arlington with a single, more powerful organization. The other jurisdictions included did not previously have their own organization.

(Continued on page 2)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Greetings from the Chair, by Tony Torres	1
LP-NOVA Expects Great Things, by Chuck Eby	1
Eighth Congressional District Opportunities 2006 by Steve Dasbach; State Convention	2
Voter Identification Project, by Walt Thiessen	3
Wood Kicks Off Campaign, by Chuck Eby; Britain's Gun Control Folly by Scott McPherson	5
Local Affiliate Activities and State Contacts	7
Nova Pot Luck Dinner Party	8

(Continued from page 1)

"We feel that by combining forces, we will be better prepared to take on the major parties," said Tony Torres, the chairman of the new organization.

In addition to Torres, five other members were elected to the governing body at the convention including Geoff Allen, Steve Damerell, Chuck Eby, Donny Ferguson, and Milan Zacek. "I believe this move will make us a more powerful weapon in the Libertarian Party's arsenal to fight statism wherever it may be found," said Eby. "The old LP-Fairfax County truly had a banner year in 2005. A regional affiliate will help us grow, become stronger, and help put the screws to the bad guys," he said.

LP-NOVA plans to build on the success of prior years. Candidates for U.S. Congress are now being recruited to run in 2006. The Tenth District already has one candidate, Wilbur "Bill" Wood, who has filed paperwork with the State Board of Elections to begin his campaign.

The State Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Virginia gave formal recognition to the new regional affiliate known as the Libertarian Party of Northern Virginia on November 20th, by a vote of 9 to 1 with two abstentions.

Eighth Congressional District Opportunities in 2006

By Steve Dasbach

2006 is a year of great opportunity for the Libertarian Party here in Virginia's 8th Congressional District.

We've seen how one-party Republican rule has bred a culture of corruption in Washington. And there's no reason to believe things are any better in Alexandria, Arlington, Falls Church, etc. under the iron control of the Democrats. The 8th Congressional district needs a real opposition party. It needs a vibrant, growing Libertarian party.

Our mission is to build a political organization that can successfully challenge the corrupt Democratic machine in every political jurisdiction in the 8th Congressional District. To move public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office.

Since the 8th district votes overwhelmingly Democratic, there are likely to be a lot of races where the Republicans don't bother to field a candidate. Each of those

offices provides us with an opportunity to run a Libertarian candidate as the ONLY opposition, silencing the wasted vote argument.

However, that opportunity will be wasted if we fail to recruit quality Libertarian candidates to challenge the incumbent Democrats, or if we fail to provide our candidates with the money and volunteer support they need to run visible, effective campaigns.

As this New Year begins, I'm asking each of you to consider what you can do to help transform the Libertarian Party here in the 8th Congressional District into an effective opposition party. Do you have the time and energy to run as a candidate for local office or challenge Jim Moran for the 8th District seat in Congress? Will you contribute time, money, or both?

Whatever you can do, we need your help. Please don't wait for someone on the 8th district committee to contact you. Take the initiative and contact us first. You can reach me via email at:

stevedasbach@aol.com or call my cell phone at 703-867-4345.

Yours in Liberty,
Steve Dasbach
8th Congressional District Chair
Libertarian Party of Virginia

The next 8th CD convention will be held at my home on Saturday, February 18, from 6:30-7:00pm, followed by the monthly LP Nova pot luck supper. We plan to nominate candidates to run in the May and November 2006 elections. Please put the date on your calendar and let me know you plan to attend. Show our candidates that they can count on your full support!

Libertarian Party of Virginia State Convention April 22, 2006

The Regular State Convention of the Libertarian Party of Virginia (LPVA) is Saturday, April 22, 2006, at the Doubletree Hotel in Charlottesville, VA.

All current members of the LPVA are encouraged to attend the Convention. Important Party business will be conducted, including the election of new officers of the LPVA, consideration of Constitutional changes and resolutions, and delegates to the National Convention (July 4th weekend, 2006 in Portland, OR).

Please mark your calendars for this important event and check the LPVA website, www.lpva.com, for more information, or contact State Chair Steve Damerell at Chair@lpva.com.

(Continued from page 1)

Party of the Blue Ridge and newly elected chair of the 10th Congressional District Committee will be challenging Republican congressman Frank Wolf in what we hope to be a strong showing. The campaign is ramping up and we intend to bring voters a clear, better choice in November 2006. Please contact me at LPNOVA@LPVA .com if you are interested in helping with the campaign. I will also be serving as campaign manager for Mr. Wood. So far, his campaign has one of the strongest organizations of any LP campaign I have ever seen and we intend to take advantage of these resources.

Finally, I also want to welcome everyone in Arlington County, Fairfax County, and the cities of Fairfax, Alexandria, and Falls Church to a new stronger local party. As many of you know, the Libertarian Parties of Fairfax County and Arlington County recently disbanded and formed a larger affiliate, the Libertarian Party of Northern Virginia (LPNOVA), which includes all of the jurisdictions closest to our nation's capital.

We plan to increase our involvement in the coming year in Fairfax County politics and to push to have a strong and growing presence in all the other areas as well. Libertarians in Prince William and Loudoun Counties, while not included in the new LPNOVA, will continue to work closely with us as we move to influence the policy debates in Northern Virginia. These areas are also crucial to the Wood for Congress campaign and we intend to increase our presence there. In the coming year we will introduce and implement a plan to influence local government, respond to local government activities, and recruit candidates to run in 2007 in as many local races as possible. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year and I wish everyone a wonderful New Year.

In Liberty,
 Tony Torres
 Chair, LPNOVA
 Email: LPNOVA@lpva.com
 Phone: 571-214-8356

Want to help build the Libertarian Party in Northern Virginia? Come to the next pot luck on January 21—see the last page for more information.

Voter Identification Project

By Walt Thiessen

One of the unfortunate aspects of the fine campaigns that Donnie Ferguson, Chuck Eby, Scott McPherson, and Matt Martin ran in 2005 is that we still don't know where the Libertarian-leaning voters in their districts live. All a Republican or a Democrat candidate needs to do is to look at a voters registration list and he has that information available to him in a snap. We don't yet have that luxury.

We need to build our own voting constituency for the long term so that we can rival those of the Republicans and Democrats, as measured by the number of registered voters in each of those parties. Surprisingly, this is a realistic goal. With roughly 25% Republican and 25% Democrats nationwide, and an estimated 20% Libertarian-leaning voters nationwide, simply knowing where the Libertarian-leaning voters live would dramatically help to level the playing field for our party. This means identifying Libertarian-leaning voters house-by-house. How can we do this? How can we identify Libertarian-leaning voters in any given district in Virginia for our party to reach and energize? While we don't have the same advantage that the D's and R's have with the voting list, there is an option that is available to us.

I propose we pursue a Voter Identification Project. This would be accomplished using a team of Libertarian volunteers from Virginia (and even around U.S.) who have access to the Internet and a phone, cell phone, or Internet telephony. We can acquire the voter registration list for any district, cross-reference it with the white pages of the local phone book (via computer CD), then set up and merge the two lists into a secure web-based database system to give volunteers a place to survey and record the responses of voters to the World's Smallest Political Quiz and other campaign-specific issues. We should concentrate on the unaffiliated voters, since the R and D registrations have pretty much pigeonholed themselves and are 80-90% likely to vote for their own party's candidates.

The results could then be stored in a secure data-

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

base for use in campaigns in that district and any overlapping local/state/Federal districts. And best of all, this is something we can do starting doing today. All it requires is the time and dedication of Libertarian activists. We could start with the next round of districts where our candidates will be running for office in Virginia in 2006.

What would we do with the results? We would concentrate our campaigns on those voters who scored Libertarian or favor the Libertarian position on any given issue or set of issues. For the first time ever, our party could have a great chance at actually reaching and energizing its own potential base among voters. This is what it's going to take to achieve political respectability and overcome the dreaded "lesser of two evils" voting syndrome that plagues our party election after election.

A focused campaign is much easier and cheaper to run than a "shotgun marketing" campaign, and it makes it possible to reach likely supporters again and again in person, by mail, in the press, and via the Internet (email, web pages, etc.). As any marketing expert will tell you, you have to identify your target market and expose prospective buyers within your market to your product as many times as you can, a minimum of 3-6 times for each buyer. Previously identified Libertarian-leaning voters are prospective buyers when it comes to marketing a Libertarian candidate. In a campaign, yard signs, handouts, mailings, canvassing, ads, etc. all count as marketing exposures for each voter they reach.

Imagine the voting power that would come from knowing exactly where we can reach the Libertarian-leaning voters! Mailings in particular would be extremely easy to focus, since we could literally write them to emphasize those of our issues we already know that the targeted voter favors! Canvassing would also be much more effective, since this most valuable of campaign techniques could be focused exclusively on Libertarian-leaning voters in that district!

We have over 700 current party members here in Virginia and some 2,800 former members, along with 10,000 or so prospective members on the VA membership list who never actually signed up to join the party. We also have tens of thousands of

party members nationwide who aren't usually involved in a local or state campaign. It doesn't matter if they live in Roanoke or Virginia Beach or Danville...or California or Connecticut for that matter. They could all assist us. Surely we can find at least some of them who would be willing to give an hour of their time on our Voter Identification Project!

We must also be prepared for the fruits of our labors. I recently wrote on the lp.org blog and in a letter to our state party newspaper about two hypothetical Libertarian-leaning voters whom we identify using the Quiz. Do we have room for these kinds of voters in our party? I think we do. In fact, I think we have to make room for them. As a purist, I'm not interested in changing the platform to accommodate them. However, that doesn't mean we can't include and appeal to them. Voters almost never agree with everything that any given party stands for (including the Republicans and Democrats), but they'll vote for those parties' candidates anyway.

Now here's the challenge: our Voter Identification Project will find all Libertarians, including some like our hypothetical voters, but even more importantly, we must know where all the Libertarian-leaning voters live, whether they score more toward the 100% purist Libertarian position or not. It's even valuable to know where the Conservatives, Centrists, Liberals, and Statists live and where they stand as measured by the Nolan Chart. After all, we can always send focused, single issue campaign mailings that appeal to Liberals who oppose the Patriot Act and National ID cards or Conservatives who want lower taxes, as well as Centrists whom we identify as supporting one or more of our issues.

The one thing we can't afford to do, however, is to put this off. We must begin implementing our Voter Identification Program as soon as possible. Don't be surprised if you receive a contact sometime soon, asking for your support and assistance!

Got any unused minutes available on your phone plan?

Walt Thiessen is the Chair of the Fauquier County Libertarian Party (in formation) and creator of LibertarianTV.com.

Wood Kicks Off Campaign

By Chuck Eby

Leesburg – December 21, 2005 – It's official. Wilbur "Bill" Wood is running for Congress in the coming year in Virginia's 10th congressional district. Wood was endorsed as the Libertarian Party's choice at last night's 10th district convention. Wood was also elected chairman of the 10th district party and will represent the district at state party meetings.

"I'm running because the federal government no longer abides by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights," Wood told convention-goers. "Congress has delegated its authority to make laws to federal employees. Congress has also given up its authority to declare wars to the president. I want to change that," said Wood.

Wood has assembled a team of veteran activists to support his campaign. Campaign Manager Tony Torres was on hand to help Wood kick off his campaign.



Bill Wood, candidate for U.S. House of Representatives in the 10th District VA

"We hope to build on the successes of our recent House of Delegates campaigns," said Torres. "We've got some good experience from those campaigns and we want to keep the momentum going."

Wood's team also includes Treasurer Kevin McKenna, Volunteer Coordinator Walt Thiessen, Media Coordinator Geoff Allen, and others.

The 10th Congressional District includes McLean, Great Falls, the western part of Fairfax County, as well as Loudoun County and other counties extending westward to West Virginia. Wood is a resident of Berryville, Virginia.

Wood will be the sixth Libertarian to run for the position since Scott Bowden ran in 1982. The party's most recent contender, Brian Brown, who ran in 2000, received ten percent of the vote in a three-way race.

New officers of the 10th district committee were also selected at the convention. Wood was elected chairman, outgoing chairman, Chuck Eby, will be the new membership director, and Bill Redpath was selected as

the political director. "Bill [Wood] will do a great job representing our district," said Eby. "He has represented us at meetings that I could not attend in the past, and has already earned the respect of his colleagues in the state party."

The convention was held at Nido's Italian Restaurant in Leesburg where the Loudoun County Libertarians hold their regular meetings on the fourth Tuesday of every month.

Britain's Gun Control Folly

By Scott McPherson

A former Texas police officer is causing a stir in jolly Old England. After leaving his job in Garland, Texas, and moving with his British wife and their three children to Reading, Ben Johnson took a job as a British bobby — and had the audacity to suggest that he might want to carry a gun while on the job.

"We should value the lives of police officers enough to properly equip them and train them to do their job," Garland [told the Washington Post](#), "even if that means getting rid of some old-fashioned notions."

The "old-fashioned" notion Johnson is talking about is the very intense — and irrational — belief held by virtually all British people that guns are bad — period. According to the *Post* story, "Johnson's case has caused a media furor [in England], partly because an American — a Texan no less — is claiming he feels less safe as a police officer in Britain than he did on the beat in the United States, which is routinely portrayed here as a gun-drunk Wild West."

The British love their illusions about guns and crime in America, much as American gun-control advocates have their own — and parallel — illusions about guns and crime in Great Britain. From the opposite side of the pond comes the "routine portrayal" of America as a "gun-drunk Wild West." Translation: Here in the United States we're all less safe because citizens are allowed to own guns. By comparison, Britain is a paragon of safety and virtue because people there *cannot* own guns. Or so we're constantly told.

Then along comes this American (A *Texan* no less!) claiming that as a police officer he wants to be armed so that he can better do his job of protecting himself — and the public — from dangerous criminals. And he has already had a personal experience of that nature. "He said he recently found himself in the same room with a man wanted for attempted murder and he could easily have taken the suspect by surprise and apprehended him. But, Johnson said, because the man was believed

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

to be armed, he was ordered not to approach him. The suspect walked away and was arrested by armed officers two days later." Fortunately, this suspect is not believed to have harmed anyone in the interval.

Johnson's desire to be armed is a view held by about 20 percent of police officers in the United Kingdom, according to a nationwide survey of officers in 2003. Right now about 6,000 of the approximately 142,000 policemen in the country are armed. A spokesman for the Police Federation, which represents all police officers, said the union wants to double that number. And even the Home Office minister, who oversees police affairs, told the BBC that he believed more armed officers were needed.

Two police officers have been killed with firearms and two more were stabbed to death in Britain in the last five years. During that same period, 44 officers received nonfatal firearms wounds. The most recent killing of a police officer occurred in November — a mother of three who was responding to an alarm in Bradford.

Those opposed to arming more officers present a strange counterargument. As the *Post* put it, "Opponents suggest it would just lead to more gun crime." How's that? "Petty criminals might arm themselves in response." This view is particularly ridiculous when we consider that the UK's leftist government banned virtually *all* private firearms ownership and *all* handgun ownership in 1997 amidst great fanfare about "making Britain safer." Since then, crime has skyrocketed. So guns were outlawed to fight crime, and now not even police should have guns lest the increasingly emboldened criminal element get upset about it. That's some twisted logic.

The *Washington Post* couldn't help but get some of its own digs in on the story, even if it meant sugar-coating some uncomfortable truths. The *Post* rightly reported that "Britain has some of the world's toughest gun-control laws," but "violent crime, while increasing, is still far less common than in the United States," it claims. In response, allow me to quote at length from "Gun Control in England: The Tarnished Gold Standard," written by historian Joyce Lee Malcolm and published in the fall 2004 issue of *Journal on Firearms & Public Policy*:

[Between 1997 and 2003] crimes with [banned firearms] have more than doubled.... In 2002, for the fourth consecutive year, gun crime in England and Wales rose — by 35 percent for all firearms, and by a whopping 46 percent for the banned handguns. Nearly 10,000 firearms offenses were committed....

Clearly since the ban criminals have not found it difficult to get guns and the balance has not shifted in the interest of public safety....

In the four years from 1997 to 2001 the rate of violent crime more than doubled. The UK murder rate for 2002 was the highest for a century....

A recent study of all the countries of western Europe has found that in 2001 Britain had the worst record for killings, violence and burglary, and its citizens had one of the highest risks in the industrialized world of becoming victims of crime....

And here's the icing on the cake: "[A] United Nations study of eighteen industrialized countries, *including the United States*, published in 2002 ... found England and Wales *at the top* of the Western world's crime league, with the *worst* record for 'very serious' offenses." [Emphasis added]

And all this while crime in the United States, including violent crime, has been steadily falling. The "Wild West" seems to be 3,000 miles to our east.

"Nevertheless," observed Derek Phillips, legislative advisor for the UK's Office of Legislative Affairs, "'tough' legislative regulation, so evidently ineffective in achieving the purpose claimed for it, continues as a policy."

The UK's ban on private firearms ownership has left the people there completely defenseless in the wake of rising crime. A young American turned British bobby has shown the courage to suggest that more guns might be the answer, but rather than take an honest and rational look at the evidence, the British would rather hide behind an irrational hatred for firearms and an even more irrational contempt for American sensibility on this issue. Guns in the hands of police officers — and private citizens — make everyone safer. Cowing from the criminal element and denouncing "gun drunk" Americans won't change that simple fact.

Scott McPherson is a policy advisor at The Future of Freedom Foundation (FFF). Send him [email](#). Reprinted with permission from FFF.

Important Dates to Remember:

February 18—8th Congressional District Committee Meeting and Convention, followed by pot luck dinner.

April 22-State Convention, Charlottesville VA

June 30-July 3-National Convention, Portland OR

LP of Northern Virginia (LPNOVA) News

The Committee meets on the third Monday of the month at the Harverst Moon Restaurant, 7260 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church, and everyone is welcome to attend. The next meeting will be January 16, 2006. Plans for outreach events, candidate recruitment and volunteer recruitment will be discussed. For more information about the LPNOVA, contact Chairman Tony Torres at LPNOVA@lpva.com or 571-214-8356.

LPNOVA Website Launched. The new website for LPNOVA is: <http://nova.lpva.com/> Keep up to date and don't miss any activities by checking the site regularly.

LP of Loudoun County News

Libertarians in Loudoun County meet the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Nido Italiano, 201 Harrison St SE, Leesburg, VA. Contact Tony Torres for more information at LPNOVA@lpva.com.

LP of Prince William County News

The LPPWC meets according to a new schedule. Please contact Chairman Kathy Mullin for more information at 703-221-9875 or PrinceWilliam@lpva.com.

Eighth Congressional District Convention

Libertarians residing in the Eighth Congressional District are invited to attend the Convention on Saturday, February 25, from 6:30-7:00 p.m., at the home of Steve and Libby Dasbach, 2803 Flagmaker Dr., Falls Church. An 8th Congressional District meeting precedes the Convention from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Endorsements of candidates for May and November, 2006, elections will be considered. For more information, contact Chair Steve Dasbach at 703-867-4345 or stevedasbach@aol.com.

Eleventh Congressional District Convention

The 11th Congressional District held a convention on Tuesday, November 29th. Geoff Allen was elected Chair of the Committee; please contact him about future meetings and to volunteer at 11CD@lpva.com.

Libertarian Party of Virginia Contacts**Officers**

Chairman:	Steve Damerell	Chair@lpva.com
ViceChairman:	Leonard Harris	ViceChair@lpva.com
Secretary:	Charlotte Patrick	Secretary@lpva.com
Treasurer:	Kevin McKenna	Treasurer@lpva.com

Local Congressional District (CD) Committee Chairs

First CD:	Kathy Mullin	1CD@lpva.com
Eighth CD:	Steve Dasbach	8CD@lpva.com
Tenth CD:	Bill Wood	10CD@lpva.com
Eleventh CD:	Geoff Allen	11CD@lpva.com

Committee Chairman

Communications:	Shaun Whelden	Communications@lpva.com
Financial:	Donny Ferguson	Fundraising@lpva.com
Local Affiliates:	Jim Lark	Affiliates@lpva.com
Membership:	Marc Montoni	Membership@lpva.com
Political:	Paul Miller	PoliticalDev@lpva.com

Representative to the Libertarian National Committee

Jim Lark JWLark@virginia.edu

At Large Representative to the Libertarian National Committee

Bill Redpath WRedpath@his.com

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

The editors are: Marianne Volpe, mvolpe@starpower.net, or call 703-960-2973, and Marta Howard, marta@pupworks.com. Please contact Marianne if you would like to contribute or help with the next issue. Thank you.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA LIBERTARIANS

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Email: LPNOVA@lpva.com

In This Issue...

Greetings from LPNOVA Chair, LPNOVA Expects Great Things, Wood Kicks Off Campaign, Voter Identification Project, New Website and More!

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 Fred and Marcia Childress, Steve and Libby Dasbach, and Scott and Ann Wakeman. 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 starts at 7:00 p.m., January 21, 2006. The location is the home of Steve and Libby Dasbach at 2803 Flagmaker Dr., Falls Church. 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 Steve and Libby at 703-241-8436 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 LPNOVA@lpva.com – the more hosts, the better.

