

And the County Party is coming out of obscurity. We were honored to have a Tribune reporter present who stayed for the entire three hours of the convention followed by an hour interviewing delegates. His report, published in the March 20 issue of the Salt Lake Tribune, closes our Convention newsletter.



Salt Lake Constitution Party Newsletter- April 2008

Salt Lake County Constitution Party Hosts a Successful Convention

Theme: "You Can Make a Difference"

Forty-seven party delegates from 25 of the 30 Legislative Districts in Salt Lake County gathered at the Salt Lake Community College in Sandy on March 29 in the Nominating Convention which is held in even number years.

Enthusiasm was high as the delegates noted that the County Party has fielded more candidates this year than ever before, some 25 in all.

The highlight of the Convention was when 93-year old Barbara Benton addressed the meeting. In announcing her candidacy for Legislative District 34 seat, she noted that if a 93 year old lady can make a difference, you can too.



93-year old Barbara Benton announces her candidacy for Legislative District 34 House seat.

The Convention keynote speaker was State Vice Chairman David Perry who introduced the Convention Theme noting the tremendous progress the party has made in the past two years. He reaffirmed his commitment to making a difference by winning his race for District 45 House Seat.



David Perry pledging to win District 45 seat.

Our State Party Chairman Frank Fluckiger described the impact the Utah Constitution Party is having in the Nation. With Salt



State Party Chair Frank Fluckiger addressing the Convention

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Constitution Party Group puts up atypical options to GOP, Dems

Members, who read the U.S. Constitution literally, say Republicans are too liberal

By ROBERT GERIKE
The Salt Lake Tribune

SANDY — With her 93rd birthday around the corner and her hearing shaky, Barbara Benton is not the typical House candidate. But, then, this is not the typical party.

Benton is a member of the Constitution Party, a small but strident group who adhere to a literal interpretation of the U.S. Constitution. On Saturday, about 30 members of the party met in Sandy for their county convention.

"I don't know everything about government yet. I'm still learning, but I do know the difference between right and wrong," said Benton, who walked throughout her neighborhood inviting people to her caucus. Only one person showed.

The Constitution Party is small in numbers but there are signs of growth, its ranks swelling with disaffected voters who complain the Republican Party is just too liberal, too self-serving, too willing to abandon the Constitution. Too much like the Democrats.

"Almost everybody here has been a Republican, and we didn't leave the party, they left us," said Dave Perry, who ran for Congress last election and is running this year in state House District 45.

They are also benefitting from the Ron Paul Revolution, even though

Party basks in Ron Paul's candidacy

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Paul, himself a strict constitutionalist, is still technically seeking the Republican nomination for president.

"He's 100 percent in line with us. He's 100 percent constitutionalist, and that's a very exciting thing," said county

Party Chairman Leonard Olds. State Party Chairman Frank Fluckiger expects as many as 80 percent of Paul's supporters in Utah to find a home in the Constitution Party.

Statewide, the party has fielded 45 legislative candidates, 24 in Salt Lake County alone, as well as a congressional candidate in each district, and a state auditor candidate, the most successful recruiting effort ever for the party. And for the first time in the county party's history, delegates had to vote for a candidate. They picked Steve

Maxfield Sr. over Randy Lee Browning to take on Republican Sen. Chris Butters.

Olds, who worked for noted constitutionalist Cleon Skousen years ago, predicts one of the party's candidates will win this November. The party's cornerstone is the strident belief that God is the source of rights and government should only be doing those things that are explicitly spelled out in the U.S. Constitution.

"This land is holy land, and we've allowed it to be desecrated," said Ruth Christiansen, a national delegate who teaches the U.S. Constitution to 18

homeschooled children.

As the party reads it, rooting its beliefs in the Constitution leads to an anti-abortion stance; a hard-line position on immigration; support for gun rights; doing away with the federal income tax, the Federal Reserve and federal control of education and welfare.

Several on Saturday said the U.S. government is nearly as bad as that of Nazi Germany. The looming threat, in the party's view, is the North American Union, a merging of the United States, Canada and Mexico, which hasn't been formally proposed by any of the

three governments, but is good fodder for conspiracy theorists.

"The reason we're looked upon as kooks is people don't understand. They don't understand the concept of limited government," said Olds. "They don't understand the concept of freedom. They don't understand their freedom is being taken away."

Mike Nichols, running for House District 31, got the message. He said he is a former Army intelligence officer who found out about the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks 15 years in advance and that it was part of the government's 100-year plan.

"These events the government has occurring do not take place in a short period of time. They are always [planned] 10 to 25 years out," Nichols said. "It's a big grand design and this North American Union that is coming up is part of it."

But the party's supporters are committed and its ranks growing, and Joyce Wyatt says Benton proves that a few people still can make a difference.

"If a 93-year-old woman who can barely hear is here standing up for freedom," she asks, "where is everybody else?"

gerike@trib.com

In Conclusion: Can you help us make a difference?

Lake County's monthly commitment of \$350 to the President's club, Utah's Presidential commitment has reached \$1500 which will be one of the largest commitments nationally.

Frank noted the impact this will have by allowing our Party to put a true conservative on the Presidential ballot.

He also contrasted the current loss of freedom in the United States with that experienced by his grandfather in Germany just prior to World War II. He noted that many of his German friends have commented on the significant parallels between these two time periods.

Our County Party crossed an important milestone at the Convention by have two fine Constitutionlists vying for the Party's endorsement for State Senate District 10 seat. Randy Browning of South Jordan and Steve Maxfield Sr of Herriman both addressed the Convention seeking the Party's endorsement. Randy is a former Vice Chairman of the County Party. Steve recently registered in time to host a Party Caucus in his home.

The election was cast in Steve's favor and Randy has offered to help Steve with his important State Senate campaign.



Randy Browning (left) and Steve Maxfield Sr (right) addressing the Convention for State Senate District 10 Seat.

Twenty-three other party members received the County Party's unanimous endorsement for office. They were:

Thomas Mangum Leg Dist 22
 Clark Miles Leg Dist 25
 Michael Jordan Leg Dist 26
 Jared Beck Leg Dist 28
 Ray Pearson Leg Dist 29
 Melody Chapman Leg Dist 30
 Michael Nichols Leg Dist 31
 Jenny Schmith Leg Dist 32
 John Horne Leg Dist 33
 Barbara Benton Leg Dist 34

Nishan Beglarian Leg Dist 36
 Patricia Van Duren Leg Dist 37
 Matthew Woolley Leg Dist 41
 Barbara Neville Leg Dist 43
 Dave Perry Leg Dist 45
 Katie Cameron Leg Dist 46
 Joye Wyatt Leg Dist 47
 Leona Olds Leg Dist 48
 Wayne Crawford Leg Dist 49
 Russ Hatch Leg Dist 50
 James Peverelle Sen Dist 5
 Liz Phalp Sen Dist 8
 Leonard Olds County Mayor

Since of necessity our convention had to be held within three days of our caucuses, a number of these candidates were not able to attend the convention. However sixteen of the unopposed candidates gathered at the front of the convention for an impressive photo-op.



Sixteen of The Convention's Unopposed Candidates, from left to right:
 Back row : Tom Mangum, Jared Beck, John Horne, Matt Woolley, Dave Perry, Russ Hatch, James Peverelle Jr, Leonard Olds
 Front row: Mike Nichols, Jenny Schmith, Barbara Benton, Nishan Beglarian, Barbara Neville, Leona Olds, Katie Cameron, Joye Wyatt

Several displays emphasized the growth of our County Party included:

- A summary of Salt Lake County Constitution Party 2008 Caucuses;
 - A display of Salt Lake County Political Election Districts including Constitution Party Legislative District Chairmen and Candidates;
 - A Display of the Institute on the Constitution Kit as shown below.
- It was noted that the long range goal of the County Party is to have an IOTC seminar conducted in each of the 850 County Precincts.

