



Gulf Coast Liberty

February 2007

Libertarian: Fiscally Conservative & Socially Tolerant

Municipal Election—Run to Win By Crystal Meadows

The meeting began with Chair Guy McLendon giving his expectation that any future candidate for municipal office should run to win and be prepared to serve. Winnable races are most likely in smaller municipalities. A goal is to win one seat on each city council and/or school board throughout Harris County & the Gulf Coast Region. Libertarians can serve as the conscience of these elected boards, and having a single seat on many city councils will allow our candidates to influence opinions while the members of the Establishment parties become acclimated to our presence.

City Council opportunities: a new HCLP activist Boyd Smith discussed his spreadsheet of City Council Districts showing opportunities for 2007 (<http://www.mclendon.net/tools.htm>). MUD and school districts were also suggested as possible winnable races. Boyd recently relocated from Southwest Louisiana. Boyd is a chemical engineer serving in the National Guard. Welcome to Houston, Boyd!

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Benjamin Franklin Exhibit By Martin Nitschke

Twenty members of the Houston Metro Region Libertarian Party Meetup group attended the Ben Franklin exhibit at the Houston Museum of Natural Science on January 21st. The Ben Franklin exhibit was full of interesting and interactive displays. It was truly amazing to see how Benjamin Franklin, someone with only two years of formal education, changed the world with his inventions. Old Ben created many different personas, some female, under which to publish his works. He was far ahead of his time in many different areas, including his promotion of women's rights. One impressive invention of his was to use leaf imprints in making money. Every leaf is different, just like snowflakes, thereby preventing counterfeiting. The exhibit detailed this and many other areas in which Ben was a most interesting and entertaining person.



Municipal Election Coordination @ UH (Jan 27, 2007)
Seated (L to R) Stacey Bourland, Crystal Meadows, Gloria McLendon. Standing (L to R) Michael Lee, Boyd Smith, White Marriot, Drew Parks, John Kormylo, Bill Gray, Sean Hardesty, Guy McLendon. Photo by Carl Wetzel.



Libertarian Meetup—Ben Franklin Exhibit (Jan 21)
Families [L to R] McLendon, Tunstall, Smither, Montgomery, Mayer, Jenkins, Nitschke, Harding. Photo by Gloria M.



Gulf Coast Liberty

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From the HCLP Chair

By Guy McLendon

My Fellow Libertarians,
Activists are really hopping in Harris County! Before we had a chance to sing Auld Lang Syne to close 2006, HCLP Secretary Crystal Meadows organized, publicized & held a Bill of Rights Dinner on December 15th. Many good things are happening here in Space City, USA.

For the first time ever, HCLP is beginning to consistently distribute this Gulf Coast Liberty newsletter at a public location—Angelica Theater. Our volunteers are searching the land looking for other suitable locations where our outreach materials can be given directly to the public. We're working to break through the media blackout!

Our communications facilities are on the move. Precinct Chair Carl Wetzel & Bob Smither set up an electronic, monthly newsletter to broadcast announcements to regional libertarians. Carl is leading the task of preparing and transmitting this monthly announcement of activities. Our internal project management systems are also stepping up. An initial draft of a new HCLP organization chart has been completed, and has been submitted to HCLP volunteers for review. Similar to the monthly electronic newsletter, a second email list was developed to facilitate internal HCLP communications. Hello 21st century!

During the Texas SLEC meeting held on Jan 13th, Texas LP adopted the tagline "Fiscally Conservative—Socially Tolerant" with the intent that LP publications use this phrase to improve our branding. Notice the cover of this newsletter now uses this branding tagline. Further, I was assigned to develop a ranked list of "talking points" that can be further used to build the Texas LP brand. This list will be submitted to TX-SLEC for review & approval.

Louisiana transplant, National Guard soldier turned HCLP activist, Boyd Smith, developed a list of opportunities for Municipal Elections, and presented the opportunities at a coordination meeting at the University of Houston. HCLP intends to continue pursuit of partisan opportunities. But going forward, we will have much focus on winnable, non-partisan municipal elections. Our meeting held last Jan 27th was the kickoff that heralds this new direction intended to target electoral success.

Going forward, let us not be content to witness only glacial progress towards the restoration of Liberty. Now is the time to make history. This coming March, HCLP will make a little history by convening our first ever Affiliates Business Meeting. The primary power to do good rests with the Affiliates of our party ... not with the leadership. The future is not set. Whether our posterity, our children & grandchildren, live with prosperity & freedom, or else with tyranny, is truly up to us. Let us not fail to do good during our limited days of life on this Earth.



Guy McLendon
Chair Harris County Libertarian Party

Gulf Coast Liberty Editorial Section

Finally, the President We Need

By: Yvonne Kelly

On Jan. 11, the news broke on Lew Rockwell's blog that Dr. Ron Paul (US Congress: TX-14) had set up an exploratory committee with the intention of seeking the Republican nomination for President in 2008. Within a scant few hours, the blogs and social networking sites were ablaze with the news, and yahoo discussion groups had been formed throughout the country in support of his candidacy.

Libertarians nationwide were elated, surprised, hopeful and ready to go to work on his behalf. Just the thought of Dr. Paul, the most honorable, courageous, and intelligent member of Congress since the days of the Founders being in the Presidential debates has energized and mobilized many thousands in all political parties.

The Exploratory Committee needs to assess his support and for that reason your help is critical. Here's what you can do right now to help make his candidacy a reality:

- 1) Declare yourself as a supporter by adding your name to the Committee's database. Send an e-mail message to:

penny_langford@ronpaulforcongress.com

including your name, snail-mail address, phone, and e-mail address (this is most important).

- 2) Make a contribution, large or small. If you wish to use a credit card, please call 1-800-RON-PAUL. Checks may be sent to the address listed at www.ronpaulexplore.com. A new website will be online shortly where you can contribute electronically - but please don't wait -- do it today! We need to encourage him.

- 3) Be alert for polls, news articles, and blog postings about presidential candidates. If Ron Paul's name does not appear, send an e-mail message or letter to the editor asking for a correction and the addition of his name.

Dr. Paul will participate in the first national Presidential debate on Wed. April 4 in New Hampshire. It will be hosted by CNN's Wolf Blitzer and will be carried live on CNN TV, Radio and cnn.com at 7 - PM (EST).

To learn more about Dr. Paul and help others understand where he stands on issues, there is a complete archive of his writings and speeches (including video) at:

<http://www.lewrockwell.com/paul/paul-arch.html>

In addition, Dr. Paul's new book *A Foreign Policy of Freedom: 'Peace, Commerce and Honest Friendship'* is going to press, to be published by his FREE Foundation in Lake Jackson. It will be available at FREE, Amazon, Mises.org, and other outlets.

Last, please mark your calendar and plan to attend the Mises Circle on Saturday, April 14 in Houston to meet Dr. Paul and cheer him. Also speaking will be well-known libertarians Walter Block, Guido Hulsmann, and Lew Rockwell. Details available shortly.

Ron Paul is our champion of liberty, peace, sound money, and the Constitution. But without our support, he will not be our standard-bearer. We cannot let this opportunity pass.

Gulf Coast Liberty Goes Public !!

Starting with the December 2006 issue of Gulf Coast Liberty, Harris County LP began regular distribution of GCL newsletters at the Angelika Theater: visit www.angelikafilmcenter.com. Local activists may recall Angelika Film Center hosted public viewings of Aaron Russo's movie "Freedom to Fascism", and is located at 501 Texas Avenue at the intersection of Smith Street in downtown Houston. As part of our plan to bypass the mainstream media and convey our message directly to the general public, HCLP is looking for additional opportunities to install and operate newsletter racks. Contact Guy McLendon, guy@mcclendon.net, if you know of a retail store, or other public outlet, where the owner/manager would allow you to manage a newsletter rack. HCLP can provide the rack & newsletter supply.

Special News Reports

Bill of Rights Day

By Candace Sessums

Despite the approaching holidays and the many events ongoing in Houston the evening of December 15th, 2006, an assembly of some thirty Libertarians still gathered at Ninfa's Mexican Restaurant on Interstate 45 and Monroe for a celebration not associated with the usual end of year festivities. These persons joined their minds, their souls, their very hopes for their nation in remembrance of the ratification of the Bill of Rights to the United States Constitution on that date in 1791.

After enjoying a meal of fajitas and conversing with comrades and strangers alike, the official discussions began. Crystal Meadows provided a prelude to the reading of the Preamble and the Amendments by noting that December 15th had in fact been declared a National Holiday by President Franklin D. Roosevelt some 65 years ago. Crystal urged the assembly to celebrate the bill of rights, but to also take the time to discuss the erosion of our rights in the nation today and to collectively work to ensure that the Bill of Rights remains a "living text" for our time. Then, one by one, the following members of the assemblage stood to recite the Preamble and the first ten amendments:

The Preamble Kevin Tunstall

I - Crystal Meadows

II - Bob Smither

III - Martin Nitschke

IV - Sam Smith

V - Recelle Nitschke

VI - Justin Currid

VII - David Dannemiller

VIII - White Marriott

IX - Jeff Daiell

X - Guy McLendon

Each person was given the opportunity to speak regarding their particular amendment. Martin Nitschke addressed the assembly just after his wife, Recelle, completed her recitation of the Fifth Amendment and explained why they had chosen that exact reading. During a recent civil court action, Recelle had been interrogated by a presiding judge who continually pressured her to forfeit her rights under the Fifth Amendment. Martin proudly described how his wife had held her ground and defended her right against self-incrimination.

Jeff Daiell used allegory to describe the significance of the ninth Amendment within the Bill of Rights. Daiell described the failure of the French Maginot Line in World War II. He advised that James Madison possessed more foresight that the French later would. Madison realized that

Municipal Elections—Continued from Page 1

Identifying Candidates: eight regional coordinators have been appointed who can help to identify potential candidates, and these coordinators have been given a copy of the HCLP database. HCLP has a 2007 annual goal to elect one candidate to municipal office, and Texas LP has a goal to run campaigns for five good municipal candidates statewide.

Endorsement of candidates: since a decision on whether to work for a given candidate must be made outside of regular conventions, some form of candidate questionnaire is needed. A recommended questionnaire includes two parts. First, require a score in the libertarian quadrant on the "World's Shortest Political Quiz". Second, provide answers to questions that demonstrate viability. Are you prepared to serve? Do you have any seed money to put up? How much time do you have to commit to this? What are your primary issues? Other suggestions included meeting them in person and hopefully seeing them attend meetings as well as finding out about their background and some personal and political history. Are they qualified and sociable? Also be sure the residency requirement is met. Options for official endorsement may include a vote by the HCLP Executive Committee (with input from the affiliates), or by vote during an Affiliates Business Meeting.

the Bill of Rights must include a provision that would thwart efforts by government to go around the Bill of Rights. The ninth amendment therefore sets forth the understanding that there are other rights retained by the people that are not enumerated within the bill itself.

Guy McLendon concluded the readings by delivering the tenth amendment which sets forth that all powers not enumerated to the national government by the constitution shall be reserved for the states and the people respectively. He expressed his hopes that core aspect of federalism could be leveraged to bridge the gaps between certain "non-incumbent" parties, so the LP could become a broader and more capable tool for limiting the power of government.

Mixed discussion continued with numerous members of the audience approaching the front to contribute their thoughts and hopes for the future. A feeling of overall anticipation for the restoration of our Bill of Rights pervaded the room as the formal meeting broke and some attendees remained to enjoy conversation into the evening.

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Restore Freedom Now — Make Checks Out to “HCLP”!

Please financially sponsor our upcoming outreach efforts! We Need Your Help.

Here is my best donation: \$35 \$60 \$100 \$200 \$1000 Other [No limit!]

Occupation _____ Employer (optional) _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ County: _____ Precinct _____

Your county party does not receive direct cash contributions from either the Texas or National Libertarian Parties. In addition to supporting LP at state & national levels, please also donate generously to support your local county activists!

Classified Section: Rate is \$10 per column inch per issue w/ discount for multiple Ads

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Running to Win?

The Texas LP is looking for persons interested in running for non-partisan municipal offices. If you are interested in winning and serving in a municipal position to further the cause of Liberty, contact your county chair. For HCLP:

Guy@McLendon.net
Cell: 832-372-8131

Precinct Chair?

Willing to serve as Chairperson
for your precinct? Contact
guy@mclendon.net for info.

Help Wanted! HCLP Media Coordinator

Duties include issuing press releases, and interfacing with local news media to build relationships & solicit coverage for HCLP events & candidates. We ask for a minimum of 4 hours per week; additional time is required during election season.

Benefits include massive job satisfaction, and an official
“PRESS” picture badge. If interested,
contact guy@mclendon.net

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Fun Things to Do in 2007 !

March 17 (Sat starting @ 3PM) - HCLP Affiliates Business Meeting. Participate in the first ever affiliates business meeting, and help a revitalized HCLP make electoral gains. Agenda will include: unveil new Organizational Chart, review proposed changes to HCLP bylaws, and possible candidate endorsements. Location/time: see website for info. Contact: Guy@McLendon.Net, 832-372-8131.

March 31 (Sat 2-4 PM) West Houston Libertarians
Tentative Location: private residence, RSVP required, Katy, Texas. Contact: Carl Wetzel, cwetzel@houston.rr.com.

April 14 (Sat - Time TBA) Mises Circle w/ Ron Paul.
Location: Houston—Detail TBA (See website for details)
Meet Dr. Paul and cheer on his bid for President. Also speaking will be Walter Block, Guido Hulsmann, and Lew Rockwell.

Before traveling, confirm event
info on our website:
<http://www.lptexas.org/harris>

April 21 (Sat 12-4 PM) Texas SLEC Meeting.
Tentative Location: Monument Inn, Houston, Texas. Contact: wesliberty@aol.com.

May 12 - Texas Election Day
Filing: Feb 10 to Mar 12, Early Voting: Apr 30 to May 5

Bill of Rights—Continued from Page 4

Partial HCLP Attendees @ Bill of Rights Day (Dec 15, 2006)
[L to R] Joe Marcom, Candace Sessums, White Marriot, Crystal Meadows, Robert Mayer, Kevin Tunstall, Martin Nitschke, Guy McLendon, Jeff Daiell.

