



# Gulf Coast Liberty

Defending liberty in southeast Texas in the Spirit of San Jacinto

June 2003

## Johnson Keynotes LP of TX Conference

Former New Mexico Governor Gary E. Johnson will be the feature speaker at this month's LP of Texas State Conference to be held Saturday, June 28 in San Antonio.

Johnson, elected to two consecutive four year terms (a first in New Mexico history) in 1994 and 1998 became the highest ranking officeholder to speak out about the failure of the war on drugs in 1999. In office Johnson stopped every new tax increase proposed by the legislature and vetoed over 750 bills. His drug law reform plan included changing forfeiture laws to remove law enforcement incentives, allowing the early release of non-violent drug offenders to reduce prison overcrowding and building additional prison space for violent criminals.

"On such issues as school vouchers and the right to bear arms, Johnson has shown two strong tendencies: a commitment to individual freedom and a willingness to take a hard look at the evidence," says David Boaz

CATO Institute Vice President.

A practiced debater and accomplished public speaker Johnson was crowd favorite at the LP National Convention in 2002. In addition to his political appeal Johnson is business owner and triathlete, who just this May climbed Mount Everest.

Other speakers for the conference include Rachel Mills, creator of the politically provocative Ladies of Liberty calendar and Libertarian activist and candidate; Jason Sorens, a Yale doctoral candidate and founder of the Free State Project; and Suzanne Wills of the Drug Policy Forum. A variety of Libertarian and grass roots activist workshops will also be scheduled.

The conference will be held at the Menger hotel, 204 Alamo Plaza, San Antonio—located only one block from the Alamo, the Rivercenter Mall and the famed Riverwalk. Conference admission has been discounted—cost for individuals is \$125, which includes meals; and \$220 for couples. Children

under 16 are free.

If you haven't already introduced a friend to the Libertarian Party, the 2003 conference is a wonderful chance to do so!



Ex-Governor Gary Johnson

With all of the speakers and workshops, your friend may very well leave more Libertarian than you!

For more information contact Kevin Hagan at 972-466-0882. To register send a check or money order payable to Libertarian Party of Texas, PO Box 27932, Houston, TX 77227.

To reserve a room at the historic Menger Hotel call 1-800-345-9285. Please let them know you are with the Libertarian Party for discount.

## HCLP to Oppose Houston Drainage Fee

The Harris County Libertarian Party Executive Committee passed a resolution May 17 opposing the City of Houston's proposed drainage fee and calling for the issue to be put on the November 2003 ballot so it can be debated and ultimately settled by the voters.

Houston city officials want a fee of \$3.50 to \$5 a month for homeowners and up to \$70 a month for businesses to raise \$85 million a year to fund drainage projects. However, the city admits that the projects—to be based on out-of-date flood plain

maps—will not end Houston's flooding problems and that they believe the fees will allow them to "free up" about \$15 million a year for the city's operating budget.

"The proposed fee is nothing more than a tax," argues Bob Lemer of Citizens for Public Accountability another organization opposing the fees. "The needed funds can be easily found by cutting the fat in the city budget," Lemer says and his organization of retired accountants has a laundry list of city government fat. Also, he points out that Harris County budgeted

\$108,187,255 for flood control for fiscal year 2002, but only spent \$42,934,050—"make the county either meet the City's needs or else refund County taxpayers some of their patently overpaid County taxes," Lemer says.

HCLP joins 14 groups on record in opposition to the fees including Houston Property Rights Association, Houston Business Journal, Taxpayers for Accountability, Building Owners and Managers Association, and numerous homeowner's associations and civic clubs.



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Volume 11 Issue 6  
June 2003

Gulf Coast Liberty is published monthly by the Harris County Libertarian Party. P.O. Box 27932 Houston, Texas 77227. 713-271-1776.

Visit us on the web at  
<http://www.lptexas.org/harris>  
Online discussion group:  
to join send email to HCLP-  
subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Chair Anthony Garcia  
281-997-8141  
Anthony@LibertyWorks.org

Vice Chair: Jeff Daiell  
713-777-1776 JeffDaiell@yahoo.com

Secretary: Kristin Thompson  
713-680-1291 Kristin@alfheim.org

Treasurer: John Kormylo  
713-772-8416 elfsoft@mindspring.com

Past Chair/ Editor: Laura Coker-Garcia  
281-997-8141  
Laura@LibertyWorks.org

San Jacinto Supper Club: Bob Lockhart  
713-475-0092 boblock@flash.net

Clear Lake Libertarian Caucus:  
Paul Morris 281-280-8660  
Paul.Morris@directvinternet.com

Texas Liberty Club:  
Tom Clark 713-722-9032  
texaslibertyclub@aol.com

University of Houston College Club:  
Monica Granger 832-259-2830  
uhlibertarians@yahoo.com  
<http://geocities.com/uhlibertarians>

North Harris College Club:  
Paul Hansen 281-209-1664  
valetudo13@yahoo.com

Sam Houston State Univ. Club  
Brian Drake brian@briandrake.com

## In the Mail

**Texas Liberty Club: Defending Liberty**  
Since its inception in fall, 2001, the Liberty Club has raised nearly \$1,000. These funds have come mostly from rebates provided by Randalls and Kroger stores, and the Houston Chronicle. The Liberty Club thanks all those who have been 'shopping for Liberty'.

Last summer we succeeded in getting 20 libertarian books and videotapes into the Fort Bend county libraries permanent collection.

This year we are concentrating on the Harris county public libraries. We have donated the Joy of Freedom; Triumph of Liberty; and the updated edition of Healing our World, authored by Liberty Club Board of Advisors member Dr. Mary Ruwart. Also, subscriptions to Liberty; Reason; and Ideas on Liberty magazines and a set of John Stossel videotapes.

Thanks to these donations, hundreds of students and library patrons are being made aware of the wisdom of the Founders of our country, and the benefits of liberty, free trade, and peace. With more supporters, the Club could expand to the Houston Public libraries and to college campus libraries that have expressed interest.

It's easy to help fund the Liberty Club and there is no out of pocket cost to you. Randalls and Krogers rebate 1% of your purchases to the Liberty Club. Simply complete a short form at any Randalls customer service desk (designate charity #9703) and all of your subsequent purchases will be rebated. At Kroger, you will need to show the cashier your Liberty Club card which is business card sized and will be mailed to you free upon request.

Club members are invited to suggest any libertarian books they would like to see donated.

To request a Kroger card or for more information, contact Tom Clark at 713-722-9032 or at [texaslibertyclub@aol.com](mailto:texaslibertyclub@aol.com).

I'm a recent Rice University graduate, with degrees in Anthropology, Art & Art History, and Film Production. For the past two years, I've worked for Fox 26 News as a news editor, Special Projects consultant, and undercover investigations team member. Through my academic and professional experiences, I've become increasingly concerned with the political direction in which the nation is headed, as well as the perceptions, misconceptions, and lack of education of the general populace in relation to political issues.

As a conservative, I feel increasingly neglected and betrayed by Republican politicians, who often seem more concerned with their political futures than with adhering to the ideological platforms on which they are elected. Personal accountability and responsibility constitute the core foundation upon which I base my political, economic, and social philosophy. As such, I have come to the difficult realization that the basic tenants of Libertarian philosophy align more directly with my own than do those of the contemporary Republican party.

However, as an anthropologist and media professional, I'm all too aware that these ideals must be rigorously popularized and addressed in the public forum if they are to significantly impact society. Therein lies my interest in running for office on the Libertarian platform. Regardless of the outcome of the election, I hope to use the campaign as an opportunity to educate the public about Libertarian ideals, as well as aggressively point out the ideological and practical failings of both the Democratic and Republican parties.

Cesare Wright

*Cesare sent these comments to the LP on national's volunteer inquiry form and they're repeated here with his permission. Not only has Cesare decided to join the Party, but he's willing to promote LP ideas with a campaign!*

# Funds needed now to meet regular expenses!

Here is my best donation: \_\_\_\_\_\$25\_\_\_\_\_ \$50\_\_\_\_\_ \$75\_\_\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_\_\_ Other

Occupation\_\_\_\_\_

Tired of missing all the really cool activist opportunities? Send us your email and we'll let you in on all the details: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Thanks Donors!

The Harris County Libertarian Party would like to thank the following recent donors:

Bernard Benson  
Catherine Compton  
Jeff Daiell  
John Valditara  
J.P. Friedman  
Charles Fuller  
Michael House  
Patrick Kelly  
Robert Mayer  
William McNicoll  
Dan Morgan  
Branch Phillips  
Wayne Rentfro  
Bill Ware

## Activist Report

Tony Messina is helping to improve public knowledge about our rights by teaching classes on the First Amendment. Tony is set to host a class/discussion group with Leisure Learning on June 5th. If all goes well you should be able to find future classes listed at [www.llu.com/6000.htm](http://www.llu.com/6000.htm).

Jon Roland has agreed to organize efforts to update and maintain the state party website at [www.lptexas.org](http://www.lptexas.org). He is asking for help—you can download existing pages, modify them—maintaining the original style—and send them back to him to check and perhaps upload. Those who can't edit HTML can also still by just sending a neat ASCII text file with changes.

Contact John at [jon.roland@constitution.org](mailto:jon.roland@constitution.org) if you are able to help with this project.

Jeff Daiell spoke to Wharton County Junior College students in a May 22 presentation at the Sugar Land campus. His topic was the concentration of power in the executive branch of the federal government. Jeff noted how both the left and right are to blame for the current situation, in which civil liberties and economic freedom are jeopardized by Presidential and bureaucratic authority. Know of a class or group looking for a speaker? Contact Jeff at [jeffdaiell@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffdaiell@yahoo.com) or 713-777-1776.

Guy McLendon is leading efforts to promote Constitution Week—September 17 to September 23. He's signed up with the National Constitution Center, a non-profit chartered by the US Congress, that sponsors the week.

Participating sites get a 5 foot replica of the U.S. Constitution that visitors—especially children—are encouraged to sign. The Center also provides up to 1,000 pens and 1,000 copies of the Constitution for groups to hand-out to signers. (While these supplies are free, Guy is paying shipping.)

Guy is looking for sites—fairs, festivals, etc. that occur during the week where a Constitution booth could be set up. He also needs volunteers to staff the booth and promote the event. You can learn more about celebrating Constitution Week at [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org). To volunteer for our local effort contact Guy at [guy@mclendon.net](mailto:guy@mclendon.net).

## LP Adds Officeholder

The LP gains another elected Libertarian in Texas as Alan Weiss of the Northwest Austin #1 Municipal Utility District re-joins the Party.

Alan was elected in May 2002 and is serving a four-year term. He ran on a platform of ending unjust taxation—homeowners in the Canyon Creek district were paying taxes to the MUD and to the City of Austin. Once in office Alan was instrumental in bringing a lawsuit against the City of Austin, which may be able to finally end the illegal double taxation. Alan was also able to convince the rest of the MUD board to lower taxes by about \$100 per household.

An supporter of the Ed Clark for Governor (1978) and for President (1980) campaigns Alan has been a longtime "small L" libertarian activist. He ran for office and was elected along with Don Zimmerman of the Republican Liberty Caucus. However, Alan is just now rejoining the party he says thanks in part to the efforts of activist Steve Trinidad.

## New Baby

Congratulations to HCLP Secretary Kristin Thompson and husband Ben on their newest little Libertarian—Emma Claire— born Wednesday, May 21, 2003 at 6:17 p.m. Emma weighed in at 8 pounds, 11.6 ounces. Big sister Isabell welcomed her home.

Libertarian Party of Texas  
Gulf Coast Liberty  
P.O. Box 27932  
Houston, Texas 77227

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## Libertarian Activities June 2003

**June 10 (Tues.) 7 p.m. Brazoria County Meeting** at Golden Corral, Hwy 388 Business, Angleton. Contact George Harper at Gharper@sat.net or 979-964-3693.

**June 14 (Sat.) 12:30 p.m. Second Saturday Libertarian Lunch**, at Star Pizza, 2111 Norfolk St. off Shepperd Drive in Montrose. Contact Laura at Laura@Libertyworks.org or 281-997-8141 for information.

**June 14 (Sat.) 12:30 to 6 p.m. Grassroots Political Conference** at UH (Houston room at the University Center main campus). Political workshops and speakers sponsored by the Democrats. \$10 with pre-registration (contact kkloper@aol.com) includes workbook. \$15 at the door. Free to students if they pre-register.

**June 17 (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.

**June 19 (Thurs.) 7 p.m. San Jacinto Supper Club** at Top China Buffet, 3630 Spencer Hwy. in Pasadena. Contact Bob Lockhart 713-475-0092.

**June 19 (Thurs.) 7 p.m. Montgomery County Meeting** at the South County Community Center, 2235 Lake Robbins Drive, The Woodlands. Contact Ron Hard at ronhard54@msn.com or 281-363-9211.

**June 26 (Thur.) 7 p.m. Clear Lake Libertarian Cau-**

**cus Supper Club** at Fuddrucker's Restaurant on Nasa Rd 1. Contact Paul 281-280-8660 or Paul.Morris@directvinternet.com to confirm.

**June 28 (Sat.) Libertarian Party of Texas State Conference** at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio. Conference featuring Gary Johnson (see page 1). Tickets \$125 individual; \$220 couple. Contact Kevin Hagan for information at 972-466-0882.

**July 4 (Fri.) Fourth of July Parade outreach opportunity.** Contact Laura@Libertyworks.org or 281-997-8141 to volunteer.

**July 6 (Sun.) Harris County Meeting** at 9614 Oregano Circle (off Corporate Drive.) For starting time or information contact John at 713-271-1776.

**July 8 (Tues.) 7 p.m. Brazoria County Meeting** at Golden Corral, Hwy 388 Business, Angleton. Contact George Harper at Gharper@sat.net or 979-964-3693.

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