



# Gulf Coast Liberty

## 2006 Texas State Convention

By Yvonne Kelly, Liberty Reporter

Michael Badnarik delivered a rousing keynote speech as delegates convened the Texas LP's state convention on Saturday, June 10 at the Doubletree Hotel in Houston. The body then elected a full slate of statewide candidates, including Governor, Senator, Commissioners, and numerous Judgeships. The entire ticket can be seen at: <http://www.lptexas.org/candidates.shtml>

LP Texas state officers were then chosen for a two-year term. From the Gulf Coast, our very own Fort Bend chair, Kevin Tunstall, was elected Texas Vice Chairman, and Laura Coker-Garcia retains the post of Secretary. Laura's superb grasp of rules & law help to keep the party running effectively and legally. Pat Dixon and Geoff Neale were re-elected State Chairman and Treasurer respectively. Texas LP has very strong and experienced officers to lead and grow the party into 2008.

Saturday afternoon, delegates in regional causes elected representatives to the State Leadership Executive Committee (SLEC). The Texas Gulf Coast region increased our representation on the SLEC. Houston metro region members include: Yvonne Kelly, SD-4, William Gray and Jay Cookingham (SD-7), Stan Norred and Anthony Garcia (SD-11), Jeff Daiell and Guy McLendon (SD-13), and Candace Sessums (SD-18) The entire list of SELC representatives can be viewed at: [http://www.tx.lp.org/district\\_representatives.shtml](http://www.tx.lp.org/district_representatives.shtml)

While convention business was being transacted, participants had the opportunity to attend a full day and a half of informative workshops. Speakers included nationally known author, Dr. Mary Ruwart, local activists, Jeff Daiell and Bob Smither, as well as a host of others.

Dr. Ron Paul, Congressman from Texas CD14, was our featured speaker at the evening banquet. A crowd of over 110 people packed the ballroom and listened intently as Dr. Paul enlightened us about the state of affairs in DC. Dr. Paul told a hopeful story about his travels to Europe where the Spirit of Liberty is making real progress.

By-law and platform issues dominated Sunday morning's agenda as the convention produced some heated debate. A hot topic was the immigration plank. Consensus ensued as a team put together a plank based upon Mike Badnarik's position.



L-R Laura Coker-Garcia (Sec.), Kevin Tunstall (Vice Chair), Congressman Ron Paul, Patrick Dixon (Chair) and Geoff Neale (Treasurer)

The new plank maintains our party's long term vision of open immigration, but that also recognizes the need for protection of the border. The updated Texas platform will soon be available at: <http://www.tx.lp.org/platform.shtml> as well as the revised by-laws at: <http://www.tx.lp.org/rules.shtml> With the convention adjourned, the newly elected SLEC met in the afternoon to conclude the weekend's business.

Many thanks go to our state leadership for all their work in making this convention a huge success. A special thanks to Nancy Neale, who somehow manages to successfully accommodate everyone's needs. With a new party logo, assured ballot access in 2008, and a strong sense of optimism, we look forward to our next convention in 2008.

## 2006 Convention Seminars

By Robert Mayer, Brazoria Chair

***"A Fireplace of Brick and not of Paper"***  
***Jeff Daiell, Former LP Candidate for Governor***

America's framers envisioned a central government (fire) restrained by a Constitution (fireplace) made of "brick", but politicians have transformed it into one of "paper." For example, the Bill of Rights, which was added to the Constitution for the purpose ensuring that the central government never infringe upon the citizens' natural rights, has often been twisted into an interpretation that the central government is the grantor of those rights, thereby reversing the government's intended servant role with that of its master, the citizenry. Daiell proceeded through the historic timeline, stopping at critical junctures, citing key events when the Constitution's ability to restrain the federal government was weakened.

(continued on page 2)



# Gulf Coast Liberty

Volume 14, Issue 3  
Fall 2006

Publisher:  
Libertarian Party of Texas  
P.O. Box 27932  
Houston, Texas 77227  
Editor: Candace Sessums  
Website: [www.lptexas.org/harris](http://www.lptexas.org/harris)

Chair: Guy McLendon  
832-372-8131, [guy@mclendon.net](mailto:guy@mclendon.net)  
Vice Chair: John Kormylo  
713-772-1776, [elfsoft@mindspring.com](mailto:elfsoft@mindspring.com)  
Treasurer: Richard Phillips  
713-789-5520  
Secretary: Kristin Thompson  
713-680-1291, [Kristin@alfheim.org](mailto:Kristin@alfheim.org)  
Past Chair: Jeff Daiell  
713-777-1776, [JeffDaiell@yahoo.com](mailto:JeffDaiell@yahoo.com)  
University of Houston College Club:  
Monica Granger  
832-259-2830, [uhlibertarians@yahoo.com](mailto:uhlibertarians@yahoo.com)  
<http://geocities.com/uhlibertarians>  
Liberty Coalition: Chris Camero  
281-497-8019, [chris\\_camero@yahoo.com](mailto:chris_camero@yahoo.com)  
Texas Liberty Club: Tom Clark  
713-572-5338, [texaslibertyclub@aol.com](mailto:texaslibertyclub@aol.com)  
San Jacinto Supper Club: Bob Lockhart  
713-475-0092, [boblock@flash.net](mailto:boblock@flash.net)

(continued from Page 1)

He cited the notable contrast between the times of alcohol prohibition where a Constitutional amendment was required to pursue action and the more recent "War on Drugs" which is waged with no such amendment. He cited the power shift to the executive branch from other branches. Throughout this steady aggregation of central power, Democrats and Republicans alike have proven to be equally culpable. The message is clear: this situation is never going to change until voters finally reject the status quo, and seek a real alternative such as the Libertarian Party.

## From the HCLP Chair

By Guy McLendon

My Fellow Libertarians,

My inaugural letter to you spoke of hope and bold actions. This quarter has been filled with action.

The database enhancement project phase 1 is off to a good start. Many readers have received a personal phone call as we begin to verify our contact information. Such personal contact yields results in multiple areas, and is a critical part of our precinct chair recruitment and yard sign deployment programs.

At both national and state levels, convention delegates, LP leaders, and activists took bold action. National delegates, in a move coined the "Portland Purge", voted to "not retain" all but eight planks from the 2004 Platform. This unprecedented action was offset by the work of the Platform Committee, so the overall result was a reduction of the platform from 62 down to 15 planks. The primary motive for this action, IMHO, was to broaden our support base, and this healthy action helps to lay the base for a future libertarian victory. This house cleaning was long overdue.

The coming months offer more opportunities for further bold actions that can yield more hope. Let us leverage our new national logo and our new platform to recruit new members. Truly, today is "A New Beginning". Now, let the LP evolve into **THE** national melting pot for all libertarians, so we may reinstate lawful, limited government for our children, grandchildren and for all future generations.



<p>Robert Lockhart, C.P.A. P.O. Box 1398 Pasadena, Texas 77501 713-475-0092</p>	<p>Guy McLendon CyberSquad Web Hosting <a href="http://www.CyberSquad.com">www.CyberSquad.com</a> 832-372-8131</p>
---	--

### **"Physics and LP Politics"** **Geoff Neale, Texas LP Treasurer**

Mr. Neale began by noting a humorous quote by Mark Twain, "Generalizations are always false, especially this one". Geoff offered an original quote, "Success is simple; it's just not easy", a creed that has served him well in his systems engineering career. In politics, the "simple" part represents the organization's strategy or philosophy,

and is an essential component of virtually any endeavor. The "not easy" part is the tactics, or the nuts-and-bolts actions, necessary to ultimately achieve success.

He presented a physics analogy by relating politics to the concepts of inertia and gravity.

(continued on Page 3)

# Restore Freedom Now — Make Checks Out to “HCLP”!

Funds are needed now for 2006 election expenses! Please donate today.

Here is my best donation:  \$35  \$60  \$100  \$200  \$1000  Other

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Employer (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Precinct \_\_\_\_\_

(continued from Page 2)

Inertia is "the tendency of a body in motion to remain in motion, or a body at rest to remain at rest." An example is how unyielding, principled libertarians serve the movement in the role of an anchor to their pragmatist counterparts, to help ensure they stay true to the cause and not prostitute themselves. On the other hand, gravity works based upon proximity. The closer you are to someone, the easier it is to influence them. Libertarian purists, i.e. 100/100 on the Nolan Chart, find it generally harder to win over the potential libertarian than someone having a 70/70, middle-of-the-quadrant, perspective. We can better attract new people when we can relate to them and "speak their language".

### **"The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly of Being a City Councilman"** **Pat Dixon, Texas LP Chairman**

Being elected to the city council provides a great opportunity to effect real change in the community, but the reality is that "you will be misunderstood!" He told several stories of how he took a principled stance on an issue, only to have a local newspaper cartoonist parody him by distortion. For example, when Lago Vista had the opportunity to get its first supermarket, Pat's resistance was turned into a portrayal of him disliking supermarkets, when in fact he was merely against the plan to force taxpayers to subsidize the deal. As he said, "the government should not be allowed to pick winners and losers in the marketplace."

Another facet of being a city councilman is that he lives right next door to the people his actions are affecting,

whereas the congressional representative in Washington is much more insulated. But, a very effective way to combat misunderstandings is by maintaining a blog on his website where he elaborates on he voted as he did on a given issue. His blog provide the background information often missing in the local press coverage. His website, [www.patdixon.org](http://www.patdixon.org), is even getting more traffic than that of the local newspaper!

### **LP National Convention** **By Pat Dixon**

Texas now has 4 members on the Libertarian National Committee. National officers are ... drum roll:

#### **National Chair**

Bill Redpath, Virginia

#### **Vice Chair**

Chuck Moulton, Pennsylvania

#### **Treasurer**

Geoff Neale, Texas

#### **Secretary**

Bob Sullentrup, Missouri

#### **LNC At Large members**

Pat Dixon, Texas

Admiral Michael Colley, Alabama

Jeremy Keil, Wisconsin

Angela Keaton, California

Dan Karlan, New Jersey

Blocks of states can form a region, and assign a LNC member.

#### **Region 6 States:**

Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada

#### **Region 6 LNC Rep**

Wes Benedict, Texas

#### **Region 6 LNC Alternate**

Nancy Neale, Texas

### **LP Platform Committee** **By Guy McLendon**

Going into Convention, the Platform Committee had two areas of focus: plank consolidation, and constitutional compliance. Planks from the 2004 Platform were combined as follows:

II.6 Monopolies and II.7 Subsidies merged into "Corporate Welfare, Monopolies and Subsidies"

IV.D.3 Space Exploration, IV.C.3 Unowned Resources, I.12 Property Rights merged into "Property Rights"

I.2 Crime and I.3 Victimless Crime

III.13 Postal Service and II.9 Public Utilities, with a suggested new name of "Government-provided Services"

III.5 Population and I.20 Women's Rights and Abortion merged into "Reproductive Rights"

Planks modified based upon the constitutional compliance focus:

I.17 Conscription

II.5 Government Debt

The Taxation plank revision received over 50% support, but failed to reach 2/3. Champion of plank conceded during convention that Solutions section may not be compliant to the Statement of Principles.

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

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HOUSTON, TX  
PERMIT NO. 06478

# Fun Things to Do in Fall 2006!

**August 20 (Sun 1-4 PM) Ron Paul's Birthday Bash.** Doyle Convention Center; 2010 5th Ave N; Texas City, Texas 77590. Contact: Guy@McLendon.Net, 832-372-8131.

**August 27 (Sun 4-6 PM) Candidate Meetup & Activist Social.** Location: see website for info. Contact: Guy@McLendon.Net, 832-372-8131.

**Sept 16 (Sat) Common Ground—the US Constitution Event.** Multi-party rally to support LP candidates. Location/time TBA: see website for info. Contact: Guy@McLendon.Net, 832-372-8131.

**Sept 23 (Sat) Texas SLEC Meeting.** Location: College Station. Exact location/time: TBA. See website for more info.

**Sept 28 (Thur 7-9PM), Forum—Governor Candidate James Werner vs the Establishment.** Fondren Middle School, 6333 South Braeswood; Houston, Texas 77096. Contact: Guy@McLendon.net, Tel 832-372-8131.

**Sept 29-Oct 1 (Fri 4-9PM/Sat 9-9/Sun 11-9), Fort Bend County Fair.** Rosenberg, Texas. Contact: Danny Sessums, sessumsd@museumofsouthernhistory.org, Tel 713-253-7345.

**Get Out the Vote!** Early voting: Oct 23-Nov 3. Election Day Nov 7, 2006. Support your favorite libertarian candidate!

For current info, visit our website:  
<http://www.lptexas.org/harris>

## ACTIVISTS IN ACTION

By Yvonne Kelly

Sunday, June 18th had a rainy start, but that didn't stop Stan Norred and Kevin Tunstall from setting up a striking, colorful tent, OPH board and literature display right inside the main gate at the Pasadena Fairgrounds. The event was a very well attended biker swap meet.

They were joined by candidates Bob Smither (Congress CD22) and Judy Baker (Lt. Gov.) who worked the entering crowds. Yvonne Kelly joined in to help with the "World's Smallest Political Quiz".

Dave Collins wisely stayed indoors (in the air conditioning!) discussing libertarian ideology and issues. With candidate literature and copies of the US Constitution from Ron Paul, we engaged many people in discussions of current issues, problems and the libertarian solutions.

While many people were reluctant to officially take the quiz, Kevin's records show that 34 did. Of that number, 29 scored in the Libertarian quadrant! Twenty-five provided information for future contact. With this kind of successful outreach, we'll be back for the next swap meet before the election.

Coming events: Gun Shows at the Pasadena Convention Center on the weekends of July 29-30 and August 12-13. Since 2000, the show promoters have given me a table to conduct voter registration. In 2004, Jeff Daiell and Drew Parks helped man the effort and we were able to do much more "campaigning" and literature distribution. Volunteers are requested to staff the table for 2-3 hour shifts, and will receive a FREE pass to the show. This event gives us a forum to dialog with many voters about libertarianism. Please email [ykellydsl@earthlink.net](mailto:ykellydsl@earthlink.net) to volunteer.