



◆◆◆ THE VOICE OF FREEDOM ◆◆◆

## Tribute to a Legend

The Libertarian Party has existed in our great country for 38 years. As we celebrate growth and continued success within our party, let us never forget those who have paved the way for our movement. This edition of the Voice of Freedom is dedicated to one of those fallen heroes, Dr. Richard Pearl, Sr. Richard passed away nearly 7 years ago but his spirit lives on in our movement. He was an instant and dear friend to all who met him and we are all better for having known such an individual and for having him be involved in our movement. His charisma, charm, and love for Freedom truly defined Libertarianism.



Richard E. Pearl, Sr.

For those who may not have had the distinct pleasure of meeting Richard, following is a brief biography: Originally from California, Richard moved to Tennessee in 1975, earning a B.A., M.A., and an Ed.D. in psychology while raising his son and daughter as a single dad. Richard joined the LP in '94 and became active in 1999 when the Libertarian Party of Rutherford County was organized and he was elected as their first Chair. He was elected State Chair in April, 2000, and again in March, 2001 for a 2 year term. During Richard's term as State Chair the LPTN grew in activity and influence, particularly in the state party's opposition to a proposed state income tax. His successful rallying of LPTN members in and around Nashville for the anti-tax demonstrations garnered praise from various income-tax foes, including Nashville talk show host,

*("Tribute" continued)*

Steve Gill of WWTN, who repeatedly stated that if it were not for the Libertarian Party of Tennessee, there would certainly be an income tax in Tennessee today. Due to his involvement in the anti-tax fight, Richard also earned the "Ax the Tax" award from the Tennessee Conservative Union, making him the first non-Republican recipient of the award in their 20-year history. On the afternoon of May 5, 2002, after a brief, yet brave, battle with mesothelioma, a rare form of lung cancer, 54-year-old Pearl died peacefully in his sleep. He is deeply missed, both as a friend and fellow freedom fighter, but we must continue our fight, just as those who have fought before us would desire. Following is a quote, reprinted from the Fall 2002 edition of the Voice of Freedom, to ponder as we each reflect our personal friendship, individual inspiration, or our continued fight for Liberty throughout the great state of Tennessee and across our great nation: "I paid Richard what I consider to be the ultimate compliment at the LP National Convention. I said we miss Richard but we don't miss his leadership. I mean this is the best possible way. Richard was a bottom-up, grassroots leader. He inspired all of us to lead ourselves. When he passed away, we took the anti-tax battle to the streets just as if he was there. If you remember his campaign speech at the 2001 state convention, he said if he was reelected to the state chairmanship, he would do nothing... and he did nothing so well." Joey King ❖

***RIP, dear friend - Dr. Richard Pearl, Sr. 1948-2002***

***You will always be missed but we will hold you in our hearts forever.***

## 2009 LPTN Convention in Knoxville

The 2009 LPTN Convention will be held at the Best Western Cedar Bluff Inn in Knoxville on April 24-25, 2009. This will be a business convention with election of State Officers and other party business, along with many motivating speakers. Inside, you will find more detailed information about the convention, including a list of speakers, a registration form, and three sets of proposed changes to our By-Laws. Please take some time to review this important information and register for the 2009 LPTN convention today! We look forward to seeing you there. For more information, contact Kelly Wall at (423) 534-8778. ❖

## Bylaw Proposal Submittals

In accordance with Article VI, Section B, the following Bylaw proposals were submitted to our Secretary, Ray Ledford. They are presented in the order in which they were received.

### Proposed Bylaw Changes #1

**Note: Bold Italic text is additions. Strikethrough text is deletions.**

#### Article III: MEMBERSHIP

A. ***In addition to being a resident of the state of Tennessee***, membership in the LPTN shall consist of ~~either~~ ***any*** of the following:

1. National, and therefore State, Libertarian Party membership ~~under the Unified Membership Plan~~ ***as defined by the National Libertarian Party by-laws***; or
2. ***Certification as an eligible voting delegate at any previous LPTN convention***; or
3. (was #2) Membership in good standing of an ***LPTN*** affiliated county ***or regional*** party, as certified by the ***respective*** county ***or regional*** chair ~~and/or the Secretary/Treasurer~~. County parties and the LPTN Secretary shall maintain a list of non-national members who are certified by the County Chair as LPTN members. This list shall be ***perpetual and updated as necessary*** ~~kept current and shall be forwarded to the LPTN Secretary biannually by February 1 and August 1 of each year~~; or
4. ***Membership in good standing of the state party as certified by a Regional Coordinator or Elected Officer of the LPTN.***

B. No state dues will be charged for those who are not members ***as defined herein Article III***.~~under the Unified Membership Program~~. Voluntary contributions are welcome.

#### Article IV: OFFICERS

B. Any officer of the LPTN can be recalled by either:

1. A request for such recall by a simple majority of the County ***and Regional*** Chairs, which is confirmed by a 2/3 majority of the members qualified to vote in convention; or
2. A request for such recall from a simple majority of the members which is then confirmed by 2/3 of the County ***and Regional*** Chairs.

C. Duties of Officers:

1. ***Chair***: It is the responsibility of the State Chair to find, develop, and assist coordinators, ~~and~~ county chairs, ***and/or regional chairs***. The Chair shall also chair meetings and request special meetings. The Chair shall also efficiently represent the LPTN as a spokesperson to the National Libertarian Party, the media, the State, and all others. Additionally, the Chair may recognize and assist Coordinators from time to time for temporary and or ongoing projects, who once so recognized shall serve at the discretion of the Chair. Finally, the Chair shall appoint a Regional Coordinator for each of the four geographic regions of the state, whose duties shall consist of assisting counties with organizing and other needs. All appointed regional coordinators shall reside in their respective regions, and no Regional Coordinator may be a currently elected state officer.
2. ***Vice Chair***: It is the responsibility of the Vice Chair to replace the Chair in the event the Chair is unable to serve. The Vice Chair shall also be responsible for maintaining a communications program with and among the county ***and regional*** chairs and the state officers.

#### Article V: CONVENTIONS

A. Conventions will be held annually. Business conventions for the election of officers will be held in the years without statewide public elections. Conventions held in years with statewide elections will be for LPTN candidates for public ***office***. Party business (Other than the annual budget and approval, as required in Article VII, and election of delegates to the national convention) may only be conducted if a bylaw

amendment meeting the requirements as stated in Article VI has been presented with the proper advance notification.

B. To be eligible to vote at an LPTN convention, one must either:

1. ~~have been~~ **be** a member, as defined in Article III, **Sections A.1 and/or A.2** ~~for at least six months;~~ or
2. be certified **as a member of the LPTN as defined in Article III, Section A.3 and/or A.4** ~~by the county chair,~~ and accepted by the convention by majority vote ~~and upon recommendation of that county chair.~~

D. Delegates to National Libertarian Party conventions, and Presidential Electors in Presidential election years, are elected at the previous state convention, by a majority vote of that convention, along with alternates. In the event that a delegate cannot attend, that delegate shall select an alternate, or the duty will fall upon the state chair to select the replacement from among the previously elected alternates. The Chair shall be designated as the Head of the Delegation; in the event (s)he is unable to attend, (s)he shall be entitled to appoint a replacement from among the delegates attending. In the event that additional LPTN members in good standing are able to attend a National Convention, they shall be named as Alternates at the discretion of the Head of the Delegation. **Presidential elector positions unfilled at convention may be named by the chair at a later date.**

#### Article VII: BUDGETS

B. The budget shall include a Chair's Discretionary Fund and a Reserve Fund.

2. Reserve Fund monies may only be disbursed after approval of 6 or more of the following people: LPTN Chair, LPTN Vice-Chair, LPTN Secretary, LPTN Treasurer, and the four LPTN Regional Coordinators. LPTN County **or Regional** Chairs may submit a written request for Reserve Funds to the Secretary for consideration. Submitted requests shall contain a specified amount and purpose for the funds.

### **Proposed By-Law Changes #2**

**Note: Bold Italic text is additions. Strikethrough text is deletions.**

#### **Proposed Amendment 1:**

Motion to MODIFY **Article V** as shown:

#### Article V: CONVENTIONS

A. Conventions will be held annually. Business conventions for the election of officers will be held in the years without statewide public elections. Conventions held in years with statewide elections will be for LPTN candidates for public **office**. Party business (Other than the annual budget and approval, as required in Article VII, and election of delegate s to the national convention) may only be conducted if a bylaw amendment meeting the requirements as stated in Article VI has been presented with the proper advance notification.

#### **Proposed Amendment 2:**

Motion to MODIFY **Article IV, Section A** as follows:

#### **Article IV: Officers**

A. Elected officers shall consist of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.  
~~The term length of these officers shall be two years.~~ **Officers shall take office at the close of the business convention in which they were elected, and they shall serve two years or until their successors are elected.** All officers of LPTN shall have signed the National pledge rejecting the

initiation of force.

**Proposed Amendment 3:**

Motion to ADD new section to **Article V: Conventions**

***A quorum shall consist of 40% of the registered convention attendees who are eligible to vote.***

**Proposed Amendment 4:**

Motion to MODIFY **Article III: Membership** and **Article V, Section B** as shown:

**Article III: MEMBERSHIP**

~~A. Membership in the LPTN shall consist of either of the following:~~

- ~~1. National, and therefore State, Libertarian Party membership under the Unified Membership Plan; or~~
- ~~2. Membership in good standing of an affiliated county party, as certified by the county chair and/or the Secretary/Treasurer. County parties and the LPTN Secretary shall maintain a list of non-national members who are certified by the County Chair as LPTN members. This list shall be kept current and shall be forwarded to the LPTN Secretary bi-annually by February 1 and August 1 of each year.~~

~~B. No state dues will be charged for those who are not members under the Unified Membership Program. Voluntary contributions are welcome.~~

***A. Members shall be those who have paid LPTN dues of \$25 within the past year.***

**Article V: Conventions**

B. To be eligible to vote at an LPTN convention, one must ~~either:~~

- ~~1. have been a member, as defined in Article III, for at least six months ; or~~
- ~~2. be certified by the county chair, and accepted by the convention by majority vote and upon recommendation of that county chair.~~

**Proposed Amendment 5:**

Motion to MODIFY **Article VI: AMENDMENTS** as shown:

**Article VI: AMENDMENTS**

A. It shall require a 3/4 (75%) majority of members attending the Convention, who are eligible to vote as defined by Article V, to amend these bylaws. ***These Bylaws may only be amended by a 3/4 vote of the LPTN Convention.*** It shall require a 1/3 vote to close debate on a bylaw amendment.

**Proposed By-Law Changes #3:**

**Article VI: AMENDMENTS**

A. It shall require a ~~3/4 (75%)~~ **9/10 (90%)** majority of members attending the Convention, who are eligible to vote as defined by Article V, to amend these bylaws. It shall require a 1/3 vote to close debate on a bylaw amendment.

## 2009 LPTN Convention

**WHEN:** April 24-25, 2009  
**WHERE:** Best Western Cedar Bluff Inn  
420 N. Peters Road  
Knoxville, Tennessee

**FROM I-40E/I-75N:** Take Exit #378 (Cedar Bluff Road) turn right at ramp, right at light to North Peters Road. Hotel is 1/2 mile on the right.

**FROM I-40W/I-75S** Take Exit #378A; turn left at ramp onto South Cedar Bluff Road to 2<sup>nd</sup> light, right on North Peters Road. Hotel is 1/2 mile on the right.

To register for hotel guest rooms, call Best Western Cedar Bluff Inn toll free: (800) 348-2562 (Mention Libertarian Party of Tennessee Convention to receive guaranteed \$89 nightly rate)

Or visit [www.bestwesterncedarbluff.com](http://www.bestwesterncedarbluff.com)

(Other nearby hotels: Microtel Inn Knoxville, La Quinta Inn Knoxville West, Hampton Inn Knoxville West at Cedar Bluff, Holiday Inn Select, and Comfort Inn & Suites)

### Event Schedule (Subject to change)

#### Friday, March 30

5 p.m. – 8 p.m.: Registration  
7 p.m. – 10 p.m.: Welcoming Reception

#### Saturday, March 31

7 a.m. – 9 a.m.: Breakfast & Registration  
8:30 a.m.: Call to Order  
9 a.m. – Noon: Business Session  
Noon – 1 p.m.: Lunch (Complimentary)  
1 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.: Speakers  
7 p.m.: Dinner (On your own)  
7 p.m. – 12 a.m.: Socialize (Hospitality Suite)

### SPEAKERS:

Ernie Hancock	Freedom's Phoenix
Angela Keaton	Antiwar.com
R. Lee Wrights	LNC At-Large Representative
Fred Childress	Tennessee Liberty Alliance
Allan Wallace	Outright Libertarians
Matthew Jeffers	Students of American Liberty

### 2009 LPTN Convention Registration Form

- Basic Registration: \$30.00  
 Student Registration: \$25.00  
 Vendor Table: \$35.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment:

Check       Money Order       Online

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check/Money Order Payable To:

Libertarian Party of Tennessee

Mail To: P.O. Box 95  
Kingsport, TN 37662

Register Online: [www.lptn.org](http://www.lptn.org) (Use Click & Pledge)

## From The LPTN Chair

Tony Wall

As spring arrives and 2009 is in full swing, our nation remains struggling with an unprecedented financial crisis. A new administration is in power and they rode into our nation's capitol on the message of "Change." It's strange, though, I thought change was different. It seems that our "new" leaders are content to continue mortgaging our current and future citizens at an even greater rate. Economists and experts tell us that the spending is only temporary and will result in a prosperous economy. Unfortunately, history tells us otherwise. It is true that eventually the market will find a balance even with the intervention of government. In the short term, inflation will delay our return to growth. The question is how long will it take and how bad will it be? The only thing we can do is prepare to help each other, our community - the Libertarian community. As Libertarians, we are powerless to effect change in Washington. As Libertarians in Tennessee, we can effect only minimal change in Nashville. Politically, we can "rally troops" to support or defeat a particular bill but our power ends there. So where do start? Locally, in our neighborhoods. Since I joined this party in 1999, I have been spreading the message of individual liberty and personal responsibility whenever opportunity presents itself. There are very few people with whom I come into contact who don't know my political affiliation. I'm Libertarian and I'm proud of it. So what can you do for Liberty? Ask yourself, do all of my neighbors know I'm Libertarian and what it means? Do all of my co-workers know I'm Libertarian? Do all of my fellow church members or club associates know what self-governance is? Is there a Libertarian affiliate in my community that meets regularly? If you answered yes to these questions, thank you. If you answered no to any of these questions, then there is more you can do for Liberty. One day in the future, someone who never thought about libertarianism before will encounter a situation that rekindles that past conversation with you, and perhaps the light bulb of Liberty will go off in their head like it has ours.

Friends, I have been in construction all of my adult life. To build a house, you must start with the foundation. What I have written above is the blueprint. Once the floor is built, the roof will take care of itself. Help us build a new home for Liberty in Tennessee.

### Advertise in the Voice of Freedom!

(For additional information: [vof\\_editor@lptn.org](mailto:vof_editor@lptn.org))

"Wherever the real power in a government lies, there is the danger of oppression. In our Government the real power lies in the majority of the community."

**James Madison**

"It is difficult to free fools from the chains they revere."

**Voltaire**

## TLA Hosts Constitution Class

The non-partisan Tennessee Liberty Alliance (TLA) organization was formed in February of 2008 from a group of freedom lovers, some of whom only recently realized they were in fact libertarians. After spending about a month defining a mission statement and creating bylaws, the TLA identified freedom education and outreach as an objective of the organization. One of the first ideas presented for consideration was to sponsor an all-day class on the U.S. Constitution. In September, TLA member Fred Childress of Oak Ridge, TN contacted Michael Badnarik, the 2004 Libertarian Party presidential candidate, to check his availability to spend a full day sharing his vast knowledge of the Constitution. After negotiating fees and expenses, Michael enthusiastically agreed. The next step was arriving at a venue for the event. Since one objective of the TLA education initiative was to reach out to all ages, with the intention of subsidizing education opportunities for our youth (scholarships were offered with the requirement for the applicant to submit an essay detailing the difference between rights and privileges), a local college was selected in hopes that they could interest students in the experience. Four students won the free scholarships and nearly a dozen more paid for the class. On January 24, 2009 the first annual TLA major educational event, a Constitution Class with Michael Badnarik, took place at Roane State Community College. 136 tickets were sold and everyone who purchased a ticket also received a copy of Michael's book "Good to be King." Although the

event was oversold by over 30 tickets, the college accommodated and the event was a huge success. TLA, who sponsored an Operation Politically Homeless Booth during the event, was even forced to turn people away during the final week. The LPTN also had a table with a wide array of literature and information. Michael Badnarik certainly lived up to his billing and after the extremely educational, enlightening and exhilarating 8 hour class about the Constitution and Liberty, 60 participants crowded into a local restaurant to share a meal and spend another 3 hours of learning and interaction with Michael. Although a non-partisan organization, the TLA greatly appreciated the support of the LPTN in promoting the class and having activists within the party participate.



L-R: JR Enfield, Kelly Wall, Michael Badnarik (stepfather of the Constitution), Fred Childress, and Tony Wall, after a great day learning about the Constitution and Liberty.

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