

# Republican Liberty

Free Enterprise, Individual Freedom & Limited Government

Summer 1993

Special Activism Issue

Vol. IV, No. III

## Young Republicans Receptive to Libertarian Ideas

by Eric J. Rittberg

Among differing elements of the GOP, the Young Republicans seem to be the most receptive to the libertarian message. The YRs, in general, are less committed to a dogmatic socially conservative ideology.

For the most part, YRs are either garden variety moderates or "fiscally conservative/socially tolerant" types. The former are intrigued by libertarian ideas and want to learn more. The latter, already libertarian-leaning, can sometimes be persuaded to take a more principled stand.

This was the case at the 1993 Young Republican National Convention. The bi-annual event was held June 23-27 in Charleston, W.V. Despite the out-of-the-ordinary location in a bucolic yet heavily Democratic state, the convention was attended by over 600 YR delegates from across the nation.

Libertarian Republicans were there in force. Among those attending were Eric Rittberg, Clifford Thies, Laura Kotelman, Franklin Harris, Michelle Howard, Joe Munem, Dave Warren, John McDowell, Jeff Carman and West Virginia Coordinator Brian Horton.

A libertarian information table sponsored by the RLC was set up Thursday through Sunday. Literature at the table included RLC brochures, copies of *Republican Liberty*, *Freedom Network News*, *The Freeman*, *Reason* magazines, Laissez Faire book catalogs, World's Smallest Political Quiz Cards and literature from a variety of free market think tanks.

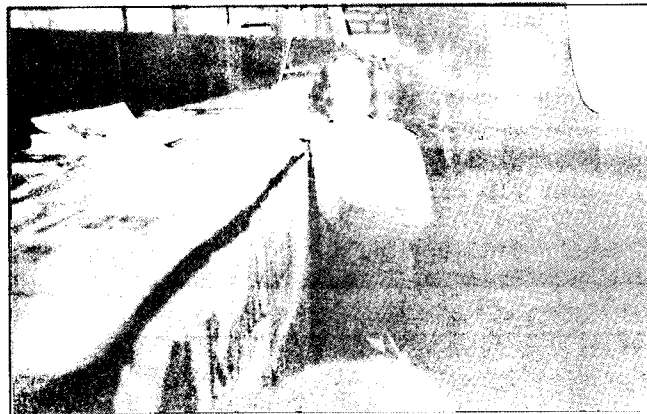
The RLC booth was the only ideological booth at the convention, with the exception of Ann Stone's Republicans for Choice who set up shop for one day. Only the T-shirt vendors, button sellers and a sole political consultant selling computer software competed with us for the attentions of the YRs.

We were swamped by all the questions and comments from interested passersby. Meanwhile, the RLCers manning the booth would work furiously to hand out literature, grade the scores on the quiz cards, jot down names on the sign-up sheet and answer questions about libertarian theory.

Proselytizing efforts at YR functions went equally well. *Reason* magazines were distributed at the entrance doors of the convention hall.

RLCers worked the crowds inside the hall, handing out RLC brochures and sticking libertarian Republican stickers on the lapels

(Continued on page 2)



National Secretary Laura Kotelman mans the libertarian info table at the '93 Young Republican National Convention.

## RLC Reaches Out to College Republicans

by Laura Mary Kotelman

Republican Liberty Caucus members launched an excellent outreach campaign at the national College Republicans convention July 15-18 at the Omni Hotel in Washington D.C.

National Secretary Laura Kotelman headed the effort and manned the Operation Politically Homeless booth with some help from RLC National Committee Member Norman Singleton, Massachusetts Coordinator Matt Taylor and Alabama Coordinator Franklin Harris.

Thursday night, Beltway libertarian Barbara Conry and Kotelman attended the College Republican party at the Spy Club in Washington. They mingled with the CRs, spread the word of Republican liberty and circulated the ever-popular "libertarian Republican" stickers.

Friday night was another RLC event, this one at Champions in Georgetown. The last of the RLC stickers were distributed. The duo brought the libertarian message to the Conservative Student Union earlier in the afternoon.

Friday and Saturday brought many visitors to the booth and

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**SPECIAL  
ACTIVISM  
ISSUE**

*This special issue provides tips for effective libertarian activism within the GOP. Republican Liberty will return to its regular format with the Fall issue.*

## Young Republicans ... from 1

of interested delegates. This same scenario was played out late into the night at the hospitality suites. It was at these events where the YRs, including the handful of social conservatives, seemed most receptive to libertarianism. At one Saturday night suite, at least 25 percent of the roughly 80 party goers were wearing libertarian Republican stickers.

But Young Republican politics can get quite serious at times. For the first two days the YRs were immersed in their most brutal election in years for National Chair. Three candidates vied for the top spot. The three differed little in ideology but battles raged over procedural matters and regionalism. It took four ballots before a winner was declared. Irv Bishoff of Texas, a moderate-conservative won after finishing a distant third in the previous three ballots.

Even more dramatic was the Saturday afternoon platform battle. Seeking to avoid the always nasty fight over abortion, a group of Pete Wilson-like California moderates immediately after the gavel dropped, made a series of slick parliamentary maneuvers causing the convention to be officially adjourned before the issue was addressed.

The move caught everyone off-guard including their pro-choice allies and especially pro-life leader and presiding YR National Chair Enid Greene. The move was interpreted as a victory for those who wanted the party to de-emphasize the issue. This sparked a bitter debate in the hallway after the vote between Green and Ann Stone. Each attempted to put their own spin on the outcome in front of gathered reporters.

Many RLCers served as delegates and participated in the various elections and platform proceedings. However, for the most part libertarians stayed clear of the fierce personality conflicts.

Reaction to the RLC from delegates, contrary to previous years, was almost without exception positive. A definite spirit of "Big Tent" inclusiveness was predominate, partly inspired by Republican National Committee Chair Haley Barbour who had talked up the Big Tent in his speech.

Most of the delegates were already vaguely familiar with the libertarian Republicans. Those who were supportive seemed to be much more willing to identify themselves with the "libertarian Republican" label after learning that an organized movement existed. Many signed up for membership on the spot. Others signed the sheet to be put on the mailing list.

Perhaps even more importantly though, individuals who were unfamiliar with libertarian Republicans were introduced to the notion that not all Republicans are conservatives or moderates. Hopefully, they will take this knowledge home with them and let fellow YRs back home know about the new and exciting movement emerging within the GOP - libertarian Republicans.

*Ed. Note - In addition to serving as RLC National Chairman, Eric Rittberg is the Region 1 (Panhandle) Co-Chairman for the Florida Young Republicans.*

## College Republicans ... from 1

hundreds of College Republicans took the World's Smallest Political Quiz. The CRs, mostly conservatives, were very receptive to the idea of libertarian Republicans.

The RLC booth was the only one espousing a classical liberal philosophy. Other groups with displays at the convention included Empower America, Young American's Foundation, Accuracy in Media/Academia, Interscholastic Studies Institute and Morton Blackwell's Conservative Leadership School.

RLC outreach at the College Republican convention was a success. The planned events by the CRs were fun and a great place to spread the word of the libertarian Republicanism in an informal atmosphere.

Through such outreach, others in the party will come to recognize a new wing combining a commitment to both the free market and civil liberties.

*Ed. Note - Laura Kotelman is a recent graduate of Lake Forest College in Illinois. In addition to serving on the RLC National Committee she serves as chair of the Lake County Young Republicans.*

### FAMOUS "LIBERTARIANS"

As the word "libertarian" becomes common political parlance, more and more people are using it to describe their beliefs. The following people are self-identified libertarians, or at one time have used the label to describe themselves or some of their beliefs. In some cases, their self-description simply confirms what we already knew or suspected. In other cases (Bill Clinton!), it is worth a chuckle.

Clint Eastwood	Grover Norquist	Gene Burns
Milton Friedman	Nat Hentoff	Murray N. Rothbard
P.J. O'Rourke	Roger L. MacBride	Tama Starr
Cong. Dick Zimmer	Russell Means	James Blanchard
Dave Barry	David Koch	Ronald Reagan
Gov. William Weld	Martin Anderson	Cong. Phil Crane
Christi Hefner	Tommy Chong	Mary Malin
John Laroquette	Fmr. Cong. Ron Paul	Cong. Chris Cox
Camille Paglia	John McClaughry	R. Emmett Tyrell, Jr.
J.J. Walker	Dr. Mark Skousen	Jim Pinkerton
Penn Jillette	Fmr. Cong. Sam Steiger	Dr. Walter Williams
Peter Bagge	William Safire	David Stockman
Timothy Leary	Dick Rutan	William F. Buckley, Jr.
Cong. Dana Rohrabacher	Karl Hess	Sandra Bernhardt
David Letterman	Edward Crane	Bill Clinton
	Norma Jean Almodovar	David Horowitz
	Bob Poole	Sen. Phil Gramm

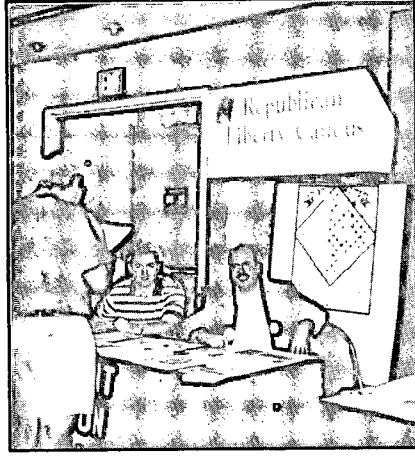
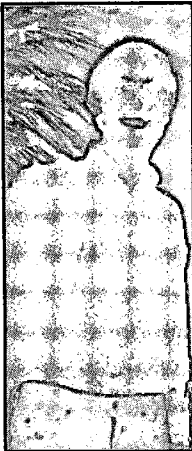
**Publisher:** Roger L. MacBride **Senior Editor:** Mike Holmes **Editor:** Eric J. Rittberg **Assistant Editor:** Philip Blumel **Contributing Editors:** Clifford Thies, Gene Berkman, Norman Singleton, Richard Duprey and Kevin Southwick. **Contributing Writers:** Brian Doherty, Joseph Gentili, Jack Simons, Tom McClintock, Mark Uncapher, Fred Stein, T. Franklin Harris Jr., Tom Walls and Jack Criss

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# Get Involved in the RLC!



*Above: RLC Chair Eric Rittberg and Leon Drolet accompany State Rep. Dave Jaye and his wife Sharon to a demolition derby in Jaye's District. Right: 'RL' Assistant Editor Philip Blumel. Right: CNN's Gene Randall with RLC Secretary Laura Kotelman at '93 YR convention.*



*Left: RLCers Matthew Taylor and Norman Singleton introduce Republican liberty at '93 College Republican convention. Below: Florida Young Republican Regional Co-Chairman Eric Rittberg (center) join fellow YRs at a hospitality suite during the '93 Young Republican national convention.*



## MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT FORM

### Yes! I want to become active in the RLC:

- I will get active in my local Republican Party.
- I will get active in the YRs, CRs or other GOP club.
- I will run for public or party office: \_\_\_\_\_
- I would be willing to hand out RLC literature at GOP events.

- I would like to be a state or local RLC coordinator.
- I would like to assist the national RLC and/or the RLC PAC.
- I would like to help in another way. Please specify:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Yes! I would like to contribute to the RLC:

- Sign me up for a new membership.
- Please renew my membership.
- Please upgrade my membership.
- Student \$10       Regular \$20
- Sustaining \$100       Patron \$500
- Lifetime \$1,000       Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Clip or copy and send to: Republican Liberty Caucus, 1717 Apalachee Parkway, Suite 434, Tallahassee, FL 32301

# Republican Liberty Reader Survey

To aid us in our future activities, please take the time to complete the survey below. If you need additional space, feel free to add your own pages. Please complete and mail as soon as possible to: RLC, 1717 Apalachee Parkway, Suite 434, Tallahassee, FL 32301. We hope to publish a summary of results in a future issue.

## The Newsletter

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being lowest, 10 highest), how would you rate *Republican Liberty* overall? \_\_\_\_\_

How would you rate the appearance of the newsletter? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Which (if any) of the following changes would you like to see? (check all applicable): More issues per year (from 5 to 6) \_\_\_\_\_; More pages per issue \_\_\_\_\_; More photos \_\_\_\_\_; More letters from readers \_\_\_\_\_; More candidate news \_\_\_\_\_; More issue-oriented articles \_\_\_\_\_; More brief news notes \_\_\_\_\_; More editorials \_\_\_\_\_; More book reviews \_\_\_\_\_.

3. If we were to publish more issues or bigger issues, would you be willing to pay an additional \$5 per year in dues or subscription fee? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

4. What do you like best about *Republican Liberty*? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

5. What, if anything, do you like the least in *Republican Liberty*? (e.g., Campaign coverage, editorials, book reviews): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Our Organization

6. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate the efforts of the Republican Liberty Caucus? \_\_\_\_\_

The Republican Liberty Campaign Fund (our PAC)? \_\_\_\_\_

7. On a scale of 1 to 10, how do you rate the importance of these RLC activities?: Ratings of U.S. House and Senate officeholders \_\_\_\_\_; Raising funds for libertarian Republican candidates \_\_\_\_\_; Libertarian analysis of public policy issues \_\_\_\_\_; Libertarian Republican participation in GOP clubs and events \_\_\_\_\_; Educating other Republicans and the public about the libertarian Republican approach to government \_\_\_\_\_; Working to elect libertarian Republicans to public and party office \_\_\_\_\_;

8. Would you attend a national RLC conference or convention? Yes \_\_\_\_\_; No \_\_\_\_\_; Maybe \_\_\_\_\_; If yes, what location do you prefer? \_\_\_\_\_; What sort of activities would you like to see at such an event? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What new activities would you like to see the RLC do?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## General

12. The following label is closest in describing my political outlook: Libertarian \_\_\_\_\_; Mainstream libertarian \_\_\_\_\_; Classical Liberal \_\_\_\_\_; Civil libertarian \_\_\_\_\_; Paleo-Libertarian \_\_\_\_\_; Economic libertarian \_\_\_\_\_; Objectivist (student of Ayn Rand) \_\_\_\_\_; Populist or Patriot \_\_\_\_\_; Moderate or Centrist \_\_\_\_\_; Conservative \_\_\_\_\_; Liberal \_\_\_\_\_; Other \_\_\_\_\_ (please specify).

13. I am a registered Republican \_\_\_\_\_; Libertarian \_\_\_\_\_; Independent \_\_\_\_\_; Other \_\_\_\_\_ (please specify); Not registered \_\_\_\_\_

14. I am most interested in these public policy issues: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

15. The political leader(s) I most admire or support (if any): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

16. In the 1992 election, I voted straight Republican \_\_\_\_\_; Voted mostly Republican \_\_\_\_\_; Voted a mixed ticket \_\_\_\_\_ (Please specify parties); I did not vote \_\_\_\_\_

17. For president, I voted for \_\_\_\_\_

18. For the 1996 GOP presidential ticket, I currently lean toward \_\_\_\_\_ (Feel free to name several).

19. I am least enthusiastic about about the following possible contenders for the nomination: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!**

Name and Address (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

# Activist Tips

## Join Your Local GOP

Libertarian Republicans can have an enormous impact within their local GOP.

On the county and municipal levels the Republican party is structured so as to maximize participation. Most often the local GOP affiliate is organized by precinct. Anywhere from 20 to over 200 precinct slots can be available. More often than not, these precinct committees are hurting for members. This is especially true in rural areas where Republican organizations tend to be weak. There are even some counties where no Republican organization exists, and others with only a paper organization.

Whatever the state of the local GOP, in most cases to become an elected precinct committeeman, one need only to show up to a couple of meetings, be introduced to the other committeemen, and be voted on. In most cases the latter is a formality, and in many cases one is voted on by acclamation.

Once on a GOP committee, a libertarian can have an influence in a number of ways. A "liberty caucus" can be organized with fellow libertarian committee members and allies. Voting as a bloc the caucus can have a great influence on elections for leadership posts, planned activities, expenditures and policy proposals.

Libertarian Republican committeemen may even want to consider running for a leadership position such as an executive committee spot or chair of the committee. Being on the issues and positions subcommittee is a natural home for a libertarian. Such committees recommend positions on all sorts of issues to the overall committee, which in most cases are accepted without debate.

Meetings, usually held monthly, offer an excellent opportunity to give short presentations, talk about libertarian values with fellow committee members or to hand out literature.

Beyond the local GOP committees, the Republican Party has a host of officially sanctioned clubs that may be organized in the community. These "auxiliary groups" include: College Republicans, Young Republicans, Federation of Republican Women and Republican Black Council.

Other Republican organizations with local affiliates include: Empower America, Republicans for Choice, Christian Coalition, Republican Majority Coalition and the Log Cabin Clubs. There are numerous regional and locally organized Republican clubs. These include the California Republican League, California Republican Assembly, Committee for Responsible Government (New Jersey), Douglas MacArthur Republican Club (New York), Lincoln Caucus (Arizona) and the Texas Federation of Traditional Republicans. All of these groups hold meetings which are more informal and open than local GOP committees. Speakers are often invited. Round table discussion on issues take place. The informal atmosphere provides a conducive setting for libertarians to talk issues, hand out literature and discuss areas of cooperation.

Of course, one of the greatest ways to have an impact locally is to get involved in campaigns. Running for any office is the single most important activity a libertarian Republican can undertake to promote liberty. Locally, this could include: school boards, city councils/commissions, tax assessor, supervisor of elections, county board of supervisors, county prosecutor, mayor or even obscure offices. Even a losing campaign or a paper candidacy which stresses

libertarian ideals can be worthwhile.

Simply getting involved in GOP campaigns as a volunteer can be rewarding. Precinct walking, licking envelopes, phone banks and event coordination can be grueling work. But it offers the opportunity for a libertarian Republican to influence not only the candidate but the campaign itself towards a more libertarian direction.

Other ideological groups have had a great impact in recent years within local Republican parties. There is no reason why libertarians working in an organized and aggressive fashion cannot have the same sort of impact.

## Organize State and Local Affiliates

The objective of an RLC coordinator is to set up a local or state affiliate for the organization. Once an RLC member has been appointed, it is his or her job to promote the RLC in the area, recruit members to the caucus and officially organize the affiliate. How is this done?

Certain preliminaries should be taken care of: a P.O. box or mail drop obtained, business cards printed up, local literature worked up and the organization listed in various materials to hand out such as newsletters, brochures, stickers and libertarian and free market literature from other aligned groups.

RLC materials and a press release should be sent to local media outlets, especially political newsletters and the area newspapers' political reporters. Additionally, the coordinator should consider calling a local radio talk show or writing a letter to the editor to local papers explaining the stances and goals of the organization. Once these tasks have been accomplished then the coordinator can move on to the job of recruiting members.

Getting interested individuals to sign on the dotted line is a prime objective. Those who express an interest should be asked to join without hesitation. The coordinator should ensure that membership forms are filled out by the prospective member(s) and sent to the national office with a check reflecting the chosen dues amount right away. Upon receipt of the form and dues the individual will have full voting rights at RLC meetings.

Upon request the state/local coordinator will receive a list from National of members and prospects in the area. An introductory letter soliciting comments and suggestions, should be sent to these individuals. Also, coordinators should consider starting a newsletter to be sent to members and prospects, covering local GOP politics, candidates, voting records of elected officials and news of RLC events. (State affiliates can arrange for combined membership dues with the National RLC if such a newsletter is maintained.) When the coordinator determines that there are a sufficient amount of members and interest, a meeting should be called. All members and prospective members in the area should receive an invitation or an announcement should be made in the newsletter.

The coordinator shall chair the meeting. If a sufficient number of paid members are in attendance, over 10 as required by RLC By-Laws, than an executive committee can be elected. Officers should

(Continued on page 6)

# Activist Tips

## Use the Media to Your Advantage

Most in the media have never heard of the Republican Liberty Caucus or the idea of libertarian Republicans. Those few who have only have a vague notion of what the movement is about. It is incumbent upon libertarian Republican activists to begin to promote the movement among the media in a highly aggressive manner.

Special attention should be paid to those in the media who are already familiar with the libertarian movement. There are actually a handful of media types who have libertarian sympathies.

Libertarian Gene Burn's syndicated radio talk show is now nationwide. Other libertarian-oriented talk show hosts with large audience include: Mark Scott in Detroit, David Brudnoy in Boston, Mark Larson in Tampa and Irv Homer in Philadelphia. In California Alan Boch, editor of the Orange County Register, is a longtime libertarian. John Fund and Tim Ferguson of the *Wall Street Journal* editorial board are longtime friends of the movement. Cato's Doug Bandow now has a regularly syndicated column. Libertarians Jeff Rigggenbach and Patrick Cox periodically have editorials in *USA Today*.

Of course the editors at *Reason* magazine are explicitly libertarian, but the editors at *American Spectator* and *Insight* have become increasingly so, as well. It is even rumored that John Stossell of ABC's 20/20 program is a libertarian. Libertarian Republicans should introduce these individuals to the RLC, and communicate with them on a regular basis by mailing/faxing them press releases, phoning into their talk show, or writing to them to suggest possible topics for coverage.

The conservative media might also be open to covering libertarian Republicans. One phone call to Rush Limbaugh's radio talk show mentioning the RLC is worth literally thousands of advertising dollars.

Similarly, talking up the movement on the air with Pat Buchanan, Jerry Williams or G. Gordon Liddy is tremendously helpful. Letters to the editor and possibly op-eds sent to *National Review*, *Human Events*, *The Washington Times*, and other conservative periodicals is a good way to get the libertarian Republican view across. These and other conservative media outlets should be kept informed of RLC events.

As for the major task, getting coverage from the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *Time*, *CNN*, and the three major networks might be difficult, but it's important. Candidates' offices should be especially keen on getting the proper information to political reporters for these outlets. *CNN* in particular has been especially kind to libertarians in the past.

There are other national media that can be just as important. Live call-in programs are also on C-SPAN and CNBC. C-SPAN in particular offers a wonderful opportunity for libertarian Republicans to discuss issues on the air with Congress members before a politically astute audience. Letters to the editor, op-eds, and press releases should be sent to national magazines such as the *New Republic*, *Utne Reader*, *Forbes*, *Business Week*, *Rolling Stone*, *the Economist* and *the Atlantic*. The Associated Press and other wire services should be alerted to libertarian Republican campaigns and

activities.

Local media is usually easier to get. Local newspaper reporters who cover politics should be contacted about a possible story on libertarian Republicans in the community, and should be kept informed of RLC activities. Also, editorials from a libertarian perspective on a local issue can be submitted to the editorial page editor. Local radio talk shows are especially easy to get on, not only as a caller but also as a guest. Local TV news reporters are more likely to be covered something with visual appeal like a prominent guest speaker at an RLC meeting, a demonstration, or an awards ceremony for the best/worst local elected official.

Alternative media should not be ignored. The alternative press includes: political newsletters for every imaginable cause, cultural magazines, religious publications and music "zines." These publications are often hard-pressed for material. Libertarian Republicans should consider submitting a general article on the movement, or an op-ed on a specific topic to one or more of these publications. Cable access television is another useful alternative medium.

New media have sprung up. Satellite television broadcasts interactive programs, many dealing with politics. Two of particular interest to libertarian Republicans are National Empowerment Outreach Network hosted by Paul Weyrich and Grover Norquist out of Washington, and Republican Neighborhood Meeting hosted by Lamar Alexander out of Nashville. Both shows can be accessed through satellite transponders.

Fax networks are beginning to take off. Libertarian Republicans can fax information to these networks, which in turn will be faxed to hundreds of others. Most importantly is the proliferation of computer bulletin boards (BBSs). CompuServe and Prodigy offer an extensive array of political forums, including ones devoted to Republican debate, Libertarian debate and even Rush Limbaugh. Libertarian Republicans can also upload information onto political BBSs through Internet, such as Libernet (devoted exclusively to the libertarian movement) and the Capitalist Connection.

Whatever the outlet, libertarian Republicans should take every opportunity to promote the movement in the media.

## Affiliates...from 5

include: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

Once an affiliate has been organized then the officers must file an affiliation form with the National Office. With a majority vote of the National Committee the body becomes an official chapter of the Republican Liberty Caucus. At that point it is considered the governing body for RLC activities in the particular state with decision making authority over endorsements of local, state legislative and state office candidates. Affiliates are encouraged to collect contributions and make expenditures on behalf of endorsed candidates. This requires filing the initial paperwork and quarterly contribution and expenditure reports with the State Division of Elections. Failure to do so may result in fines. Also, the Republican Party in the area should be informed of the formation of the group, and local GOP guidelines followed.

Once all this is taken care of then the RLC affiliate can go about the business of helping to elect principled Republican candidates to state legislatures and local and statewide offices.