



South Carolina LIBERTARIAN

Newsletter of the South Carolina
Libertarian Party
PO Box 291383, Columbia, SC 29229
(803) 788-2226



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Spring, 2009

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State Chairman's Message

Power of Positive Change in Your Hands

I have watched the SCLP, like the National Party wander more or less aimlessly for the last several years. It seems we move one step forward and fall on our face. When we get up we are dazed and confused as to which direction we were going. We must stop our wandering and just remain true to the Libertarian principles. We need to regroup follow an agenda that will make the SCLP a prominent part of the South Carolina political "scene".

I want YOU to be an active part of that agenda. We have much work to be done to build the Party and the time is ripe. I believe that 2009 is an opportunity that cannot be passed up. The menace of an ever growing government spurred on by the current financial crisis, coupled with an incompetent Congress, is creating many disillusioned citizens who are searching for an alternative. The Libertarian Party is that alternative party. We have to work hard to get the word out that we are here, come join us. We have to be persistent, we have to be outspoken and we have to demand equality in campaigns and the media.

There are many things YOU can do. First, we are looking for volunteers to assist the State Membership Chairman as district membership coordinators to scout out recruiting opportunities. Secondly, there are openings for media, legislative and judicial watchers throughout the state. And third, we need to gather together the resources of the entire state membership to contribute ideas on how to create local, media-loaded events to support our candidates. If you want to help with these or campaigns, please contact me: chairman@sclibertarians.org

Of course, our greatest need, like everyone, is financial support. I want to encourage everyone to join our Gadsden Society. This group was formed to produce the funds needed to support and grow our state party. We would like to be able to support the current plans for building a larger slate of Libertarian candidates through the state. We can do so much more when we have funds. Please contribute as much and as often as you can.

Michael Carmany, SCLP State Chairman
chairman@sclibertarians.org

ExecComm Notes

- approved active participation by lobbying in support of efforts pass legislation declaring June 28th Carolina Day in remembrance of the SC military forces victorious battle over British at the Battle of Sullivan's Island.

- Issued prototype county by-laws to assist county clubs in writing their own.

- Established Legislative, Events, Media and College Campus Committees

- Established September/October 2009 for reorganization of precincts and counties enabling better recruitment of candidates.

- Candidate Recruitment Seminar to be held in March

- Libertarian State Leadership Assn will meet in Charleston Feb 27-28 & March 1.

BRAINSTORMING II Report

The Executive Committee and interested members from across the state met at the Hampton Inn in Clinton, SC in October to pool their ideas about three specific tasks.: increasing the number of organized counties, forming Action Committees and developing "A Contract with South Carolina".

Increasing membership is the key to having more organized counties is was concluded and a significant amount of time was spent on developing creative ideas to accomplish this task. Contact with pro-libertarian Letter to Editor writers, re-establish contact with former organized counties and advertising and press releases in local/county papers. The Exec Comm will be calling on all county chairs to contribute to this effort.

Several Action Committees were established making the committees and Chairmen as follows: Membership, Victor Kocher; Newsletter, Stewart Flood; Media, Barry Gray; Legislative, n/a; Political, State Chair, Michael Carmany; College Outreach, Truman Horner.

The idea for “A Contract with South Carolina” was debated. Some felt that we need to have a guideline for candidates so that we run a unified message. Others thought that the SC Party Platform would suffice. The conclusion was that another Brainstorming Session on candidate recruitment and training should be held in March.

“All government, in its essence, is organized exploitation, and in virtually all of its existing forms it is the implacable enemy of every industrious and well-disposed man.” -- H. L. Mencken (1880-1956) American Journalist, Editor, Essayist, Linguist, Lexicographer, and Critic

Why I Am a Libertarian

I grew up in a family that is best described as left leaning/political independent. No one in my family was involved in party politics, but most did have an interest in individual candidates or issues. This lack of “indoctrination” left me with a blank slate to form my own political beliefs, but it also gave me no starting point going into adulthood.

In 1984 I wanted to be an informed voter, and studied parties from the left and right, the Libertarian Party was one of these, however, due to age and inexperience none of them spoke to me in a meaningful way. This led to roughly twenty years of supporting, volunteering for, and voting for a variety of candidates without considering political affiliation. I was among the political homeless. The one positive out of this was that I discovered I was a believer in the multi-party system.

During these years I generally supported the positions of the political left. But there were three issues in particular that I have always held dear. I have always been a supporter of Second Amendment rights. I have always supported small business and entrepreneurship. But most importantly I have always had a belief in Individual Freedom.

In 2004 I began an affiliation with the Green Party. The Four Pillars and Ten Key Values seemed to offer a foundation that a movement could be built on. In three to four years I became very active including serving on the state steering committee and running for office in 2007 and 2008. Ironically it was as a candidate for York County Council that I began to lose confidence in the national Green Party’s commitment to their Ten Key Values. Without going into specifics, they were steamrolling to the left, and I began to distance myself and my campaign from the “party line“.

During the campaign, I had to deal with two life threatening health issues. About a month into the recovery ordeal a healthcare professional suggested that I seek Social Security Disability. This attitude bothered me since I had planned to return to work (and did) as soon as I was able. With individual freedom comes individual responsibility, and at some point I may need charity, but charity is the absolute last resort. I refuse to promote an agenda that would cause even one person to adopt the attitude that going on disability was preferable to working through a hardship. I began to question my political stances. Do they support people to take the easy way out, allowing themselves to become a ward of the state on the back of the taxpayer? Earlier in the year I had watched part of the 2008 Libertarian National Convention on C-Span and found that I agreed with much of their message. So, during this time of self-evaluation I decided to devote time to further study of the Libertarian Party platform.

From Green to Libertarian? It’s not as far-fetched as one may think. Many, if not most Greens would accept or support as much as half of the LP platform as it stands. As for me, when I studied the platform I found I was already in full agreement with most of it, and when looked upon objectively, I felt I could support all of it. The process of my political “switch” had already been put in motion, but I admit that my health crisis re-energized a belief in personal liberty and responsibility.

In the final two months of the 2008 campaign season, I no longer believed in the liberal agenda of the GP. I could no longer in good conscience promote a philosophy which rewards sloth and penalizes initiative. However, because I had made a commitment to the GP, and I honor my commitments, I stuck with them through Election Day and never came out in direct opposition to them. Shortly after the election I resigned from the Green Party and “officially” began what I hope will be a long and productive affiliation with the Libertarian Party.

Bryan Smith is an active member in York County

Every time that we try to lift a problem from our own shoulders, and shift that problem to the hands of the government, to the same extent we are sacrificing the liberties of our people.” -- John F. Kennedy (1917-1963) 35th US President

COMMENTARY

Write one, send to margew@hotmail.com

Libertarian as a Classic Liberal

OK, we now have a Democrat in the White House...or maybe a better description would be a Progressive. We used to have either Democrats, who supported all kinds of social programs, or Republicans, who favored small government. . Beginning around the turn of the 20th century, other movements arose such as: “social” democrats, “progressives”, “new dealers”, “great societies”, “compassionate conservatives”, “neo-cons” and who knows how many more. A strong socialist movement also

arose which favored partial or complete takeover by the government of the means of production.

All these various philosophies spilled over into both Democratic and Republican parties until it seems that present day politicians of both parties are trying to capture the voter where he really is...in the center. The mixture of these movements created the current “welfare” state where government provides huge welfare programs to individuals, States and businesses and where government does not necessarily “own” many businesses, but regulates nearly every aspect of their operation.

So, when a politician runs as a Democrat or as a Republican we don’t really know what he stands for, what his policies may be or how he will govern. It used to be pretty clear – now, we can’t be so sure.

With the economic ‘crisis’ which we now have before us and the disastrous neo-cons behind us, we are in dire need of establishing a common sense method of handling the problems of society, both social and economic. Of course, we believe that the libertarian political philosophy fills the bill. In the past the “classic” liberal beliefs have largely been the engine that pulled society into fiscal prosperity and a higher standard of living. Classic liberalism stresses individual freedom and limited government and that includes property rights, protection of civil liberties, constitutional limitation of government, free markets. “Laissez-faire economics”, the belief that an unconstrained market will balance itself in the long run and will lead to an improved living standard is a main-stay of classic liberalism.

Libertarians can be subdivided into two groups: minarchist and anarchist. Both are examples of a certain kind of “classic” liberal. The minarchist libertarian maintains that government should impartially but minimally work for the common good whereas the anarchical libertarian wants the public good to be accomplished via a network of private contracts without government involvement.. As in any political or philosophical group there are varying degrees of acceptance of its tenets. The Libertarian Party, since its inception, has firmly asserted that a bloated government slowly but surely takes away the freedom of the individual.

The welfare state is a good example of a government program that has completely eviscerated the freedoms of a large group of citizens. The lives of welfare recipients are largely run by the government and freedom of choice and personal responsibility for solving their own problems is rarely considered. And consider the federal intrusion into education. Whereas, before the Department of Education existed, local school boards were beholden to the local community, they are now committed, first, to federal “guidelines” that mandate who, how, what, where and when your child will be educated. You and your school board have lost freedom of choice in the matter.

And now we are about to enter an era of corporate welfare where government gives money to business and demands, in return, almost complete control of the operations. (This used to be called “fascism”.) Oh, it might seem like government control of businesses doesn’t affect you but when businesses lose their freedom to choose or even to fail, you lose your freedom of choice also. Just like when government increases business taxes guess who pays it? You get it, you do in increased cost of goods and services.

The beginnings of the economic crisis we are living through, in part, can be laid at the doorstep of the portal we stepped through when the decision was made that the federal

government should use legislative power to increase home ownership. When Congress mandated through regulation and guarantees that everyone should be a homeowner, it opened the door for all kinds of fancy footwork when it came to underwriting this process. The trust that was previously put in the mortgage lender to make sound business judgments as to the worthiness of an applicant was skewed by the government mandate to “put them in a home”. This, of course, was followed by the cunning of the ‘high flyers’, both Fannie and Freddie and the ones on Wall Street. When the government guarantees that the business won’t fail, the business is free to take any risk.

The current tactic of the government “investing“ in the private sector seems to have taken the idea of social engineering and applied it to economic engineering. This is not the first time it’s been done but it has taken it to a higher level. If you want a business model for shutting down an economy just study governments of all ilks going back as far as the Ming Dynasty of China. Periods of rising productivity were choked off by institutional barriers - a plethora of rules and regulations and taxation.

So, classic liberalism or libertarianism thinking is what is needed to get us out of this mess. It has proven itself over the test of time to qualify for that position in “center court” where the vast majority of the citizens are firmly planted. We don’t expect the President to do an about face in his politics but we hope that in his study of history and the Constitution he has come across the historic evidence that big, bloated government is bad governance.

Marge is Chair, Arch is Vice-Chair York County LP

Send comments: margew@hotmail.com

Don’t Just Grumble -- Visit your local group

The Libertarian Club of York County Meetup

2nd Monday of each month at 7pm

The Station Restaurant - Greystone Shopping Center

Hwy 160, West, Fort Mill/Tega Cay

Go to: <http://libertarian.meetup.com/339/>

The Central Midlands Libertarian Meetup

4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm

Carolina Wings & Rib House

600 Gervais St., Columbia

Go to: <http://libertarian.meetup.com/338/>

Low Country Libertarian Meetup

(Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester)

Go to: <http://libertarian.meetup.com/352/>

Upstate Libertarian Society

2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm

Augusta Road Public Library

Go to: www.aclp.us

SCLP Executive Committee

1st Saturday of each month at 1:30 pm

Ocean View Seafood Restaurant

1904 Broad River Rd, Columbia

Go to: www.sclibertarians.org

SCLP

P.O. Box 291383

Columbia, SC 29229

(803) 788-2226

The Gadsden Society

Marge Wakefield, Coordinator



"Individually the rattlesnake's rattles produce no sound, but united they can be heard by all; and while it does not attack unless provoked, it can be deadly to step on one."

The Gadsden Society funds those activities of the South Carolina Libertarian Party that assure our "rattles" for Liberty can be heard by all.

- Membership Outreach - County Organizing - Educational Seminars -

Members are those that contribute a minimum of \$240 annually to the SCLP. The contribution can be divided into monthly-\$20.00, quarterly-\$60.00, semi-annual-\$120.00, or as an annual payment of \$240.00.

As a member, you will receive a Gadsden Flag lapel pin with your first payment and your choice of a Thank You gift upon the completion of the annual amount: 1) 3' x 5' Polyester Gadsden Flag, 2) Gadsden Flag License Tag, 3) Gadsden Flag T-Shirt

**Help restore your birthright - Liberty.
Join The Gadsden Society Today!**

Use PayPal, it's the easy way!

Go to www.sclibertarians.org Click on Get Involved, then Gadsden Society

OR SEND YOUR GADSDEN CONTRIBUTIONS TO:
SCLP - PO Box 29383 - Columbia, SC 29229

Check Money Order

\$20 \$60 \$120 \$240

Name _____

E-Mail _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

If you do not wish to join the Gadsden Society, we welcome and appreciate any contribution. Send to SCLP, PO Box 29383, Columbia, SC, 29229