



VOF

VOICE OF
FREEDOM

The Official Newsletter of the
Libertarian Party of Tennessee

Ray Ledford, Chair (chair@lptn.org)
Trevor Southerland, Editor (editor@lptn.org)

March 2003
www.lptn.org

2005 State Convention To Be In Murfreesboro

The 2005 state convention of the Libertarian Party of Tennessee will be held in Murfreesboro on April 8-10 at the Doubletree Hotel.

Convention committee co-chairs Debra Dickens and Bill Bolen have worked hard to put together a convention package that will feature speakers, workshops, lunch on Saturday, socializing, and, of course, some real business.

Conventions held in odd-numbered years are reserved for any changes to our bylaws, planning our strategies for the next year, and for electing state officers.

This year's officer elections will be exciting as three of the four current officers have chosen not to seek another term. The retiring officers are Secretary (continued page 2)

From The Chair

Ray Ledford

This will be my last column as your state chair, and I'd like to look back on the past three years, and look forward to the future.

It's incredible that three years has gone by – it seems like only yesterday that Richard Pearl was chairing our 2002 convention in March of that year. With Richard's death, I found myself missing my friend while I had to try to fill the void he left behind.

And it was an election year to boot.

But this party made it through that year, and we made it through the officer elections of 2003, too, although not without some controversy.

We've had Tax Day protests, we've had county affiliates fighting taxes at home, (continued page 2)

(Convention, continued from page 1)

Joey King, Vice Chair Heather Scott, and Chairman Ray Ledford. Current Treasurer, Alicia Mattson, is seeking the office of chairman.

Among the guest speakers are Dr. Jim Lark, R. Lee Wrights, and Vernie Kuglin.

Registration for the convention is \$20 for those who pre-register, or \$30 at the door. Everyone is urged to pre-register so that our staff can begin the certification process necessary for being a voting delegate.

ACTION ITEM

Delaying the Streamlined Sales Tax

Support:

HB2088 / SB0731 - This bill would delay implementation of the Streamlined Sales Tax laws until July 1, 2008 rather than July 1, 2005. We would prefer that this plan be permanently shelved, but a 3-year delay is better than implementing it this year.

ACTION ITEM

Delaying the Streamlined Sales Tax

Support:

HB0810 / SB0924 - This bill would allow ESTU to establish a financially self-funding school of pharmacy that would bring jobs and local-option higher education to the region. One of the plan's creators is a libertarian, so it was designed to require no state funding. The THEC is opposed to the plan, so the bill needs our help to make it happen.

(Chair, continued from page 1)

and we successfully put Michael Badnarik on the ballot last year.

And none of it could have been accomplished without you.

You make the Libertarian Party of Tennessee what it is, not the chair, vice chair, secretary, or treasurer. You were the protesters, the tax fighters, and the ballot petitioners. You are the ones who make up the county leadership, who attend the county meetings, and who produce the ideas that keep this party's principles in public view.

And in turning from this examination of the past, I can tell you that our future will contain changes – changes that will come at our state convention in April, such as bylaw changes and changes in state leadership. You see, I'm not the only officer who is electing to step aside, to encourage new faces in leadership roles. Wilson County Commissioner and State Vice Chair Heather Scott and Secretary Joey King have also chosen to leave state leadership at the end of our terms in April. Only Alicia Mattson is continuing in state leadership as she seeks to become your next state chair.

There is always trouble on the horizon; continued threats to our rights and liberties, the ever-present promise of a state income tax, and even controversy in the national party. However, I'm confident that the Libertarian Party of Tennessee will overcome the threats, that it will once again lead the fight against any state income tax, and that it will sail past any controversies in the LP. It will do this, though, not because it will (continued on page 3)

(Chair, continued from page 2)

have excellent leadership – and I believe it will – but because of YOU, the dedicated activist-members of the Libertarian Party of Tennessee.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve you these past few years, first as state vice chair, and then as state chair. I will continue to fight for Liberty, but I'm also going back to graduate school this summer, I'm writing a book I would like to finish, and, of course, I want more time with Helen, Gina, and Scott.

I have been in state leadership for five years, and I will cherish my time as a state leader, but not as much as I will cherish all of you, my fellow Defenders of Liberty.

Pro libertate,
Ray Ledford
LPTN Chair, 2002-05
LPTN Vice Chair, 2000-02

Proposed Bylaw Changes

Notes: The following bylaws sections were retrieved from www.lptn.org, our state's official website. The **bold** text details additions and the *[italics]* text are deletions. All other standard black text is the current wording of the current bylaws.

Article III : MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership:

- 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.

Article IV: OFFICERS

C. Duties of Officers:

1. **Chair:** It is the responsibility of the State Chair to ... 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.**

Article VII: BUDGETS

A. The Treasurer will request from the delegates that the LPTN shall spend money in the same general manner for operations as the previous year *[under the guidance of the chair]*, and shall set the following year's budget at an amount not to exceed the balance of LPTN funds in the bank at the time of the Convention. **The budget shall be approved by a majority vote at the convention.**

[B. County Chairs may access any unexpended operations funds

proportionally to their membership, or leave those funds for general use by the LPTN.]

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

1. The Chair's Discretionary Fund shall not exceed 10% of the total budget or \$2500, whichever is less. The Chair shall have discretionary authority to disburse these funds for LPTN purposes.

2. Reserve Fund monies may only be disbursed after approval by 6 or more of the following people: LPTN Chair, LPTN Vice-Chair, LPTN Secretary, LPTN Treasurer, and the four LPTN Regional Coordinators. LPTN County 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.

C. The books of the LPTN shall be open to the membership upon request.

Mattson To Run For Chair

Alicia Mattson, LPTN State Treasurer, has announced her intention to run for State Chair.

The Cookeville resident first entered state leadership in March, 2002, when she was elected in mid-term to replace retiring State Treasurer Monte Carroll. She was re-elected in April, 2003.

"Alicia has been a superb treasurer, and I'm confident that she'll make an excellent state chair if she's elected," State Chair Ray Ledford was quoted on hearing the news.

Advertise in the VOF

Would you like to reach Tennessee Libertarians fast? Then advertise in the Voice of Freedom.

Full Page \$165

Half Page \$90

Quarter Page \$45

Business Card \$20

**The Libertarian Party of
Tennessee
P.O. Box 2361
Cookeville, TN 38502
1-888-960-1776**

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 0022
Hermitage, TN