



THE ITHACA LIBERTARIAN

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March 10, 2005**

We're a Party

It's official! Tompkins County is home to the newest chapter of the New York Libertarian Party, the Ithaca Libertarians. With 10 LP members in attendance at our February 18 convention, we ratified our bylaws and elected officers, thus satisfying the state party's requirements for chapter formation. The bylaws can be accessed at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ithaca_LP/files, and officers are as follows; myself, Christa Siering, as Chair; Brian Sullivan, Vice-Chair; Ellen Ricketson, Secretary, and Carl Ricketson, Treasurer. Andrew Gardner has agreed to act as our State Committee representative, and Curry Taylor is our liaison to the Cornell Libertarians. Thanks to all who have encouraged and supported our efforts.

Many great ideas are generated at our monthly meetings, but with few members and fewer resources, what's an activist to do? Find more Libertarians! One of my main objectives is increased membership and support for our events. Toward this end we already have our regular, publicized monthly meetings, and this newsletter, but I'd like to have outreach tables at a few public events, as well as direct mailings to prospective members. Other ideas or suggestions? Stop by our meetings the third Friday of each month at Bool's Flower Shop, 209 N. Aurora St., Ithaca. Or email me at sieringcr@msn.com.

We're trying to publish this newsletter on a more or less regular basis, every two months. This one is a bit late while we waited for the positive vote of acceptance from the NYLP. Contributions are welcomed, and encour-

aged! Send your letters, articles, notices, etc. to the Ithaca Libertarian editor, bsulliv1@twcny.rr.com. In this edition, Carl Ricketson questions the "service" in "public service announcement".

Don't forget to check our calendar; we have a lot of exciting events planned! Hope to see you at some of them.

-Christa Siering

Message from Badnarik

I am very excited about my return to Ithaca, New York in April. The weather will be warm, and the air will be filled with political activism. On Thursday, April 14th, there are tentative plans for me to debate several university professors on the topic of the Constitution. The United States is engaged in an "ideological war", and this debate can be a huge victory for the supporters of Liberty. I want to thank all of the college activists that are working to make this event a reality.

Friday, April 15th, is everyone's "favorite day" - to despise our out-of-control federal government. The newly formed Ithaca Libertarians will be sponsoring a tax day protest, challenging the legitimacy of the IRS. I look forward to participating in the day's events. This is one topic where all Americans seem to share the Libertarian position. We should be able to be able to sign up several new Libertarians during the day.

Saturday, I will be presenting my

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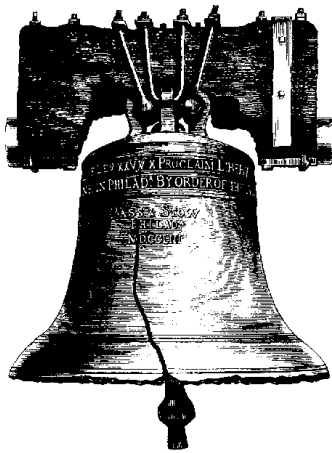
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*Please direct newsletter comments
and submissions to the Editor.*



Calendar of Events - 2005

- March 4th, Friday - Badnarik planning meeting
 - March 11th, Friday - Badnarik planning meeting
 - March 18th, Friday - Ithaca Libertarians monthly meeting
 - March 25th, Friday - Badnarik planning meeting
 - April 1st, Friday - Badnarik planning meeting
 - April 8th, Friday - Badnarik planning meeting
 - April 14th, Thursday - Cornell Political Coalition Debate and Badnarik Social with Cornell Libertarians
 - April 15th, Friday - Tax Day rally and outreach events
 - April 16th, Saturday - Introduction to the Constitution class and Free State Project Dinner with Badnarik
 - April 23rd, Saturday - NYLP Convention, Syracuse
 - July 4th, Weekend - Ithaca Libertarian/Free State Project 4th of July celebration
- Badnarik planning schedule and information for April 14th - 16th is available online (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ithaca_LP/files) and updated often. Please come to the weekly Badnarik planning meetings and help us plan and run the events! All planning and monthly meetings above held at Bool's Flower Shop 209 N. Aurora St., Ithaca 5:30pm

NYLP calendar with state and local events:
<http://ny.lp.org/calendar>

Badnarik to teach Constitution Class

Introduction to the Constitution Class "It's amazing how little we know about the law of our land - even those of us who feel we're "on top of things" politically. The Constitution is the contract between "We, the People" and the Government WE created, authorized, and empowered. Isn't it time we read and understood that contract?" - V.V. Chicago, IL We're bringing Michael Badnarik's acclaimed 8 hour class right to Ithaca - don't miss it!. It will be held at Cornell, 201 Warren Hall. Please register online today - payment to be made day of class. Cost is \$100, or \$85 if you've already bought his new book, Good to be King: The Foundation of Our Constitutional Freedom. <http://www.constitutionpreservation.org/>

Free State Project Dinner w\Badnarik

Free State Project Dinner with Michael Badnarik The newest addition to the April schedule is a dinner on Saturday, April 16th at 7:00pm, sponsored by the FSP's Central NY Local Group. Mr. Badnarik is an FSP participant and will be our guest speaker at the dinner and social event. Come and find out what all the buzz is about with the rise of liberty in the Live Free or Die state of New Hampshire. Michael Badnarik recently joined other national libertarian leaders and made an endorsement of the FSP. Details about the event are forthcoming. <http://freestateproject.org/>

LPNY Convention

The statewide LPNY Convention will be held in Syracuse on Saturday, April 23rd. Also planned are cocktails and dinner starting at 6:00pm on Friday night and the possibility of breakfast and speaker on Sunday. Speakers on Saturday include Mark Bitz of Plainville Turkey Farms and Buffalo activist and attorney, Jim Ostrowski. Come on up to the Holiday Inn at Carrier Circle, Syracuse and socialize with your fellow Libertarians. There are lots of us going up from Tompkins County! <http://www.ny.lp.org/>

Who Pays for the PSAs?

By Carl Ricketson

During World War II a private, non-profit organization was formed to bring public awareness to critical wartime issues – the Ad Council. You’ve heard that “loose lips sink ships”, among the first of many Ad Council slogans to make its way into common usage. The Ad Council handles public service campaigns, also known as Public Service Announcements or PSAs, which are considered beneficial to the nation’s social structure. Through distribution, production, and promotion, non-profit and government agencies have advertised their issues using the Ad Council. Their web page, at www.adcouncil.org, states, “Our mission is to identify a select number of significant public issues and stimulate action on those issues through communications programs that make a measurable difference in our society. To that end, the Ad Council marshals volunteer talent from the advertising and communications industries, the facilities of the media, and the resources of the business and non-profit communities to create awareness, foster understanding, and motivate action.” Sounds more like propaganda than public service – could it be? Let’s follow the money trail.

An unwritten premise in the Ad Council’s mission statement is that all their resources are voluntary. But if the government contracts the Ad Council, then tax dollars are used, and those resources are not voluntary no matter what our politicians may write into the tax code. If there’s one “non-profit” community with vast resources to sponsor PSAs, it’s the U.S. Government – a gold mine for the Ad Council! And a number of the ad campaigns are directly government sponsored, including Obesity Prevention (www.smallstep.gov), Volunteerism (www.usafreedomcorps.gov), Terrorism Preparedness (www.ready.gov), Reducing Gun Violence (www.psn.gov), Breastfeeding Awareness (www.4woman.gov), Booster Seat Education (www.boosterseat.gov), and Operation Graduation (www.operationgraduation.com), sponsored by the U.S. Army and the Ad Council to promote high school graduation (you mean the schools and parents don’t do that already?). In other cases, the trail of funding is a little less obvious, but it ultimately leads to your pocket. In the Ad Council’s Campaign for Infant and Child Nutrition, the sponsor is listed as the National WIC Association, a “non-profit”.

The National WIC Association is promoting the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, commonly known as WIC. WIC is administered by the Food and Nutrition Service, a Federal agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. So ultimately these non-profits are promoting increased government spending. Why would a non-profit agency form to promote a government agency, using another non-profit agency in the process? Who would donate to such a scheme? Interestingly, partners of the National WIC Association include Kellogg Company, General Mills, Inc., and Campbell Soup Company. They are for profit – so what’s in it for them?

During the last 60-plus years the Ad Council has been very successful with such familiar slogans as Smokey Bear’s “Only you can prevent forest fires”, McGruff the Crime Dog’s “Take a Bite Out of Crime”, and “Friends don’t let friends drive drunk”. They claim impressive results: destruction from wild fires reduced from 22 million acres to 8.4 million acres a year; recorded reduction of crime in many areas for the past 10 years; and 68% of Americans have personally stopped someone from driving drunk. Oh, and we did win World War II – thanks to “loose lips sink ships”, right? Is there really a way to directly correlate the Ad Council’s PSAs to these trends? Do you trust that these messages are unbiased and beneficial to our social structure?

In a free society our freedom brings with it the responsibility of the choices we make as individuals, and in this way we are responsible for society. The Ad Council is producing PSAs filled with information that is meant to persuade our choices and shape society. Are our best interests being served? Without full and accurate disclosure, PSAs should be met with skepticism. Otherwise freedom itself is at risk.

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highly acclaimed INTRODUCTION TO THE CONSTITUTION class. Everything in the class is based on the importance of property rights. Every culture, every religion, every person in the world understands the importance of property because it is fundamental to human survival. Even a two-year-old understands the importance of property. (Their favorite word is "MINE!") I guarantee that you will learn things about the Constitution that you never knew before. I am also certain that you will have a lot of fun, and that the eight hours will seem to fly by.

Anyone interested in registering for the class should visit my website at http://www.constitutionpreservation.org/class_schedule_registration.php I look forward to meeting many of you, and helping you develop the knowledge you need to "Light the fires of Liberty" throughout the year. - Michael Badnarik

Cornell Debate

Cornell Political Coalition Debate and Badnarik event with Cornell Libertarians A real debate on the U.S. Constitution with Cornell professors and Michael Badnarik. The Cornell debaters are yet to be announced, and might include an historian, a legal ex-

pert and constitutional expert. Michael is very excited about this opportunity to debate Cornell's finest for the Cornell community. Shortly after the debate, the Cornell Libertarians will host Mr. Badnarik for a get-together. More Info:
<http://www.rso.cornell.edu/cpc/>

Tax Day Rally

Tax Day rally and outreach events We have big plans for events on the Ithaca Commons for Tax Day, April 15th. An Operation Politically Homeless outreach table starting at noon will lead up to the rally/protest and an address by Michael Badnarik. There is a possibility that this event may also bring the announcement of a brand new non-partisan Taxpayer's Association. The groundwork is now being laid to see if there is support by other politically minded groups to start such an organization. One of the ideas for the new group is to work to pass a ballot initiative in Tompkins County to limit the annual increase in County taxes to 1%. Your ideas to help make this day a success are welcomed. Stay tuned...

Got Press?

The Ithaca Times, issue dated March 2, 2005, covered the Ithaca Libertarians in a feature article. Great press for our new chapter.

