

Republican Liberty

Free Enterprise, Individual Freedom & Limited Government

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GALE NORTON CONFIRMED AS INTERIOR SECRETARY *Former RLC member Stirs Controversy*



Former Colorado Attorney General and dues-paying RLC member Gale Norton was confirmed on January 31 by the U.S. Senate as Secretary of the Interior. Norton was tapped in late December by the Bush-Cheney Transition Team as their nominee for the Cabinet-level post. After a controversial nomination process in which she was fiercely opposed by left-wing groups, Norton was confirmed in a 74-26 vote.

Several prominent Democrats, such as freshman Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY) vocally opposed Norton. Free-market advocate Norton also endured severe criticism from a coalition of pro-regulation environmental groups as well as the AFL-CIO and the NAACP. Some opponents went as far as to distort a Norton quote from a speech on the 10th Amendment to imply that she supported slavery (In the speech, Norton noted that although slavery was an intolerable evil, the concept of states' rights suffered because of the Civil War). The most controversial aspects of Gale Norton's nomination were her close association with former Secretary of the Interior James Watt and her advocacy of allowing oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a 19-million acre National Park in Alaska.

Nonetheless, Norton allies such as Fred Smith's Competitive Enterprise Institute and the Republican Liberty Caucus, property rights groups, farmers and oil and gas associations came to her defense and pushed for her confirmation. The RLC sent a letter supporting Norton to every Senator on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and set up a electronic form on its website allowing visitors to send a personalized letter to Senators in favor of Norton's confirmation.

A longtime critic of Federal policy towards Western lands, Norton is expected to pursue a more market-based approach to land-management, in which the recognition of property rights is seen as the best way to preserve natural resources. Free-market environmentalists have long recognized that the Federal government itself is one of the worst enemies of the environment. As Colorado Attorney General, Norton successfully fought several Federal mandates and pressured the Federal government to clean up its own waste dumps.

Norton was also active in the Colorado Libertarian Party in the late 1970s and was a delegate for Ed Clark at the 1980 LP convention. After working in the Interior Department under Watt, Norton became active in Republican politics and was elected as Colorado Attorney General, a position she held from 1991 to 1998. In 1994, Norton told the Denver Post "Yes, I was an active Libertarian. But then I decided to go into practical politics." She joined the RLC in 1996 (See previous issues of Republican Liberty for coverage of her Senate race that year), and served on the Board of Directors of Colorado's free-market Independence Institute.

MICH. RLC STAR LEON DROLET WINS STATE HOUSE BID

In a March 20 special election, libertarian Republican leader and friend of the RLC Leon Drolet, captured a seat in the Michigan state House. After trouncing a field of 11 candidates in the February primary, Drolet went on to beat Democrat Richard Onaga with 60% of the vote on March 20. The election was held to fill the seat of the late Rep. Janet Kukuk, who tragically succumbed to breast cancer recently.

"This is a great victory" said RLC National Committee member Eric Rittberg upon learning of Leon's win. "Leon could possibly be the most hardcore libertarian ever to serve in a state legislature anywhere in the United States, ever." Drolet has secured seats on the Conservation and Outdoor Recreation, Local Government and Urban Affairs, Tax Policy, and Transportation committees.

The newly elected state legislator cast his first vote on the state budget. The budget bill passed 132 to 1. Irrepressible Leon, in the tradition of his mentor Ron Paul, was the only "no" vote.

34 year-old Leon has a long history of involvement in politics. A former legislative aide to Greg Kaza, Dave Jaye, and Al Kukuk (the husband of the late Janet Kukuk), Leon ran for the Macomb County

Commission in 1998, was elected and won another two-year term in 2000/ As Commissioner, Drolet raised eyebrows by returning his pay raise back to taxpayers by holding a drawing and opposing a County-funded picnic for senior citizens.

Drolet aide Sue Walton was a delegate to the RLC's 2000 National Convention in Atlanta. The phone number in the Lansing office for Rep. Drolet is 517-373-0820.

Rounding out Drolet's staff as Legislative & Policy Director is Ken Braun, an activist for liberty from central Michigan. Leon describes Ken as a young policy junkie and hardcore Ayn Rand fan.

Drolet stands for reelection in November 2002.

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Talking to the Walls

Editor's Notes



After years of sweaty, sticky Clintonism, the Bush Administration seems like a cool, refreshing breeze. As **Charlton Heston** said at this year's CPAC, "For the first time in a long while, I can say the word 'president' without dreading the name that follows." Gone are the statist slate of Clintonites like Shalala, Reno, Reich and Cuomo, all living examples of bad guys from an Ayn Rand novel. Let's have a look at our new President's choices to kick off the first Cabinet of the millenium.

At the EPA, **Christine Todd Whitman** will not vigorously defend the market as we'd like to see. According to RLC Vice Chair **Murry Sabrin**, "(Whitman) gave us an unnecessary enhanced auto emissions test that is costing taxpayers a half billion dollars. Her Department of Environmental Protection ran roughshod over property rights. Her antisprawl program is buying land—1,000,000 acres—to 'preserve' open spaces." Bush did pick a shining advocate of property rights for Interior Secretary – **Gale Norton** (see cover story). We couldn't be happier, as Gale has previously associated herself with the RLC.

Aluminum giant **Paul H. O'Neill** now heads the Treasury Department. O'Neill is a friend of Dick's, a friend of Greenspan's and chairman of the Rand Corporation. In the early '90s, O'Neill's was a vocal supporter of gasoline taxes. As we know, captains of industry are not always true free-marketeters. Americans for Tax Reform President **Grover Norquist** opines that O'Neill *may* have come around. "His early statements raise questions about whether he understands economic growth," says Grover. "He should say something like the North Koreans were capturing his wife, and that's why he said something so stupid." He has fought hard for the President's tax cut package, but in his first Cabinet talk, O'Neill gave a pseudoscientific lecture on global warming.

Don't expect much from **Norm Mineta** at Transportation, a former California Democrat Congressman. We may move towards turning over air traffic control to a private board as was done in Canada, but in the end, Mineta may just tinker. While in Congress, he sponsored a gas tax increase and opposed reform of government takings. There were better choices available.

Former Hudson Institute director and Dick Lugar aide **Mitchell E. Daniels** heads OMB. Daniels is a mainstream conservative with Reagan

administration experience;

he's also on an advisory board of the Reason Foundation.

"W." made his old oil buddy **Don Evans** Commerce Secretary. Evans has vowed to push for free trade and open markets. I also promise to appoint friends who advocate free trade and open markets to high Cabinet positions when I am elected.

The Attorney General is now former Senator **John Ashcroft**, thankfully. Ashcroft is very good in most matters that he'll be dealing with, but I don't like his desire to increase the DEA budget. That he survived an all-out assault by the left on his confirmation is encouraging. Ashcroft and other individuals associated with the Federalist Society have landed grand appointments, and this is to be applauded.

Delaying the selection of a new Drug Czar was encouraging, but it looks like we're going to be stuck with Bill Bennett deputy **John Walters** succeeding General McCaffrey. And tough-talker **Asa Hutchinson** has been tapped to head the notorious DEA. We critics of the drug war have a lot of educating to do.

Elaine Chao is not a bad pick for Labor Secretary, but she's much less exciting than Linda "Bo-Binda" Chavez would have been. Some speculate that Mrs. Chao helped negotiate the release of the U.S. airmen recently detained in China, due to her personal acquaintance with Chinese President **Jiang Zheming**.

For Health and Human Services, popular Wisconsin Gov. **Tommy Thompson** will push for needed welfare reform. Disappointingly, it looks as if he's going to keep Clinton's atrocious medical "privacy" rules, which allow Federal bureaucrats to look at your medical records.

Michael K. Powell as the new head of the FCC is good news. Colin Powell's son has duly proclaimed deregulation and competition as the ways to best foster new technologies.

Bush's foreign policy will at least be more goal-directed than Clinton's imperial legacy. He has called for bringing troops home from the Balkans. Bush himself has made very positive statements that only libertarians voiced back in the 1980s – that our allies should shoulder their own security burdens. Don't expect large troop withdrawals or telling the U.N. to take a hike, although we should enjoy a more sober reevaluation of troop deployments. Will they find better things to do than bomb Serbia or Iraq? It depends on how large a role the bigtime hawks of the '70s and '80s play, like **Richard Perle** and **Paul Wolfowitz**. Fortunately, both new Defense Secretary **Donald Rumsfeld** and Powell agree on the need to downsize U.S. mission and might throughout the world.

After commenting that she would have to learn how to drive again, outgoing Secretary of State **Madeleine Albright** expressed concern over the fact that **Colin Powell** is not enough of an interventionist. Powell is certainly a hawk, but his steady hand should help avoid needless confrontations.

Bush's picks are a combination of smarts, principle and pragmatism (and *strategy!*). Although he has thrown some sizeable bones to libertarians and free-marketeters, we must remain like a watchdog around those cabinet members with a weakness for big-government and foreign adventurism.

Republican Liberty

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SCHUNDLER'S UPHILL BATTLE

RLC Endorses Gubernatorial Underdog in New Jersey

Former Rep. Bob Franks Replaces Establishment Candidate

TRENTON, MAY 10 -- Maverick Mayor of Jersey City Bret Schundler is fighting on to be the GOP gubernatorial pick in what political pundits have viewed as a done deal from the start. Initially, Bret Schundler was pitted against the juggernaut of State Senator (and acting Governor) Donald DiFrancesco's campaign. DiFrancesco, a career politician and left-liberal Republican, had the support of the NJ GOP party hierarchy as well as the New Jersey state teacher's union. DiFrancesco was hit with a stinging political payback scandal in April, which hurt him enough to drop out of the race altogether. DiFrancesco quickly passed the establishment torch over to well-known former U.S. Representative and Senatorial candidate Bob Franks. Our man Schundler now faces no less of an uphill battle towards the June 26 primary.

Underdog Bret Schundler is the successful two-term mayor of Jersey City. An advocate of free markets, privatization and school choice, Schundler has captured the hearts and minds of voters in Jersey City, a traditional Democratic stronghold. The population of Jersey is approximately 30 percent black, 25 percent Hispanic and 10 percent Asian. He has demonstrated that true leadership and thoughtful innovation can cut across party lines. Naturally, the Jersey City Mayor enjoys tremendous popularity in libertarian and conservative circles; he also leads handily in fundrasing, drawing upon a national base of ideologically motivated donors. Schundler hopes to count on the support of social conservatives, who make up at least one-third of GOP voters in the state. William F. Buckley even opined that Schundler should take a shot at the 2008 GOP Presidential nomination. Schundler is not as well known on a statewide level, however; Franks is.

RLC Vice Chair Murray Sabrin describes Bob Franks as a "nice guy, articulate, experienced and intelligent." Franks was outspent ten-to-one by Corzine, but he also had other difficulties in defeating the billionaire in last Fall's Senate race.

Sabrin explains: "Admittedly, Corzine had the money to soft sell his hard-core collectivism, but nevertheless, Franks did not go for the jugular. Bob did not support Bush's tax cut during the campaign and did not point out that Corzine favors taxpayer funding of partial birth abortion."

HOT NJ POLITICAL WEBSITES:

www.bret2001.com
www.bobfranks.com
www.mcgreevey2001.com
www.politicsnj.com
www.murraysabrin.com



Corzine eventually beat Franks by three percentage points, and outspent Franks ten to one. Sabrin reflects that

"Franks had a chance to point out that Goldman Sachs [Corzine's employer] was the recipient of corporate welfare during the Mexican bailout. He blew it. Franks kept harping about Corzine's tax return and did not give core Republican voters a reason to vote for him. In short, by appealing to the NY Times editorial board instead of the rank-and-file, he blew the election."

The New Jersey State Legislature hastily passed a bill on April 23rd postponing the GOP primary, which allowed Franks on the ballot following DiFrancesco's withdrawal. Had the legislature not passed the law, Schundler would have ran unopposed. Schundler's legal team took the issue to the New Jersey State Supreme Court, which upheld the law.

While Franks failed to take on Corzine, he is not sparing Bret Schundler. Recent Franks ads pick on Schundler's former activism in the 1980s as a Democrat and gloat over his court victory keeping Franks on the ballot: "Schundler Loses..Voters Win!" A quick review of the majority of Franks' press releases are cheap shots at Schundler.

The Democratic candidate, Woodbridge Mayor Jim McGreevey, runs more or less neck-in-neck or slightly ahead of Franks in polls on the general election. It has been widely trumpeted that McGreevey has a much larger lead when matched up against the lesser-known Schundler. But a look at who took these same polls gives us pause to think.

One of the poll facilitators, Mark P. Campbell, is a former Franks consultant whose wife, Eva Pusateri, presently handles direct-mail advertising for Franks. Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison, New Jersey, where Campbell works as the Senior V.P. for government and community affairs, sponsored the poll. This connection was not revealed to the press by the polling entity, the PublicMind Poll, at the time of release in early May. This conflict of interest did not escape the watchful eye of the New York Times, which reported in on May 9; Fairleigh Dickinson removed Campbell from the polling operation as well as all future polls.

"This won't have much of an impact on Franks, who is well-liked to begin with" says New Jersey native (and former *RL* Editor) Philip Blumel. "It's part of the shady conspiracy against Bret Schundler, but it doesn't compare to the corruption of DiFrancesco. But Republicans need to worry about principles, not popularity."

Will he blow it again? Will the GOP's core constituency take a hike like they did last year? If the Dems sweep New Jersey elections this year, how will that affect Congressional races in 2002?

"He is doing the same thing now" says Murray. "Franks just does not give people a reason to vote for him. If he could not beat America's version of Karl Marx, why would he beat a seasoned campaigner like McGreevey? Besides, Franks does not have executive experience while Schundler does."

Schundler received the RLC's endorsement in February.

ENERGIZE YOUR STATE CHAPTERS!

dave kamioner

Let me introduce myself. I'm Dave Kamioner, Chairman of the Pennsylvania RLC. Our National Chairman Chuck Muth has assigned me the august title of "Chairman of Chairmen".

Which basically means he and you get to ask me questions in regards to state chapters and I get to scurry around and try and find the answers. Given that I'm a GOP consultant by profession (you can check out my firm at <http://www.kamioner.com>), this is a rather regular thing for me to do.

So, why not give a bit of time to the cause?

Perhaps another reason is, because of my real world job in politics and my aggressive attitudes to such, the National Chairman and I share many of the same views about the mission of the RLC.

Namely that we exist to elect libertarian Republicans to office as a caucus within the Republican Party. Which means, within reason, we are subject to the same strictures and message discipline as is any other subordinate organization within the Party.

This may be harsh medicine for those who still retain vestiges of Libertarian Party leanings.

Oh well, if you want to hitch your star to the fifth largest party in America (and sinking like a stone) be my guest.

But those of us that act rather than only talk about libertarian ideals know the best place to advance them is in the GOP.

So, per the first mission of every state chapter: organize, educate, train and then set forth to elect our guys to office. Especially make your moves in primaries, where smaller numbers can have

A native of New York City, David Kamioner grew up in Hollywood, Florida. A veteran of U.S. Army Intelligence in Europe, the Pershing Nuclear Brigade and the First Infantry Division, Kamioner is a *Cum Laude* graduate of the University of Maryland's European Division, B.S. in Government, 1986, where he was Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Alpha Theta. He has worked in the political polling industry, as a Republican political consultant at various levels of elective office and is a corporate member of the American Association of Political Consultants and also a member of the American Political Science Association. Kamioner is the Editor of *Morning Update*, in addition serving as the H.S.I.C. of the publication. He is Chairman of the Republican Liberty Caucus-Pennsylvania and the President of Kamioner & Associates, a GOP political operations and media consulting firm based in Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, where he is a triple ace in primary and general elections. The firm is a division of Concept Management, which he also serves as Director of Public Relations.



greater impact.

I do not mean to organize and educate the voters. That's the job of the guys in the op-ed pages and think tanks. We are the political infantry of libertarian Republicanism. Thus we organize ourselves into units, learn how to fight and then strike. The big picture is as simple as that.

As per the details, the National Chairman and I are working on that and no doubt he will talk to you soon on this very subject.

If you have any questions on this, or on any other RLC matter you think I can help you with, please don't hesitate to e-mail me at: **kamioner@hotmail.com** or to ring me up at 610-376-8615.

How To Start a New RLC Chapter

Per the bylaws of the Republican Liberty Caucus, the National Committee shall charter affiliates in the states and territories of the United States of America. An affiliate of the Republican Liberty Caucus shall be bound by such rules the National Committee deems needful.

All applications for state chapter recognition are subject to a majority vote of approval by the National Committee, and are also subject to revocation at any time and for any reason by a majority vote of the National Committee.

Recognized state chapters may elect to establish their own chartering guidelines for local or municipal chapters, subject to any requirements of the National Committee. In states without a recognized state Republican Liberty Caucus chapter, the National Committee, at its sole discretion and by majority vote, may elect to grant a provisional local or municipal charter until such time as a full state chapter has been authorized and chartered.

The present chartering requirements, subject to change, modification or alteration by the National Committee, include the following:

- 1.) An organizational Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer named.
- 2.) Written membership and/or dues requirements.
- 3.) Written bylaws, including provisions for regular elections of officers at least once every two years.

In addition, petitioners for a charter must provide a brief description of the following for consideration by members of the National Committee:

- A.) Why do you want to start a Republican Liberty Caucus chapter in your state and what do you hope to accomplish?
- B.) What experience or background do you bring that will enhance the chapter's chances for success?
- C.) What are your plans for funding your activities?

Pennsylvania RLC Chairman David Kamioner (see above) is also the RLC's State Chapter Liaison and will be happy to assist parties interested in starting a new RLC organization ... including assistance in drafting bylaws, etc. To obtain an application to start a Republican Liberty Caucus chapter in your community, send an e-mail including your fax number or snail mail address to David at: **kamioner@hotmail.com**

NEW RLC WEBSITE MORE ATTRACTIVE, USER-FRIENDLY

More Help For State Activists, First-Timers at www.rlc.org

The Republican Liberty Caucus is proud to announce its new, revamped website located at www.rlc.org, or also at our new domain www.RepublicanLibertyCaucus.com. Recognizing that a strong web presence is an indispensable tool for disseminating information to both members, journalists and potential supporters, the RLC has selected former NY RLC Chair John Reed as the webmaster. National Committee Alternate Bill Westmiller laid the groundwork and worked hard in debugging the site; Chairman Muth sends out the "LibertyWatch" e-newsletter and updates the site with the current issue. Reed maintains the remainder of the site, posting articles and updating links to state RLC chapters and contacts. We recently asked John for insights into his new mission.

RL: What is your experience with web design?

John Reed: My experience with web design is about three years. I used to maintain a subsection of the Libertarian Party of New York's web site, then I went on to maintain the Republican Liberty Caucus of New York's web site. Now I live in Austin, TX, and I maintain our Republican Liberty Caucus website at www.RepublicanLibertyCaucus.com (or www.rlc.org).

RL: How do you feel the new site will serve us as an organization?

John Reed: Good question. Our Republican Liberty Caucus website is our business card to the world. It tells the world that we're here, we're professional, and we're serious. The site reflects on us as an organization. You can always tell if amateurs or professionals run an organization just by visiting their site. I hope that when people visit, they will realize that we're worth looking into and investing in.

RL: What distinguishes the site from the old one? What can members get out of it?

John Reed: There are some differences from the old site, but I'd first like to thank Lester Lilley, past webmaster, and Mike Holmes, past RLC Treasurer, for building the foundation of the website that we have today. Now about the differences in websites, from old to new. The new website has: 1. A fully encryption-secured membership dues and donations page. 2. An easy-to-use sign up box for a free subscription to our "LIBERTY WATCH" e-newsletter. 3. Our front page is also updated daily with Chuck Muth's "GOP News & Views": the good, the bad and the ugly of American politics. In addition, it's updated bi-weekly with "LIBERTY WATCH": our Republican Liberty Caucus (RLC) e-newsletter, covering RLC news, events and commentary.

RL: Many people discover us through the web. What will first time visitors find?

John Reed: First time visitors can get a feel for who we are, they can read about our 2002 Campaign Plan and our Positions Statement on some important issues. They can also get involved by visiting the "State Chapters" section to find their RLC state Chairperson. If they don't find a contact for their state, they can fill out an application and send it to our State Coordinator David Kamioner. As our Chairman Chuck Muth always says, "There is strength in numbers." And I'll mention our "LIBERTY-WATCH" e-newsletter one more time. It's easy to sign up -- all a visitor has to do is put their email address in the first box they see at our site. Now if our visitors don't have an email address, but they want to send a message to us, they can do so in our "Membership" section.

RL: Thanks, John, and good luck.

Republican Liberty Caucus
The Conscience of the Republican Party

Liberty Watch: Republican Liberty Caucus Insider News and Commentary

The Republican Liberty Caucus is a national GOP-affiliate organization formed in 1988 which represents individuals supporting limited government, personal freedom, and legislation based on constitutional principles and limitations. The RLC works to elect like-minded Republicans to public office at all levels and to influence public policy.

[Start Your Own RLC Chapter | RLC Position Statement](#)

Liberty Watch - May 15, 2001

The Hayseed Manifesto

Certainly, one goal of the Republican Liberty Caucus is to encourage mainstream members of the Libertarian Party to rejoin the GOP. But another is to encourage certain elements of the Republican Party to rejoin the Constitution. Our objective isn't simply to elect "more" Republicans... but better Republicans, as well. The following article articulates well that challenge... and what the GOP needs to do to energize and re-engage its ideological base.

[Continue reading](#)

Liberty Watch - May 16, 2001

A Neglected Story:
Libertarians Cost Republicans Edge in the US Senate

Democrats in Washington are waiting for a funeral. If Republican Sen. Strom Thurmond passes away before leaving office - he will hit the century mark next year, and his current health is said not to be good - then South Carolina's Democratic governor will appoint a successor. And that, presumably, would break the Senate's 50-50 partisan deadlock...

[Continue reading](#)

Republican Party News

GOP News & Views - June 4, 2001
June 4, 2001, 12:10 AM

Dumb and Dumber

"Plenty of Washington politicians support the idea of requiring a standardized test before students can graduate from high school," reports the Seattle Post-Intelligencer Reporter. "Now a group of educators and parents plans to turn the tables, hoping to require all candidates for public office to take the 10th grade Washington Assessment of Student Learning exam, and have their results - just like those of students - posted on the Internet. They're hoping to put that idea to a public vote with a ballot initiative in November 2002." Interesting idea... but with one HUGE flaw in its logic: Intelligence has never been a pre-requisite for holding public office. In fact, quite often it seems, just the opposite.

- Chuck Muth, Editor

[Continue reading](#)

2002 Campaign Plan

Our Plan
Submitted by Chuck Muth

"I can't do a damn thing for you unless I'm elected."
-Ronald Reagan

"The days of Mom and Pop around the kitchen table running the campaign are over. (Today's campaigns) have computer systems, offices, direct mail operations, event planning... not for four months out, but 24 months out."
- Political consultant Peter Fenn, Associated Press, 12/30/98

RLC Plan of Action

Start Superstats code version 3.06 Copyright 1997-2001 MyComputer.com, Inc. More info available at <http://www.mycomputer.com> -> End Superstats tracking code.

[Go to the Campaign Plan section](#)

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RLC IN THE NEWS

RLC Advisor appointed to Education Dept. board

Bill Evers, RLC Advisory Board member and fellow at the Hoover Institution Bill Evers was nominated by U.S. Education Secretary Rod Paige to serve on the National Education Research Policy and Priorities Board (NERPPB) in early May. The NERPPB is charged with advising Secretary of Education Rod Paige on national education research issues. The board, comprised of 15 members, is charged with devising a long-term strategy dealing with these topics. Evers, an outstanding proponent of true education reform, is an expert on curriculum, testing and teaching practices for grades K-12. He is a prolific author on the subject, and will bring a principled free-market perspective to a field beset with many challenges, including intransigent bureaucracies and self-interested teachers' unions. Evers was also an education policy advisor to George W. Bush during his Presidential campaign.

Ernsberger joins Rohrabacher

Longtime Libertarian Party veteran Don Ernsberger has been appointed to the staff of Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA). Ernsberger, one of the founders of the modern libertarian movement, has known the Congressman for years and has often collaborated with Rohrabacher on speechwriting and various legislative issues such as abolition of Selective Service. Rohrabacher, a perennial high scorer in the RLC's Liberty Index, was a prolific libertarian activist in California in the late '60s and early '70s.

"Sixty-Second Activist" spotlights RLC

The RLC was profiled in a May email broadcast called the "Sixty-Second Activist." The mass mailing was sent out by ConservativeHQ.com, a crack team of right-of-center cyberactivists directed by direct-mail pro Richard Viguerie. The Sixty-Second Activist Club outlines various action issues and encourages members to lobby for legislation or to support worthy causes with a few mouse clicks. The mailing called attention to the fact that while the Libertarian Party has seen no electoral success, they continue to draw votes from good Republican candidates, and in certain high profile races, caused GOP Senators to lose to left-liberal Dems. As a remedy, the Sixty-Second Activist asked recipients to support the RLC, which "is working to bring mainstream, common-sense Libertarians back into the GOP tent."

Gay press sees hope in libertarian Republicans

Syndicated columnist Stephen H. Miller spelled out a warning and opportunity for Log Cabin Republicans in his article "Courting Libertarians, Not RINOs" which appeared in a series of papers in the national gay press. In his article, Miller urged differentiating between left-liberal Republicans, who usually favor government granting of "special rights" and libertarian Republicans, who favor privacy as well as treating people as individuals, not members of special groups.

National Review looks at the "Libertarian Problem"

In their March 19 *Washington Bulletin* column on National Review Online (www.nationalreview.com), John J. Miller & Ramesh Ponnuru discussed why key Senate races were lost by Republicans. This was arguably due to the Libertarian Party's "siphoning off" of enough votes to ensure Democratic victories. Termed the "most underreported political phenomenon of the last two election cycles," Miller and Ponnuru exhibited with vote totals how Libertarian candidates eventually weakened the GOP's Senate majority. The article mentioned RLC Chair Chuck Muth's recent meeting with beltway GOP operatives and quoted him as saying "Libertarians need to understand that they're nothing but spoilers, and Republicans need to learn how to earn their votes." LP Press Secretary George Getz confirmed to Miller and Ponnuru that exit polls revealed Libertarian Party candidates take away twice as many votes from Republicans as they do from Democrats.

Washington Times highlights RLC strategy

On May 21, the Washington Times ran Ralph Hallow's article "GOP Will Court Its Libertarian Wing." For the article, Hallow interviewed GOP strategist Grover Norquist, RLC Chair Chuck Muth, John Dendahl, the State Chairman of New Mexico's Republican Party and Matt Denny, Chair of the Montana Republican Party. The piece mentioned GOP Senate defeats in 1998 and 2000 attributed to Libertarian Party candidates taking enough votes to cause Republican losses and the attempt to recapture those votes. RLC Chair Muth faulted the GOP's lost resolve to shrink government: "That is precisely why so many voters who voted for Republicans in 1994 have been staying home or have fled to the third party movement." To ensure a safe GOP majority in the Senate, Muth suggested a two-pronged strategy: to train and support pro-freedom candidates and to implore libertarian-leaning voters to vote Republican. Muth predicted that recruiting pro-freedom challengers against liberal GOP incumbents will cause friction not with social conservatives, but with the party establishment. The article went on to quote Montana GOP Chair Matt Denny: "I'm a libertarian Republican. I don't see much conflict with social and religious conservatives. At bottom, we want the same things. Libertarians believe we don't need a paternalistic government telling us how to run our businesses or raise our children."

RLCer appears on 'Politically Incorrect'

RLC member and beltway bombshell Kerri Houston appeared on May 22 airing of *Politically Incorrect*, hosted by self-described libertarian Bill Maher. Unfortunately, show editors deleted some of Kerri's more poignant comments. Also appearing on the show was comedian Tommy Smothers. (*damn, Kerri, you beat me to it! - .ed.*)

ACTIVIST NOTES

RLC Makes the Scene at CPAC

RLC Chair Chuck Muth, Pennsylvania RLC Chair Dave Kamioner and National Committeeman Tom Walls traveled to Arlington, Virginia from February 15th to the 17th to attend the 28th annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC). The 3000-strong conference was virtually a non-stop parade of high-profile conservative and libertarian stars discussing issues, strategy and plans for action.

Also attending the packed conference were Mike Moreland of the Kentucky RLC and Kerri Houston, RLC National Coalition Coordinator (she was representing the American Conservative Network) and several other RLC members, mainly from the Washington, DC area. Muth, Walls and Moreland spent time passing out RLC literature and meeting with right-of-center luminaries such as Grover Norquist, David Kopel, Steve Forbes, Club for Growth President Stephen Moore, Human Events reporter John Gizzi and civil rights activist Ward Connerly.

Chairman Muth said "attending the annual CPAC conference has become the political equivalent of a pilgrimage to Mecca. It allows for a great deal of networking and is a tremendous way to charge the batteries for the never-ending struggle against the left. I'm already looking forward to next year's confab."

Two new signups were none other than Sierra Times editor J.J. Johnson and former LP Vice Presidential candidate Nancy Lord. Walls and Muth met with the two several times during the event, discussing issues and strategies at length. After the conference, J.J. Johnson wrote and distributed a piece entitled "Why I Became A Republican," available on the Sierra Times website (www.sierratimes.com)

The lead-off article in the convention program, by Dr. Donald Devine, 2nd Vice Chair of the ACU, was a well-reasoned plea for traditionalists and libertarians to work together against big government, drawing heavily on the "fusionist" ideas propagated by author Frank S. Meyer.

The RLC found a receptive audience among the young staff of assorted beltway think tanks, such as Citizens for a Sound Economy, the Competitive Enterprise Institute and the Capitol Research Center, and signed up several new members. Several of the college-age attendees were also warm to the ideas of liberty. "Our message of laissez-faire in the economic and social realms resonates with the current crop of young conservative activists. We aren't stuffy nerds, nor are we fringe crackpots" says Tom Walls, a seasoned veteran of political events. "We are the future."

Highlights of the conference were speeches by Vice President Dick Cheney, NRA President Charlton Heston, Jersey City Mayor Bret Schundler, and the leader of South Africa's Inkatha Freedom Party Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi. On Fri-

day evening, at the Presidential Banquet, Heston presented Buthelezi with the "Courage Under Fire" Award, consisting of a symbolic musket. On the last day, a Sam Donaldson and Robert Novak held a contentious but mirthful debate on media bias.



(L-R) J.J. Johnson, Chuck Muth, Mike Moreland, Tom Walls, and FreePer Bob J.

Closing remarks were given by Senator George Allen, a recipient of substantial RLC support in his campaign. Allen was the only Republican Senatorial candidate to unseat a Democratic incumbent in the 2000 election. Painting himself as a Jeffersonian, Allen gave a forward-looking talk emphasizing technology and its benefits to a free society.

CPAC RESOURCES

CPAC 2002 www.cpac.org

60 Plus Association www.60plus.org

Americans for Tax Reform www.atr.org

Leadership Institute www.lead-inst.org

Capitol Research Center www.crc.org

National Rifle Association www.nra.org

Human Events www.humaneventsonline.com

American Conservative Union www.conservative.org

Back To Basics for the GOP www.republicanbasics.com

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