

# Republican Liberty

Free Enterprise, Individual Freedom & Limited Government

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Caucus Newsletter

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## RLC Invades Puerto Rico

### Activists Discover Ideological Vacuum at National YR Convention

by Eric D. Rittberg

The Republican Liberty Caucus has set up libertarian information tables at the last three national Young Republican conventions - Miami in 1991, Charleston in 1993 and Atlanta in 1995. Each convention was exciting in its own way and proved productive for the organization in building membership and awareness of the libertarian Republican movement.

The national YR convention held this year at the Caribe Hilton in San Juan, Puerto Rico, was exciting as well. But the event turned out to be less productive than before.

It was exciting simply because of the location. Puerto Rico, poised to become America's 51st state, is one of the most beautiful



spots on the planet. The island is a tropical paradise rich in history, Spanish culture, palm-lined beaches and exciting night life.

As always, the Young Republicans spent a great deal of their time on the latter, as well as their own hospitality suites and private parties. YR Fest, a bi-annual tradition, was held the first night on top of a centuries old Spanish Fort surrounded by water with one of Puerto Rico's top rock bands, Tren Urbano.

The Puerto Rican Young Republicans, our official hosts, treated us to two other fun-filled events; a Bacardi Rum Fest at yet another Spanish Fort in Old San Juan, and an outdoor Salsa Fest/Pig Roast sponsored by the Republican speaker of the house at the governor's mansion.

However, in contrast to previous conventions, a great many of

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Westmiller Announces GOP Congressional Run

Another libertarian "old comrade" has surfaced in the GOP with the recent announcement of William Westmiller to seek the California U.S. Congress District 24 seat, which includes portions of Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

"It's a tough district for Republicans," observed California RLC chair Laura Crockett-Gordon, "and the incumbent Democrat has been hard to unseat."

Still, Westmiller will be well prepared, as a long-standing member of many Republican organizations as well as former national Secretary of the Libertarian Party in the 1970s.

"Many of us remember Bill from the old days in the LP when the Libertarian Party was run by founder David Nolan and current CATO president Ed Crane," said RLC Treasurer Mike Holmes. "Bill was well-liked and highly respected, which is no small feat with that volatile bunch. Like many other old 'LP comrades', we are glad to see him working to improve the GOP today."

Westmiller's website, [www.westmiller.com](http://www.westmiller.com), is on-line. The site features 30 pages of information, family photos and voice messages from the candidate.

"We're quite proud to be on the net this early," said Westmiller,

"and very pleased with the large amount of information that can be accessed by voters." Over 50 percent of the residents of the district have access to the net. The site includes a city map with zip code references for the entire district.

In addition to several photographs of the candidate's family, users with sound cards can hear Westmiller speak on a variety of issues.

Over two dozen topics give both candidate and incumbent positions, with several detailed commentaries.

Westmiller, 50, is the husband of author Robin Cohen-Westmiller and father of three daughters. He can be contacted through the website or via e-mail at [Westmiller@aol.com](mailto:Westmiller@aol.com).

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## Puerto Rico...from page 1

the 450 YRs skipped the official convention goings-on, in favor of a trip to the rain forest, Bacardi factory or Luquillo Beach.

The event proved disappointing due to the lack of interest from delegates in anything other than the internal workings of their organization and trying to have a good time. The RLC was the only group who had a booth at the convention. Our only competition for the attentions of the YRs were the PR Tourist Bureau who had a table next to ours and we lost hands down.

As usual, our booth was adorned with plenty of copies of *Reason* magazine, *Freemans*, "libertarian Republican" stickers, Laissez Faire book catalogs, RLC pamphlets, copies of *Republican Liberty* and - a new addition - leftover Ron Paul campaign videos. Traffic was steady, but low. The few who came over were mostly already RLC members or libertarian sympathizers or just friends of ours from the Texas delegation urging myself and my co-RLC'er from Houston, Forrest Aston, to get to the floor for a "critical" vote.

But in the end, it was probably a net benefit to have the booth there to renew old acquaintances with the handful of other GOP libertarians and to let others know we existed.

On the positive side we were the only ones pushing ideas and ideology. In previous conventions there were large contingencies of Religious Right folks, competing directly with us with info tables and in floor disputes. This time there was virtually zero social conservative presence.

While long philosophical debates and passionate arguments over pro-life vs. pro-choice, how to fight crime and drugs and favorite presidential contenders dominated past conventions, this year's event saw few if any ideological disagreements. The only

## Help Wanted

The national Republican Liberty Caucus is looking for volunteers to fill the following management positions:

**College affiliate coordinator** - Duties include liaison and communication with RLC campus chapters, maintaining up-to-date list of chapters and contacts, developing appropriate policies and procedures, assistance with college newsletter/e-mail communications, oversight of related budgeted funds, recruitment and guidance of new chapters. Prefer recent graduate or related experience as campus political activist.

**RLC website manager** - Will function as coordinator between RLC board and management and technical web designers. Duties include regular monitoring of web site and RLC Discuss forum, recommending updates and assisting in gathering updated content for web posting, improvement of site. PC access required as well as interest in Internet frontier issues.

**State chapter liaison** - This individual regularly contacts RLC chapter leaders for input and to communicate national plans and policies. Assists in the development of organized state affiliates. Communicates news to *Republican Liberty* of state efforts and promising candidates and sympathetic GOP officeholders.

The national RLC generally covers out-of-pocket expenses for these positions, which will require 4-6 hours per month. This is a great way to network with RLC activists and leaders.

Contact: Tom Walls, executive director (352) 373-1768 or AFN18566@freenet.ufl.

issue which sparked any passion was support for resolutions in favor of Puerto Rican statehood which passed nearly unanimously.

Ironically, the one speaker who stole the show, was Republican pollster Frank Luntz,

who preached to a luncheon audience that the "Republican Party ought to be about ideas, not bashing Democrats on their various scandals."

Luntz, now the undisputed "guru" of the YRs, hung out the entire convention. He was full of useful advice on how to win elections - one topic that interested the highly ambitious YRs.

Luntz conducted a fun but unscientific voice poll of the 300 luncheon attendees as to who their favorite was for 2000. Texas Gov. George W. Bush was the clear winner, with Sen. Fred Thompson coming in second. Governors Engler, Voinovich and Whitman, Lamar Alexander, Sen. McCain and publisher Steve Forbes got little support. Pat Buchanan was booed.

Luntz asked if there was anyone he missed. Michigan YR/RLC'er John Rollo yelled "Ron Paul," and got a few claps. Luntz chuckled and said, "Ron Paul just got reelected to Congress. Is he running?"

Two other convention headliners were Sen. Tim Hutchinson of Arkansas and newly-elected U.S. Rep. Bill Redmond of New Mexico. Plus there was a steady stream of top Puerto Rican GOP public officials all urging the delegates to educate others in their home states about the PR self-determination process.

Any YR who may have had misgivings about our 51st state before the event, most likely changed their mind by the end, due to the overtly gracious hospitality of our hosts and the wonderful time they surely had.

Some YRs even turned into passionate advocates of Puerto Rican statehood. Too bad most do not apply similar ideological passion to limiting government.



## Republican Liberty

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## Open Letter



*The Drug War's newest recruit,  
publisher Steve Forbes*

# REEFER MADNESS!

## Steve Forbes' Current Obsession With Medical Marijuana Obscures His Limited Government Message

*by Clifford F. Thies,  
RLC Chairman*

Recently, Steve Forbes enlisted in the drug-war, writing letters to congressmen, appearing on Rush Limbaugh and fi-

nancing a \$150,000 media campaign against a proposed medical marijuana initiative.

nancing a \$150,000 media campaign against a proposed medical marijuana initiative.

*What's going on?* Has he become so fixated on becoming president that he has adopted Bob Dole's failed strategy of trying to beat Clinton on the drug issue?

During his bid for the GOP nomination last year, Steve Forbes emphasized the issues that unite us as Republicans, like Social Security reform, cutting taxes and term limits - issues that also appeal to independent, swing and reform-minded voters. He deliberately avoided extreme positions on the social issues, such as abortion, and said, instead, that these are issues that call for moral leadership not legal compulsion.

His public statements were reinforced by the image created of him by his publishing empire. For example, the June 17, 1996, issue of *Forbes* magazine, featured an article on the drug policy of Holland, involving the effective legalization of marijuana. According to the article, this policy, adopted in 1976, has succeeded in removing violence and organized crime from soft drugs, and in bringing the marijuana industry above-ground, where it can be regulated and taxed.

Here, in the United States, the drug war has now focused on preventing the use of marijuana as medicine. Recently, I had the occasion to share a platform with one of the eight people in the United States who is legally supplied marijuana. According to her, it helps sustain her appetite, which given her medical condition, is absolutely vital.

(Personally, I can't say a thing one way or another about marijuana, being perhaps the only member of my generation to not have "experimented.") She prefers the stuff in leaf form and sometimes her husband obtains some for her. But the marijuana she gets from the feds is in pill form. The cost of a week's supply of legal marijuana in pill form is \$400 versus a few dollars for leaves.

Steve, what is this unfortunate woman supposed to do, call Dr.

Kervorkian?  
As Republicans, we understand the importance of what we communicate to others, especially to youth. But, it is immoral to hold sick people hostage so we don't miscommunicate our concern for drug abuse. Besides, it's not drug-scare, it's the truth that sets you free.

Of course, now that Forbes has decided to embrace the drug war, we wonder how far is he willing to go? Does he endorse Newt Gingrich's wild ideas of concentration camps, summary execution of drug-pushers, suspending the 4th amendment, asset forfeiture and the counting of nonviolent drug offenses toward three-strikes lifetime sentences?

Does he think the libertarians in the Republican Party, with whom he won the Arizona primary, will remain loyal to him after he disrespects us? Remember, Arizona voters overwhelmingly endorsed legalizing medical marijuana last year. Does he think he will be able to appeal to voters outside the party once he has sucked-up to the Neanderthal right?

I once believed Forbes to be our hero. Smart, yes; but a lot of people in Washington are smart. A disarmingly warm person. A person who understands how a free society works, and the purpose of freedom. A person whose integrity would enable him to cut the Gordian knot of politics as usual" and accomplish some really great things for our country.

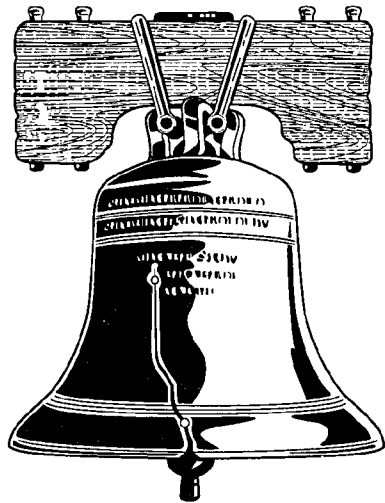
When Mike Griffin and I met him at the Forbes Building in New York City earlier this year, I was unreserved in expressing my support.

Steve, we have far too many calculating politicians, who think they can be leaders by pandering to factions within the party. You have taken a wrong turn on this issue. We want you back.

### Notable Quote

*"[In 1996] seven good Republicans lost their seats because a Libertarian was in the race ...[The victims included] Bill Baker of California, Andrea Seastrand, myself, four others across the country. Libertarians knocked off seven fiscal conservatives and replaced every one of them with a flaming liberal Democrat." - Former U.S. Rep. Bob Dornan on the Gil Goss radio show.*

# Let Freedom Ring



## Texas RLC's Liberty Rally Breaks New Ground

by Mike Holmes

In the baseball fantasy film *Field of Dreams* Kevin Costner was told "if you build it, they will come." Texas RLC Chairman Lonnie Brantley found out similarly that if you hold a GOP candidates forum they will also come - in this case, to the first ever Texas Liberty Rally held in Georgetown.

The July 19 rally broke new territory for the Texas RLC: the first statewide forum, the first open invitation to county chairs and candidates, the first time paid radio advertising was employed by the RLC, and the first time in Texas a concerted effort was made to identify liberty-oriented candidates well before the primary season.

The recent resignation of Democratic Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock opened the musical chairs race for Texas Republicans to move up and on to a number of statewide offices. The rally invitation was the

first chance for many of these candidates to speak.

"Our radio ads in Houston and Austin on conservative talk radio and our mailings and efforts to bring in county Republican chairs, paid off in drawing activists and politicians to our rally," observed Texas RLC chairman Lonnie Brantley. The radio spots, paid for by RLC supporters, were a first for the RLC anywhere.

Over 50 Republican, conservative and libertarian activists heard Brantley introduce the Saturday line-up which began with incumbent Texas Railroad Commissioner Carole Keeton Rylander, running in 1998 for the state comptroller's slot. Rylander is an experienced politician - first woman mayor of Austin, first woman elected to the RR Commission (which primarily regulates transportation and the oil and gas industry) and was re-elected in 1996 with the highest vote percentage of any statewide GOP candidate.

The energetic, articulate grandmother of two launched into a dynamic discourse on her political history and accomplishments, and was effusive in her praise of the RLC and the rally for spotlighting libertarian-oriented candidates and issues in Texas.

As yet unopposed in the Republican primary, Rylander promises to continue her pro-market themes as state comptroller.

Houston KENR talk radio host Rob McKinnon followed with



Left: RLCers and other GOP activists, county chairs and politicians attended the event. Above: Don Loucks, State Land Commission candidate and aide to U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, speaks.

*Right: Carole Rylander, current Texas Railroad Commissioner and candidate for state comptroller, reviews her anti-regulatory achievements. Far Right: Adonn Slone, Congressional candidate from District 9, explains how the AFL-CIO onslaught of 1996 inspired him to run.*



a thoughtful analysis of the U.S. Constitution and its recognition of the supremacy of the people, as opposed to government, and its underlying premise that rights flow from the citizenry, not the state. Former Texas 9th District Congressman (and RLC Advisory Board member) Steve Stockman then presented a wide ranging analysis of the current political scene, viewing with alarm a number of trends, but ultimately focusing on the importance of involvement by freedom oriented Republicans. Stockman is also running for one of the open Railroad Commission seats.



He was followed by a man who would walk in Stockman's 9th District congressional footsteps, Adonn Slone, running as yet unopposed in the GOP primary for that seat. Slone is a political newcomer who, in the wake of Stockman's run-off defeat at the hands of an expensive union-financed effort to oust him, became galvanized by that Democratic onslaught. Slone is a small business owner and a former Marine fighter squadron commander.

Last but not least was Texas Land Commissioner candidate Don Loucks, himself a former Air Force fighter and test pilot, who is on U.S. Rep. Ron Paul's staff as a special assistant on military and veterans affairs. Loucks presented an account of his personal history, accomplishments, his motivations for government service and his platform with respect to the Land Commission.

Noncandidate presentations included Dale Robertson, who gave the famous Patrick Henry "Liberty or Death" speech along with his experience with the Texas Constitution's strong writ of *habeas corpus* provisions; Tony Cantu, a spokesman for GOP Hispanic outreach, who recounted his experiences in Mexico as a PAN activist; and Mike Ford, well known leader for the Texas Initiative and Referendum movement.

Following Ford was Texas state Republican Executive Com-

*Above: RLC Advisory Board member and former U.S. Rep. Steve Stockman encourages liberty-minded Republicans. Right: Activist groups shared literature and networked at the rally.*



mittee member Randy Staudt, who spoke on behalf of Texas GOP chair Tom Pauken, who was unable to attend but whom Staudt described as "100 percent in your camp" and recently announced his state chair resignation to run for attorney general.

The final speaker was Fully Informed Jury Association (FIJA) spokesman Tom Glass, who presented a fact filled account of the jury rights movement.

RLC chair Brantley was bouyed by the rally, which defied the scorching Texas summer heat and apathy in political off years, and he was especially appreciative of Texas RLC activists David Palmquist, Linda Thomas and Phil Boyd-Robertson, who all assisted with speakers and promotion.

"We will be following up with the candidates and attendees," Brantley announced after the event, "and are planning to hold future similar rallies, possibly in San Antonio or Dallas later in the year."

## RLC Notes

# David Burton Signs on as Congressional Liaison

A professional researcher and lobbyist best known for his advocacy of federal tax reform signed on as the RLC's new Congressional Liaison in May. The RLC welcomes David Burton on board.

On May 19, RLC Chairman Thies and former RLC Executive Director Mike Griffin met with Burton at his Capitol Hill office (near to the Heritage Foundation on Massachusetts Avenue). Burton had first discovered the RLC via the website. He contacted Griffin asking how he could help.

Burton was a very active member of the Maryland Republican Party throughout the '80s. He had lived in the Towson area (north of Baltimore) and he ran for county council in 1986.

In 1990, he moved down to Florida to work for an emerging company. After a successful stint there, he started his own venture.

While in Florida, Burton supported Dan Miller, best known for his crusade to end the federal sugar program.

Dave has since moved back up to the Chevy Chase, MD, suburbs. He and Dan Mastromerco are partners in their lobbying firm, The Argus Group. They coauthored the National Sales Tax study recently published by the Cato Institute.

Burton can be contacted at 317 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, 2nd Floor, Washington, DC 20002 or via e-mail at drbargus@aol.com

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In a tough race, former RLC board member Mary Maas was elected state chair of the Washington Libertarian Party. This portends a shift from past LP leadership there and may prove helpful in working with LP in future projects.

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RLC Chairman Clifford Thies appeared on a panel at the seventh annual Alliance for America "Fly-in for Freedom" convention in Washington DC.

The alliance is a coalition of property rights groups, mostly farmers and ranchers from the Western states. This year the alliance made a conscious effort to involve urban property rights organizations. It was in this spirit that Thies was approached.

In a panel on zoning laws, Thies shared the table with Patricia Callahan of the Association of Small Property Owners, the organizer of the panel; Barry Klein of the Houston Property Rights Association, who has played a key role in keeping Houston zoning-free; and James De Long, author of *Property Matters*.

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Thanks to the generosity of a local RLC member the Texas RLC aired a 60 second radio ad on Houston's largest talk radio station on June 6.

The ad, which aired four times, twice on local shows and twice on Michael Reagan's syndicated program, promoted two things. The first, was the weekend showing in Houston of RLCer Dan Gifford's documentary *Waco: The Rules of Engagement*. The second subject was the Texas Liberty Rally sponsored by the Texas RLC in Georgetown, Texas, about 50 miles north of Austin (see pages 4-5).

The ad, written by Texas RLC chair Lonnie Brantley, is believed to be the first paid radio spot ever aired for the Republican Liberty Caucus.

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In June, J. Robert Latham represented the RLC at an organizational meeting in California for a group called the Republican Assembly. The group is apparently organized in about 35 states.

They seemed very pro-life and were silent on the size of government. However, he said, they did seem to support many other concepts libertarian Republicans agree with: elimination of income tax, choice in education and Second Amendment rights.

When Latham asked about the RLC, Steve Frank, the Republican Assembly speaker from California replied, "they're libertarians" and "a debating society." He did, however, say that many Republican Assembly members are also RLC members.

Latham reports the group will likely not excite libertarians due to their ties to the Religious Right.

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## Media Notes

# Skeptics Turn Wary Eyes on Government

From an unexpected corner comes an endorsement of sorts for libertarianism and the RLC as one of the philosophy's spokesmen. In the May 15 issue of *Skeptical Inquirer* Barry Fagin reports on skepticism and politics.

Fagin asks: What is the connection between skepticism and politics? What are the appropriate politics for a skeptic? Does being skeptical automatically dictate one's political outlook, or are there alternative points of view consistent with skepticism?

The article explores the importance and extreme difficulty in testability in politics, the rampant use of untestable moral premises used to buttress political opinion and even the use of Public Choice economic theory in developing a political philosophy based on reality.

This approach brings the skeptic into conflict traditional liberals, according to Fagin:

"Liberals hold an almost religious belief in the effectiveness of government as a social tool...When challenged on the evidence of the effectiveness of government, many retreat to a moral belief in the legitimacy of government as an institution for achieving 'social justice.' If evidence suggests that present policies are ineffective, then the answer is believed to be 'reform,' better accountability from government officials, or similar panaceas. The response to the confirmation of the predictions of public choice theory is an appeal for less self-interest, a call for more legislation, or (perhaps not surprisingly) demands for still greater political involvement.

"A willingness to question the effectiveness of government as a solver of social problems is not characteristic of modern liberalism. It is, therefore, difficult to reconcile with the politics of skepticism."

Traditional conservatives, also, fail to convince the skeptic:

"Neither is conservatism a friend of critical inquiry. Conservatives maintain an unwillingness to examine assumptions about the effectiveness of government as an inculcator of virtue and a cultivator of values. Their support of drug prohibition and the regulation of pornography on the Internet, for example, despite the massive failures of the former and the sheer impossibility of the latter, can in my judgment only be explained by an ignorance of the predictions of public choice theory and a belief that the effectiveness of such policies is at best peripheral to their desirability. Such a perspective also seems difficult to reconcile with skepticism."

The conclusion Fagin draws that skeptics who wish to be politically active have a limited number of choices. One is to join the Libertarian Party.

"Another possibility is to work with the Republican Party, suggesting that the same factors that limit the effectiveness of government in managing the economy limit its effectiveness in personal affairs as well. This is the approach adopted by the Republican Liberty Caucus."

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RLC Advisory Board member Mark Skousen, a well known economic scholar and investment author, saw the publication of an insightful review "The Perseverance of Paul Samuelson's *Econom-*

*ics*" in the spring 1997 issue of *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* along with a reply by the famous Keynesian textbook author himself.

In his review of all 15 editions of Samuelson's introductory college text, Skousen concludes that Samuelson has gradually shifted from being a crude Keynesian to a closet classical economist. This is documented by the changes in subsequent editions of the textbook. Samuelson's views on deficits, savings and Soviet style central planning have all come under considerable revision over the years.

Samuelson's reply to Skousen is a somewhat disjointed account of the historical politics of textbook authoring and at one point, includes the unexpected observation that "running with that [anti-Keynesian right-wing] pack was Rose Wilder Lane," the real-life subject of the *Little House on the Prairie* book series and 1930s political commentator who was the godmother of founding RLC chairman Roger MacBride.

As a sign of improving economic understanding, Skousen reports to *Republican Liberty* that he was told by the economic journal's managing editor that "10 years ago, we would not have published" his review.

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In June, RLC Chairman Clifford Thies appeared on Jim Alsis' talk radio program in West Palm Beach, FL. Thies introduced the RLC strategy of advancing libertarian values through Republican politics.

Thies told Alsis how he had saved a couple hours of driving time in a recent car trip from Virginia to Florida thanks to the nixing of the federal speed limit. "This is what freedom's all about," he said. "It's having more time to do the things you want to do."

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The July 14 issue of the bi-weekly political tabloid *The Hill*, which covers the inside world of the House and Senate, featured a full page interview profile of U.S. Rep. Ron Paul. The article portrayed Rep. Paul as something out of the mainstream, finding it hard to categorize him in the usual manner. The piece also included a news item directly from a recent issue of *Republican Liberty*, without attribution. Hey, next time at least give us a plug...

## 53 Vote with Ron Paul to Get U.S. Out of the U.N.

Fifty-three members - including two Democrats! - of Congress voted with U.S. Rep. Ron Paul on his bill calling for "complete withdrawal of the United States from the United Nations."

"If we want what's best for this country, Americans should be running America, not ceding rights and authority to international organizations," the former RLC chairman told the *Houston Chronicle*.

The bill was cosponsored by U.S. Reps Bob Barr (R-GA) and Bob Stump (R-AZ).

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