



Liberty News

March 2000

a publication of the Libertarian Party of Boulder County

What I Paid the Government for My New Car

by Steve Funk

On January 7, 2000, I bought a new car. I had been driving my faithful but ailing "Brown Beauty" 1986 Pontiac for about 10 years and it was just a matter of time before she gave up the good fight. The nice folks at Longmont Mazda somehow managed to get my financing approved, a feat no other mortal had ever accomplished given my marginal credit rating. And after all, I work hard, I'm about to turn 30, and I deserve a new car, dammit!

So after choosing a modestly priced and equipped 2000 Mazda Protégé, trading in poor ol' "Brown Beauty" (probably destined for the scrap metal heap) and signing away my life for 5 years of car payments, I drove off the lot with a **BRAND NEW CAR**, as they say on the game shows.

One day soon afterward, I innocently called the County Courthouse to find out how much it would cost to register the vehicle and get license plates. After the helpful representative first replied, "we don't give estimates over the phone," I persisted and finally was quoted a shocking amount that I would need to hand over by February 22 in order to legally drive my new car for a year in our fine state. Since I like to know what I'm paying for, especially if it amounts to hundreds of dollars, this made me curious... how much am I paying the government for the privilege of owning my new car, and what am I getting in return?

Starting with the original invoice, the "cash delivered price of vehicle" was \$15,930. To this was added **\$646.80** in "State and Local Taxes." Also added was **\$26.50** "paid on your behalf to public officials for license, title, and registration." Now the "total price of unit" was up to \$16,603.30. Only after adding these

amounts was my downpayment, trade-in, and cash-back credit of \$2,033.30 applied, getting us down to the \$14,570 amount to be financed.

Among the many forms that needed to be filled out and signed, most seemed to be required by the government, no doubt for my "protection." These included the *Odometer Disclosure Statement*, *Disclosures Required as Part of a Motor Vehicle Sales Contract*, *State of CO Dealer's Bill of Sale for a Motor Vehicle*, and *Agreement to Provide Insurance*. Who knows how many taxpayer dollars are spent processing, filing, and maintaining these important documents?

Speaking of insurance, I of course wanted to upgrade my policy for better coverage on my treasured new vehicle. Now I will be paying over \$100 a month for decent insurance, which admittedly is something I want to have. However, I am sure these rates would be lower and more competitive if the government didn't require all drivers to have a mandated amount of car insurance, thereby effectively subsidizing the auto insurance industry and keeping the prices artificially high.

Thankfully, my new car was "exempt" from the insane Colorado emissions testing requirement that does little else but provide job security to the auto repair industry. No doubt, however, these costs are hidden somewhere in the price of my vehicle as paid by the manufacturer to make it compliant to these and countless other government regulations. Are some of these "safety and environmental" features potentially beneficial to me? Certainly. Does the government know best how to manufacture safe and efficient vehicles? Certainly not.

(Continued on page 2...)

My New Car (continued from front page)

Now it's off to the County Courthouse. Just like at the Deli counter, you have to take a number and wait to be helped -- except the service is much slower and the pastrami isn't as tasty. About half of the ten available customer windows were being staffed ensuring a nice long wait before my number was called. Such fine service we receive from our State-owned monopolies.

Several numbers were called of people who weren't there anymore. One person behind me joked that they "died waiting." Finally, it was my turn to be "served." The staff person asked a few questions and told me what I owed for a year's registration: **\$309.86**. That's \$27.20 license fee, \$259.92 ownership tax, and \$22.74 "prior O.T." (what is that?) While this sounded like an awful lot of money to me, it could be worse: the higher the value of your vehicle, the more ownership tax you pay. Good thing I didn't decide on that Lexus I had my eye on! (Note: *amazingly, you can only pay by cash or check, no credit cards!* Where else do you know where you might spend hundreds of dollars and can't use credit cards?)

One thing I did get for my money is those lovely new green and white Colorado license plates, complete with my own personal ID number! Then I notice, by gosh, they reversed the color scheme so now the mountains are white and have more geologic details! Perhaps they changed the mountains from green to white to better promote our state's tourist-friendly ski slopes. Also included were two handy date stickers to put on my rear license plate, reminding me that I get to pay up again a year from now to renew my registration. I can't wait!

Of course, I could have spent **\$25** more if I desired a glorious full-color "designer" license plate. After a moment of deep reflection, I declined the offer. Also I could get a different plate design if I belonged to one of several specialty groups including Honorably Discharged Veterans, Former POWs, Pearl Harbor Survivors, Automobile Collectors, Masonic Families, Horseless Carriage Owners, and naturally the Government. What a thrill to have so many license plate designs beautifying our roadways! I wonder how much taxpayer money is paid to the creative team at the DMV to design these works of public art?

I asked if there was some sort of brochure showing what my \$300 was going to be used for. The clerk found an "outdated" pamphlet and made me a copy since it was her "last one." I said I was doing some research because my registration experience inspired me to write an article. She replied it was the first time she ever heard of anyone being "inspired" at the DMV.

Here's what the pamphlet had to say:

LICENSE FEE

\$4.00-Street fund of your city, or to county road district
\$2.00-County general fund
\$0.70-County emission control account
\$1.50-State Department of Health for emission control
\$1.00-State Dept of Revenue for Emergency Medical Services
\$1.00-Insurance Identification database.
-The remainder, including designer and personalized designer plate fees, goes to the State Highway User Fund.

I have to pay for "emission control" even though my car is exempt from testing and compliant with the bogus emissions requirements. I have to pay for the insurance database...apparently my insurance company isn't capable of doing that for me. And how often do we hear people say, "We need taxes to pay for roads!" Obviously all these taxes aren't enough...the State also needs to collect additional fees from every driver each year. Now to the big money...

OWNERSHIP TAX

\$0.50-Finance state motor vehicle computer system
\$0.50-County general fund
-The remainder of the tax is distributed by the Boulder County Treasurer in accordance with the various mill levels--which include school districts, fire districts, water districts, and flood control--that have been established in your community. Over one half of the money collected goes to the school districts.

So, another \$258.92 of my money each year will be distributed by the county as they see fit. It's great to hand over even more money to a dysfunctional school system that I don't use or even necessarily support. Again, all these income and property taxes must not be enough.

All told, I paid an extra **\$983.16** in direct taxes and fees to legally drive my new vehicle for a year. Add to this hundreds of dollars in insurance premiums kept artificially high due to government mandates and an untold sum of indirect costs from excessive government regulation, corporate welfare for the auto and oil industries, unfair trade policies, and an inefficient DMV monopoly and the final amount of extra money paid to the government for this automobile is truly mind-boggling. The entire analysis would fill a book.

Some may say, "*Stop your complaining and be thankful that you have a new car!*" Believe me, I am. Yet we must remember that this is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the millions of our dollars wasted every day and every minute as the largely passive and apathetic American public simply accepts every new regulation, tax, and fee the government imposes in order to provide its dubious "services." As Libertarians, we must be ever alert and vigilant by identifying, protesting, and informing others about this endless confiscation of our income.

Naturally, after putting my license plates on, I put an ***I Vote Libertarian*** bumper sticker on my new car!

Work for the Government?

One Libertarian's View by M. Bruce Waters

[Reprinted with permission of the author, the following appeared on the LPBC email discussion list, lpbc@onelist.com, in response to this posting:

"I was just thinking of how some people who call themselves libertarians act in the real world in ways that contradict their professed beliefs...

"In particular, I wonder how someone who claims to be libertarian can possibly work for the government?"]

M. Bruce Waters replies:

I can't speak for anyone but myself, but I can try to explain why I am a Libertarian who works for the government.

I began working for the Louisiana State Department of Highways in 1971 when I was a flaming liberal. I did so because I had just been married and in the same week been fired from a private sector job for having a mustache. While looking for a job I found one with a local machine shop (again, private sector) willing to give me a job, but once again they were not satisfied with my grooming. This time I was required to get a haircut.

I studied engineering in college and my new bride, concerned that I was now both a husband and unemployed, convinced me to take the test for Engineering Aide-I with Louisiana State government. When I went for an interview, I asked about their grooming requirements. I was told that they didn't care as long as I did my job. How wonderful! I ended up working there for almost three years, training as a surveyor in the process.

When I became totally fed up with the discrimination I found in that state, I moved to Colorado, thinking that I would escape some of that in the West. Little did I know...

I worked here again in private industry at minimum wage jobs until I was able to get on with the State of Colorado, doing the same thing I had done successfully in Louisiana. Those few poorly-paying jobs were the only jobs I had that paid anything into Social Insecurity. The state has their own retirement pension system, PERA, which not only is solvent since it does not try to be all things to all people, but has recently become fully funded and might begin to contribute some into my 401K.

By the time I discovered the Libertarian Party in 1990, I was a "lifer." I had so much time in government service, I really was not capable of earning enough money to retire on my own since I firmly believe there will be no such thing as Social Security when I need it. I refuse to become a burden to my daughter in my old age, and quite frankly, I've become accustomed to the finer things in life: My thirty-five year old house trailer, three meals a day, a vehicle with only a little over 100,000 miles on it... I will retire in about 5 years and hopefully be able to continue my wildly extravagant lifestyle...

I admit fully to being a walking, talking, living, breathing oxymoron, but a hypocrite? Nope... just an ordinary guy who made a decision in his youth that has determined the course of his life for the next thirty years.

Allow me to ask you a question. Do you drive on those roads that I build? Do you perhaps restrict your movement to the privately owned toll roads that quickly and effortlessly take you anywhere in Colorado that you want to go? Walk through people's yards to avoid publicly owned property? Live the life of a hermit buying, selling, and conducting virtually all your business via Internet and refusing packages shipped to your residence over those public roads? I doubt that you do.

And although as a Libertarian, I resent the fact that I do work for what is certainly a monopoly, I also believe that I care about my workmanship, I care that I do a good job of watching out for your interests, and I believe that a vast majority of my co-workers do also. We do not yet live in a libertarian society, but I for one am working toward that goal, and have for the last ten years.

QUOTABLE...

"A little government and a little luck are necessary in life, but only a fool trusts either of them."

- P.J. O'ROURKE, "QUOTE" MAGAZINE

Why I am Running for President

by Harry Browne

On February 14, 2000, I formally announced my candidacy for President as a Libertarian.

I am running for President because it's obvious that no Democrat or Republican is going to stop the relentless growth of the federal government. No one but a Libertarian will reduce your taxes dramatically, allow you to live your life as a free American, and restrict the federal government to its Constitutional limits.

I am running for President because the Republican and Democratic candidates argue only about which of them can best run your life. I believe you know best how to run your life.

Today (according to the U.S. Census Bureau) federal, state, and local taxes take 47% of the national income. The Republican and Democratic candidates are discussing whether that figure should be raised to 48% or lowered to 46%. I want to cut it in half at the very least and do the same to your overall tax burden.

I am running for President because the federal government has stuck its nose into virtually every area of your life, with no Constitutional authority. It has made a mess of our health care system, of education, of welfare, and of law enforcement.

If we get the federal government out of all these activities, not only will they work much better, but we will no longer need a federal income tax -- and we won't need to replace it with a new tax. The money collected today from tariffs and excise taxes is enough to finance a strong national defense, the federal judiciary, and the other functions the Constitution actually authorizes -- just as those taxes did for America's first 124 years.

I am running for President because you shouldn't be forced to put 15% of your income into a bankrupt Social Security system. I believe you are better able

than any politician to plan for your future -- and you certainly care more about it. I want to sell off unneeded federal land and other assets to finance secure, fully paid-up, private retirement accounts for today's Social Security recipients -- and free you immediately from the 15% tax.

I am running for President because I want to bring peace to your city and your neighborhood by ending the nightmare of drug Prohibition. The insane War on Drugs has caused the worst crime wave since alcohol Prohibition of the 1920s. It has filled our prisons with non-violent people who are no threat to anyone -- requiring that murderers, rapists, and thugs be freed on early release to terrorize our communities.

I am running for President because no Republican or Democratic politician will end the dangerous foreign policy that makes America the world's policeman, the arbiter of everyone's dispute, the bully inciting terrorism, and the enemy of half the world. I want you to be able to sleep securely -- knowing your children will never fight and die in a foreign war and terrorists will never attack your city.

There is no way to put a price on liberty -- the liberty you've lost to politicians who want to run your life. But here's one way to look at it: If yours is a typical middle-class family, when we repeal the income tax your take-home pay will increase by at least \$10,000 a year. When that happens, what will you do with the money?

- k Will you put your children in a private or religious school, where you can get exactly the kind of education and values you want for them?
- k Will you support your church or your favorite cause or charity in a way you've never been able to do before?

(Continued on page 5...)

Why I'm Running *(continued)*

k Will you buy a new home, or take your family on that vacation you've always dreamed of but could never afford?

Whatever it is you want, that's what you should have. Not what the politicians think is best -- or what I think is best. Every dollar you earn should be yours to spend, to save, to give away as you see fit.

Can we have an impact on the political process? No one can predict or guarantee the future, but we have assembled the largest campaign organization in Libertarian history, and we're raising money faster than any previous Libertarian campaign. We have an excellent chance to make a breakthrough, to change the terms of debate in American politics, to pave the way for Libertarian victories in 2002 and 2004.

Are the American people ready for the dramatic changes I'm proposing? I believe so. We Libertarians are the only party offering Americans the freedom to live their lives as they think best, not as the politicians think best.

I am running for President because I want to propose to every American the Great Libertarian Offer:

Would you give up your favorite federal programs if it meant you'd never have to pay income tax again?

I hope you say "yes" to this offer because -- most of all -- I want you to be free.

[This article is reprinted from the "LibertyWire" e-mail subscription available at no charge from www.HarryBrowne.org. If you are interested in volunteering locally for Harry Browne's presidential campaign, contact LPBC member Chuck Wright at cawrigh@attglobal.net or (303)666-0509.]

LPBC E-mail List Changes Names

by Tom Parker

To all LPBC e-mail discussion list subscribers:

The host of our e-mail discussion group (ONELIST) is merging with another company, EGROUPS. Because there is already a group in EGROUPS with the same name as ours (LPBC), I was instructed to change our group name. (I guess the other group was older than us).

Therefore, starting Sunday, 2/27 around 9pm, I am changing our e-mail list's name to:

lpboulder@onelist.com

I will send out an e-mail at that time to all subscribers. After that, please no longer use our old name "lpbc@onelist.com".

Other than sending to the new name, we should be okay. Let me know if you run into any troubles. Sorry for the inconvenience, but it was out of our control.

Once again, after Sunday, 2/27 at 9pm. you should send discussion e-mail to this new address:

lpboulder@onelist.com

Liberty News

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Send all newsletter contributions, correspondence, and advertising inquiries to Stephen Funk at funks@peakarts.org or 6822 Countryside Lane #290, Niwot, CO 80503

Editor: Stephen V. Funk

Contributors: Dave Baker, Jon Ford, Steve Funk, Tom Parker, M. Bruce Waters

Libertarian 101

Comparing the Issues : Part One

by Tom Parker, LPBC Membership Director

This series of 23 Q&A's illustrates some philosophical differences among Liberals, Conservatives, and Libertarians. This month we cover the first 10 Q&A's.

[Note: All the following material was excerpted from the book "Libertarianism in One Lesson" by David Bergland, with permission from the author. This excellent book is available for \$10 from the Libertarian Party, 2600 Virginia Ave. NW, Suite 100, Washington DC 20037; phone (202) 333-0008; <http://www.lp.org>]

1. Should there be conscription, a draft, for military purposes?

Liberal: Yes, but not in peace time.

Conservative: Yes, America must always be strong to deter potential enemies and young people need it to learn patriotism.

Libertarian: Absolutely not, under any circumstances. The draft is slavery. Slaves make poor defenders of freedom.

2. Should government own or control newspapers, radio, or television?

Liberal: Yes. We need PBS to make sure there is some high quality programming and government should control advertising aimed at children and other gullible people.

Conservative: Government should not own the press or TV but should control it to prevent obscene programs and to ensure balanced reporting by the liberal dominated media.

Libertarian: No. Government ownership or control of press or electronic media has no place in a free society. Owners of papers and broadcasters should be responsible for what they publish. Let parents and other consumers be responsible for what to allow into their homes.

3. Should government regulate any sexual activity of consenting adults, including prostitution?

Liberal: Generally not. But, if prostitution were legal, it should be regulated to protect public health.

Conservative: Yes. Prostitution, homosexuality, adultery and fornication should all be illegal because they destroy family values.

Libertarian: No. Sexual activity involving consenting adults violates the rights of no other person. The right of adults to make their own decisions in this most private area must be respected.

4. Should drugs like marijuana, cocaine and heroin be legalized?

Liberal: Mostly no. Perhaps marijuana could be legalized, but the production and sale should be regulated and taxed. Tax money should be used for drug treatment programs.

Conservative: NO! Are you nuts? Everyone knows that everything bad in the world is caused by drugs, dope dealers and stoned out gangs. What we need is stricter laws, longer sentences and more prisons.

Libertarian: Yes. Peaceful drug use violates no other person's rights. People have the right to control their own bodies. The drug laws support organized crime, cause more crime, corrupt law enforcement, destroy civil rights, and DO NOT WORK!

5. Should it be legal for people to travel or move into and out of the U.S. without limitation?

Liberal: We should give more help to people trying to escape poverty and political oppression so they come to America, but not without limitation because they take jobs from Americans.

(Continued on page 7...)

Libertarian 101 *(Continued)*

Conservative: No. We have too many immigrants already. Everyone will want to come to America. They increase welfare costs, take our jobs, increase crime and disease, and refuse to learn English.

Libertarian: Yes. All individuals have the same rights, regardless of where they were born or where they live now. Anyone willing to take responsibility for himself or herself has the right to travel and seek opportunity, including across international borders. America has always benefited from immigrants who arrive with nothing, work hard, start businesses, become educated and improve America's economy.

6. Should government subsidize farmers and regulate what they grow?

Liberal: Yes. Farmers need protection from low prices for their crops and these farm programs help supply food to the poor and needy.

Conservative: Some support is needed so that family farms are not lost but, in general, farm programs are too expensive and wasteful.

Libertarian: No. No one in business is entitled to have the government force taxpayers to support him. Farmers should operate in a free, competitive market, just as all others in business should.

7. Should government impose tariffs, quotas or other restrictions on international trade, or should we have free trade?

Liberal: Tariffs and quotas should be used to save American jobs.

Conservative: Trade barriers may be necessary to protect industries vital to national defense or keep American industry competitive.

Libertarian: Trade barriers violate the rights of Americans and foreign people who desire to trade. Trade barriers cut everyone's productivity and cost more jobs than they save.

8. Should government set a minimum wage enforced by law?

Liberal: Yes. Otherwise, employers will exploit workers by paying only subsistence wages. Everyone is entitled to a decent wage.

Conservative: No. Employers should be able to hire the best employees they can get at the lowest price set by market competition.

Libertarian: No. Such laws violate the right of employees and employers to strike their own deals. Economics and history show that minimum wage laws cause unemployment.

9. Isn't taxation the only way to pay for necessary government services?

Liberal: Without taxes, not enough people would be willing to pay for welfare for the poor, or education, or taking care of the environment, or so many other important things which only government can provide.

Conservative: Without taxes, not enough people would be willing to pay for America and its allies' defense, or for our domestic security, or so many other important things only government can provide.

Libertarian: Taxation is immoral, indistinguishable from theft. We should replace taxation with voluntary methods of providing services. All "government services" can be provided by private sector business, charities or other organizations and techniques.

10. Should the U.S. Government send troops or other military agents to intervene in the affairs of other countries?

Liberal: Yes, if it will advance the cause of human rights and help poor and starving people in third world countries.

Conservative: Yes, if it will help contain the spread or resurgence of communism or protect other U.S. interests such as oil.

Libertarian: No. The U.S. government has no authority to intervene militarily in the affairs of other countries except in response to a military attack on the American homeland.

Don't miss next month's "Liberty News" as we tackle more issues: Liberal, Conservative, Libertarian.

QUOTABLE...

"A Liberal is a man who is willing to spend somebody else's money."

- CARTER GLASS, QUOTED IN "NEW YORK TIMES"

Philosophy Club or Political Party?

by *David M. Baker, LP Congressional Candidate*

My candidacy for Colorado's Second District demands that I list not just my views, but also my priorities, my strategies, and my goals for this campaign.

STRATEGY

As a party, we have committed to enter the fray, so we must train our cannons on victory, our only chance to multiply our influence. So I reject macho flash, absolutism, anarchy. As an incrementalist, I would not, as Harry [Browne] might, end the federal income tax tomorrow. Because I can't. I would vote to weaken it, almost in guerrilla fashion, as I would vote to weaken government monopolies in schools and retirement programs. Viral marketing of a different sort. Purists may object.

A second component of strategy is to avoid the conventional framing of arguments, often centered on "legislative nibbles," or law tweaks that obscure the big picture and preclude our making our case in context of the whole -- in the macro. I cringe when I hear Libertarians "against" childproof gunlocks because I know we lose the battle of public opinion. Scoff at nibbles, I say, and address the whole.

VIEWS

A long-term passion for libertarianism defines most of my positions, but for this audience, I would list those that might wrinkle the most brows.

I fully support the Second Amendment, but I sense a "line" in control of weapons; I still think NRA tactics are misguided. A woman's body is her own, and the typical abortion involves a fetus two millimeters wide; Human, not a person, but I sense a line in the third trimester. I am an unabashed American, proud to tout our heritage as libertarian; yet as much as I yearn to change American government, I view world government with a more jaundiced eye. As long as the bill of rights remains unembraced by a planet at large, I sense a line when it comes to national sovereignty.

Some may object to these lines.

PRIORITIES

As a matter of priority, I suggest justice (government's real role) with Drug War retraction as Job #1. This

LPBC Calendar of Upcoming Events

Every Monday, Noon:
LPBC Weekly Lunch
Healthy Habits Restaurant
Baseline & Foothills,
Boulder, CO

Thursday, March 9, 6:30 pm:
LPBC Board Meeting
Murphy's Grill
28th & Iris, Boulder, CO

Saturday & Sunday, March 18 & 19:
Tanner Gun Show, Denver, CO
Volunteers Needed!

Thursday, April 13, 6:30 pm:
LPBC Board Meeting
Cheng's Garden
480 W. Dahlia, Louisville, CO

Friday, April 14 - Sunday, April 16:
LP of Colorado
State Convention
Denver, CO

*More Info: Call Ron Bain,
(303)443-9179*

priority differentiates us from the other parties, so it serves us strategically as well.

GOALS

John Kennedy argued for going to the moon, but at the end of that race we did not have the moon. We had rockets. So too should we have at the end of this race our contacts, our notes, our databases populated, our websites, our machinery in place. No wheel to be reinvented. Our future candidates will be greatly encouraged.

Finally, our Libertarian Party has to decide if it's a philosophy club or a political party. Nietzsche warned us that reason never convinced anybody of anything, so I'm suggesting that we stretch, innovate, enjoy this challenge. If the campaign does not kill us, it will make us stronger. Let's get stronger.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Looking for a way to contribute more to the LPBC? Here are some volunteer opportunities currently available:

1 Work the Libertarian booth at the monthly Tanner Gun Show...

Contact: Chuck Wright
Email: cawrigh@attglobal.net
Home: (303)666-0509
Work: (303)939-3946
Web: www.lpbooulder.com/tanner1

2 Work on LPBC member Dave Baker's Congressional campaign...

Contact: Dave Baker
Email: betabaker@earthlink.net
Home: (303)417-9086
Work: (303)417-9103
Web: www.baker2k.com

3 Work locally on Harry Browne's Presidential campaign...

Contact: Chuck Wright
Email: cawrigh@attglobal.net
Home: (303)666-0509
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Web: www.harrybrowne.org

By the way, a note of thanks to Tony Sileo for "volunteering" his printer to the LPBC, to help with the newsletter!

QUOTABLE...

"The Income Tax has made more Liars out of the American people than Golf has."

- WILL ROGERS, "ILLITERATE DIGEST"

Join the Libertarian Party of Boulder County!

Choose one of these options:

___ Combo Package: Join the LPBC, LPC, and LPUS for only \$40

___ Join the LPBC for THREE FULL YEARS for only \$36

___ Join the LPBC for the small annual fee of \$15

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Day Phone: _____ Eve Phone: _____

Email address: _____

If you wish to be a voting member, please sign and date the following pledge:

"I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals."

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Choose a membership plan above and enclose a check or money order payable to the LPBC for the amount listed. Send to: LPBC, PMB #427, 2525 Arapahoe Ave., E4, Boulder, CO 80302. *Thank you for your support!*

Libertarian Party Directory

Libertarian Party of Boulder County

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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LIBERTY NEWS

March 2000

LPBC Board Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2000

Cheng's Garden Restaurant, Louisville, CO

Present: Lori VanBuren, Steve Funk, Tom Parker, Ron Bain, Jon Ford, Chuck Wright, Greg Woods, Bryan Griffin, Kevin Wilkerson.

Meeting called to order 6:55 PM.

Chair's report:

k Wasn't very active last month: chaired the board meeting, wrote an article for the newsletter.

Membership report:

k We have 44 members: 40 voting and 4 contributing.

k Tom completed main functionality of new database. It's written in Microsoft Access (purchased for \$271). He's adding bells and whistles.

k Contacted 65 registered Libertarians who were not in our database and invited them to join.

k Contacted 15 new members and asked them to register as Libertarians.

k Contacted 5 new prospects (some from the Tanner Gun Show).

k Revised the application form.

k Extended all memberships 1 month due to lack of January newsletter.

k Requested reimbursement of \$114 for two-year web site registration (\$45), three months of web hosting (\$24), and stamps purchase (\$50).

Treasurer's report:

k After paying \$114 to Tom Parker for newsletter and web site costs, we have \$320.58 in checking and \$655.54 in savings.

Newsletter:

k Greg Woods officially resigned as newsletter editor but will continue to assist Steve Funk in its production. Steve was elected to the position of editor.

k Steve will continue as editor as long as there's input and assistance.

k We will have a labeling, stuffing and stamping party after the meeting.

k Tom Parker assisted Steve with this month's newsletter, loaning him notebook computer, printer,

and software to put it together. Tom also wrote a bunch of articles, prepared mailing labels, bought stickers and stamps for the mailing.

k Tom can convert the newsletter to PDF and add it to the web site if we wish.

Old business:

k Web site: Tom Parker acquired, set up and announced the new web site: www.lpboulder.com. Requested all those linking to it to update the address (national and state parties, 5 others). The new web site is much easier and faster now that Tom has tinkered with it.

k Odd Fellows Lodge: Every Sunday is free for outreach meetings through March except for Feb. 20.

k Philharmonic fundraiser: The majority of people who initially expressed an interest in attending have paid. The LPBC should clear a little over \$100.

New business:

k Everyone liked the new web site and its more appropriate address.

k Everyone was pleased with the new newsletter's look and content.

k Chuck Wright announced that he will be Harry Browne's campaign coordinator for Boulder County.

k Ron Bain will run a desktop publishing seminar at the state convention.

k Ron will run for the state media relations and publicity post. If he gets it, his activities as county chairman will diminish accordingly.

k Boulder Creek Fest is approaching. We need someone to organize it. We also need something to sell (t-shirts, more stickers). We also need to replenish some of the pamphlets. Jon will investigate acquiring four weights to batten down the booth in high winds.

k Motion was moved that the Chairman needs to pay his dues by the next meeting or he will be replaced. Vote: 4 for, 2 against, 2 abstentions.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM. Everyone stayed to help label, stuff, and stamp the February newsletter.

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HARRY BROWNE

Harry Browne was the 1996 Libertarian candidate for President of the United States. He has made appearances on CNN, the Larry King show, and other national and local radio & television shows. He is an investment advisor and the author of nine books including *How I Found Freedom in an Unfree World* and *Why Government Doesn't Work*.

LARRY HINES

Larry Hines joined the United States Marine Corps in 1983. After completing his contract with the U.S. Marines with honors in 1987, he relocated to San Diego, California where he worked as a legal secretary in some of the most prestigious law firms in the country, gaining practical experience in business administration, law, and politics.

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Keynote by

W. EARL ALLEN

Earl Allen promotes the libertarian philosophy through his elegant writing and speaking ability. He served as Publications Director and editor of the Colorado Liberty from 1996 through 1998. He also received the Advanced Toastmaster Bronze award from Toastmasters International in March of 1999.

He is an experienced candidate who ran strong campaigns for State Representative in both 1996 and 1998, catching the attention of the Republican Party. Earl currently serves as the Secretary of the Libertarian Party of Broomfield, Colorado.

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Remember, there is NO CHARGE for business meetings or candidate elections