

No Strikes in Iraq and Syria

SEPT 12 2014

Liberty Union's Candidate for Congress
By MATTHEW ANDREWS



**Graphic -
Courtesy of Antiimperialistische Ak-
tion**

As the Liberty Union Party candidate for Congress, I call on the people of Vermont to join us in opposing more bloodshed in Iraq and Syria. Vermonters will have an opportunity to vote for peace in the November elections, but the current situation is too urgent to wait. We must flood the streets and apply all reasonable non-violent pressure on our representatives in Washington DC - Bernie Sanders, Patrick Leahy, and Peter Welch - to drop their support for war.



When President Obama took office in 2008, his administration scuttled the rhetoric of a 'War on Terror' but the substance of US foreign policy has not changed. On the eve of the 13th anniversary of the attacks on 9/11, Obama announced a new assault on Iraq and Syria, using US air strikes, arms, money, training, and over 1,500 U.S. ground troops. The fact that Obama must limit the number of ground troops and the role they

will play is a testament to the power of our anti-war movement. To stop these endless wars however, we must defeat Islamophobia, inspire Americans to love our brothers and sisters in the Middle East as our own, and replace the war economy with a peace economy.

As a US Army Intelligence officer reading internal military reports, whistle-blower Chelsea Manning saw how the US military supported Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki by cracking down on dissidents. Critics who had done nothing more than speak out against corruptions were treated like terrorists, imprisoned without trial, and in some cases tortured or even killed.

US intervention in the Middle East has destroyed entire countries, killing hundreds of thousands, injuring, displacing, and traumatizing millions, and propping up sectarian regimes. Out of this chaos, brutal forces such as ISIS will continue to thrive.

The MENA revolutions, which overthrew the US client states of Tunisia and Egypt, show that Arab societies can fight for democracy and human rights themselves, if they are not militarily repressed. It is a slow process that can blossom if we stop our government from meddling in the affairs of others.

ISIS is not a threat to the United States. It does however threaten US investments and resource extraction from Iraq. The Obama administration is continuing the same US foreign policy since the Cold War of treating the rest of the world as a place to be dominated and exploited through bribes when possible and force if necessary. This is why the US and anyone who associates with our government in the Middle East is viewed as illegitimate. Our standing in the world would be vastly better, and our influence correspondingly greater, if the billions we spend on war instead went to aiding civilians.

Vermont's representatives in Washington DC and the Obama Administra-

tion need to recognize that their invasions, drone wars, and air strikes have been a total disaster. The first step to ending terrorism will be to stop participating in it. End the air strikes, close the bases, and bring the troops home! The United States should also join the International Criminal Court and cooperate with the enforcement of international laws. We must negotiate with Russia and other world powers to cease all arms shipments to the region and negotiate a rapprochement between hostile forces to end the bloodshed.

Our commitment to peace must go beyond a bumper sticker. It must even go beyond voting for Liberty Union candidates on election day. Vermonters must build a mass movement with the backing of unions, a political party, worker co-ops, an independent mass media and other community institutions to make our love for peace an irresistible force.

Solidarity with Protestors in Ferguson and Gaza

AUGUST 18, 2014

By MARINA BROWN

Marina Brown - Candidate for VT Lt. Governor expresses her solidarity with protestors in Ferguson Mo and in Gaza facing the boot of police and military oppression. I salute the bravery of Americans who are for the first time in many years truly fighting back against their own oppressive government.

I condemn the attempts to coopt the protests in Ferguson by the Missouri

State police. Changing police departments does not change the fact that police of all stripes are implementing the oppression of black, minority and poor working people through the very laws they enforce. Their job is not to serve and protect the people but to enforce the brutal rule of the corporate oligarchy.



I am very encouraged at the mutual solidarity shown by Gazans who are victims of imperialist oppression with oppressed peoples in the United States. This mutual solidarity is a powerful tool to help end international rule by imperialist countries and their corporate bosses.

It is time that the world be run for the benefit of all rather than for the benefit of the few who profit from imperialism, the prison industrial complex and ownership of the world.

Marina has been active with the Vermont Liberty Union Party since 1987 when she helped get Herb Lewin in the presidential primaries. She has worked as a labor activist, housing activist and occupier. She likes to make the job of NSA spies harder by teaching encryption to anyone who asks. Marina struggles with poor health but when she wins out against health issues she likes to run or walk ultramarathon distances.

JACKOWSKI CAMPAIGN STATEMENT 2014

Official CAMPAIGN STATEMENT
of Candidate for Vermont Attorney General.

By ROSEMARIE JACKOWSKI

Here's the Plan . . .

1. At the top of the list is the protection of the most vulnerable. Every case of reported abuse of the disabled or elderly must be investigated in a timely manner - and prosecuted if the facts support prosecution. A backlog of hundreds of abuse cases shows a shocking lack of appreciation for the dignity of all human beings. This should never happen again. No excuses. No exceptions.
2. Call for a moratorium on the militarization of local police departments. The acquisition of unnecessary military equipment has many disadvantages. It places a burden on taxpayers. It also creates a militarized culture in small towns.
3. Thoroughly investigate every police shooting - especially when an unarmed civilian is killed.
4. Review/rescind the State policy which prohibits doctors/dentists, licensed in other States, from rendering compassionate medical care in Vermont.
5. Insure the privacy of all medical records.
6. Increase support of consumer protection. Increase access to the justice system for low income Vermonters. Increase transparency in government. Increase funding for Health Care Advocates. Reduce/eliminate the awarding of no-bid contracts by the State.
7. Increase the Prosecution of violent crime, home invasion, and other offences which are a threat to public safety.
8. Support farmers and the economy by encouraging the cultivation of hemp as an agricultural product.
9. Rescind the Vermont policy which supports the frivolous Defense of the State in cases where the State is clearly at fault. When a person is injured or killed - or when there is damage to property caused by carelessness or negligence by the State, there should be no gaming of the system by the State. The Courts should never be used as a tool to prohibit justice. In addition, it is a waste of taxpayer money to litigate every case. Sometimes an offer of a fair settlement would save money and insure a fair outcome. Sovereign Immunity should never be used to deprive citizens of Justice. Eminent Domain should be used only in the extremely rare case when the public good demands it.
10. Restore the First Amendment in Vermont. Political speech in public tax supported facilities should never be censored. (See photos on the Internet of Dennis Steele being arrested.) The banning of political books by public tax supported libraries should no longer be permitted. The chipping away of Constitutional Rights should never be trivialized. Academic freedom in high schools and colleges must be supported.

The bottom line is this: The Office of Attorney General should never be used as a political tool. The power of the office is a sacred trust that must insure justice for all. The Office of Attorney General should set the ethical standard for Vermont.

"When Fascism came, it was not brought by uniformed troops. It was not imposed at the point of a gun. Fascism came because citizens were too distracted to pay attention. Voters were too misinformed to cast intelligent ballots. And the mass of people failed to recognize the inherent danger in the censoring of speech and the banning of books." RMJ

Rosemarie Jackowski is an Advocacy Journalist, Founder of Justice for Children, a member of Veterans for Peace, and author of BANNED IN VERMONT.

Rosemarie Jackowski is a peace activist and advocacy journalist. She has spent many years in public and private education. Her first year of teaching was in a public school in New Jersey in 1957. She has been a resident of Vermont since 1985. She welcomes questions and comments. Phone 802-447-0868. E-mail dissent@sover.net

Liberty Union candidate for Congress attends Climate Change Rally

SEPTEMBER 19, 2014

Liberty Union's Candidate for Congress
By MATTHEW ANDREWS

The Liberty Union Party candidate for Congress, Matthew Andrews, will be joining hundreds of Vermonters, and thousands more from all over the world, for the weekend in New York City to pressure world leaders at the UN to take meaningful counter-measures against climate change.

The devastating storms, forest fires, droughts, rising sea levels, and destruction of ecosystems that we've seen in the last decade are just the beginning. The national security threat that our government should be pouring billions of dollars into is not another pointless war in the Middle East, but an economic transformation away from fossil fuels.

**CLIMATE
CHANGE
KILLS**

Green consumption is no solution for an underlying economic system that is driven to extract resources to the point of exhaustion. Climate scientists are telling us that in order to prevent global catastrophe we must leave two thirds of the world's known oil reserves in the ground. This is like asking the fossil fuel industry to commit suicide. Under the capitalist system there is no way to make a rational decision like changing our energy system to be in harmony with the Earth. A mass movement with clear demands is our only hope.

I am calling for the nationalization of the fossil fuel industry. Wall Street investors should not be allowed to profit

from the irreversible destruction of environmental conditions that gave rise to civilization over the last 10,000 years. The profits of the fossil fuel industry ought to be used to develop alternative energy systems as well as pay reparations to the people who have been victimized by illegitimate wars for oil.

As a transitional demand, I am also joining the popular call from leading climate scientist, James Hansen, for a "fee and dividend" plan. The idea is to tax the consumption of fossil fuels, but also to redistribute the revenue equally to all citizens. The fee will discourage wasteful consumption, but the dividend will be a net gain for poor people who need fossil fuels to commute through no fault of their own.

Lastly, we need to vastly expand public transportation in the United States, connecting isolated communities, creating good union jobs, relieving traffic on our highways, and economizing our consumption of fuel.

The harsh class divisions created by capitalism has kept half the world in poverty while the rest of the 99% are saddled by debt and wage labor. These conditions make it nearly impossible to be politically engaged citizens. We need a social transformation toward a classless society in order to address climate change. We can no longer afford the old habit of thinking we must choose between jobs, or the environment, or racial justice. More than ever before, our struggle is for all or nothing.

The success of a mass movement to address climate change will be intertwined with our ability to create a socialist political party, revolutionary unions, worker owned cooperatives, credit unions, an independent media, and engaged democratic communities.

For more about organizing for eco-socialist perspectives, please visit:
<http://systemchangenotclimatechange.org/>

**SOLIDARITY WITH
THE FIGHT FOR
\$15**

By MATTHEW ANDREWS

On Sept. 4, five hundred fast food workers in 150 cities walked out on strike to protest the minimum wage. They are demanding a living wage of \$15 an hour and a meaningful right to organize and collectively bargain for respect and better working conditions on the job. As the Liberty Union Party candidate for Congress, I am proud to support this national movement and pledge my commitment to fight for these demands in Congress.



The pundits of the corporate media would have us believe that wages are determined by natural forces that workers and government cannot alter them without causing more harm than good. This view is very comforting for the corporations that make huge profits from our labor, but it has no basis in reality.

Wages are determined by the balance of power between working people and employers. When workers have student loans, precarious access to health care, high rent, and many other bills, it's hard to demand higher wages. It's also hard to demand higher wages when 17 million people are out of work and corporations are sending jobs over seas to avoid US labor laws, environmental protections, and taxes. If workers are unable defend themselves against exploitation, it is essential that government set a floor.

The fight for fifteen is an exciting development for social movement unionism. Workers are organizing not merely to make demands for themselves, but for all low wage workers. Their demands extend beyond their particular employer.

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The Fight for \$15

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They understand that the problem isn't just the executives at McDonald's or Wendy's. It's the low wage regime that enables them. Many are even questioning capitalism.

Despite fear-mongering in the media, studies have shown that there is little evidence to suggest a higher minimum wage would cause layoffs or higher prices for consumers. Employers can deal with higher labor costs in many ways, including a cut in profits. The Economic Policy Institute has shown that rising productivity has not been matched by rising wages for decades. Instead corporations are raking in record profits.

A more equal economy is a healthier economy overall. When minimum wage workers get a raise, people with slightly higher wages get a raise as well. These workers spend that money in their communities for goods and services. So while business fight against raises for their own workers, when it is done across all businesses it can actually improve the economy.

There are many reasons why government may decide that it is good public policy to support businesses, but it shouldn't be done at the expense of working people. To consider any business viable, it must provide jobs that meet certain minimum standards.

In addition to a higher minimum wage, I support a national guaranteed income that would replace the current complex and degrading welfare system. We also need to make life affordable in the United States by forgiving student loans, creating publicly owned banks, instituting universal health care, guaranteeing access to affordable housing, free child care, and expanded public transportation; and replacing price-gauging monopolies with public utilities. This is the economic program we need to transition away from capitalism. The ultimate goal of the socialist movement is to distribute ownership of the workplace to workers themselves, so rather than struggling against a handful of owners for higher wages, we can debate and decide

for ourselves how much our business can afford to pay.

These latest actions by fast food workers demonstrates the power of collective action. Together working people are a mighty force. But to coordinate that strength for the complex and arduous journey ahead, working people must solidify themselves into a revolutionary union and political party. The Liberty Union Party is proud to be a part of this project in Vermont.

For more information on the fast food workers strike, visit <http://strikefastfood.org/>

Conservation, Not Capitalism

By LYNN RUSSELL - BRATTLEBORO

This letter is in response to the article Fair Game: 'Calling Comcast' that appeared in Seven Days on August 27th.

It's no wonder Shumlin backs a corporate merger bordering on a monopoly: He is one of the wealthy who suffer from the addiction to money. Like so many others, he cannot get enough money to fill the inner void. Why else would a smart man, who two years ago opposed fracking, make a deal with the gas companies to escalate the threat to Vermont's beautiful environment by building a pipeline to carry fracked gas under Lake Champlain and through the state? At the same time, scientists are boldly warning that carbon emissions need to be reduced by 80 percent by the year 2050 in order to protect the sustainability of life on Earth.

Instead of hoarding more dollars for the wealthy, Shumlin, Comcast and the gas companies should be devising ways to super-insulate all buildings in Vermont to reduce our carbon footprint by 80 to 90 percent. They have money and influence to do it. Do they have the will to protect life? Our environment? Our future? If not, the voters have the power to remove Shumlin from office. Vote for

noncapitalists. Any newcomer can do no worse than Republicans and Democrats have done to this Earth.

Andrews Urges Sanders to Speak Out For peace at Labor Day rally

By MATTHEW ANDREWS



Labor unions, the Vermont Workers' Center, and Senator Bernie Sanders held a Labor Day rally at Battery Park in Burlington, Vermont. There were about a hundred people gathered and many good activists gave speeches about their labor struggles. UVM faculty and Fair Point cable workers are both in contract battles. There were also speakers representing UVM students, the victorious Teamster bus drivers, Migrant Justice, and others. The final speech was Bernie Sanders. He talked about wealth inequality, unemployment, health care reform, and the climate. Despite some fiery rhetoric about class war, his analysis wasn't different from the Democratic Party line. He blamed the greedy Koch brothers and the Citizen's United Supreme Court decision. No mention of the raging wars or the military industrial complex. So afterwards I was able to approach him and shake his hand. I said, 'My name is Matthew Andrews. I am the Liberty Union Party candidate for Congress. I agree with much of what you said, but I wish you had mentioned the military

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Andrews Urges Sanders to Speak Out

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industrial complex and the slaughter in Gaza.' His response was that he had to make a short speech, but his position is on his website. I pushed him to include just one sentence next time - 'it's important if we're going to build a peace movement. It needs to be talked about.' But he got defensive and said he didn't want to argue about it. It's a shame that Bernie can decry the power of money in politics yet not come clean with his constituents about why he supports wars and war spending.

I spoke to both friends and new people in the crowd. Many were well aware of the limits of Bernie Sanders. Some agreed that we need an independent political party for working people, but were also very skeptical of entering electoral politics in any way. The magnetic pull of opportunism upon a candidate who tastes any success is so powerful, it's hard to imagine things any other way. Building strong mass movements is definitely a starting point we could all agree on. I also spoke with folks from the Vermont Workers Center. They say they are non-partisan, which is great. I assume this means they will be equally enthusiastic about hosting a labor rally with someone from Liberty Union as the keynote speaker?

I met a woman who said she was a former elementary school teacher who was fired. She said the principal threatened her and the union if she brought her case to arbitration and her union caved to the pressure. The other teachers were afraid of being fired. The union reps were busy planning their work around their vacations. Because she was in a union, she couldn't hire a lawyer to litigate her termination. After paying union dues for 26 years she was forced into early retirement and lost her home. Stories like this are the inconvenient truth behind a weak labor movement that we rarely hear progressives or liberals talk about. Unions accept a huge responsibility when they become the sole bargaining agent of workers. When they fail in their duty to organize and fight, it should be obvious why working people withdraw their support. I gave my

highest regards to this brave woman who came out for a Labor Day rally despite the failure of her particular union in her personal case.

Rallies are a great opportunity to demonstrate our size and unity but we need a revolutionary union and a workers' political party to help us think through the challenges that lie ahead and convert our numbers into political muscle that will hold our supposed leaders accountable in both the workplace and Congress.

Bomber Bernie Can't Take the Heat

AUGUST 17, 2014

—
By JAY MOORE

It seems Bernie Sanders wants to become President and one of the titular Masters of the Universe. But how is the man going to deal with an international crisis with the fate of the world at stake when he can't even deal with a little righteous heat right in his own backyard? A handful of activists from Code Pink and Occupy Central Vermont went to a town hall meeting in Cabot, Vermont on Saturday, hosted by Bernie Sanders and loudly confronted him on his unconscionable support for Israel's murderous attacks on Palestinians in Gaza. His reaction was to freak out and call the state police on us, who came rushing through town at high speed as if there was a crime in progress.

Many on the Left outside of Vermont think Bernie is just wonderful. But they don't know him as we do. He may be pretty decent on domestic issues, at least relative to the other set of bad to horrible choices in the U.S. political spectrum. Yet, ever since he's been in the U.S. Congress, he has been consistently atrocious on U.S.-launched and U.S.-supported wars, especially in the Middle East.

This is not the first time Bernie has sicced the cops on anti-war protesters. He had a number of us arrested for sitting-in at his congressional office in Burlington at the time of Clinton's "humanitarian" bombing of Yugoslavia, which Bernie was happily supporting. This led a disgusted local Marxist, who was one of those arrested, to write the essay "Bernie the Bomber's Bad Week".

Bernie was an "avowed socialist" when he started out his electoral career in the early 1980s. He displayed a portrait of Eugene Debs over his desk in his Burlington mayoral office. But today Bernie never even uses the term, "working class," much less talks about what socialism means. That's been totally dropped from his vocabulary as he seeks higher and higher offices. His populist rhetoric is now all about saving the threatened American middle class. Lost is any sense that maybe the middle class got to where it was not only by virtue of hard work but also by living in an imperialist country that benefits off the exploitation of people in the Third World. There is no sense that the American middle class standard of living is indefensible if we are going to move to a more sustainable way of living on the Earth; sharing its resources in a more equitable manner.

Genuine socialists like Eugene Debs are internationalists. Rock bottom is building solidarity for working class and oppressed people all over the world. Israel was created by and continues to be an outpost of Western colonialism. It has no right to exist, at least not in its present form, any more than did apartheid South Africa or the Jim Crow American South. Resistance to Israel is taking many forms, from an armed defensive struggle in Gaza to non-violent anti-Apartheid Wall protests on the West Bank to a growing boycott, divestment and sanctions movement in this country and elsewhere. Zionist money has a tenacious grip on American politicians. No profiles in courage there. But they have to know they will be confronted.

BEN BOSLEY FOR STATE SENATE

**BEN BOSLEY FOR VERMONT
STATE SENATE GRAND ISLE
COUNTY**

SEPTEMBER 2014

By **BEN BOSLEY**



“ For a more beautiful Vermont our heart and mind know is possible. ”

I'm Ben Bosley and I'm a candidate for Vermont state senate from Colchester and the Islands. People who signed petitions to put me on the ballot told me of their many concerns and issues. Jobs vanish, higher property tax force many retired people to sell their homes, college costs go out of reach. Political gridlock and income inequality is worse then ever before. Income stagnation hurts and eats away at the Vermont middle class, the single most necessary element of a real democracy. We now see that this is due to few elite international corporations which increasingly dominate state and national politics. But now people everywhere are wising up to this operation of corrupt government and crony capitalism which is hollowing out the economy. Aware of this menace, we must face the on going theft of freedom, opportunity, rights and liberties. We the people must unite at the ballot box to protect liberty from ominous infringements on our rights and freedoms.

My campaign could be a lightning rod for your political energy. Vermont has always started things and led the

way. First, to abolish slavery, first to admit women to college, first to capture a British fort, first to bring artillery to General Washington, first to have an independent senator grown in the VT Liberty Union campaigns of the 1970s. When commanders needed a good brigade to spearhead a charge they were known to choose Vermonters. Lets make this election for this one tiny senate seat the first rumbling of a political earthquake. Vote for Big Ben and vote for human heartedness and peace to bring down the bloated war budget. Then We The People through our representatives can free up our taxes to invest in Vermonts infrastructure that has lasting value from generation to generation (not bombs and missiles that lose their value upon explosion). We The People need more of our tax money invested in our local communities for the common good and take the burden off of local income, sales and property taxes. Unless we do, I assure you that the cost of warfare will always draw our money away from Vermont and we will be stuck with rising property taxes to foot the bill. The buck stops with us. Lets wise up and get at the bottom of this over taxation problem. I am campaigning outside the two party gridlock and Im free to listen to your views and not pander to party lines. Here and now in this one, little local election, may I please have your vote as a step toward this 21st Century Modern American Dream? “The journey of a thousand miles begins with a first step.” I ask you to please take that first step with me and talk to friends, organize, internet, press, radio, TV, and vote on November 4th. Thank you.

Sincerely, Ben

My Platform

Ben Bosley for State Senator from Colchester and the Islands

VT Should Cap Creeping Property Tax Increases for Retired Seniors Vermont is the third most expensive state to live in and its getting harder to retire here. No one should have to renounce his or her state citizenship just to survive. We need to put a cap on property tax increases for people 65 and over that are due to higher annual school

and municipal budgets. Seniors, vulnerable to so many forces, need assurance that, even if teachers unions negotiate a 5% increase in salary or municipal budgets rise to cover costs, they will be shielded from these two particular external forces. For planning purposes, seniors need facts and figures to see if they can retire in VT.

VT Should Lift The Ban On Renegotiating Lower Interest Rates For Student Loans Students are now saddled with over a trillion dollars of debt for educational loans more than all car loans, home mortgages, and credit card debt combined. Unlike others, graduates are unfairly forbidden to renegotiate a seven percent interest rate downward. Hard to move out, marry, start career and family.

VT Should Legalize & Tax Marijuana A regulated, legal, and taxed market in marijuana, as in Colorado and Washington State, would reduce teenagers exposure to other drugs in the illegal market. Marijuana is not a lethal drug; overdoses are nearly impossible. It has medicinal and recreational value and is safer and less addictive than alcohol or tobacco. Criminal prosecution of marijuana cases costs too much, wastes jail space, clogs courts, and diverts police, attorneys and judges from more useful work. Taxing marijuana can fund good causes.

VT Should Create Green Energy Investment And Hi-Tech Jobs By A Targeted Tax Break To lure the best and brightest business people to VT we must enact a 10-year tax-free law to give start-up assistance to new green energy and high-tech business. VT can be the top dairy and high-tech state simultaneously. To compete with NY and others for the next generation of jobs we must attract businesses that drive our economy with innovative technologies like wind turbines, solar panels, geothermal systems, hybrid and electric cars, and next-generation batteries. We can create green jobs, address the deadly fossil-fuel climate crisis, and build a clean energy economy. Germany and China have begun to do this; you can see virtually whole cities with solar panels on the roof. Lets catch up.

VT Should Expand AmeriCorps

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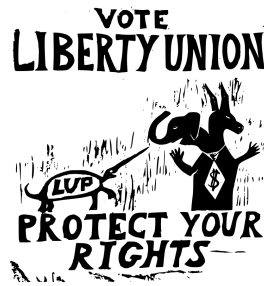
Ben Bosley

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at the State Level Move From Welfare to Workfare After jobs have been shipped overseas people have looked every which to find opportunity for themselves and stay afloat. But there are still not enough jobs. I believe the work relief programs like AmeriCorps are preferable to plain public assistance because it maintains self-respect, reinforces the work ethic and keeps skills sharp. Lets expand AmeriCorps and put Vermonters to work on small scale projects making our homes and buildings energy efficient, maintaining parks, bike paths, waterfronts, and community centers while employing writers, artists, musicians, day care workers and teachers.

VT Should Create a State Bank Like North Dakota to Shield Vermont From Financial Crashes Far from helping the VT economy, big banks are making riskier gambles and hoard their extorted wealth in tax shelters off shore for use when a financial crash comes to snatch things up for pennies. Thats why I believe VT needs a statewide public bank to protect the people from the effects of market crashes, credit freezes, and state debt. A VT House committee found this idea had considerable merit.

VT Should Launch an Annual Oct. 27 Arkhipov Nuclear Disarmament Day To Ban The Bomb Could the 21st century bring nuclear annihilation? But for one man, 5 pm, Oct. 27, 1962 almost did. It was the Cuban Missile Crisis; Soviet ships were blockaded off Cuba. Unknown to Kennedys Excom, four Soviet subs had nuclear weapons on board. A depth charge exploded near the hull of one. The Russian commander felt honor-bound to retaliate. But Capt. V. A. Arkhipov, at the last moment, refused to turn a needed second key. VT Students should get prizes for annual essays on nuclear disarmament.



An Open Letter

By AARON DIAMONDSTONE AND JERRY LEVY

An Open Letter To Becca Balint and Jenette White and the Windham County Democratic Party AUGUST 17, 2014

We are saddened that you have not accepted our offer to participate in a forum to be held in Brattleboro that would include all the candidates for Vermont State Senate. This flies in the face of Vermont's great tradition of candidates shaking hands and discussing crucial issues facing Vermonters and the planet. The Liberty Union Party had some answers to these fundamental questions of how we are going to address the stark and often brutal inequalities in wealth and access to resources so that we might provide nourishing food, decent housing, cradle to grave education and health-care, and meaningful and well compensated work for everyone. We hope that you will reconsider your decision.

Respectfully, Aaron Diamondstone and Jerry Levy, Windham County Candidates Vermont State Senate

Move to Amend survey: Matthew Andrews responds

Q. (Y/N) I support amending the U.S. Constitution to make clear that corporations and other artificial entities

do not have Constitutional rights and that money is not speech and campaign spending should be limited through regulation.

A. Yes

Q. (Y/N) I will use my office to support the Movement to Amend the Constitution by passing resolutions, proposing legislation, and publicly speaking out about the need for this Amendment.

A. Yes

Q. How will you use your public office to end corporate constitutional rights and big money in politics?

A. I support public funding for elections so candidates are not depending on endless fundraising from wealthy donors. One of my first activities in politics was to support the Clean Elections Law which was passed by a citizens referendum in Massachusetts in 1998. Election day ought to be a national holiday so working people can vote. I would also move to repeal the Taft-Hartley Act which limits our rights to collective action in the workplace and allows companies to intimidate workers that may wish to choose union representation. I would re-introduce the portions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that were recently overturned due to their targeted application to southern states. Gerrymandering and racially biased voter suppression happens in the north as well! The Federal oversight created by the Voting Rights Act ought to be applied to all states. This would make it constitutional as well. Finally, I would support public funding to print and broadcast equal information on all ballot qualified candidates. The presidential debates should be sponsored by an independent and neutral organization that will not exclude popular independent candidates.

Q. What is Your Position on the 2010 Supreme Courts Citizens United Decision?

A. The Supreme Courts ruling on Citizens United was a shameful act of judicial activism. Allowing unlimited independent expenditures during elections means that corporations, which only represent enormous concentrations of wealth, can drown out the voices of ordinary citizens. I am also

opposed to the Buckley v. Va-
leo decision (1976) which over-
turned overall campaign spend-
ing caps. Money is not speech.
The Supreme Court must allow
Congress to create a balanced
elections system. Just as we say

“one person, one vote” we must
also say “every voice counts” and
“money is not merit.”

Q. Any Additional Comments (op-
tional)

A. Justice Louis D. Brandeis said,

“We must make our choice. We
may have democracy, or we may
have wealth concentrated in the
hands of a few, but we cant have
both.”

Liberty Union Party Event Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDSDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Sep 28th	29th	30th	Oct 1st LUP Phone Conf. - 712-432-1500 733514# 8pm	2nd	3rd
5th	6th	7th	8th See Below - Oct 8	9th	10th
12th	13th	14th Many events See Below for details	15th LUP Phone Conf. - 712-432-1500 733514# 8pm	16th 5:25pm - Burl Ch17 for Gov. Peter Diamondstone 8:00pm - Vermont PBS Lt. Gov Debate - Marina Brown	17th 5:25PM - Burl. Ch17 Cong. debate - Matt Andrews
19th LUP Phone Conf. - 712-432-1500 733514# 8pm	20th 5:25pm - Burl. Ch17 Lt. Gov - Marina Brown	21st 7-8:30pm Old Labor Hall, Barre, League of Women Voters Lt. Gov. Marina Brown - forum	22nd LUP Phone Conf. 8pm 9:30-11am Cand. Forum. Woodstock Union Middle Sc 7:00pm - Senate Cand. Forum - Dover VT Town Hall	23rd 6:30pm or 7 - Peter Diamondstone - gov cand. VPR 7:30pm - Vermont PBS - Cong. Debate w/ Matt Andrews	24th 6pm - Meet the Candidates - Bagitos, 28 Main St, Montpelier
26th	27th	28th 7-8:30pm - Colchester VPR Debate - Lt. Gov w/ Marina Brown	29th LUP Phone Conf. - 712-432-1500 733514# 8pm	30th	31st

Oct 8: Noon - Free Press Gov, Forum

Oct 14: Noon - Free Press Gov, Forum

Oct 14: 6:00PM Peoples Forum, Marlboro Grad Center, Room 2e, Brattleboro

Oct 14: 6:00PM Peoples Forum, 104 Maple Street Essex Junction, VT, 05452

For more info about Liberty Union go to www.libertyunionparty.org or contact us at 802-858-6466 or peopleunite@verizon.net.