



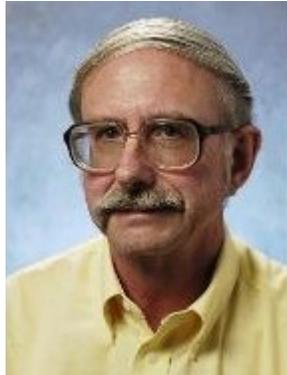
LPDC Newsletter

The Voice of Freedom in Dallas, Texas

Miscellany from Academe

by Barry Smith

Mountain View College had asked the Libertarian Party of Dallas County to send a representative to be on a panel on the Second Amendment for Constitution Day (September 17, 2015). I was that representative (although I'm not as knowledgeable about the subject of gun rights as others who couldn't go). The moderator, government professor Jonathan York, said he had Libertarian acquaintances, and the general atmosphere was friendly. The Brady representative and a representative from the Huey Newton Gun Club failed to show. The pro-gun control side was given by a Mountain View English professor who is also a lawyer and a Mountain View police lieutenant. I was joined by a concealed carry instructor. As much of a novice as I am, I was better prepared than the opposition – a bit of good luck that generally one shouldn't rely on. The pro-control side staked out some broad, sweeping claims, and their arguments weren't very coherent. They seemed to limit themselves to talking points, which was almost disappointing. The CHL instructor was primarily an expert on Texas law.



There were two basic issues here: the interpretation of the Second Amendment, and the practical effect of bearing arms

THE RACE IS ON!

Potential Texas LP candidates are currently filing to run in November, 2016. In order to be eligible to be nominated, the filing must be submitted before 6PM on December 14, 2015. Will we see your picture among the candidates running for any of these offices? Several options exist: [Statewide](#), [Congressional](#), [State Board of Education](#), [State Senate](#), [State Representative](#), or [local](#) races.

All of the offices up for election may be found [here](#).

A summary of the qualifications for offices up for election in November, 2016, may be found [here](#).

Other information is published on the Texas Secretary of State, Elections Division website [here](#).

Actual nominations will take place at the appropriate convention. Statewide offices will be voted upon on April 9, 2016, during the LP Texas State Convention. County wide offices and State offices completely within Dallas county will be voted upon on Saturday, March 12, 2016, at the County Convention. Multi-county districts will be voted upon on Saturday, March 19, 2016, at the appropriate District Convention. See the February LPDC Newsletter for locations. Contact campaigns@lptexas.org if you are considering running for office in 2016. Without your help, many Ds and Rs will be unopposed in 2016!

(especially concealed carry of handguns). To prepare, I relied on advice from Curry Taylor, and on our presentation by C.J. Grisham at the Dallas Liberty Forum. I also read John Lott's classic [More Guns, Less Crime](#) (which has been demonized almost hysterically by the opposition); a chapter from Leonard Levy's [The Origins of the Bill of Rights](#); a recent pro-gun-control book by Michael Waldman, [The Second Amendment: A Biography](#), in which he concedes that the pro-gun position is winning at the moment; and the Supreme Court opinions in [District of Columbia v. Heller](#). One strategy I used was to take the opposition seriously: to acknowledge weaknesses in our position, but yet show that the weight of the argument is in our favor, even with the weaknesses.

On the Second Amendment, the lawyer gave the standard argument that the Amendment gives rights only to militia

members. I acknowledged that the wording of the amendment was ambiguous and that the historical evidence is mixed, but argued that the individual-rights interpretation was clearly at least as reasonable as the militia-only interpretation. To that, I added Randy Barnett’s “presumption of liberty” interpretation of the Ninth Amendment to support the right to bear arms. No one challenged me on any of this.



On the practical question, I offered Lott’s evidence (which has also been supported by other studies) that concealed carry reduces violent crime. I acknowledged (as Lott does) that some studies have shown that concealed carry has no effect on violent crime. However, almost no studies show that concealed carry increases violent crime, a point that even Waldman, a gun control advocate, concedes. That destroys the rationale for banning concealed carry.

The officer argued that he didn’t want private citizens intruding on police territory. I conceded that I would prefer for trained police to protect us when possible. However, I pointed out that to deny citizens the right to bear arms is to *sacrifice* people who need to defend themselves in an emergency.

Police response usually takes longer than five minutes, and that could be too long. Some of you may remember Barbara Goushaw’s experience with a stalker (and her later radio call-in encounter with Senator Charles Schumer) that she related at a state convention a number of years ago. I used her story as an illustration.

Schumer denied her right to self-defense, and told her she just had to submit. In the end our opponents retreated to their minimal core positions – the English professor wanted community college campuses to have the option of forbidding



concealed carry, and the officer conceded that his wife carries a Glock and that he just wanted people not to be reckless. We had a couple of articulate supporters in the audience. (There was an audience of probably 30 or 40 people, in an open area of the student center which attracted passers-by.) I recommend for anyone who can do it to participate in an event like this. It was a positive experience and might have done some good.

In preparing for this panel, in reading Leonard Levi’s The Origins of the Bill of Rights, and in recently reading Emergency Presidential Power by Chis Edelson, I’ve been struck by just how uncertain and treacherous law can sometimes be. What law mostly does is to set the agenda and terms for future political battles. For one thing, laws are often ambiguous and even carelessly written. Also, the historical evidence for interpretation is often ambiguous. Finally, political partisans often aggressively rationalize to interpret the law to be whatever they want it to be. Edelson’s book points out, for example, that presidents and their advisors have aggressively interpreted law to give presidents almost absolute power. They even go outside the law to such sweeping concepts as “inherent power”, as well as “the police power” to further their unlimited power. We would do well to fight for laws more clearly written in our favor, and to engage fully in the contest over meaning.

I just got a new textbook at Tarrant County College – American Government: Roots and Reform, by Karen O’Connor, Larry J. Sabato (a frequent guest on NPR), Alexandra B. Yanus. This is a widely used book. In the Section on ideology at the first of the book, it devotes a whole page to the Nolan Chart, and refers students to the World’s Smallest Political Quiz. The Nolan Chart is mentioned in other textbooks, but not with this much attention. *Editor’s comment: Fantastic!*

The Oddity of Trump

by Michelle Williams



As a Libertarian minded person, I have analyzed, picked apart, and researched many political leaders, and I have always demanded specificity and a certain level of poise from those whom I support. For this reason I have been observing the Republican presidential nominees as well as the debates. As I watch, I am amazed at the popularity of Donald Trump. While I can appreciate his boldness in an

arena well known for smooth talkers and persons skilled at

ducking questions, I do not take him seriously as a viable president of our country.

People such as Trump, and even Ben Carson, add a needed element of reality that reaches the common man more than we have seen in the past few elections. That is good in and of itself, but behind every bold voice there must be a plan. Many have criticized Trump for putting on a good show but not having a detailed outline for what he will do if he gets elected. I share this concern. He makes a lot of noise and paints with a broad brush, but [delivers no real ideas of "How"](#). Trump even defends himself by saying that he is being secretive on purpose and indicates that he will [tell us the details later](#). That is not good enough for me and it is not good enough for many Americans.



So the conundrum is why he is leading the polls with 35.1% according to recent Huffington Post numbers. Why has he [led the polls for the past 5 months](#)? Charisma will only get you so far and then real action and difficult decisions need to be made. In my discussions with other Republicans, I find they feel the same way. They find him humorous at times but totally void of intellect or any true leadership.

I have come to a conclusion on why Trump is so popular based upon research, years of attention to the political arena, many personal conversations with current voters, and the like. Simply put, distrust in politicians has reached such a high level that people want something different and Trump is exactly that. Young, old, educated, poor, rich – we are all tired and angry at politicians that say nothing directly and eloquently. We ask real questions and they silver tongue answers. We want to talk about real issues such as the economy, the job market, and future financial markets that will drive our country, but politicians want to talk about global climate change, for instance. Politicians pose perfectly behind podiums and sugar-coat everything when there is a lot to be negative about. Trump makes jokes, says stupid things, has no solid plans; this is true. But what he does do is talk about real issues that people care about and say things we have never heard politicians say before. He is an enigma: something new in a political atmosphere screaming out for something new. People are overlooking his flaws for the sake of change they are so desperately seeking.

Do not get me wrong, I am not advocating Donald Trump as the next president of the United States. I am seeking to

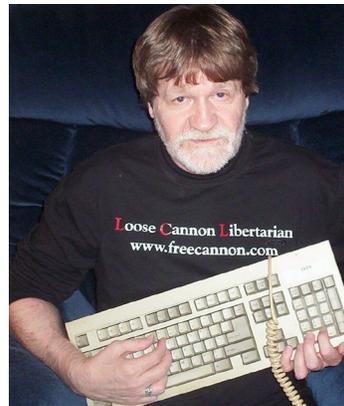
understand and wrap my head around his fandom. I am also being optimistic and taking the whole situation as a good sign that people want change. That is the first step to forcing the current establishment to realize Americans have become tired and willing to vote for radicals in order to bring about the change they want.

LPDC Membership Program!

Want to help out the LPDC and at the same time get some cool libertarian swag? Check out our [contributor membership program!](#)

False Flag or Fanatical Flag, People Died in Paris

by Garry Reed



Just as happened following 9-11, the Charlie Hebdo attacks, and every school, mall, theater, church, and military installation mass shooting in America, the blood hadn't dried on the splattered walls and [splattered streets of Paris](#) before [False Flag](#) speculations were competing for attention on the world's social media peepshows.

By definition, [a false flag operation](#) occurs when ruling class government psychopaths carry out terrorist attacks against their own citizens for political gain. The problem with False Flaggers is they're so obsessed with their own false flag theories that it doesn't occur to them that some attackers, such as Mideast terror groups like ISIS, Al Qaeda, Boko Haram, et.al., are perfectly capable of staging attacks under their own Fanatical Flags.

Beyond that, False Flaggers seem to want it both ways. Somehow they believe that huge numbers of government operatives working together in meticulous secrecy can pull off massively complicated fake mass [shootings](#) without their sheeplike populations suspecting a thing while simultaneously being so colossally inept that scores of False Flaggers can instantly see right through them and alert the world to what's "really happening."

While it's true that many [proven false flag operations](#) have



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occurred, online False Flaggers generally have no real clue about the difference between a False Flag attack and a Fanatical Flag attack. False Flaggers are driven by their own egos. They can be spotted by their hysterical attitudes which typically translate this way:

I am right and you are wrong. I am brilliant and you are stupid. I know THE TRUTH and you are sheeple!!!! I absolutely must convince you so that you will respect me and revere me and tell me what a hero I am for saving the world from these [conspiracies](#) with my genius!!!!

For them "the truth" is always followed by at least four exclamation points and inevitably read like this parody example:

Look at the photo of this man that I grabbed from someone's Facebook page who was interviewed right after the Paris terrorist attacks. Notice that his eyes aren't wildly dilated in fear. That proves he wasn't threatened by [terrorists](#), he's just a paid government actor!!!! Now notice the slight bulge in his shirt. That's absolute proof that he's wearing a bulletproof vest under his shirt which means he's really a French cop!!!! Now see the street scene behind him. The tiny, almost imperceptible, hint of mist in the upper left hand corner completely proves that the scene is a fake picture projected on a blue screen behind him in a studio because there was no mist in the air on that night in Paris!!!!



YouTube: *RIGHT OR WRONG: A RARE INTELLIGENT DISCUSSION OF FALSE FLAGS*

[Libertarians](#), especially those who come from the reasoning, rational, logic-oriented, Objectivist tradition of libertarianism, seem to be more keenly aware of how incompetent and ham-fisted governments really are as well as how incompetent and [ham-fisted most False Flaggers](#) really are, and are therefore more likely to insist on actual evidence before believing or disbelieving every False Flag assertion. But either way people died on the streets of Paris. A little respect should be in order.

Editor's Note: Re-published from the [Dallas Libertarian Examiner](#) with permission from the author.

Upcoming Meetings

- **Trivia night at Trinity Hall**
 - Every Sunday Night, 7:30 PM
 - [Trinity Hall Irish Pub & Restaurant](#)
5321 E Mockingbird Ln, Dallas, TX
- **[Libertarian Party of Dallas County General Meeting](#)**
 - January 12th, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
2nd Tuesday of Every Month
 - [Sambuca - Uptown](#)
2120 McKinney Ave., Dallas, TX
- 2016 Precinct Conventions
 - March 8th, likely 7:00 PM
 - Stay tuned to Facebook and Meetup for more details
- 2016 Dallas County Convention
 - March 12th
 - Stay tuned to Facebook and Meetup for more details

- 2016 District Convention
 - March 19th
 - Stay tuned to Facebook and Meetup for more details
- 2016 State Convention
 - April 8th-10th
 - Stay tuned to Facebook and Meetup for more details

Up-to-date meeting announcements and details can always be found on meetup.com. (www.meetup.com/Dallas-Libertarians/)

Libertarian References

- **Books**
 - *Good to be King*, Michael Badnarik
 - *Why Government Doesn't Work*, Harry Browne
 - *Atlas Shrugged*, Ayn Rand
 - *Libertarianism: A Primer*, David Boaz
 - *Economics in One Lesson*, Henry Hazlitt
 - *Healing Our World*, Dr. Mary Ruwart
- **Videos**
 - *Neitzsche and the Nazis*, Stephen Hicks
 - *Bullsh*t!*, Penn & Teller
 - *Free to Choose*, Milton Friedman
 - *America: Freedom to Fascism*, Aaron Russo
- **Websites**
 - The Libertarian Party of Dallas County lpdallas.org
 - The Libertarian Party of Texas lptexas.org
 - The National Libertarian Party www.lp.org
 - Students for Liberty studentsforliberty.org
 - Free Talk Live www.freetalklive.com
 - The Cato Institute www.cato.org
 - Molinari Institute praxeology.net/molinari.htm
 - Objectivism In-Brief mol.redbarn.org/objectivism/writing/InBrief

LPDC Officer List

Chair – Paul Petersen (chair@lpdallas.org)
Vice-Chair – Curry B. Taylor (vicechair@lpdallas.org)
Secretary – Eugene Flynn (secretary@lpdallas.org)
Treasurer – Curry B. Taylor (treasurer@lpdallas.org)

LPDC At-Large Directors

Kevin Frederickson (dallaslibertarian@gmail.com)
 Dianne Mueller (dianne@lpdallas.org)

Working Committee Leaders

Marketing – Michelle Williams (reginaeql@gmail.com)
Outreach – <currently vacant>
Fundraising – <currently vacant>
Webmaster – Jordan Wagon (wagon.jordan@gmail.com)

The LPDC is a local branch of the Libertarian Party based in Dallas County, Texas. Find out more about the LPDC at <http://lpdallas.org>. The Libertarian Party is the third largest political party in the United States, and was established in 1971 to promote more freedom and less intrusive government in all aspects of life. Find out more about the LP at <http://www.lp.org>.



Happy Holidays!

from your friendly neighborhood

**Libertarian Party
of Dallas County**

***Have a Happy New Year,
too!***



This side of the page intentionally left blank as we wait for you to [join us in the libertarian revolution.](#)

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Are you done reading this newsletter? Get one of your friends or family members to read it!