

Benedict Named LP Executive Director

One of the first actions of the State Libertarian Executive Committee meeting on June 13 was to create the position of Executive Director and then to hire Wes Benedict of Austin for the job.

A written proposal introduced by new Chair Pat Dixon reported that "Relying on volunteers has resulted in websites, databases, financial reports, and party official lists that have been outdated, incomplete, or inaccurate, which has hampered the recruitment of new members, activists, and candidates. Many willing volunteers have been asked to do too much, have been overworked, frustrated, burnt-out and have quit."

Wes, who was the volunteer coordinator for the Ballot Access Petition Drive, is the former CEO and 1/3

owner of Custom Quality Marble, Inc. in Austin. Wes joined the Party in 1999 as Chair for Cobb County, GA. Since moving to Texas he has twice been a candidate for office and has served as the Travis County E-Newsletter Editor and as Secretary.

Some responsibilities for the Executive Director include State Party operations administration and support: bookkeeping, website, database; fundraising; membership support; county affiliate start-up; candidate recruitment and support; party communications; and political outreach. The goals set for the Director are to show growth in LP membership, growth in the number of candidates run, and improvement in election percentages

Wes' first day on the job will be July 1. The Party has agreed to pay \$1,670

a month plus a percentage of gross state party revenue payable monthly.

Others considered for the position



were Jon Roland and David Wallace Croft.

State Convention Gets Media Coverage

The State Convention of the Libertarian Party of Texas was held in College Station, June 11-13. About 100 people attended to hear speakers, including Dr. Ron Paul, pick up resources, and choose the new party leadership.

Pat Dixon was elected State Chair. Nancy Neale won a closely contested race for Vice Chair over Kris Overstreet. Chris Williams was elected Treasurer. Laura Coker-Garcia was elected Secretary.

Quanah Parker and Thomas Oxford were nominated to run for Court of Criminal Appeals and Anthony Garcia was nominated for Railroad Commission.

All the updates including contact in-

formation for newly elected SLEC members and officers, the new Rules and Platform can be found on the state party's web page: <http://www.lptexas.org>

On Saturday, June 5, Chris Jagge was a guest with Carl Hasan on his KEOS 89.1 FM radio program "On The Porch". He talked with Carl for about 30 minutes, and during the other half hour, Carl chatted with Michael Badnarik, our nominee for president. These interviews were rebroadcast later that night.

A week later, on June 12, Carl hosted Michael Sullivan, one of our convention speakers, for an hour. Michael is the current vice-president of the Texas Public Policy Foundation

(<http://www.texaspolicy.com/>). Chris called in during that show to once again plug the remainder of the convention. Jeff Frazee, Carl's producer, recorded many of the convention speakers for later rebroadcast on KEOS.

Also, a news crew from KBTX showed up during the convention setup on Friday, June 11. Chris Jagge gave an interview that was played on the P.M. and P.M. news that evening. On Saturday, Lindsay Liepman from KBTX, interviewed Patrick Dixon. That interview was played Saturday night at P.M.

Christopher Ferrell, staff reporter for The Eagle, interviewed Michael Badnarik on Saturday evening.



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Submissions of news, photographs,
letters to the editor, etc. appreciated.
Deadline for each month is the 20th
of the month prior. Late submis-
sions will be included when pos-
sible.

Around the State: Activist Update

Brent Sullivan, LP Candidate for Congress District 18, appeared in the lead story on Channel 2 Houston's June 30, 5 p.m. newscast. Brent was the counterpoint to the announcement that his opponent had cosponsored a draft bill. Brent argued that the "draft has no place in our society,"

"A volunteer army is a critical part of the system of checks and balances. If you can't get enough volunteers for your wars you've got to question if you should be engaging in those conflicts to begin with," Brent said.

The station then ran a poll reporting at the end of the newscast that 68% of viewers calling in were opposed to a draft.

Brent has taken an active position on this issue. He has leaflets on the subject and has been attending events such as the Acres Home Juneteenth Celebration in his district. June 19 the Houston Chronicle printed his letter to the editor on the subject. He also created an anti-draft organizing group that can be found at groups.yahoo.com/groups/Houstonodraft.

Michelle Shinghal, new **Collin County** LP Chair, had a guest editorial published in the Dallas Morning News-Collin County section last month. She was identified as the LP Chair.

Michelle's inspiration was the first private space flight. Michelle recalled her young dreams of being an astronaut in evocative language.

Michelle then said that the "biggest thing done today was to prove a party platform." Our platform. She introduced the LP as the champions of small government and the idea that any government agency could be run more efficiently by the private sector was proved by this first private, manned space mission accomplished for just under \$20 million.

June 25 **Joey Dauben of Ellis County** was an invited speaker at the Mobilize America's Youth Rally at Saltillo Plaza in Austin.

Robert Paty of Nacogdoches has announced his write-in candidacy for the office of Public Weigher. "I think this election I will have an opportunity to embarrass the County Commissioners Court for not allowing voters to abolish the office four years ago," Robert says.

Ed Valenta, LP Candidate for **Brazos County Commissioner**, has been endorsed by former College Station City Councilman Swiki Anderson. He also received the endorsement of Norma Miller, a College Station City Council Watchdog.

The Badnarik for President Campaign has announced the **Geoff Neale will be the Operations Manager** for their campaign headquarters. The office opens this month in northeast Austin. **Celeste Adams** has been appointed national volunteer coordinator. She can be reached at celesteadamsforoffice@yahoo.com. **Guy McLendon** will coordinate Badnarik volunteers for Harris County. The campaign also reports a new, revamped website available at www.Badnarik.org.

Montgomery County activists report that their goals for the election cycle include having a staffed booth at the Woodlands Mall, updating their website, and hosting a barbecue fundraiser for the Badnarik campaign and the LP.

The following were recognized at the State Convention as top petitioners: **Rick McGinnis, Wes Benedict, Clyde Garland, Pat Dixon, Stacey Bourland, Guy McLendon, Robert Powell, Robert Ruliffson, Art DiBianca, and Benjamin Woolsley**. Recognized for their donations to the drive: **Michael Burris, Jimmie Vaughn, Larry Nickerson, Richard Walker, Heinrich Foltz, Charles Burnett, John Davis, Joel Trammel, Clyde Garland and Bruce Pugh**.

David Alter of San Antonio asks that we keep former Bexar County Chair **Jay Moore** in our prayers as he is undergoing chemotherapy.

Solving Real Problems: A Libertarian's Experience

By Alan Weiss

May 4th, 2002 to November 11, 2003. While it doesn't sound like much time, during the period that I held the office of Municipal Utility District Director for the Northwest Austin #1 M.U.D. I lead the charge to slash M.U.D. taxes by over 50%. When I could slash taxes no farther without risking a lawsuit from the misguided investors, I resigned. You see, I promised voters that I would focus on one issue: the double taxation situation in Canyon Creek, our neighborhood served by this M.U.D. I also promised them that when I fixed this problem of excessive taxation (one way or another), I would quit - unlike "professional politicians", I didn't want to "rule" them.

Because I focused on a goal shared by my Republican Liberty Caucus friend Don Zimmerman (turns out my neighbor Don is also the Executive Director of the RLC in Texas), we worked together to relentlessly pore over the budget (me as Finance Chairman, he as M.U.D. Board President). We attacked the M.U.D.'s entrenched coterie of "service providers": lawyers, financial advisors, management companies, and anyone else slurping at the public trough. We fired legal counsel, fired our "advisors", and whipped our management company into shape within the first 90 days.

We found the money, and we gave it back to the taxpayers the only legal way we could: by reducing their future tax burden (believe me, its nearly impossible for a M.U.D. Board to sim-

ply write checks to people they've stolen money from over the years - that was my desire!).

Not surprisingly, services during my term actually improved. For example, the M.U.D. owned park became better managed because we paid attention to details, and although it was my desire to sell the park to a taxpayer-owned company (each taxpayer receiving a share in the company that would own the park), we at least proved that Libertarian and liberty-minded leadership didn't mean slovenly, weed-infested decaying infrastructure. Quite the contrary.

For Libertarian Party members to be successful, we must form alliances with non-libertarians. However, to avoid compromising our principles, a local candidate or elected official should focus on only one or two painful issues, confront them head-on, lead a coalition, and make sure you keep your promises. I'm as "hardcore" as they come - I led the effort to sue the City of Austin so that our neighborhood could secede and set up real competition to provide services - but I didn't let that stop me from joining forces with an RLC guy and having us both convince the rest of the Board to, as much as possible, stop stealing from taxpayers via taxation.

One of our "secrets" was that I was as radical as possible, and Don got to be the "good cop." Sometimes we changed roles. We would tell people, "you gotta sign up for this - I don't know what {Don, Alan} is going to



propose next if we don't get this passed!" And we meant it.

I never told anything but the truth, in plain English, and while I didn't go out of my way to irritate taxpayers, I also told them exactly how they were being ripped off by the endless layers of government bearing down on their lives. In doing so, I believe I helped convince Don that him being a "Ron Paul Republican" really meant he was a Libertarian. We'll see if he makes the jump, or not. Individual choice has to be respected.

My regrets are that we were unsuccessful in our lawsuit against the City of Austin because the local judge who ruled on this case happened to be a big Democratic Party supporter; she apparently never met a tax she didn't like. I don't know if I'll run again for office, but if I do I believe I'll again prove that a hardcore Libertarian can "fix real problems" and work with others toward shared goals.

Alan Weiss is CEO of EEMBC Certification and Synchronmesh Computing. A Libertarian since 1978, he's written for the Libertarian Enterprise, founded and chairs the Ceres Project (private investors to finance an L.Neil Smith book and film), and is the elected Vice President of the Free State Project. Reach Alan at aweiss@austin.rr.com

Have You Been In Office In Texas?

If you have served in an elected or appointed office in Texas, or are now serving, please contact LPTX Secretary Laura Coker-Garcia.

At the least please let us know what office you held, when you were elected and how long you served. Any information on your achievements in

office, what helped you get elected or how you were appointed would be appreciated. Digital photos are a plus!

We are interested in all offices: partisan or nonpartisan, draft boards, commissions, Shared Decision Making Committees, Home Owners Associations, etc. included!

Libertarian Candidates 2004

National

U.S. President: Michael Badnarik
U.S. Vice President: Richard V. Campagna

Statewide

TX Railroad Commission : Anthony Garcia
Court of Criminal Appeals pl. 2: Quanah Parker
Court of Criminal Appeals pl. 5: Thomas Edward Oxford

Congressional

US Representative District 1: Dean L. Tucker
US Representative District 2: Sandi Saulsbury
US Representative District 3: James Vessels
US Representative District 4: Kevin D. Anderson
US Representative District 5: John Gonzalez
US Representative District 6: Stephen J. Schrader
US Representative District 7: Drew Parks
US Representative District 8: Paul Hansen
US Representative District 9: Stacey Lynn Bourland
US Representative District 10: Rob Fritsche
US Representative District 11: Jeffrey Blunt
US Representative District 12: Bryan Parker
US Representative District 13: Marion Smith
US Representative District 15: William R. Cady
US Representative District 16: Brad Clardy
US Representative District 17: Clyde Garland
US Representative District 18: Brent Sullivan
US Representative District 19: Richard Peterson
US Representative District 20: Jessie Bouley
US Representative District 21: Jason W. Pratt
US Representative District 22: Tom Morrison
US Representative District 23: Nazrite Flores Perez
US Representative District 24: James H. Lawrence
US Representative District 25: James S. Werner
US Representative District 26: James Gholston
US Representative District 27: Christopher Claytor
US Representative District 28: Ken Ashby
US Representative District 29: Clifford L. Messina
US Representative District 30: John Davis
US Representative District 31: Celeste Adams
US Representative District 32: Michael D. Needleman

State Board of Education

State Board of Education District 7: William McNicoll

Legislative

Texas Senate District 6: Tony Depperschmidt
Texas Senate District 26: Raymundo Aleman
State Representative District 15: Ross Stevenson
State Representative District 17: Darrell R. Gear
State Representative District 22: Dennis Tucker
State Representative District 34: Bradley Moore
State Representative District 49: Robinson Butler Howell
State Representative District 50: Greg Knowles
State Representative District 65: David Wallace Croft
State Representative District 71: Fred Jones
State Representative District 130: Steve Capuano
State Representative District 134: Monica Granger
State Representative District 136: Tom Clark
State Representative District 143: Bob Townsend

County

Brazos County Commissioner Pct. 1: Edward W. Valenta
Brazos County Tax Assessor-Collector: Stephen M. Storey
Brazos County Sheriff: Stephanie R. Berlin

Harris County Justice of the Peace Pct. 5: Richard Phillips

Jefferson County Commissioner Pct.1: Amy Jacobellis
Jefferson County Commissioner Pct. 3: Patrick McLennett
Jefferson County Clerk: Nancy Y. Wade
Jefferson County Tax Assessor-Collector: Marie Alden
Jefferson County Sheriff: Leonard Dennings
Jefferson County Justice of the Peace: Tammy M. Wieging

Lubbock County Commissioner Pct. 1: Jerry R Russell, Jr.
Lubbock County Commissioner Pct. 3: Caleb Lee Clardy
Lubbock County Constable Pct. 1: Jimmy David Reynolds
Lubbock County Constable Pct. 4: Kelly Vinson

Polk County Tax-Assessor Collector: Tina Carter

Tom Green County Attorney : Robert Restivo
Tom Green County Tax-Assessor Collector: Dennis Higgins
Tom Green County Sheriff: Seth Morre
Tom Green County Constable Pct. 3: Dale Weber

Travis District Attorney: William Howell
Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector: Michael Burriss
Travis County Sheriff: Allan Juranek
Travis County Constable Pct. 5: Ben Woosley

Williamson County Tax-Assessor Collector: George Paap

Volunteers and Donors Needed Today!

Check any that apply:

- _____ I will volunteer with a local campaign Contact me with details.
_____ I can design or host a website for a candidate or county party.
_____ I am willing to serve as an appointed County Chair.
_____ I want information on how to be more active in the party.

My best donation: _____\$35_____ \$75_____ \$100_____ \$150_____ Other

Name: _____
Address: _____
City & Zip code: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____
Occupation: _____
Employer: _____
Precinct #: _____
County: _____

Please make checks payable to the Libertarian Party of Texas. Include this form with any donations and Mail to: PO Box 27932 , Houston, TX 77227.

Donations can also be accepted online via PayPal at the State Party website: www.lptexas.org/donations.

Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. The Libertarian Party of Texas also submits finance reports to the Texas Ethics Commission.

SLEC OKs Revenue Plan

The State Executive Committee on June 13 approved a plan put forward by David Wallace Croft and Kris Overstreet to resume a state-county revenue sharing plan.

The motion allows for organized County Parties "with bank accounts" to apply to the SLEC to receive 20% of all revenue raised by the state party from within that applicant county except where the donor has earmarked donations for a specific project.

This share program replaces a county revenue plan that was scrapped in 2000 to cut costs. That program shared part of the Unified Membership Program (UMP) funds coming from National to the State Party with the County Parties in proportion to the number of party members in each county. Counties at that time also had to be organized and have a bank account to receive funds. Under this program a check was mailed each quarter to qualified County Parties. Some

counties got as much as \$1,000 a year under this plan.

Texas still participates in the National Party's UMP. Under this plan the National and State Party "shares" members. A basic \$25 yearly donation to the National Party makes you a "member" of the Texas Party. National keeps track of the members, sends renewals, etc. Each month National sends a check for the State Party's share of membership dues back to Texas.

The next SLEC meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 31 in Austin.

Wilson County Chair

John Murray of Three Oaks has been appointed County Chair for Wilson County.

John and his wife Judy are sole owners of Murray title company, which he founded with his parents in 1975. John is a Viet Nam veteran serving there from June 1970 to September 1971.

He is a native Texan born in

San Antonio and raised in Floresville. He was formerly a Democrat, but reports he is "fed up" with both major parties. His Great-Great Grandfather was Sam Houston. His Great-Grandfather was Andrew Jackson Houston. "Both I am certain, would be equally disgusted with our current situation," John says.

John can be reached at smurray@felpsis.net

Platform Changes Pass

The State Convention approved many of the proposals put forward by the Platform Committee including new planks on marriage, on restricting legislative special sessions, opposing electronic voting without a paper trail, and the rights of children and families. Several other planks were reworded and shortened to make them more easily readable. The Statement of Principles was also reworded.

A copy of the new 2004 Platform is located at www.lptexas.org.

Events of Interest to Texas Libertarians

July 3 (Sat.) 10 a.m. Independence Day Parade Outreach, Livingston. Railroad Commissioner Candidate Anthony Garcia and Polk County Libertarians will appear in parade and at community fair afterwards.

July 3 (Sat.) Noon. Brazos County Business Meeting. China King Buffet, College Station. Contact Chris Jagge at c_jagge@msn.com or 979-695-9646.

July 4 (Sun.) 7:30-8:30 p.m. Independence Day Outreach, Zilker Park, Austin. Join Travis County Libertarians in handing out copies of the Declaration of Independence. Contact Bob Ruliffson at cattledriver2002@yahoo.com.

July 4 (Sun.) Independence Day Outreach, Woodlands Mall, The Woodlands. Join candidate Ross Stevenson who will be handing out campaign business cards. Contact Ross at restevenson@sbcglobal.net.

July 4 (Sun.) 4:30 p.m. Annual Bexar County LP Independence Day Picnic, McAllister Park, Pavilion 3, San Antonio. Contact George Meeks at 210-590-0329 or James at Jamesho81@aol.com.

July 6 (Tues.) 6:45-8:30 p.m. Travis County Business Meeting, Mekong River Restaurant, 215 E. 6th Street, Austin.

July 8 (Thurs.) 7-8 p.m. Hays County Business Meeting, Wells Fargo Bank, 111 S. Front St., Kyle. See www.hayscountylp.com for information.

July 9 (Fri.) 5 p.m. Deadline for filing candidacy applications for most political subdivision offices that would be on Sept. 11 ballots (election law requires 62 days prior to election.)

July 10 (Sat.) 12:15 p.m. Training to become Certified Voter Registrars, Austin. Memorial United Methodist Church, 6100 Berkman Drive. Free.

July 11 (Sun.) Harris County Business Meeting, 9614 Oregano Circle, Houston. Contact John Kormylo for information at elfsoft@mindspring.com or 713-271-1776.

July 13 (Tues.) The Computer Ate my Vote National Day of Action. Rally for verified voting. For more information visit www.verifiedvoting.org or contact Fran Vincent at 512-468-4127.

July 15 (Thur.) 5 p.m. Deadline for filing Semi-annual financial reports with the Texas Ethics Commission. All statewide, state senate and state representative candidates must file. Some County Parties are required to file. Contact TEC if you have questions.

July 18 (Sun.) 3:45 p.m.-6 p.m. Austin Distinguished Speakers Series. Randall Ellis, Executive Director Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas will speak. LCRA Board Room, 3700 Lake Austin Blvd., Austin. Free and open to the public.

July 31 (Sat.) 11 a.m. SLEC Meeting, at Mekong River Restaurant, Austin Contact Pat Dixon for information at tlppatjdixon@earthlink.net.

July 31-Aug. 1 (Sat.-Sun.) Louisiana State Convention. Radisson Hotel, New Orleans, LA. Saturday lunch speaker will be James Kennedy author of *The South was Right*. Saturday Banquet speaker is LP Presidential candidate Michael Badnarik. \$80 register by July 6; \$90 by July 29. Visit www.la.lp.org for more information or to register.

Aug. 1 (Sun.) 8 p.m. Michael Badnarik's Birthday Barbecue Event. Contact Pat Dixon for details at tlppatjdixon@earthlink.net.

Aug. 21 & 22 (Sat.-Sun.) 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Grassroots Candidate, Campaign and Activist training from 21st Century Democrats. Overview of local and regional political environment, Democratic Party field organizer curriculum. Huston-Tillotson College campus, Austin. \$45. Lunch provided. Register at www.21stdems.org.

Sept. 11 (Sat.) 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Election Day for local political subdivisions or special elections.

Nov. 2 (Tues.) Election Day. Contact your local party for information on getting out the vote, campaign events, parties, etc. County Chairs and SLEC representatives are listed on the www.lptexas.org website.

Nov. 18-21 (Fri.-Sun.) Victory Institute, New Orleans, LA. Campaign training for GLBT candidates, campaign workers, community activists. Workshops on fundraising, budgets, campaign plans, etc. See www.victoryinstitute.org/training.