



Gulf Coast Liberty

Defending liberty in southeast Texas in the Spirit of San Jacinto

March 2003

Radio Talk Show Host Gary Nolan in for President



2004 Presidential Hopefuls Dan Weiner for L. Neil Smith; Judge Jim Gray, Gary Nolan and Michael Badnarik speak at Houston's LP State Chair's Conference.

Gary Nolan, former host of "Nolan at Night," a syndicated national radio talk show heard on 65 plus affiliates, has announced his campaign for the LP nomination for President.

Gary became a Libertarian live on the air of his radio program in January of 1999. He left the Republicans in a very public display of frustration with their direction toward bigger government.

Gary already has a strong campaign team in place and is quickly adding local organizers. Steve Dasbach, former LP National Director, serves as campaign manager. Gary has a large rolodex of media contacts, but he's hedged his bets by adding Valerie Walston as Press Secretary. Before joining the Libertarian cause Valerie worked several campaigns for the Republican Party, she then moved on to become the Director of Broadcasting for CATO and finally, was a booking producer for MSNBC.

With the team's years of experience and contacts with the media

Gary says he expects to earn free coverage from the media to promote the LP. His main goal for the campaign is to raise awareness at the local level and

get people elected at the local level.

"There is a huge chunk of the population that doesn't know we exist," Gary told a recent gathering at the San Jacinto Supper Club in Pasadena. He promises to promote a positive vision of liberty—"Nobody is going to elect a candidate who complains constantly,"—to an audience outside the "choir."

For more information visit www.GaryNolan.com. Donations can be sent to Gary Nolan for President, PO Box 6308, Falls Church, Virginia 22040.

Judge Jim Gray of California is also contemplating a run for the nomination, but has not yet made an announcement. He is new to the Party—joining this February. There is also a committee to draft sci-fi author L. Neil Smith.

San Antonio Pick for Conference

This year's LP Texas Conference will be held at the Merced Hotel in San Antonio on Saturday, June 28th. A state party executive committee meeting will follow on Sunday the 29th.

The event promises to have several well-known speakers including a confirmed talk by Gary Johnson, the former Governor of New Mexico, who came out against the war on drugs while in office. While details for the event are still in the works the conference is expected to cost \$250 per person with meals included.

The Merced is a first class historic hotel located next to the

Alamo and Rivercenter Mall in the downtown. It boasts elegant rooms with cable, nintendo, balconies, etc. A pool, sauna, and jacuzzi are also on the property. A conference lodging rate has not been announced, but current internet discounts for Saturdays in June are showing at \$119, with kids under 18 staying free in their parent's room. You can contact the hotel at 1-800-784-1180.

A no-cost or very inexpensive co-event to the conference is also in the planning stages for Saturday afternoon in a nearby park. More information will be provided as it becomes available from the conference committee.



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Visit us on the web at <http://www.lptexas.org/harris>
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In the Mail

Yes, the Green Party is growing and may well surpass the LP. But I don't see that as a cause for alarm, nor do I think it would be a good strategy to attack Green Ecotopians simply because their feel good philosophy might be a socialism retreat.

The number one threat to liberty in the world today is American Imperialism under Bush's doctrine of preemptive war. The Libertarian Party should be the Party of Peace, but so far the Greens have taken that role. To the extent Greens organize for peace they promote liberty and are our allies. If the Green Party expands it's ranks and gets more votes than the LP in the coming elections, it will be because they were more effective than Libertarians at mobilizing the desire for peace among Americans.

That is our fault, not their's.

Neither do I see the Greens siphoning votes from us. The LP is primarily composed of disaffected conservatives unhappy with the Republican's movement away from the Constitution and left-ward drift toward the political center. Greens on the other hand are far left-wing counter-culture types. As such they siphon votes from Democrats. The only way they might take votes from us would be if we were the only "third" party on the ballot. Their ballot presence offers protest voters another choice.

If we have to count on protest votes, then we clearly have not been doing our job of communicating the libertarian message to that 15% of the electorate that polls show have libertarian attitudes.

We have much to be alarmed by these days, alright. Unbeknownst to

most Americans, our liberty is being consumed by the triad of counter-terrorism programs enacted since 9/11: the Patriot Act, last fall's Homeland Security Act and now, the "Total Information Awareness" initiative conceived and run by former Iran-Contra felon John Poindexter. Thanks to a foreign policy dedicated to decades of intervention in the affairs of everyone, Orwell's nightmarish world is here to stay. It took a Republican administration to gobble up the budget surplus and bring back massive deficits. Inflation is about to go through the roof again. Forget about the pittance tax cuts and social security reform.

War is looming! Conscription is being reconsidered. And Americans must shoulder the "white man's burden." But the Greens? No, they are no threat to us. In fact I say "Bully for the Greens," because they are for peace. And peace is good for liberty.

We do need to act. But not against the Green Party. We need to get over our paralysis in the face of the greatest threat to liberty in our lifetimes. We are rightfully the party of peace. We need to express our unique anti-war point of view. If we don't, then the only anti-war message Americans will hear will be the left-wing's socialistic anti-capitalism.

Tim Dove

Thanks!

Harris County LP would like to thank the following recent donors:

A.B. Benson
Peter Elloway
Charles Fuller
S.D. Turman

Robert F. Lockhart
Certified Public Accountant
P.O. Box 1398 Pasadena, Texas 77501
713-475-0092

Funds needed now to meet regular expenses!

Here is my best donation: _____\$25_____ \$50_____ \$75_____ \$100_____ Other

Occupation_____

Tired of missing all the really cool activist opportunities? Send us your email and we'll let you in on all the details: _____

Party Faces Low Bank Balances

While the National LP expects to be out of debt by this summer, the LP of Texas treasurer reports Texas has \$5,082 in the bank. Another \$3,643 is due from National from the Unified Membership Program (UMP).

Texas Chair David Delamar projects an improvement in our financial picture coming from the elimination of the paid political director position, funds raised by our upcoming state conference, arrears payments from National (which should be made up by July) and the fact that there are no campaign expenditures this year.

Texas LP cut costs earlier this year by stopping publication of its newsletter, Lone Star Liberty, and by ending Unified Member Program payments to the county parties.

Likewise, the Harris County LP has money in the bank, but funds are tight, with only enough on hand to fund each month's newsletter and a planned fundraising letter.

With high costs expected in 2004—for an expensive ballot access drive and for normal election year outreach—all levels of the Party are in need of your donations now!

TAB Sues

LP candidates Joe LaFleur and Robert Parker were sued by the Texas Association of Business (TAB), John Hawly reported at last month's SLEC meeting.

TAB, facing problems with the Texas Ethics Commission and a suit from the Democrats, counter-sued 16 candidates—all Democrats except for our two. Raul Elizondo of Dallas is representing the LP members. More information to come.

Support HB 715

Want to chip away a little of the War on Drugs? Contact your State Representative and Senator to support House Bill 715. The bill would promote fiscal responsibility by removing the threat of jail time or a criminal record for possessing less than an ounce of marijuana.

Texas is facing a budget deficit of up to \$12 billion, and the state's prison system is overflowing. H.B. 715 is more logical than jailing them at taxpayer's expense. Currently, individuals possessing less than four ounces of marijuana can be jailed for 180 days, lose their driver's license, and be subject to future drug testing. H.B. 715 lowers the penalty to a ticket and fine for those holding less than an ounce.

If you are short on time or energy, you can select a pre-written email and have it sent automatically from www.mpp.org/TX/action.html

Austin for Peace

The City Council of Austin recently passed an Iraqi antiwar resolution—becoming the first city in Texas to join in urging the Bush administration not to go to war with Iraq without the support of other countries.

The Austin council approved a resolution calling for more time for inspections by a 5-0 vote with 2 abstentions that voiced support for the measure anyway. Other places passing such resolutions include Los Angeles, Chicago, Atlanta, the Maine State Senate and Hawaii's State House. The Cities of Houston and Galveston are considering resolutions

To find out which cities have passed anti-war resolutions and how to promote a resolution in your city visit www.citiesforpeace.org.

Notes

A Libertarian Party club is being started on the University of Texas Austin campus, reports Tony Miller, Tarrant County LP Chair. "The individual starting it has gone through all of the official channels and even has the support of one of the most prominent professors," he says.

This month saw at least two Libertarians mentioned in the Houston Press—although neither is identified by party affiliation. Dean Tucker of Beaumont is mentioned as a participant in an ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism) trek to Washington, D.C. to protest the war against Iraq. Ryan Schwartz of Bellaire High is mentioned in support of Marla Dukler, a student in Klein who is being prevented from starting a Gay Straight Alliance Club.

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Libertarian Activities March 2003

March 7 (Fri.) 5-8 p.m. Candlelight Vigil to Stop War at Mecom Fountain where Montrose Blvd. meets Hermann Circle in Houston. Vigil held every Friday—come when you can, leave when you want. Excellent outreach opportunity.

March 11 (Tues.) 7 p.m. Brazoria County Meeting at Golden Corral, Hwy 388 Business, Angleton. Contact George Harper at Gharper@sat.net or 979-964-3693.

March 19 (Mon.) Filing ends for candidates for offices on the ballot on May 3. Election is for Mayors, City Councils, School, Hospital, and Water Districts.

March 18 (Tues.) 6:30 p.m. Jefferson County Meeting at the LogonC@fe, 3805 Calder Ave., in Beaumont. Contact John Gossage at che_prof@hotmail.com or 409-860-4499.

March 20 (Thurs.) 7 p.m. San Jacinto Supper Club at Top China Buffet, 3630 Spencer Hwy. in Pasadena. Contact Bob Lockhart 713-475-0092.

March 20 (Thurs.) 7 p.m. Montgomery County Meeting at the South County Community Center, 2235 Lake Robbins Drive, The Woodlands. Contact Ron Hard at ellyhard@email.msn.com or 281-363-9211.

March 25 (Tues.) 7-9 p.m. School Board Candidate Workshop in Beaumont. Free workshop from the Texas Association of School Boards covering—what it's like to be a trustee, key responsibilities, division of authority

with the staff, how to campaign constructively and where to find more information. ESC Region 5 Room A, 2295 Delaware, Beaumont. Contact Brenda Canul at 800-580-8272 extension 8272 or email Brenda.Canul@tasb.org.

March 27 (Thur.) 7 p.m. Clear Lake Libertarian Caucus Supper Club at Fuddrucker's Restaurant on Nasa Rd 1. Contact Paul 281-280-8660 or Paul.Morris@directvinternet.com to confirm.

April 6 (Sun.) 2 p.m. Harris County Meeting at 9614 Oregano Circle (off Corporate Drive.) Contact John at elfsoft@mindspring or 713-271-1776.

April 8 (Tues.) 7 p.m. Brazoria County Meeting at Golden Corral, Hwy 388 Business, Angleton. Contact George Harper at Gharper@sat.net or 979-964-3693.

April 12 (Sat.) 12:30 p.m. Second Saturday Libertarian Lunch, at Star Pizza, 2111 Norfolk St. off Shepherd Dr. in Montrose, Houston. Join local Libertarians for an inexpensive lunch—pizza, salads, sandwiches—at an LP friendly restaurant frequently voted "best pizza" in Houston. For directions contact the restaurant at 713-523-0800. Other questions contact Laura Coker-Garcia at Laura@LibertyWorks.org or 281-997-8141.

April 15 (Tues.) Tax Day. Interesting in joining the LP for organized outreach on tax day? Contact Laura at Laura@LibertyWorks.org or 281-997-8141.