



LPDC Newsletter

The Voice of Freedom in Dallas, Texas

Revolution by Evolution?

by David Morris



I've often found myself obsessing over whether Libertarianism could have a "revolution by evolution". Perhaps that's because I'm an optimist. Perhaps that's because, up until recently, I thought of myself as too lazy to become much of an activist. Whatever the case, it's clear that over the years society has, at times, moved toward a more Libertarian frame of mind, even when the motivations of the politicians were not pure. To

throw in my favorite quote,

"The last temptation is the greatest treason: to do the right deed for the wrong reason." – T. S. Eliot



The repeal of anti-sodomy laws, various proposed amnesty programs for illegal immigrants, and the so far tepid but promising movements away from mass incarceration are all recent pro-liberty developments. Could they be signs that

perhaps the development of society is inherently structured to become more libertarian?

Of course, when developments like these are juxtaposed with other developments which step us backwards, it's difficult to see if a pattern exists. However, one fact that might lend evidence to my hypothesis is the "Flynn Effect", the century-long increase in raw IQ scores which has occurred with mostly steady progress for quite some time. This phenomena suggests that society is gradually becoming more comfortable with abstract concepts. (Score increases on the abstract reasoning portions of the IQ test are contrasted somewhat by only mild increases on the vocabulary and memory-based sections.) If this trend can continue, it may mean that society is becoming inherently more able to think critically and avoid the demagoguery of politicians.

Editor's comment: David Morris is [running for Sheriff of Dallas County](#) as your Libertarian Party representative this election cycle. Show him some support!

Conventions, Conventions, Conventions!

If you'd like to participate in Libertarian Party nominations and/or party management this election cycle, now is the time to do it!

First, you'll have to attend several conventions, but they're not scary. Here is the list of the conventions, in sequential (and scope-increasing) order: Precinct, County, District, State, and National. The schedule for each of these conventions is listed at the end of this newsletter.

The most important thing to know is that if you'd like to have a vote at any of these conventions, then you must attend the first one, the Precinct Convention, and then continue onward from there. (Yes, there are exceptions for some conventions which allow circumvention of a previous convention, but by and large it's much better if you plan to attend all.) In other words, if you want to participate in any particular convention, it's best if you should plan to attend all the ones prior to that, too.

We will hold the Precinct and the County Conventions in Dallas. The District Convention will likely also be held in

Dallas, but we'll keep you posted on that in the near future. The State Convention will be held in San Antonio.

Even if you don't want to vote in any convention, feel free to attend. You will meet local libertarians and get to know people who are probably a lot like you. At the State Convention, there will be speakers galore, breakout sessions, and meals, all of which you may participate in, with or without being a delegate.

See you all very soon! :)



- Supporting and coordinating activities with State-led militias
- Supporting a national, legal system of courts
- Regulating the value of money (instead of abdicating this duty to a private enterprise, the Federal Reserve, which is neither federal nor has any reserves)
- Creating and adhering to a national budget

Large, mega safety net programs such as the following are not mentioned nor alluded to in Article I Section 8.

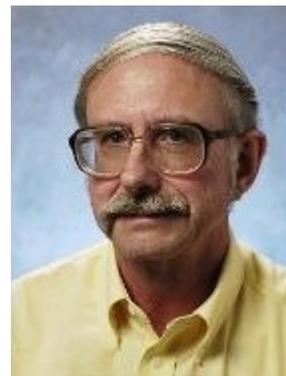
- Compulsory insurance programs for elderly citizens
- Retirement “savings”
- Health care

But, clearly we do, as People, have needs. Who will build the roads and create a social safety net? We The People will, if we decide that is what we want.

Editor's note: Mike Kolls is seeking the Libertarian Party's nomination to [run for U.S. House of Representatives, District 24](#). Editor's comment: The presumption of leaders having exclusive authority to lead all others but simultaneously, somehow, being “experts” in all other fields, or that such leaders can gain the expertise of “experts” simply by consulting with them, is a basic tenet of theoretical Communism.

Opportunities To Be Heard in the Dallas Morning News

by Barry Smith



Every year, in the Spring ([the deadline for submitting an application is April 30](#)), the Dallas Morning News, in a program called “Local Voices”, chooses twenty-five or more citizen columnists, each one to write several columns each year. The

To Get Things Done

by Mike Kolls



My biggest shock from my 2014 campaign was voters yearning for Congress and/or Washington to “get something done”. When pressed to know what should be done, they were either silent or said that elected candidates are “experts” and knew what needs to be done. I told one lady that as a Representative I was supposed to do what she (and the People) wanted done; I was supposed to represent her. I’ll never forget the blank stare on her face.

Fellow Libertarian Ed Kless sagaciously uttered the following:

"A perceived problem does not require action, especially government action. Sometimes the best response is no response."

Why is there a public, delusional assumption that government has to do something? Why isn't there an assumption that, if a problem truly exists, the People need to do something instead? What makes a free country “think” like this? It may be that our fellow citizens have been cultured to avoid responsibility and consequences. Without accountability someone else must act: beneficent government. A free people are afraid of freedom. How utterly sad!

Can you imagine a Congress, following **Article I Section 8**, getting done **ONLY** what they have authority to get done?

- Providing common defense only, and not conducting overseas contingency operations

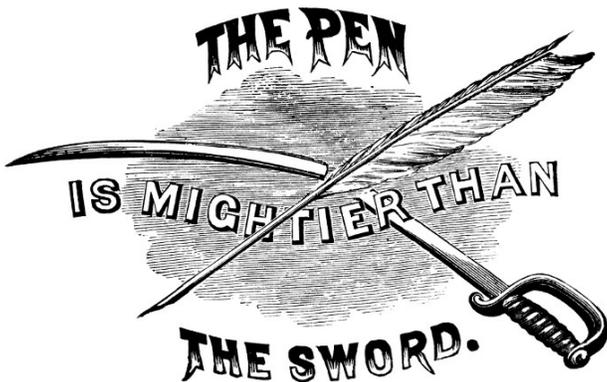
columnists serve during the school year, which I assume is September through May. There is a program for K-12 students (Student Voices), a program for K-12 teachers (Teacher Voices), and – probably most useful for us – a program for everyone else (Community Voices).

For obvious reasons, this seems like a good opportunity, but there are some drawbacks. For one thing, they want columns to be “local and personal” rather than overtly political.

However, we could write philosophical columns or columns about local events. Also, they have some sample columns on the web site, and some seem to have a political dimension to them.

Another drawback is that this involves a major commitment. For one thing, you have to write several columns. For another thing, they offer (and they apparently require you to go to) workshops and other events to educate you on the general craft of writing a column (however, that burden could also be an opportunity for those who want to learn how to influence the world in general).

To apply, you have to go [this link](#) (perversely, they make it hard to find these programs and applications on the Dallas Morning news web site). They ask a lot of questions on the application: your occupation/employer, a sample column, your unique perspective, an example of a time you changed your mind, your civic involvements, and your use of social media.



A second opportunity at the Dallas Morning News is Sounding Off. They seem to accept anyone for this. You register, and they ask for your major interests (politics is one choice). They also ask for the area you live in. Then, they will periodically send you current questions about things that are in the news regarding your interests or your location. They selectively publish reader comments in the NeighborsGo section of the

newspaper. Some of the comments are pretty long, longer than a letter to the editor. Apparently you can sign up for this at any time, and it lasts indefinitely. More information and a brief online application for Sounding Off can be found at the [same link](#) I mentioned before. Also, you can email questions about either Local Voices or Sounding Off to voices@dallasnews.com. Remember there is a deadline of April 30 for Local Voices, and there are sample columns at the above link to help you get started.

Editor's comment: Want to write about libertarianism, but aren't ready for major publications? Want to test your articles first among friends? Submit your articles bimonthly to the LPDC newsletter! It's painless, I promise!

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!](#)

Interview: Libertarian Mark Miller Wants to Frack the TRRC

by Garry Reed



Dr. Mark Miller is seeking the [Libertarian Party of Texas](#) nomination for TRRC Commissioner.

The TRRC – Texas Railroad Commission – is a state regulatory agency that hasn't regulated railroads since 2005; it regulates the Texas [oil and gas industry](#). Many claim it's the Texas Oil and Gas Industry that regulates the TRRC, making it what one [libertarian](#) calls "the epitome of regulatory capture and [cronyism](#)."

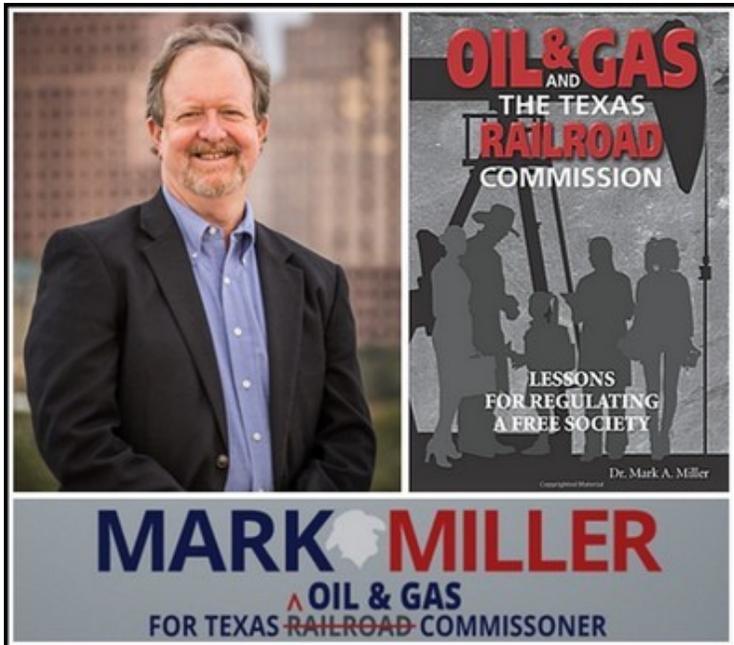
Miller has the credentials for the job: A BS in Engineering, a PhD from Stanford, taught petroleum engineering at the University of Texas for 18 years, had a long career in the oil and gas industry as an engineer, served as an engineering consultant, and founded a company that provides software to the oil and gas industry.

Dallas Libertarian Examiner asked the LP candidate a few questions.

Dallas Libertarian Examiner: Is [fracking](#) polluting groundwater and causing earthquakes, and is the TRRC covering it up?

Mark Miller: The process of fracking, per se, has not been shown to cause either significant groundwater pollution or earthquakes. Groundwater contamination is a result of poor wellbore (pipe surrounded by cement) integrity. The Lipsky case (near Weatherford) is a good example of a poor technical evaluation of the issue, so poor as to be inconclusive, leaving the landowner and the public unsure about the source of the contamination.

With regard to earthquakes, the TRRC has made a show of instituting regulations that purportedly deal with the problem resulting from wastewater injection. They disregarded a major scientific study conducted by SMU, the [USGS](#), and UT Austin and concluded that the Azle/Reno earthquakes were *not* a result of wastewater injection, leaving Texas voters unsure about the Commission's commitment to public safety over industry interests.



DLN: Is the TRRC more interested in protecting the gas and oil industry than protecting the public?

MM: The Railroad Commission has an avowed dual role as industry champion and industry regulator. Commissioners claim that they can successfully navigate this conflict. But it is clear when they talk about "leading the country to energy independence" they are talking about what they can do to help the industry from which the vast majority of their campaign contributions come. When there is an issue the Commission tends to invariably side with the oil and gas industry.

DLN: How would you bring accountability to the TRRC?

MM: At least one Railroad Commissioner is on the Texas general election ballot every two years, so there's little excuse for voters not to pay attention. The best way to bring accountability to the Commission is for Commissioners to: a) publicly and repeatedly call for the Commission's name to be changed, b) disavow the Commission's role as industry champion, c) prepare recommendations for statutory changes that would provide more protection for surface property owners impacted by oil and gas operations.

DLN: Overall, what are your solutions to these problems?

MM: There are changes in three general areas that I am proposing for the Railroad Commission: 1) increased transparency, 2) regulatory reform, and 3) an increased focus on property rights. Public trust requires changing its name, eliminating its role as industry champion, and enhancing public interactions. Complex regulations tend to be difficult to administer and usually favor the most well-connected. There are specific recommendations in the book. The TRRC should inform our Legislature about the need for statutes to better protect property rights.

DLN: What brought you to libertarianism?

MM: I first registered to vote as a Libertarian in 1972. There were two reasons I always supported the [Libertarian Party](#). First, the Party's philosophical foundation most closely matches my own. But I also believed that it's vitally important for the country to have more than the two major party choices. I think this is even more important today than in 1972.

Find Mark Miller's profile at [Who's Mark?](#) and more information at the [candidate's website](#) and [Facebook page](#) and on the [Tarrant County Libertarian Meetup Group](#).

Editor's note: Re-published from the [Dallas Libertarian Examiner](#) with permission from the author. Editor's comment: This article was among the half-dozen very good choices from Garry's regular assortment of blog submissions. Check out his blog; you'll become a fan!

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**
 - February 9th, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
2nd Tuesday of Every Month
 - Sambuca - Uptown
2120 McKinney Ave., Dallas, TX
- **2016 Precinct Conventions**
 - March 8th, 7:00 PM
 - Elbow Room
3010 Gaston Ave, Dallas, TX 75226
- **2016 Dallas County Convention**
 - March 12th, 1:00 PM (time tentative)
 - Stay tuned to Facebook and Meetup for more details
- **2016 DFW District Conventions**
 - March 19th, 12:00 PM (time tentative)
 - Stay tuned to Facebook and Meetup for more details
- **2016 State Convention**
 - April 8th-10th
 - Norris Conference Center
618 NW Loop 410 #207, San Antonio, TX 78216

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
 - *The Libertarian Mind*, 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)
 Barry Smith (Barry.Smith@tccd.edu)

Working Committee Leaders

Marketing – Michelle Williams (reginaeq1@gmail.com)
Outreach – <currently vacant>
Fundraising – <currently vacant>
Candidate Recruitment – Barry Smith (Barry.Smith@tccd.edu)
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>.

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