



LP ILLINOIS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2007

LP Illinois 2007 Accomplishments

It's been a great year for the libertarian movement. Thanks to the hard work of libertarians across the country and the successes of the Ron Paul campaign, millions more people are learning about the libertarian ideas of individual liberty and limited government.

Here in Illinois we can celebrate:

- Election victories for Libertarians David Kelley and Guy Finley
- An impressive 16% membership increase
- Interest in forming new chapters in DeKalb, Kankakee, and Tazewell
- Counties and at Northwestern and DePaul Universities
- An inspiring and successful State Convention in Rockford
- The extension of our communications reach through 22 issues of LP Illinois news, 3 press releases, 4 published letters to the editor, 3 presentations to local groups, and the new FAQs section added to our website
- Legislative contacts we have made on ballot access, the smoking ban, and medical marijuana issues
- The creation of our Speakers' List, Presentation Library, and LP Illinois Brochure



A Look Forward to 2008

The State Organizing Committee (SOC) will meet via teleconference on December 27th at 7:30 p.m.

All State Officers and Chapter representatives are expected to attend.

Topics will include:

- Vote Libertarian Illinois '08
- Party action plans for next year

Members are welcome to join in. Call our office 800-735-1776 for the teleconference number.

You can also support our activities in 2008 by making a donation to the Party, either by check or online at our website.

What we can accomplish depends on you.

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Vote Libertarian Illinois '08 (a.k.a. the Ballot Access Project)

Speaking of working to get more Libertarians elected, our State Organizing Committee has approved a preliminary plan to get Libertarian President, Vice President, and Senate candidates on Illinois ballots in 2008.

It's a difficult task, requiring us to collect approximately 45,000 petition signatures between March 25 and June 23.

To be successful, we need:

- Additional committee members to help with fundraising and organizing petitioners
- People to circulate petitions-- both volunteers and contractors
- Donations to fund the petition drive
- People to notarize petitions
- People to staff a potential petition challenge

The plan contains a feasibility analysis to gauge if there is sufficient support for success from LP National, State, and Local organizations, plus individual volunteers and donors.

If you would like to ensure that there is a Libertarian candidate on your ballot to vote for next November, now is the time to get started. Contact us and let us know you will pitch in or kickstart the fundraising by making a donation to the cause.

More on the '08 Presidential Election

Democratic and Republican primaries will be starting soon and their races are likely to be effectively over by February 5th, Super Duper Tuesday, when over 40% of their delegates will be elected.

Our Libertarian Party presidential candidate will be elected at the National Convention May 23-26, 2008 in Denver.

If you would like to learn more about the candidates, check out the Liberty Decides '08 area of the LP.org website.

You can look up the candidates, link to their websites, and demonstrate your support.

Chris Bennett Interview

Speaking of the November 2008 election, Steve Gordon, of Third Party Watch, recently interviewed Vice President Candidate and LP Illinois activist Chris Bennett.

You can look up the interview on the ThirdPartyWatch.com website to learn more about Chris and his candidacy. (From the homepage, scroll down to find the search box in the right column).

Thank You

This newsletter and our other liberty-promoting activities are only possible because of your support.

Pearl Harbor Day

On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked the United States by bombing Pearl Harbor. President Roosevelt made his "Day of Infamy" speech and asked Congress for a Declaration of War. That Declaration was the start of U.S. involvement in WWII.

However, since WWII no American President has asked for or received a Declaration of War. Yet our Presidents have sent our military to Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon, the Dominican Republic, Cambodia, Libya, Grenada, Iran, Panama, Somalia, Bosnia, Haiti, Yugoslavia/Serbia, Afghanistan, and Iraq, in complete disregard of the Constitution. The Constitution they swore to "preserve, protect and defend" in their oath of office.

The founders of this nation knew that the power to go to war was too great and too destructive to put into the hands of one person. The Constitution gives the power exclusively to Congress for the express purpose of making it difficult to go to war.

So do not only remember the loss of our service men and women in WWII, but also remember the losses in every war we have launched after that one, each too easy to start, each unconstitutional.

Your help is needed to get more Libertarians elected, Libertarians who respect and who will follow the Constitution. The Constitution can help protect people from the destructive influence of power, but only if we work to make it so.



Bill of Rights Day

December 15th is "Bill of Rights Day," commemorating the ratification of the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

The goal of these amendments is to restrict the power of the federal government. Sadly, the Bill of Rights has been trampled more and more over the years.

One place you can compare the first 10 amendments to what's happened during the current administration is an article by Anthony Gregory on LewRockwell.com, titled "Bush's War on the Bill of Rights."

If you are the "take lemons and turn them into lemonade" type, you can use this opportunity to write a letter to your local editor, post to a blog, or write your legislators about the sorry state of the Bill of Rights and how people who want them restored should join the Libertarian Party.

Favorite Quote

"May it be to the world... to assume the blessings and security of self-government."

Thomas Jefferson

New Newsletter Editor for LP Illinois

Lupe Diaz was elected at the last State Organizing Committee meeting to fill our Newsletter Editor position. He will be transitioning into the role in January.

You can send him your ideas for articles or improving the newsletter by emailing News@LPillinois.org.

Thank you, Lupe, for volunteering. Welcome aboard!

Other Opportunities Available

We still have openings for Fundraising Chair, Campus Coordinator, and National Platform Committee member.

If you have an interest in any of these positions, see the State Officials page on our website in the About Us section for more details or call the office at 800-735-1776.

Keep Illinois in the Top 10

The National Libertarian Party ranks states based on the number of people who are "sustaining" national Party members. Illinois is currently #8.

Being in the top 10 gives us a seat on the national platform committee and more influence at the national level, such as when we are negotiating for ballot access funding.

To keep Illinois in the top 10, please join or renew membership with the National LP as a sustaining member.

The cost is only \$25 per year (minimum) and grows the strength of both the national party and the LP Illinois.

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