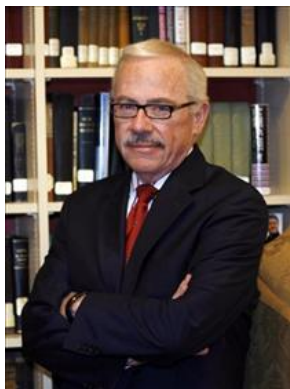




◆◆◆ **THE VOICE OF FREEDOM** ◆◆◆

Bob Barr on the Ballot in TN

On Monday, August 18, 2008, Libertarian Party Presidential candidate Bob Barr and Vice Presidential candidate Wayne Root filed petitions with the Division of Elections in Nashville, Tennessee for inclusion on the November 4, 2008 Presidential Ballot in Tennessee. The petition drive was led by Libertarian Party of Tennessee Chairman, Tony Wall, who hand delivered petitions containing 487 signatures, along with several other State Party members. The State of Tennessee requires 275 signatures of registered Tennessee voters for ballot placement. "This ballot drive was completed with an all-volunteer effort led by Libertarian Party of Tennessee County Chairs and activists throughout the state," stated Tony, "and I'd like to thank everyone for their efforts in helping to secure a place for Bob Barr on Tennessee's ballot this November." The Division of Elections officially certified the petition signatures and confirmed Mr. Barr later the following week.



Bob Barr

For more information, please contact the Bob Barr Presidential Committee at 800-262-2277 or the Libertarian Party of Tennessee at 888-960-1776. ❖

Ray Ledford Appointed Secretary

Bradley County Libertarian and prior LPTN State Chair, Ray Ledford, has accepted the position of LPTN Secretary. Previous secretary and Knox County Libertarian, John Sebastian, is unable to continue his role as a state officer due to personal reasons. Let us all wish Ray the best of luck in his new role as Secretary for the Libertarian Party of Tennessee. ❖

Nashville Cares AIDS Walk 2008



The Nashville CARES AIDS Walk is held annually to raise money and awareness for the fight against HIV/AIDS in Middle Tennessee and beyond. The Nashville CARES AIDS Walk benefits thousands of individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS in Nashville/Davidson County and sixteen surrounding counties of northern Middle Tennessee. It also supports HIV prevention education for tens of thousands of people from all walks of life.

The 2008 AIDS Walk will be held Saturday, October 4th. More than 1500 people are expected to attend. Check-in begins at 10 a.m., along with a Pancake Breakfast, Health & Wellness Fair, entertainment and children's activities. Registered walkers who raise \$50 or more eat free. Others who wish to partake may pay \$5 for breakfast.

The Walk, which is approximately 2.5 miles long and should take the average person about 45 minutes, begins at noon and a brief awards ceremony will follow. Water will be provided free to all registered walkers.

The AIDS Walk is a family affair; kids and pets are welcome! If you wish to bring your pet(s), please come prepared to clean up after them.

Outright Libertarians of Nashville will have a team for the 2008 AIDS walk. According to Scott Williamson, Outright Libertarian coordinator for Nashville, they are looking for people to join and raise funds for AIDS and Nashville Cares. Please help us show that the government does not need to fund care and research. When private groups do the funding, more is spent on AIDS and less on the bureaucrats!

For more information contact Scott Williamson at outrightnashville@comcast.net or Nashville CARES at 615-259-486 or email: info@nashvillecares.org. ❖

Charles Wilhoit Appointed Vice Chair

Blount County Libertarian and prior LPTN Chair, Charles Wilhoit, has accepted the position of Vice Chair for the LPTN. Previous Vice Chair and Hamilton County Libertarian, Christian Wilson, resigned the position due to personal reasons. Let us all wish Charles the very best in his new role as Vice Chair for the Libertarian Party of Tennessee. ❖

Ballot Access Lawsuit Update

On January 23, 2008 Libertarian Party of Tennessee v. Thompson was filed. It is case 3:08cv-63 in U.S. District Court in Nashville and was assigned by Judge William J. Haynes. The plaintiffs are the Constitution, Green and Libertarian Parties of Tennessee who filed the lawsuit together, challenging the constitutionality of Tennessee's ballot access laws for new or previously unqualified parties. Tennessee currently requires a petition signed by 2.5% of the last gubernatorial vote. The petition must say that the signers are members and the petition is due 4 months before the primary. No group has complied with this requirement since 1968. Tennessee and New Jersey are the only two states in which only the Democratic and Republican Parties have been qualified parties during the last 25 years. Tennessee is in the 6th circuit. In 2006, the 6th circuit ruled that Ohio's new party petition requirement, which hadn't been used successfully since 2000, is too difficult. That Ohio precedent will likely control this case. This year, Brook Thompson, the Tennessee Coordinator of Elections, changed his interpretation of how an independent presidential candidate gets on the ballot. The old interpretation, in effect for many years, required only 25 voters to sign eleven different petitions, each petition to nominate a single presidential elector candidate. The new interpretation requires 275 voters to sign a single petition that lists all eleven presidential elector candidates. Although it continues to be the case that the list of electors must include one person who lives in each Tennessee US House district, the location of the 275 signers is immaterial. They simply must be registered voters anywhere in Tennessee. Any adult may circulate the petition, regardless of whether the circulator is a Tennessee resident or not. The State Elections Division will furnish the blank petition forms and the deadline continues to be August 21. The lawsuit filed in January by the Tennessee Constitution, Green and Libertarian Parties had a procedural hearing in federal court on March 17. The hearing did not get to the merits of the case, but it established the ground rules to proceed. ❖

"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."
-Benjamin Franklin

"When the people fear the government you have tyranny... when the government fears the people you have liberty." -Thomas Jefferson

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Gary Melvin: The Most Recently Elected Libertarian in Tennessee

On August 7, 2008 Gary William Melvin was elected Constable for District 5 with a total of 444 votes. Let us all send Gary the very best as he begins his term as Constable in Sullivan County, Tennessee. Way to go, Gary! ❖

Voice of Freedom Now Available in Electronic Format – Sign up Today!

With the ever-increasing usage of email as an effective and accepted communication tool in business and personal interactions, the Voice of Freedom is now available in an online format. Simply visit www.lptn.org and sign up at the Voice of Freedom subscription link. The VOF will still be available in printed format but by choosing the electronic version, you will be able to save the LPTN money which can be used to promote liberty in many other ways. You will also be able to easily forward the VOF to your friends and help promote liberty and the LPTN in your community and within your circle of friends, family, and associates. Sign up today!

Help the LPTN G-R-O-W!

Become an LPTN Monthly Pledger

The Libertarian Party of Tennessee is supported solely by contributions from its members. Last year, we set a record for revenues, grossing nearly \$9000. If you contributed to our fund, thank you. If you would like to start contributing, please visit www.lptn.org and sign up for a monthly pledge or a one-time donation. Any assistance you can provide will be used to promote liberty in Tennessee. Thank you for your support! ❖

Davidson County Update

By Daniel Lewis, Davidson County Chair

Over a year ago, the Libertarian Party of Davidson County was nothing but a web site that had not been updated in about two years. Today, the Libertarian Party of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County is alive and well. Over a year ago, Nashville Libertarians were searching for support in rebuilding their party. Today, the Libertarian Party of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County receives several inquiries a month about the party and local libertarian activities.

Today, Libertarians in Nashville are talking about goals, budgets, and by-laws. Today, Libertarians in Nashville are actively participating in community on-line blogs and contributing op-ed articles to the Tennessean. Most importantly, Libertarians in Nashville are reaching out to like-minded groups and seeking to recruit local Libertarians into the party and get them active in local political activism.

2008 is an important year for Libertarians. Now is the time to participate in the Presidential election and gaining ballot access. Activist Libertarians in Nashville are looking to the future and the tasks ahead. Other local county affiliates should do the same thing. Every Libertarian in Tennessee should become active with their local party. When a local party holds an event or meeting, every Libertarian in that county should make attending that event or meeting a priority. Every Libertarian should consider making a contribution to the National LP, LPTN, and their local affiliate. Above all else, every Libertarian in Tennessee should spend at least one hour a week promoting their local LP, LPTN, and the national LP.

Building a strong Libertarian Party in Nashville and Davidson County is so important to the success of the Libertarian Party of Tennessee. First and foremost, Nashville and Davidson County are influential in setting the policies of local governments throughout the state. When Nashville becomes more Libertarian, Tennessee will become more Libertarian. Secondly, Libertarian activists in Nashville have access to state officials that other county affiliates do not have due to their geographical relationship to Nashville. LPMNDC is actively working to achieve a strong Libertarian presence in Nashville.

The Libertarian Party of Metropolitan Nashville has prepared itself to serve activists. Now it is time for activists to participate in the task of spreading Liberty! For more information, please visit www.lpmndc.org ❖

Libertarians Across the State Take Part in Nashville Pride

On Sunday, June 1, a dedicated group of seven Tennessee Libertarian activists participated in and operated a Operation Politically Homeless booth during the annual Nashville Pride Festival. Pridefest is a national event held annually to celebrate gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer culture in America. The festival was held in Centennial Park, marking 20 years of Pride in the city of Nashville. According to a local paper, more than 13,000 people were in attendance. The involvement of the Tennessee Outright Libertarians, whose missions it is to reach out to the LGBTQ community with a message that Libertarianism holds the best promise of true equality under the law, and that the Libertarian live-and-let-live philosophy holds the best chance of yielding a discrimination-free society, along with other LPTN volunteers made their presence a huge success. During the event, the World's Smallest Political Quiz was administered to nearly 200 people and many of those who scored Libertarian or libertarian-leaning, requested more information. The people who made this event such a huge success are: Allan Wallace (Tennessee State Coordinator for Outright Libertarians), Daniel Lewis (Davidson County Chair), Lisa Leeds (Davidson County Vice-Chair), Ed Marsh (volunteer from Sullivan County Tennessee), Tony Wall (LPTN State Chair), and Kelly Wall (Mountain Region Coordinator for the LPTN). This was a truly motivating event for all involved and we are all already looking forward to Pridefest 2009. ❖

Candidates Nominated at Convention

At the 2008 LPTN convention, two Tennessee Libertarian candidates were nominated by the convention body. Daniel Lewis is running for United States Senate (www.getyourcountryback.com) and Lisa Leeds is running for District 58 State Assembly (www.lisaleeds2008.com). Please take a moment to visit their respective websites and donate to their campaigns or volunteer in any way possible. Any amount of money or help can go a long way as they spread the message of Liberty and commit themselves to being elected as Libertarians in our great state.

LPTN Website Features an Exciting New Look!

The website for the LPTN, www.lptn.org, has now been completely renovated, featuring an exciting new look and a method for readers to post comments and discuss articles. So stop by and start a discussion today. The new site would not be possible without the hard work of our new webmaster, Stephen Whittaker, and the dedication and continuous attention of J.R. Enfield, our Treasurer. Thanks guys. The new site is sure to be a great tool in spreading the message of Liberty in Tennessee. ❖

From The LPTN Chair

In this edition of the Voice of Freedom, I would like to submit an excerpt from the book "Keep Going, The Art of Perseverance" by Joseph M. Marshall III:

A young man asked his grandfather why life had to be so difficult sometimes. This was the old man's reply:

Grandfather says this: "In life there is sadness as well as joy, losing as well as winning, falling as well as standing, hunger as well as plenty, badness as well as goodness. I do not say this to make you despair, but to teach you reality. Life is a journey sometimes walked in light, sometimes in shadow. You did not ask to be born, but you are here. You have weaknesses as well as strengths. You have both because in life there is two of everything. Within you is the heart to feel compassion as well as the smallness to be arrogant. Within you is the way to face life as well as the fear to turn away from it. Life can give you strength. Strength can come from facing the storms of life, from knowing loss, feeling sadness and heartache, from falling into the depths of grief. You must stand up in the storm. You must face the wind and the cold and the darkness. When the storm blows hard you must stand firm, for it is not trying to knock you down, it is really trying to teach you to be strong. Being strong means taking one more step toward the top of the hill, no matter how weary you may be. It means letting the tears flow through the grief. It means to keep looking for the answer, though the darkness of despair is all around

you. Being strong means to cling to hope for one more heartbeat, one more sunrise. Each step, no matter how difficult, is one more step closer to the top of the hill. To keep hope alive for one more heartbeat at a time leads to the light of the next sunrise, and the promise of a new day. The weakest step toward the top of the hill, toward sunrise, toward hope, is stronger than the fiercest storm. KEEP GOING."

As we all continue our individual, community, state, and national fights for liberty, encountering differences and conflict along the way, let us all keep this story and our ultimate goal in mind. We are all on the same team and we shall persevere. We just need to KEEP GOING! ❖



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