

# ◆ Nova Liberty ◆

Volume 6, Issue 4

July-August, 2006

## **NOVA EVENTS**

[www.lpva.com](http://www.lpva.com)

NOVA POT LUCK DINNER PARTIES, SATURDAY AFTER THE LPNOVA MEETING, 7:00 P.M.

### July 22, 2006

At the home of Nat and Marta Howard, 216 Elm St. S.W. Vienna. The pool party starts at 4:30, and pot luck at 7:00 PM. Call Marta at 703-938-4878 or at [marta@pupworks.com](mailto:marta@pupworks.com).

### August 26, 2006, 4:30 PM

At the home of Steve and Libby Dasbach, 2803 Flagmaker Dr., Falls Church. Call 703-241-8436 or email Steve at [stevedasbach@aol.com](mailto:stevedasbach@aol.com).

## STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (SCC) MEETING

### September 9, 2006

Quarterly meeting of the SCC will be in Richmond at the North Park Library, 1:00 p.m. Contact Chair Leonard Harris for more information at [Chair@lpva.com](mailto:Chair@lpva.com)

## **MORE EVENTS-SEE PAGE 4**

## **STATE AND LOCAL LEADERSHIP CONTACTS-SEE PAGE 5**

**How Can You Help? Contact Chair Geoff Allen at [LPNOVA@lpva.com](mailto:LPNOVA@lpva.com). We need your help!**

## *Libertarians Meet in Portland, Elect Redpath Chairman*

*By Marianne Volpe*

Virginian Bill Redpath was elected Libertarian National Committee (LNC) Chairman at the biennial National Convention of the Libertarian Party (LP) on July 2, 2006. The three day convention in Portland, Oregon, was attended by more than 300 delegates, alternates, their friends and family members. Delegates voted to change the LP's bylaws and dramatically reduce the size of the Party platform. Leadership changes were made in the election of new officers, at-large representatives to the LNC, and Judicial Committee members. Speakers addressed the delegates on a variety of issues and delegates could attend many workshops designed to help activists.

On Saturday, July 1, the delegates addressed a number of important changes to the Bylaws. The Bylaws Committee did an excellent job ordering them and organizing them, and every proposal in their report was brought before the delegates for a vote. One of the most significant changes was to modify Article 7, Section 2 to define a "sustaining member" of the LP as "any Party member who has given at least \$25 to the Party in the prior twelve months, or who is a life member."

The rationale for this change, and many technical changes throughout the Bylaws

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## *Greetings from the Chair*

*By Geoff Allen*

Libertarians,

Much has happened since the last issue of NOVA Liberty. First and foremost, we are now deep into the summer "booth season", one of the most exciting and exhausting times of the year. We have already sponsored booths at the Nation's Gun Show, Celebrate Fairfax, the Old Dominion Beer Festival, and Reston Festival, and we still have Centreville Day and Sterling Fest to look forward to! These outreach events have been great successes so far, as we have talked to hundreds of people in the northern Virginia region and generated nearly a hundred new inquiries into the Party.

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related to membership, was that many of the Bylaws Committee members believed that the LNC's action last year to set dues at zero was inconsistent with the Bylaws and exploited an ambiguity in the definition of a sustaining member. Anyone who certifies in writing that they do not support the initiation of force (the "pledge") is still a member of the LP.

A motion to change the bylaws regarding membership definition to "A member of the Party shall be any libertarian who has self-identified as a member" failed. The current language is "Members of the Party shall be those who have certified in writing that they oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals."

Other Bylaws changes that passed without amendment included the elimination of the requirement for a Libertarian Party Program and the requirement for a National Campaign Platform; Bylaws changes will be on the agenda of every National Convention instead of non-presidential year conventions; and the LNC is required to use roll call voting for every substantive vote and the results recorded in the minutes. (The list of Bylaws changes is at the end of this article, and the revised Bylaws will be available at: <http://www.lp.org/organization/bylaws.shtml>)

The proposal to make it easier to appeal a matter to the Judicial Committee initially failed. Steve Damerell of Virginia moved for a suspension of the rules to address this issue after the Bylaws change regarding sustaining members was considered. This motion passed, and after the motion to define sustaining members was passed, the delegates considered amendments to the current language for Judicial Committee appeals.

Damerell moved to amend Article 10, Section 11, from "5% of the Party members" to "1% of the sustaining Party members". Nick Sarwark of Maryland proposed making the number 3%, and this motion passed. The main motion with the amended language passed.

Changes to the Platform were made on Saturday, with a number of planks consolidated and language for others adopted. The platform retention vote went smoothly with results reported on Sunday morning. Many delegates were concerned by the lack of a copy of the platform as written in their delegate packages, though, and the short timeframe for the process.

Delegates in Region 5 (VA, DC, WVA, MD, PA, DE) caucused and voted to remain as a region, and elected Jim Lark Region 5 Representative to the Libertarian National Committee. Chuck Moulton was elected Alternate, and Steve Damerell of Virginia was elected second Alternate in case Mr. Moulton won election as LNC Vice Chairman.

On Sunday, July 2, the vote on the retention of platform planks was reported, and the delegates were surprised to learn that 44 of the 62 planks were not retained.

The delegates debated a motion to change the Statement of Principles to remove the 'cult of the omnipotent state' phrase and replace it with other phrases. After passionate debate, the issue was voted upon, and the motion failed because it did not get 7/8 of the delegates present and voting.

Elections of officers of the Libertarian National Committee resulted in Bill Redpath winning the office of National Chairman, Chuck Moulton of Pennsylvania winning the office of Vice Chairman, Bob Sullentrop of Missouri winning re-election as Secretary, and Geoff Neale of Texas winning the office of Treasurer.

The delegates elected Admiral Michael Colley (AL), Angela Keaton (CA), Pat Dixon (TX), Jeremy Keil (MI), and Dan Karlan (NJ) to the LNC as At-Large Representatives.

There were seven candidates for the Judicial Committee's seven seats, and the slate was elected by acclamation. The Judicial Committee members are: Michael Dixon (NC), Dr. Tom Stevens (NY), Allen Hacker (CA), Gerhard Langguth (AR), Nick Sarward (MD), Ruth Bennett (WA), and Joe Dumas (TN).

The next order of business was resolutions and other bylaws changes. Two resolutions were considered, one to call for the impeachment for high crimes and misdemeanors President Bush and Vice President Cheney. That resolution failed. The second resolution condemned the United Nations 2006 Small Arms Review Conference, taking place in New York, and it passed.

After a motion to amend Article 8 of the Bylaws failed, Aaron Starr, Chairman of the California LP, moved to adjourn, but the motion failed.

Steve Dasbach of Virginia was recognized and moved to change the Bylaws to reduce the delegate allocation from 1450 to 1050. The reason for this was that there had never been more than 900 delegates to a National Convention, and the 1450 requirement forced the Convention Committee to hold the National Convention in much larger, more expensive locations. This motion passed.

The final tabulation of the platform retention vote resulted in only fifteen planks retained. The new platform is available at the LP.org website: [http://www.lp.org/issues/platform\\_all.shtml](http://www.lp.org/issues/platform_all.shtml)

A motion to adjourn was made at 4:20 p.m. and it

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passed.

## Changes to the Bylaws

- Amendment of the Treasurer's job description to take account of the fact that paid staff might be employed to perform much of the routine accounting function
- Require an independent auditor's report of the financial statements to be included in the Treasurer's report to the Convention
- Financial statements of the Party will be prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)
- A modification of Presidential nominating process to make it easier for the Secretary
- Make region formation calculation unambiguous by using only total national party membership within affiliate parties
- Make automatic the removal of officers and at-large representatives of the LNC for non-attendance at three consecutive LNC meetings
- Change balloting in the Presidential and Vice-Presidential contests to drop the weakest finisher after each ballot
- Change the deadline for delegate list submission from one month to one week and allow amendments to those lists to be done electronically or in person to the Credentials Committee
- Simplification of the Platform retention voting process.

## *Rinos vs. Linos*

*By Walt Thiessen*

Don Tabor makes a number of very significant errors in his analysis ("Losing as an Art Form", Nova Liberty, May-June 2006) about how the Libertarian Party has reached its current state and what the LP should be doing about it. Let's take a moment to look at just a few of those errors.

First, he assumes that the LP is a failed experiment. This is deliberately misleading. As Dr. Tabor knows, the LP is not an experiment. It is a legitimate political party that provides the only real option for people like us who believe that America is great because of her Republican primaries, Dr. Tabor believes we will magically pull the Religious Right back to liberty where they belong. There is no reason to believe that the Religious Right will suddenly become libertarian by having our candi-

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## Libertarian Honored in Portland

At every Libertarian National Convention there are three awards presented: the Thomas Jefferson award for lifetime achievement, the Samuel Adams award for activism, and the Thomas Paine award for communications.

Delegates at the National Convention voted to give the Thomas Jefferson award to Harry Browne. Browne, the 1996 and 2000 Libertarian Party candidate for President and author of many books, died in 2005.

The Samuel Adams award went to 2004 Presidential candidate Michael Badnarik. Badnarik is seeking to win a seat in the US House of Representatives this year in Texas' District 10.

The Thomas Paine award was given to John Stossel, well-known television news reporter and speaker.



National Chairman Bill Redpath of Virginia

### **Support the LP, the LPVA and LPNOVA**

**It is easy to support your local, state and national parties. You can make a monthly pledge or one time payment to the LP at [www.lp.org](http://www.lp.org), and for the Libertarian Party of Virginia at [www.lpva.com](http://www.lpva.com).**

**You can contribute or pledge to the LPNOVA, too. Contact Chairman Geoff Allen at [LPNOVA@lpva.com](mailto:LPNOVA@lpva.com) for information.**

## Nova Pot Luck Dinners and Events – Keep This Page!

More Info at: <http://www.lpva.com/Calendar/events.asp>

July 22, Saturday: Pot Luck Dinner Party and Pool Party at the home of Marta and Nat Howard, 216 Elm St. S.W., Vienna. Come early at 4:30 p.m. to swim, and the pot luck dinner begins at 7:00 p.m. Call Marta for menu suggestions at 703-938-4878 or email her at: [marta@pupworks.com](mailto:marta@pupworks.com).

August 26, Saturday, 7:00 p.m. : Pot Luck Dinner Party at the home of Steve and Libby Dasbach, 2803 Flagmaker Dr., Falls Church, VA. Contact Steve at 703-241-8436 or email him at: [stevedasbach@aol.com](mailto:stevedasbach@aol.com).

September 16, Saturday, 7:00 p.m.: Pot Luck Dinner Party at the home of Chuck Eby and Judy Herzog, 4572 Fair Valley Dr., Fairfax. Call Chuck at 703-855-8767 or email him at: [Charles@eby.name](mailto:Charles@eby.name).

October 21, Saturday, 7:00 p.m.: Pot Luck Dinner Party at the home of Ann and Scott Wakeman, 10133 Red Spruce Rd., Fairfax. Contact Ann or Scott at 703-426-4573 or at: [scott.t.wakeman@verizon.net](mailto:scott.t.wakeman@verizon.net).

November 7, Tuesday, Election Day. Contact the Bill Wood for Congress team to help on election day. Volunteer Coordinator Walt Thiessen is available at [Volunteer@WoodforCongress.com](mailto:Volunteer@WoodforCongress.com) or 540-347-4584.

November 7, Tuesday, after the polls close: Election Night Party, place to be decided. Enjoy the company of your fellow Libertarians while having light refreshments and drinks. More information will be available closer to Election Day.

November, 2006, date and location to be decided, LPNOVA Annual Convention. The convention is usually held before a pot luck dinner, and all LPNOVA members are encouraged to attend. Typical business includes the election of Executive Committee members, approval of by-laws amendments and passing advisory resolutions. Any member of the Libertarian Party of Virginia who resides in Fairfax County, Arlington County, or the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, and Fairfax is considered a Member of LPNOVA sixty days after taking the action necessary to become a member of LPVA.

December 16, Saturday, 7:00 p.m.: Pot Luck Dinner Party at the home of Chuck Eby and Judy Herzog, 4572 Fair Valley Dr., Fairfax. Call Chuck at 703-855-8767 or email him at: [Charles@eby.name](mailto:Charles@eby.name).

### ***Advance Liberty by Helping LPNOVA—Here's How***

Would you like to see freedom spread in Virginia? You can make a difference by volunteering a few hours of your time every month or two. LPNOVA needs your help to staff our outreach booths, stuff envelopes, help our candidates, and more. No experience is necessary! If you would like to help, come to the monthly LPNOVA meeting (address on page 5), or contact LPNOVA Chair Geoff Allen at [LPNOVA@lpva.com](mailto:LPNOVA@lpva.com).

**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 May 15, 2006. Plans for outreach events, candidate recruitment and volunteer recruitment will be discussed. For more information about the LPNOVA, contact Chairman Geoff Allen at LPNOVA@lpva.com or 732-221-8830.

**LPNOVA and LPVA Websites** Keep informed about LPVA and LPNOVA activities by checking LPVA website, www.lpva.com, and the LPNOVA website: <http://nova.lpva.com/>

**LP of Loudoun County News**

Libertarians in Loudoun County meet the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at a new location, Glory Days, 21800 Towncenter Plaza, Sterling, VA. Contact Geoff Allen for more information at LPNOVA@lpva.com.

**LP of Prince William County News**

Please contact Chairman Kathy Mullin for more information at 703-221-9875 or PrinceWilliam@lpva.com.

**Eighth Congressional District Convention**

Contact Chair Steve Dasbach at 703-867-4345 or stevedasbach@aol.com for more information.

**Tenth Congressional District**

Contact District Chair Bill Wood for more information on the organization's activities at 10CD@lpva.com.

**Eleventh Congressional District**

Libertarians in the Eleventh Congressional District are invited to help the organization. If you live in the district, please contact Leonard Harris, LPVA Chair, about future meetings and to volunteer at 1Chair@lpva.com.

***Libertarian Party of Virginia Contacts*****Officers**

Chairman:	Leonard Harris	Chair@lpva.com
ViceChairman:	Jeff Bowles	ViceChair@lpva.com
Secretary:	Marc Montoni	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:	Vacant	11CD@lpva.com

**Committee Chairman**

Communications:	Steve Damerell	Communications@lpva.com
Financial:	Donny Ferguson	Fundraising@lpva.com
Local Affiliates:	Jim Lark	Affiliates@lpva.com
Membership:	Marc Montoni	Membership@lpva.com
Political:	Donny Ferguson	PoliticalDev@lpva.com

**Representative to the Libertarian National Committee**

Jim Lark      JWLark@virginia.edu

**Nova Liberty is published six times a year by the LPNOVA.**

The editors are: Marianne Volpe, [m\\_volpe@verizon.net](mailto:m_volpe@verizon.net), or call 703-960-2973, and Marta Howard, [marta@pupworks.com](mailto:marta@pupworks.com). Please contact Marianne if you would like to contribute or help with the next issue. Thank you.

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dates run in Republican primaries.

Dr. Tabor also asserts that we should never say anything that will possibly offend a Republican. Presumably, he believes that offending a Democrat is just fine, since he has no intention of the LP running in Democrat primaries. In Dr. Tabor's Right Wing world, libertarians don't come from the Left. They come exclusively from the Right. Reality is another matter. As Matt Martin's candidacy for House of Delegates in 2005 clearly showed, we draw at least as well from the Left as we do from the Right and possibly better. Dr. Tabor is focused on eliminating RINOs (Republicans In Name Only) from the Republican Party, when he should be focused on questioning and doubting LINOs (Libertarians In Name Only) who want to draw him away from the Libertarian Party.

Dr. Tabor and I agree on a few points. We agree that the LP should not be a single-issue party. We agree that our party should certainly forge working relationships with small "L" libertarians in other parties on issues where we agree. But none of this requires that we abandon the LP as a separate party running its own candidates. Further, I would certainly not include the misnamed FairTax bill (HR25) on my list of preferred issues on which we should work with other parties. HR25 is a highly deceptive and misleading bill that violates numerous libertarian principles, and it would be a very bad idea for LP candidates and activists to be asked or required by the party to publicly support that bill.

The most important point to understand is that the LP's failures have not occurred because of failures in political policy or issue failures or advocacy failures. They have not occurred because of the platform or because of the non-aggression principle. In fact, if you were to hire Gallup to poll the American people on what the LP stands for, I very much doubt that the vast majority could accurately tell the caller conducting the survey what a Libertarian is without being coached somehow by that caller. And I guarantee that not even 1 in 100 of those voters could correctly tell you what the non-aggression principle is, let alone what it implies, because odds are they've never heard of it.

So why has the LP really failed? We have failed because we have not built our party systematically from the ground up and identified our potential supporters among unaffiliated voters and ex-voters. To date, we have still not launched a comprehensive effort to systematically identify all potential Libertarians on a precinct-by-precinct basis around the country (although the Wood For Congress campaign proposes to create a test case toward that end in the 2006 election cycle). We have no database like the Republicans and De-

mocrats that tracks where most of our potential supporters live and how they can be reached. Whenever we have put up candidates for office, we have been reduced to spending our relatively tiny amounts of capital toward getting on the ballot and shot-gunning our candidates' sound bytes in a small number of talk-radio ads or a precious few local TV spots, in the hope that this will somehow educate the mass of voters about our party. We still don't know where even a tiny fraction of our potential supporters live and can be directly reached in a campaign. We haven't mastered basic techniques for targeting our marketing to just our potential supporters. Yet, polls have repeatedly shown that there are 20-25% of American (mostly unaffiliated) voters who already lean our way and are just waiting for us to find them.

While I am second-to-none in my admiration of Congressman Ron Paul, I must point out that having a Libertarian in Republican clothing in Congress has led to the accomplishment of distressingly few tangible, positive results in the fight for liberty in the 10+ years he has been in office. For the most part, the public, the press, and most notably the Republican Party have ignored Congressman Paul's valiant efforts. If Dr. Tabor were correct in his analysis, Ron Paul should already have a long, successful history in Congress of pulling Republicans back to liberty. The reality is quite different. Despite his best efforts, Ron Paul's real-world accomplishments have been remarkably few in Congress. This is not a mark of failure for Ron Paul. Rather, it is a mark of failure for the "take over the Republican Party" minority who can't seem to come to grips with political reality, that the Republican Party have no intention of ever becoming more libertarian, although they won't hesitate to borrow our rhetoric for political expediency when they think it will help them snag some "lesser of two evils" Libertarian-leaning voters. After all, if you're a Republican, you can always ignore such rhetoric once you've been elected to office.

I applaud what Ron Paul is trying to do, but let's not make the mistake of confusing applause with results. On balance, the Ron Paul strategy has been even less effective than the LP's strategy to date, as we can see when we actually measure the results. At least the LP's fragmented, anemic approach to date has successfully acquired nearly 100,000 persons who have signed the non-aggression pledge. Imagine what we could accomplish if we actually took a scientific, systematic approach to party-building instead of the hit-or-miss shot gun approach we have taken historically.

Yes, I agree, the LP has endured extensive failures. But let's not blame these failures on policy issues and advocacy that have not even reached the overwhelming majority of our potential supporters among the elec-

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I would like to single out the following volunteers for their tremendous efforts this season: Tony Torres, Donny Ferguson, Milan Zacek, Steve Damerell, Robert Buchanan, Chuck Eby, Kathy Mullen, Josh Dunn, Michael Hillman, Dana Johansen, Bob Gonella, Walt Thiessen, and Nicole Thornton. If you happen to run across any of these folks, please join me in thanking them for the work they have put into the party.

In other news, we have been able to watch the Wood for Congress campaign really swing into action in the past two months – stickers, campaign signs, slogans and all. The Wood team is making a tremendous effort to get out there and engage the voters, and they can use all the volunteers and contributions they can get to gear up for the upcoming months. If you have ever considered volunteering for a serious congressional campaign, now is the time to act! Please visit their excellently designed website at [www.woodforcongress.com](http://www.woodforcongress.com) for more information.

The last bit of news I have to share is an upcoming structural change to our local affiliate. Because of our increased activity, and the need to raise additional funds, the Libertarian Party of Northern Virginia will be registering with the state as a Political Action Committee (PAC). This will allow us to grow without having to worry about spending limits, and is a big step for our local affiliate in the direction of serious politics. I know I've said this before, and I'm sure I'll say it again: if you've ever considered getting involved, now is the time to do it! Please consider volunteering or joining our monthly pledge program to help support our local party as we get through these "growing pains."

I look forward to sharing our future successes with you in the months ahead.

Sincerely,  
Geoff Allen  
Chair  
Libertarian Party of Northern Virginia

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torate. The failures have happened because we have reached for the stars without first identifying our potential supporters among the voters. That's misguided and ill-advised. Instead of throwing the baby out with the bathwater, let's focus on building the Libertarian Party, not limiting ourselves to a tiny, forgotten, pseudo-libertarian caucus within the Republican Party.

Walt Thiessen  
Woods For Congress Volunteer Coordinator  
Warrenton, VA

## Why We Run By Marianne Volpe

I attended the National Convention in Portland, and it was a fantastic event. Meeting new people, seeing old friends, and participating in the work of the Libertarian Party as a delegate from Virginia was an honor. I thank my fellow Virginians for giving me the opportunity to do this.

This convention was different from others for me because of the Libertarian Reform Caucus (LRC) and its members' efforts to remove/change the platform, modify the definition of a Libertarian Party member, change/delete the platform, and change the present language of the statement of principles.

The LRC maintains that the LP has not won elections because it does not appeal to more voters, and therefore the need to change or remove language that would keep those voters away.

I disagree with this premise. I believe that principled Libertarians should run for office, as many as possible, but the best possible candidates, to educate voters about how Libertarians would solve problems. The more races we run the more we educate voters on what it means to be a Libertarian.

We cannot depend on the media or the state to tell people what we believe and why what we believe should govern the United States.

We must run candidates for office to tell our fellow citizens what we believe and why we should govern the United States. We cannot depend on the media or the state to tell people what we believe.

When our opponents attack our stands, we must vigorously defend them. A good defense starts with a good offense, and it is the Republicans and Democrats who should be made to answer for their stands—and their lack of principles.

Compromising our principles will not draw people to us, The Founding Fathers were principled and courageous, two admirable traits that draw people. If we follow their example we will succeed in time.

We run in races at all levels knowing that we will not win—the first time, the second time, maybe the third time. But we will win eventually.

The only way we can lose is if we stop running.

Marianne Volpe  
Editor, Nova Liberty

# 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...

Libertarian National Convention Results, Wood Campaign, RINOS vs. LINOS, LPNOVA events 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 Marta and Nat Howard, 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.

The next dinner party starts at 7:00 p.m., July 22, 2006, at the home of Marta and Nat Howard at 216 Elm St. SW, Vienna. Come early at 4:30 and bring our swim suit if you'd like to swim. 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 Geoff Allen at 732-221-8830, or by email at LPNOVA@lpva.com – the more hosts, the better.

See you at the party!

