

Citizen's Courier

Join Us For the
Constitution Party of Ohio

Fall Convention
October 9-10, 2015



at the

Cherry Valley Lodge

2299 Cherry Valley Road
Newark, Ohio 43055

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In spite of the Republicans trying to kill all minor political parties through the egregious SB 193, exciting things are happening in Ohio with respect to the Constitution Party of Ohio! First and foremost, I want all of you to set aside October 9th and 10th for our biannual State Convention. Once again, as it was two years ago, it will be held at the Cherry Valley Lodge in Newark, OH, just east of Columbus. Thus it is centrally located so that all can readily attend. Gale Joy, State Secretary, and I have been working on putting together a great agenda and you all need to be there – BOTH DAYS. At the same time, we need some help with various aspects of the Convention and solicit your help in so doing.

The \$60 Convention Fee not only covers the cost of the meeting rooms but also includes the Saturday luncheon, so that is a real bargain for anyone that knows about typical hotel convention costs. Also, lodging rooms are available at the Cherry Valley Lodge that weekend for \$119 plus 13.25% state and local taxes; \$20 plus tax more for a courtyard view.

The tentative agenda for the Convention is currently as follows:

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

12:45 to 1:00 PM – First Day Opening Exercises: Prayer, pledge of allegiance, announcements

1:00 to 3:45 PM – Publius Huldah will be our Convention Kickoff Speaker. You can find out more about her by Googling her name which will take you to her blog. She is a nationally recognized expert on the Constitution and it is a real coup to have her open the Convention. She will be speaking on such topics as the importance of the Declaration of Independence, the importance of the enumerated powers in the Constitution, among other similar topics. Plus, given the Supreme Court decisions the past couple of days, she may well have many more items to address. You need to make plans to hear this exciting speaker!!

3:45 to 4:00 PM – Comfort Break

4:00 to 5:30 PM – Chad Koppie will be our guest speaker. Mr. Koppie is seeking the Constitution Party's nomination for President at the National Nominating Convention next spring (currently planned to be held in Salt Lake City, UT.) Mr. Koppie is an active farmer from Illinois and a retired American Airlines pilot. Mr. Koppie has run several times for the U.S. Senate from Illinois on the Constitution Party ticket. He will speak for around 40 minutes, then open the floor for questions, and spend the last 15 minutes mingling with the attendees.

5:30 to 7:30 PM – Dinner on your own

7:30 to 9:00 PM – Scott Copeland will be our next guest speaker. Mr. Copeland is also seeking the Constitution Party's nomination for President at the National Nominating Convention next Spring. A pastor who currently resides in Texas, he formerly hailed from Mississippi. You can find out more about Mr. Copeland by Googling "Scott Copeland for President" or visiting his website: www.scottcopelandusa.com Like Mr. Koppie, Mr. Copeland will be speaking for around 40 minutes and then open the floor for questions. The last 15 minutes will be spent then mingling with the attendees.

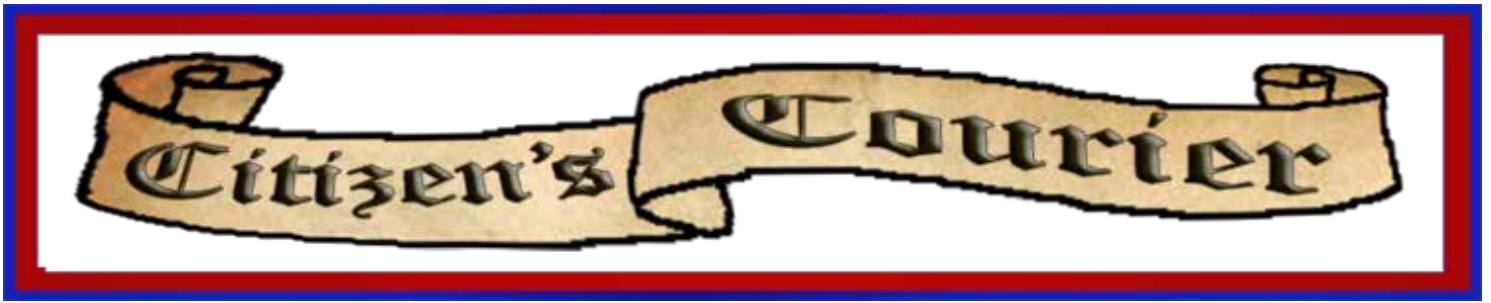
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

8:00 to 8:15 AM – Second Day, Convention Opening Exercises: Prayer, pledge of allegiance, announcements.

8:15 to 9:45 AM – A third possible Presidential Candidate has been invited IF he decides to announce his candidacy in the near future, otherwise we will provide an alternative speaker for this spot.

9:45 to 10:00 AM – Comfort Break

10:00 AM to Noon – Cynthia Davis, from Missouri, will be speaking on "Campaigning for Office." Cynthia is a former four-term Republican Missouri State Legislator who joined the Constitution Party because the



Republican Party left her. A dynamic speaker and personality, as well as being a wife, co-business owner with her husband, and home schooling mom to seven children. You can find out more about her by visiting her Home Front website at: www.cynthiadavis.net. Yes, we are going to encourage Constitution Party candidates to run in 2016; see more below about how we plan to do that.

12:00 to 1:00 PM – Lunch provided as part of the Registration Fee.

1:00 to 2:15 PM – Randy Stufflebeam, Constitution Party National Vice Chairman and State Chairman for Illinois, will be our Keynote Speaker speaking on “Thinking Beyond the Circle.” All of you who know Randy, know I will have to work to tone him down a little for his talk but he will definitely provide some fire to continue to help motivate us as a Party to overcome our barriers to success, both statewide and nationally.

2:15 to 2:30 PM – Comfort Break

2:30 to 5:00 PM – Convention Business to include: Reports by the State Secretary and Treasurer; Consideration of Delegates and Proxies to the National Nominating Convention next Spring; Updates to the State Party Platform, particularly regarding the section on the “Judiciary” which was postponed earlier; Changes to the Bylaws; Further discussion on growing the Party and

campaigning for political office in 2016, to include getting our Presidential / Vice Presidential nominee on the ballot.

NEEDED HELP FROM YOU WITH THE CONVENTION:

With respect to the Convention, we will need help with the following, among other items that will undoubtedly pop up between now and then:

We will likely need someone(s) to host Publius Huldah and her husband/chauffeur on Thursday evening, October 8. We will be putting them up at the Cherry Valley Lodge for the night. I am not sure at this point what time they expect to arrive but it is likely we will want someone from the Party to meet them and then take them to dinner.

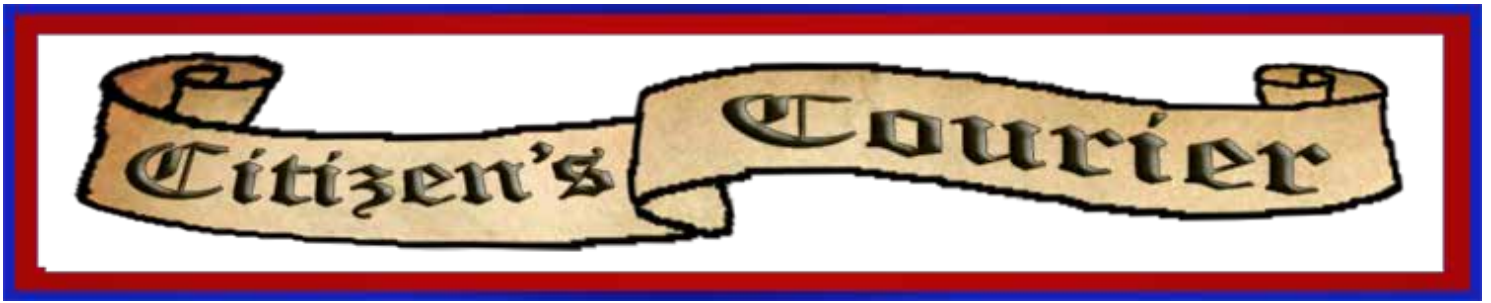
We need help “advertising” this event. I put “advertising” in quotations because I am not necessarily talking about paying for radio and print media advertising although that is not out of the question. We need each of you to pass along this information to others whom you think might be interested in learning more about the Constitution Party and/or joining us. I am working on some aspects of promoting the Party and the Convention such as having it covered on blog talk radio by at least Robert Jetter and his Bard’s Logic show. There may be others

whereby we can at least obtain interviews regarding the Party and the Convention. Maybe someone like Ben Swann would interview some of us on his radio program as part of the promotion. Give me your suggestions or help facilitate such if you have an idea.

1. We will need help with set up, registration, etc.
2. We will need someone(s) to photograph and video record the entire series of Convention events
3. We will need signage at the Convention
4. We will need help with sound systems
5. WE NEED HELP WITH SETTING UP AND CONDUCTING A GUN RAFFLE!!

We would like to hold a gun raffle, selling tickets for the next several months prior to the Convention with the winner(s) to be drawn and announced during the Convention (no – the person(s) will NOT need to be at the Convention to win).

WE ALSO NEED MONEY VIA DONATIONS. Even though we will need to have a Convention Fee to cover costs such as the meeting rooms, the Saturday luncheon, etc., we will have



other expenses to cover and I would like not to have to cover them out of my pocket – which is NOT all that deep. We will need to cover travel and hotel expenses for our guest speakers like Publius, Cynthia, and Randy. I am NOT planning to cover expenses for those seeking the Presidential nomination as I expect them to cover their expenses out of their campaign funds; however, they will be permitted, of course, to seek campaign donations from us. The more we receive donations ahead of time, even from those who will be unable(unfortunately to be sure) to attend the Convention in person.

[Contribute](#)

CAMPAIGNING FOR OFFICE IN OHIO:

Certainly, with respect to campaigning for office in Ohio, we are unfairly constrained by SB 193. Since we are no longer a recognized Party in Ohio by the Secretary of State's Office (although they still want us to submit regular reports to the Campaign Finance Office because the Secretary of State's Office has not been given any directive "from on high" regarding disestablished minor political parties), we are not able to place nominees for office on any ballots in Ohio as "Constitution Party" candidates. You can read my analysis of the effects of SB-193 on our state party website:

www.cpofohio.org. The bottom line is that it is beyond our current resources and beyond reasonable for us to try to gain full ballot access for the near future. If you have questions about this, please feel free to contact me for more information.

However, just because we cannot place anyone on the ballot officially as an Constitution Party candidate, does not mean we cannot run Constitution Party candidates for office. This is how I see it working. We encourage Party affiliates to file as Independents for the various elections. We will give them the Party's endorsement via our Bylaws. Those receiving our Party's endorsement will be permitted and encouraged to run publically as Constitution Party candidates promising to uphold and abide by the State Party platform. While they may be on the ballot officially as an Independent candidate, nothing can currently prevent them from aligning publically with the Constitution Party and claiming that their platform is the Party's platform. "If you want to know where I stand on the issues, read the Ohio Constitution Party platform at www.cpofohio.org/about-platform.html." Candidates need to know our platform and use its contents to debate opponents from the other Parties. Once elected to office, these same persons can continue to proclaim their affiliation

with the Constitution Party. With or without the Fair Ballot Access Initiative succeeding, the Constitution Party of Ohio can still succeed!

(See: <http://www.fairballotaccess.com>)

With respect to our Party's Presidential/Vice Presidential candidates, we have a couple of options. The first and best is to get them on the ballot officially as Independent candidates, and as above, have them campaign in Ohio as Constitution Party candidates in accord with the Constitution Party platform with our official endorsement. The second possibility but less desirable is to have them run as write-in candidates. This was the fate of Chuck Baldwin and Darrell Castle in 2008 when they received 12,565 votes, which is almost twice what Virgil Goode received as the official Constitution Party candidate on the ballot. The least desirable and unacceptable is for us to do nothing! These options will be further discussed at the State Convention which should result in some excellent discussions once we have had the opportunity to see and hear some of our Party's potential candidates.

I trust this gives you a good idea as to where we, as the Constitution Party of Ohio, are headed and what you can expect as we continue to move forward. To do this we need your help. We need for people to continue to

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actively seek Party leadership positions at the State and particularly at the County level. We need active County leaders in all 88 counties in Ohio. We currently have a few and some have expressed interest in becoming County Chairmen and I trust we will soon see them appointed as such. Finally, as much as I hate to say it, we need money to operate. We have an austere budget and we don't necessarily need huge funds, but we need more than we are receiving currently so please consider making a donation to the Ohio Constitution Party, which you can send a donation by check to the State PO Box, or [Contribute](#) online via PayPal where you may also use most credit cards. - Don Shrader, Chairman



CRITICAL UPDATE

Don Shrader, Chairman
chairman@cpofohio.org

All,

I really need to begin to get a head count for the Ohio Constitution Party State Convention, October 9-10. I need YOU to commit to being there and I need it now – before I make a final commitment to the Cherry Valley Lodge and have to pay a hefty cancellation fee IF we have to cancel

later. We are still working on setting the final convention Registration Fee, based upon how many are coming and how much we pay out of the state treasury which is meager at best since only a few people contribute on any kind of regular basis; maybe we need to go back to instituting annual dues for Party members. We did not do away with the dues because we did not need operating funds but did so such that people would not feel constrained to give in order to participate especially when we do have members on which it would be a financial hardship.

Gale Joy and I have worked hard to put together a really good Convention in my mind. Gale lined up our opening speaker, Publius Huldah. I am thinking since she speaks on Friday afternoon, maybe we do not charge for her talk or only charge a nominal fee in order to expand the audience for her. Let me know your thoughts.

In addition to Publius, we have at least two of the potential CP Presidential candidates coming to speak and interact with those in attendance. There will be time for questions and a time to meet and greet with them personally on Friday late afternoon and evening. If another candidate announces soon, we will try to get him for Saturday morning.

Late Saturday morning, we have Cynthia Davis from Missouri coming to

speaking. She is a dynamic speaker. She is a former Missouri legislator and will be speaking on running for public office. I have heard her talk on this before and therefore requested that she speak on the subject at our Convention.

The registration fee includes the Saturday luncheon which the Cherry Valley Lodge has made available to us at a very reasonable fee - \$16, almost unheard of low price for any kind of banquet luncheon. A couple of years ago, my wife and I paid \$50 each to attend our 50th high school reunion held at a Miami University facility and the food was not any better than what we will get at the Cherry Valley Lodge. The same thing is true for the National CP Conventions I and others have attended. The luncheon speaker will be our Constitution Party National Vice Chairman – if he recovers enough from his recent motorcycle accident to be there; I assume he will.

We also have some important state business to conduct including a discussion of how we run for office in the near future.

Folks, I cannot state this loud enough. I need you to plan to attend our State Convention and I need your commitment now!

Constitution Party of Ohio
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