



# Gulf Coast Liberty

Defending liberty in southeast Texas in the Spirit of San Jacinto

August 2002

## Polk LP Supports Indian's Rights

Braving 100 degree weather, Kris Overstreet—Polk County LP Chair—and Tim Dove—Montgomery County LP Chair, led a highly effective protest of the forced closure of the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Entertainment Center, a casino in Livingston, Texas.

Putting the protest together in just a week, Kris was able to use the new State Party Media Announce list (see article page 3) to alert the media to the event. With both the county's legislators--one Republican Representative and one Democratic Senator--calling for the shutdown, Kris was able to get media attention and to show that Libertarians are the only ones willing to fight for the right of peaceable people to live how they choose.

In addition to the local newspaper photographer, reporters from Telemundo network based in Los Angeles, Channel 9 (ABC affiliate, Lufkin) and Channel 6 (CBS affiliate, Beaumont) all came to interview Kris about the LP position. KTSA AM Radio in San Antonio and The Daily Texan (The University of Texas newspaper from Austin) also interviewed Kris.

The protest, which lasted about three hours, was held in front of the Polk County Courthouse in downtown Livingston on July 24. The demonstration included signs carried by Kris and Tim, and a larger sign affixed to a car parked nearby. The activists also handed-out leaflets about the casino issue that included the World's Smallest Political Quiz, a list of LP candidates, and contact information.

"The response we encountered during our protest was overwhelmingly positive, both for the casino and for the Libertarians," said Kris.

"Before the casino, tourism to the reservation was down and unemployment chronic," Kris reported. "Now unemployment on the reservation is all but eliminated." The casino employs 300 people, 80

of whom reside on the reservation.

The attorney for the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe, Tom Rogers, (as reported in the Daily Texan) said "the casino is the first step in economic development on the reservation since many of the employees are former welfare recipients. With its closure will come the end of social programs such as college scholarship funds."

"There is a pattern of lack of empathy for those who do not have much in Texas," Rogers said. "The Libertarian Party has been a big supporter of the tribe in an effort to support their own economic rights."

Praise for the Party was also heard from tribal spokeswoman Sharon Miller who told the Daily Texan that the tribe appreciated the support the Libertarian party has shown and extended thanks for our help.

The Polk County Libertarians unanimously decided to support the tribe in their effort to keep the casino at their June meeting—held one day after U.S. Federal district Judge John Hannah, Jr. ruled that the Alabama-Coushatta tribes had 30 days to close their casino.

The resolution said, in part, that the Party rejected the "ruling of the Federal District Court as contrary both to federal law and to the right of the individual to free usage of private property" and that the LP of Polk County would support the tribe in their "continued legal and political battles against those who would deny them their equal right to freedom and economic success."

Judge Hannah's ruling is based on the fact that the tribe voluntarily submitted to state anti-gambling laws when it applied for Federal recognition under the Native American Restoration Act of 1987. However, Federal law says that Indian Nations may allow gambling if the state where they live allows gambling. The tribe argues  
continued— page 3

## Wilson Elected Mayor Pro Tem

Mark Wilson is the new Mayor Pro Tem in the City of St. Paul, a small community near Dallas. Council members elected Mark to the position shortly after he earned the council seat in the May 2002 city election. Mark is believed to be the first Libertarian to serve as Mayor Pro Tem in Texas.

Mark first became active in local politics by researching fire protection regulations for the council. His demonstrated work ethic, as well as his long time service in the Army, convinced the majority of the Aldermen that he was best suited to perform the extra duties required of the Mayor Pro Tem.

"As a newly elected member, I'm especially honored by the council's trust and confidence in choosing me to serve as mayor pro tem," said Mark.

"In the short time I've been working on council issues, I'm surprised at how much power even small municipalities can exercise under state law. I will use my position to leave that power vested with the citizens of St. Paul," said Mark.

## A Win for Neale

Geoffery Neale, former two-time Texas State Chair and National Committee member, was elected the new National Party Chair July 6 in Indianapolis.

Geoff, who lives in Austin, received 45.8% on the first ballot beating Eli Israel (31.2%) and George Phillies (21.6%), both of Massachusetts. None of the above (NOTA), abstentions, and "any of the above" won a combined 1.4%.

Because party bylaws require a candidate to win a majority of the vote, the race appeared headed to a second ballot, with Phillies, the third-place candidate, knocked out of the running. However, Eli conceded victory to Geoff making another ballot unnecessary.



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## In the Mail

In preparing testimony before the Texas Sunset Commission regarding re-enactment of the State Bar Act, I investigated the Commission's makeup to make sure the two public members on the ten-member commission were legally qualified to serve. Finding Libby Linebarger was not, I sent an email to her asking her if she considered herself eligible under the regulations in TX Government Code Section 325.003.

The code states: "An individual is not eligible for appointment as a public member if the individual or the individual's spouse is: (1) regulated by a state agency that the commission will review during the term for which the individual would serve; or (2) employed by, participates in the management of, or directly or indirectly has more than a 10 percent interest in a business entity or other organization regulated by a state agency the commission will review during the term for which the individual would serve."

The public record shows that Libby Linebarger is married to Roger Dale Linebarger, an active member of both the State Bar and of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association.

Linebarger did not resign from the Commission and did not respond for three months at which time she wrote:

"Regarding your concern about a possible conflict of interest with my serving on the Sunset Advisory Commission, please know that I am in no way affiliated with the State Bar. You are correct in that my husband is an attorney, but he is far

from being "a prominent member of the bar". "The real issue is that my husband (much to his dismay) has never been too successful in imposing his views on me nor in influencing my opinions."

In last week's Houston Press was an article by Richard Connelly concerning city of Kemah mayor Bill King containing this:

"King is used to more polished halls of power - - he's a key player in the Houston offices of Linebarger, Heard, Goggan, Blair, Graham, Pena & Sampson, the state's largest delinquent-tax collector. The firm is cozy with politicians on every level in Texas, whether as a result of lobbying to get laws changed or to get contracts - - like the ones they have for Houston and Harris County."

I would say Dale Linebarger is certainly a prominent member of the Bar. Libby Linebarger was a representative in the state legislature (1989-1995).

I do not see written into Gov't Code 325.003 anything supporting Linebarger's claim that she is qualified to serve on the Commission because her husband has never been too successful in imposing his views on her. She refused to admit her presence on the Sunset Commission this year is unlawful. Who told her not to resign? Sounds like arrogance to me and inability to admit being wrong. I continue to be ticked off about how Texas consumers of legal services were deprived of proper representation on the Sunset Commission this year.

Ray Ditmar

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# Casino Support

that Texas allows gambling, because it in fact runs its own gambling entity--the state lottery. Texas also sanctions gambling on dog and horse races.

"The state government comes into this case as a raging hypocrite," Kris said. "The government likes gambling just fine if they get a cut of the take."

Robert Howard, political director for the Libertarian Party of Texas, said Texas' gambling policies are inconsistent. The private citizen cannot profit from gaming through casinos but the state government can through the lottery, he said.

"It's hypocritical, it's accomplishing nothing, and it's definitely hurting the Indian economy," he said.

Tribal Spokeswoman Miller says the tribe will continue to pursue their right to operate the casino in the legislature and in the courts. Polk County Libertarians will also continue the fight by letting county residents know that LP candidates--especially local candidate Michael Carter running for State Senate--support their rights.

## More Letters—

The Texas Liberty Club promotes the benefits of voluntary individual effort. This month we thank and salute:

Robin Harrison for her donation, Phil Riddlebarger for his Houston Chronicle article, "Arm our Pilots," Ford Bankston for his Chronicle letter "Business Tax Cut needed," and public relations expert Donna Macek for her advice and support.

The Texas Liberty Club donates books, magazines, and videotapes to libraries in Texas -items that without our donation would not be available. We donate what reminds readers of the wisdom of our Founders, and translate their precepts into current issues.

The Director of the Fort Bend County Libraries sent an email thanking us for our donation-all books and tapes donated in May were accepted for the libraries' permanent collection!

Thanks to all who are "shopping for Liberty" at Kroger, Tom Thumb, and Randalls. What books on liberty would you like to see donated? Please let us know your favorites.

*Kathleen & Thomas Clark*



## HCLP's Pride Parade Outreach

Guy McLendon, Jeff Daiell, Brent & Tina Sullivan, Dan Weiner, Gabriella & Anthony Garcia, Yvonne Kelly, Mary & Gabe Kelly.

## LP Counters Gun Control Display

Activists from the Harris County LP, Pink Pistols, Students for the Second Amendment, and Free Republic came out June 20 to support the Second Amendment in a counter-demonstration held in front of Houston's City Hall.

The event was organized by HCLP Chair Anthony Garcia to present an alternate position to the "educational" demonstration being held by Young Texans Against Violence (an affiliate of Texans for Gun Safety). The group had a display of shoes representing kids "killed by guns."

Texans for Gun Safety is currently lobbying for mandatory trigger locks and to close the so-called "gun show loophole."

The event was covered by the Houston Chronicle including—

"Anthony Garcia, chairman of the Harris County Libertarian Party, said gun control groups focus on inanimate objects rather than the true causes of violence.

'I empathize with what they claim they are trying to prevent, but I disagree with the approach they are taking', Garcia said."

## Howard Starts LP Media Service

LP Texas Political Director Rock Howard has started an Electronic Media Service called LPTexasAnnounce. It is a list of about 1500 email addresses for media contacts as well as other interested individuals across Texas. The intent is to keep the media informed of our activities.

Here is how you can help:

1) Generate releases

a) Write releases and send them to Rock for consideration. These can be announcements of upcoming events, news about recent events or issue statements pertaining to Texas politics and/or other topical events.

b) Have your local county party issue a press release and send it to Rock.. Selected releases will be forwarded to the

media list.

c) LP nominees for office can send releases to Rock and, within reason, these will be forwarded to this media list.

2) Send Rock media contacts

He will add email addresses of media contacts to the list. Also individuals can sign up to receive the releases directly by visiting the home page for the list at: [http://united.dnsprotect.com/mailman/listinfo/lptexasannounce\\_rockhoward.com](http://united.dnsprotect.com/mailman/listinfo/lptexasannounce_rockhoward.com)

3) Volunteer to act as co-editor

A co-editor sees selected releases in advance in order that I can get feedback on the readability of the given release.

To contact Rock email [rockmh@austin.rr.com](mailto:rockmh@austin.rr.com) or call 512-453-5942.

# New St. Chair Sets County Goals Houston's *Vice*

by David Delamar

First let me say that I am extremely proud and humbled to be your new LP State Chair. I campaigned for the state chair on a platform of building county parties and media awareness of those local parties. I have a saying that Activity=Publicity=Votes.

I know the formula works because as the former Chair Of Lubbock County we used it in Lubbock to grow the Libertarian Party into a political force to be reckoned with.

Here is what I am asking each County Chair to begin in their counties if they have not already begun and by the way none of them will cost you a dime but they will take effort and time

1. Write a weekly letter to the editor to your local paper
2. Hold monthly meetings.
3. Call all inquires forwarded to you by the data chair..
4. Hold a tax protest on April 14
5. Attend and speak at public hearings for city, county and school board. Budget hearings are particularly worthwhile to attend.
6. Send out a news release to the media at least twice monthly on a local issue.

7. Begin a petition drive to repeal a local ordinance. We have information on how to do this.

8. Make friends with your local reporters and radio talk hosts.

9. Hold candidate forums for your local and statewide candidates during the months of August, Sept. and Oct.

10. Get out in front of hot local issues such as bond elections and give the LP position.

11. Call your local radio talk shows at least once a week and identify yourself when you call in.

12. Have outreach activities such as a booth at your local fair.

These activities can be delegated if you can't do them yourself. It is particularly important that you start these activities immediately as they will help in our efforts to retain ballot status in November. I will be following up with you to see how you are doing in implementing these strategies

Thank you for your efforts and willingness to serve the cause of liberty in Texas. P.S. If I can be of service please call me m/f after 9 p.m or anytime on weekends at 806-773-6382 or email at think@door.net.

*Vice* an award-winning feature film from Libertarian Writer/Director John Woodward was recently screened at the Angelica Film Center in downtown Houston. John and actors Bo Hopkins and Maxine Bahns were in town for the three screenings.

*Vice* addresses victimless crime—specifically the practice of raiding topless bars, and prosecuting strippers for indecent exposure and public lewdness. It is based on Harris County criminal court transcripts of the prosecutions of dancers from Rick's, an infamous Houston topless bar.

The story is especially relevant today because it examines policing priorities, freedom, privacy rights, victimless crime, censorship, and corruption. During a war on terrorism, does America want squads of undercover officers investigating topless dancers for indecent exposure while the Mohammed Attas of the world party unmolested at an adjoining table?

Dublin critic Paul Taylor described *Vice* as, "A gleefully damning satire and a very decent expose on policing priorities." As the 9-11 terrorist attacks illustrate, policing priorities are vital to the lives of free people. The film illustrates the extent to which bureaucrats frequently operate in their own interest rather than focusing on the vital priorities of the people.

Chicago critic Barbara Scharres described *Vice* as "part expose of police corruption, all hilariously cutting satire, *Vice* banks on brilliant and provocative performances by its ensemble cast." Another critic observed, "As funny as *Best in Show* or *Spinal Tap*."

*Vice* has been an audience favorite and a critical success at more than 15 film festivals, winning top awards in Memphis, Cleveland, San Francisco, and Port Hueneme. Irv Gorman won the Best Actor Award at the Memphis Film Festival.

If Americans were justifiably astounded when the Taliban's Department of Vice and Virtue arrested women (often flogging or beating them) for "improper" dress and a failure to be properly covered, how should one consider the Houston Police Department Vice Division?

*Vice* offers a scathingly funny look at a real-life, on-going witch-hunt by an insane bureaucracy.

## SLEC Ends Unified Membership

In one of its first actions, the newly elected State LP Executive Committee (SLEC) in its June meeting voted to end the county sharing portion of the Unified Membership Plan.

The Unified Membership Plan (UMP) allows individuals to send one yearly \$25 donation to either National or a participating State Party and be considered a member of both organizations. National and the State then share the dues. In Texas the program was extended to the county level—each organized county with a bank account—received a quarterly check from the state party with a share of the dues from each member in the county.

The plan in Texas was established by former State Chair Geoff Neale. Participation in UMP was a main part of Geoff's campaign promise to the LP convention that elected him over Tom Kane in 1998.

David Delamar, newly elected State Chair, said that fund sharing with the counties needed to be suspended immediately or the State Party would go into deficit. David reported that State expenses—including \$2,000 a month for the Political Director—meant they could no longer pay the counties their shares.

The Political Director position was initially paid from earmarked funds collected at the LP Conference in 2001.

"The suspension of this program is a major concern," said HCLP past-chair Laura Coker-Garcia. "With no money from the State Party and no chance of matching funds for advertising as in 2000—we're not going to be able to do as much. And many say this year is the most critical we've had for ballot access since the 80s," she said.

"If you want any media this year—even flyers—we need donations today," Laura said.

# To build a Bigger, Better Libertarian Party—Give!

Funds needed now for election expenses! Please donate today.

Here is my best donation: \_\_\_\_\_\$35\_\_\_\_\_ \$45\_\_\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_\_\_ \$150\_\_\_\_\_ Other

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## OPH finds 113

An 113 Libertarians were found in Temple, TX this past July.

Former State Vice Chair Clyde Garland and Bell County Libertarians held an Operation Politically Homeless booth at a K.C. & Company Gun Show on July 13 and 14. Show organizers allowed the activists to set up the booth next to the front check-in table so that all those attending the event could see it. More than 500 people took the quiz with 113 scoring in the Libertarian quadrant. Sixty-nine people left contact information--nearly doubling the size of the LP in Bell County.

"I encourage Texas LP Counties with no booth experience to inform me of an event in or near their County that will attract at least 200 people," said Clyde. "I will pay the booth fee, provide the booth and man the booth, provided the County has at least one person willing to man the Booth with me." Contact Clyde at Clydegarla@aol.com.

## McLendon Campaign

One campaign to watch this year is that of Guy McLendon, LP candidate for US Rep. 25. Starting more than a year in advance Guy has been able to put together a superb campaign team led by Yvonne Kelly.

With 500 yard signs—with lapel stickers, business cards, magnet car signs and even sticky notes—Guy is getting his name out. In the Pride Parade and Fourth of July Parade and coming up soon at the Westheimer Street Festival Guy is meeting the voters. He also has a very nice looking website at McLendon.com. He's been fundraising and he's sent media releases.

And this is just Guy's first run at the office. However, he's already commit-

ted to run for the seat again next cycle if he doesn't win with a long shot this time around.

A lot of effort in Guy's campaign has been in getting good information on what issues voters will support and how to get a third-party campaign going. In this effort Guy met with Congressman Ron Paul on July 2 at Paul's campaign headquarters in Clute.

The purpose of meeting was to review campaign issues as they relate to current legislative priorities. Congressman Paul and Guy found much common ground regarding issues on the Patriot Act of 2001, Middle East foreign policy, the US Constitution, government spending, and alternatives to the current taxation system.

The central theme of the McLendon for Congress Campaign is to reduce the size of government while increasing government's focus on only legitimate functions.

"We the people here in Texas deserve no less than a government that does perform its real duties, and that does not poke its nose into places where it does not belong," Guy said in a media release on the meeting.

## 33% GOP are Libertarians

Republican Liberty Caucus held an Operation Politically Homeless booth at the Texas GOP Convention this past June. About 10 activists including Mike Holmes, Lonnie Brantley and RLC founder Eric Dondero participated.

"For most attendees, it was the first time they had seen political ideology as a two-dimensional space instead of the usual one-dimensional left/right line," reports one activist.

About 500 delegates and visitors took the quiz. Of those 33% scored in the

Libertarian quadrant. About 43% scored Conservative, 17% Centrist and 6% Liberal or Authoritarian.

## Candidate Bookmarks

Jeff Daiell for Governor:

[www.JeffDaiell.lpcandidates.com](http://www.JeffDaiell.lpcandidates.com)

Mark Gessner for Lt. Governor:

[www.markgessner.com](http://www.markgessner.com)

cott Jameson for US Senate:

[www.scottjameson.org](http://www.scottjameson.org)

Stephan Kinsella for Ct Cr. Appl:

[www.stephankinsella.com](http://www.stephankinsella.com)

Jon Roland for Attorney General:

<http://web.wt.net/~jr4ag>

**Gil Guillory for US Rep. Dist. 8**

[www.guillory.org](http://www.guillory.org)

Guy McLendon for US Rep. Dist. 25:

[www.mclendon.net](http://www.mclendon.net)

Paul Hansen for US Rep. Dist. 29:

[www.Paul.Hansen.org](http://www.Paul.Hansen.org)

## Contributors

HCLP would like to thank the following recent donors:

Jeremy Davis

Tommy Hall

Robert Howard

Grayson Moss

Betty Reichwein

R. Jefferson Town

Stephen Turman

## Daiell Goes to College

Jeff Daiell recently spoke to the Government class at Wharton County Junior College.

Jeff presented his positions, including privatization of education, repeal of victimless crime laws (including laws against drug use), reduction in taxes, state spending, and regulation.

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## Libertarian Activities August 2002

**Aug. 4 (Sun.) 2 p.m. Harris County Meeting** at 9614 Oregon Circle (off Corporate Drive.) Contact John Kormylo at elfsoft@mindspring or 713-271-1776.

**Aug 13 (Tues.) 7 p.m. Brazoria County Meeting** at Golden Corral, Hwy 388 Business, Angleton. Contact George Harper at Gharper@computron.net or 979-964-3693.

**Aug. 15 (Thurs.) 7 p.m. San Jacinto Supper Club** at Golden Corral at 4021 Spencer Highway in Pasadena. Contact Bob Lockhart 713-475-0092.

**Aug. 15 (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.

**Aug. 20 (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.

**Aug. 22 (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 for information.

**Aug. 28 (Wed.) 5:30-7:00 p.m. UH College Libertarians Meeting** at the Millennium Cafe at the University Center on the University of Houston Campus. For information contact Monica Granger at uhlibertarians

@yahoo.com or visit their website at [www.geocities.com/uhlibertarians](http://www.geocities.com/uhlibertarians).

**Sept. 8 (Sun.) 2 p.m. Harris County Meeting** at 9614 Oregon Circle (off Corporate Drive.) Contact John Kormylo at elfsoft@mindspring or 713-271-1776.

**Sept. 14 (Sat.) Local Elections**--cities, college districts, water boards, etc. Early voting is Aug. 28-Sept. 10. City of Pearland, Special Election on petition to allow sale of alcoholic drinks in restaurants.

**Sept. 18 (Wed.) 6 p.m. Meet the Candidate Night** sponsored by Texas Liberty Club at La Madeline French Bakery & Cafe, 2675 Town Center Blvd (at Hwys 59 and 6) in Sugar Land. Governor Candidate Jeff Daiell and local candidates will be speaking at 7 p.m For info. contact Tom Clark at Texaslibertyclub@aol.com or 713-572-5338.

**Oct. 7 (Mon.) Last Day to Register to Vote** in the November 2002 General Election.

**Oct. 19-20 (Sat./Sun.) 12 to 7 p.m. LP Booth at Westheimer Arts Festival.** Contact Guy Mclendon for information at gmclend@sbcglobal.net.

**Oct. 19-Nov. 1 Early Voting** for November 2002 General Election.

**Nov. 5 (Tues.) General Election.** US Senate, US Congress, statewide offices and local offices on the ballot.