



LP ILLINOIS NEWSLETTER

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Celebrate Constitution Day

"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Thus begins the U.S. Constitution, signed in 1787. Constitution Day is an American holiday celebrated on September 17. This day is of special significance to libertarians, who would like to see the Constitution re-established as the law of this land. If you would like to celebrate our Constitution by learning more about it, our friends at the Cato Institute have a Center for Constitutional Studies section on their website at Cato.org/ccs with articles, a reading list, and books for sale.

Yet Another Government Failure: Consumer Protection

Toy recalls have made headlines recently as many have been found with unsafe levels of lead or dangerous magnets. The Consumer Protection Agency obviously failed to do its job in keeping these toys off the market.

Some say that the answer is more government, that we should reward this failure by giving the government more money. Libertarians say, shut down government functions that don't work and replace them with market solutions that do.

Case in point: Wal-Mart has announced that it is increasing the number of toys it tests at independent labs by 200 additional items per day. It is also double-checking the testing done by manufactures. Furthermore, it will share the results of its testing and reviews with the toy industry and other retailers.

It's in the best interest of Wal-Mart and other retailers to ensure their products are safe. As Adam Smith taught us in *The Wealth of Nations*, "It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker, that we can expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest."

We do not live in a perfect world. Bad things can, do, and will happen whether we depend on government or the market. We do, however, have a choice: continue to throw good money after bad on government programs or allow natural market forces to produce the best results.

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Health Care Update: HillaryCare Version 2

Hillary Clinton, the presidential front-runner, has proposed her latest health care plan for our nation. Key to the plan is forcing every American to purchase government-approved health insurance. Here, in the "land of the free," the government will force you pay just for being alive. Since we already have the death tax, it seems that payment for life itself is the next logical step.

The plan is projected to cost \$110 billion per year in new taxes. The real cost will, of course, be some multiple of that. We are told that many costs will be offset by the "efficiencies" of government-run health care. Yes, the same people who brought us the U.S. tax code, the Federal Register, and Katrina relief, will be bringing you big government healthcare efficiency. Really.

Not! Government interference in healthcare already brings us higher taxes, fewer jobs, less patient choice, and poorer quality. More government will bring more of the same. If you want details on what these types of plans will do, visit www.Cato.org and search on "individual mandate." John Stossel also did a special report recently, titled "The Case for Putting Individuals, Not Employers or Government, in Control of Health Care." If you missed it, you can read and see excerpts at www.abcnews.go.com/2020/Stossel/.

Your help is needed to fight this new brand of socialized medicine. Feel free to edit the above and send to your local paper, call in a radio show, post on a blog, or bring to your local libertarian chapter meeting.

Aaron Russo

Feb. 14, 1943 – Aug. 24, 2007

We were saddened to learn that liberty has lost another freedom fighter with the death of Aaron Russo. Aaron made his success in the entertainment business, producing top musical acts and films such as *The Rose* and *Trading Places*. He later turned his attention to politics, including a run for the governor of Nevada and the 2004 Libertarian Presidential nomination.

Aaron's documentary *America: Freedom to Fascism*, single-handedly helped many, many people to understand how we are losing the freedom that is the foundation of this country. The film starts out by criticizing the federal income tax and ends with a warning about having chips implanted in our bodies so we can be tracked at all times.

Sound like fiction? It's already happening with the elderly and the next target is our children. Read "Should You Chip Your Children?" just published 8/29/07 on PCMag.com if you want to get into the mind of a parent thinking

Thanks, Aaron, for the advance warning and for all your work for liberty.

LP Illinois Convention Update

Jacob "Bumper" Hornberger Added to Speaker Lineup

Our thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Convention so far. We received enough sponsorship donations to add Bumper Hornberger to our already stellar lineup of speakers. Bumper is President and Founder of The Future of Freedom Foundation and is well known as a great speaker.

U.S. Senate Candidate

The Libertarian Party of Illinois is actively seeking individuals to step forward as potential candidates for U.S. Senate in '08. Dick Durbin's seat is up and with both the Republican and Democratic parties in Illinois in disarray, it's a prime opportunity. Plus, we'll have a Presidential candidate to get on the ballot, so it's 2 for 1 to add a Senate candidate to the petitions.

Now is your chance to stand up for liberty. Contact Campaigns@LPillinois.org if you would like to discuss becoming our Senate candidate.

Can't picture your name on the ballot? Never fear. We will need everyone else's help to gather petition signatures, make donations, and volunteer on the campaign trail.

Proposed Bylaw Changes

At the Convention on Sunday, one of the agenda items will be changes to the Illinois bylaws. Two proposed changes have been submitted for consideration:

1) Membership Statement

A member, upon joining the Libertarian Party of Illinois, must sign a statement that says, "I have read and agree with the following statement: We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose."

Proposed Replacement

A member, upon joining the Libertarian Party of Illinois, must agree that "People have the right to control their own lives as long as they do not use force or fraud against others."

2) Statement on Endorsement of Other Parties or Candidates

"The Party shall not fund or advocate the election of a candidate of any other political party."

Proposed Replacement

The Party shall actively support all candidates for public office regardless of their party affiliation provided the candidates are each members of the Libertarian Party of Illinois or the Libertarian National Party.

Voting Requirements

You must be a member by Sept 14 to vote at the Business Meeting. To become a member, visit the Join Us page on our website.

Favorite Quote

"Nothing is so permanent as a temporary government program."
- Milton Friedman

Convention Workshops

In addition to the stellar lineup of speakers and activities, you will have the opportunity to participate in these dynamic workshops:

Michael Badnarik, 2004 Presidential Candidate and Constitutional Scholar, will conduct a special version of his popular Constitution Class focusing on your Bill of Rights.

Darla Maloney, past Missouri LP Chair and current Vice-Chair, will host a workshop on Coalition Building to achieve libertarian results, educate the public, and bring in new LP members.

Bruno Behrend is the host of the Extreme Wisdom talk radio show. Every 20 years Illinois voters decide whether there should be a state Constitutional Convention. Bruno will speak on the prospects of that happening, what the reforms would look like, and what it would mean for Illinois.

Dianna Visek, the Chair of the Champaign County Libertarian Party, has a keen interest in

legislative affairs. Her topic will be: "Whose State is It? Freeing Illinois from the Gang of Four."

The **Toastmasters** will be back to help us all with our public speaking skills - a must for any would-be candidates and those who enjoy sharing the libertarian message.

Convention Hotel Options

Our Convention hotel, Cliffbreakers, is selling out of rooms. There are a number of nearby hotels in Rockford, but one that has given us a special discount rate is the Holiday Inn Express, 7552 Park Place in Loves Park. Call (815) 654-4100 for reservations and ask for the \$99.95 LPI Convention rate.

There are several additional hotel options listed on the location page in the Convention area of our website.

If you haven't registered for the Convention yet, you can sign up right now on www.LPIllinois.org.