

# Libertarians hosting more talk radio

Three new voices have joined the growing chorus of libertarian talk radio show hosts across America. And unlike some hosts who merely expound the libertarian philosophy, all three are card-carrying members of the Libertarian Party.

Most prominent among the three is Zoh Hieronimus, a long-time talk show host on WCBM in Baltimore, MD. She officially joined the party to a burst of rapturous applause during the LP's national convention in July.

Moving in the other direction—from Libertarian to talk show host—were two LP state chairs, Wayne Parker in Louisiana and Robert Jones in Arkansas, who parlayed their Libertarian beliefs into radio programs.

Hieronimus made the loudest splash as a new Libertarian talk show host. Broadcasting from the floor of the party's national convention in Washington, DC, she joined the party on the air on July 5.

To her listening audience, Hieronimus said, "I hope that many of you will realize as I have that this is the third party, that this is

an important and tangible way for us to reclaim our republic."

As she signed the party's membership form, a packed audience of on-looking LP members burst into applause, while soon-to-be presidential candidate Harry Browne sat smiling beside her.

Hieronimus decided to join the party, she said, because of "concern for our nation's solidarity, our national security, and our fiscal health. I was a registered Democrat who voted Republican [but] no longer felt that either party or its leadership had a grasp of lawful governance.

"Who needs a third party?" asked Hieronimus. "America does!"

Hieronimus—who has been nicknamed "Lady Liberty" by listeners—said her radio show discusses politics as well as "government cover-ups, foreign relations, and the frontiers of space and human development.

"I am opinionated but tolerant of others' points of view," she said. "To me, talk radio is a type of virtual city-state. We help shape each other's opinions and actions by touching each other's hearts and minds."

Hieronimus has been called one of "America's Top Ten Talkers" by Media Bypass magazine, and Baltimore magazine described The Zoh Show as "the most distinctive radio program on local airwaves." She can be heard on WCBM AM-680 from



Zoh Hieronimus

9 a.m. to noon, Monday to Friday.

In Louisiana, Wayne Parker took a more convoluted route to the job of Libertarian talk show host. The state chair since 1994, Parker became a full-time talk show host in early 1996 following a successful career as an instructor at a nuclear power plant.

"I've been promoting libertarianism for the past nine years in any medium I could find," he said. "I started by writing letters to the editor. When I couldn't get published as often as I wanted, I found a local advertising journal which published my 1,000-word column once a week. From there I was noticed by an independent radio station. After doing a 20-minute, recorded, weekly show for almost a year, I made my move to doing six live shows a week [at

KTLD in Alexandria]."

Although becoming a radio talk show host on a small station in a small market was a financially risky move, Parker said he has no regrets.

"I realized that I had a unique opportunity to do more with my life than [make] a lot of money," he said. "I figured I would much rather look back on my life and feel I'd accomplished something meaningful."

Parker said his show is "totally politics"—and that he takes a long-range view when it comes to educating his listeners.

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## Access

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Access News, "it is difficult to imagine how the state will justify its refusal to permit the Libertarian Party to let Clark withdraw in favor of the actual presidential candidate."

The biggest concern was in West Virginia, where the party has asked the state Supreme Court to order Harry Browne on the ballot as the party's presidential nominee. Although the party collected enough valid petitions, the state has said it won't put Browne's name on the ballot because he failed to file a declaration of candidacy and a \$2,000 filing fee by July 3.

The party is arguing that the fee is unconstitutional—major party nominees don't pay it to get on the ballot—and that the July 3 deadline for paying the fee is irrational, since the petition for president is not due until Aug. 1, and since the party didn't even know who its nominee was until July 6.

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