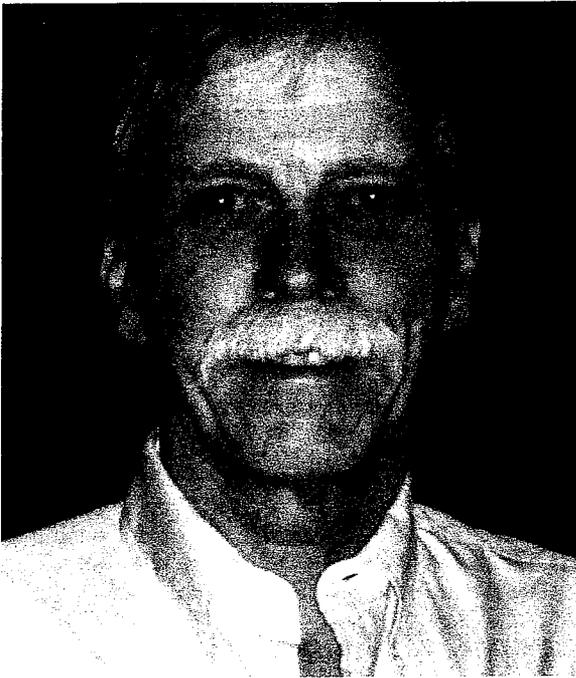


## WELCOME TO 2017 CGO CONFERENCE

By Gib Halverson, Show Low, AZ



(Gib Halverson spoke at the opening reception of the CGO conference July 27, 2017 in O'Fallon, IL.)

Welcome to our Council of Georgist Organizations conference. I am Gib Halverson, the new President of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, one of the sponsors of the CGO conference. Our theme is Bridging the Right and Left. Any bridge has two supporting sides

Robert Schalkenbach Foundation today has a vision of a world of liberty and equality of opportunity arising from economic, social and environmental justice.

The CGO conference in St Louis in 1985 was one of my first conferences.

I would like to say thank you to Nadine Stoner. When I first read Progress & Poverty, Gil Herman was my teacher. I asked if there were any Georgists in Wisconsin and I was given Nadine's phone number. In the 1980s she encouraged me to come to events. I would like to thank Ted Gwartney, who has been my friend and mentor for years.

I as a younger man in my early 30s observed two facts. There was about an even split between right and left, liberal and conservative. The term libertarian had just come about, maybe that is our bridge.

Secondly, I observed that the people at the podium were older men with gray hair. I was a younger man with brown hair sitting in the back. Younger members, you may think the older generation is not listening. We are listening. Its ironic, now I am the older man with gray hair at the podium.

Ours is a just and noble cause. We seek nothing more than justice and opportunity for all. Henry George gave us a vision of a better tomorrow a shining city on a hill. Importantly, he showed us the means to achieve that vision, a tax on social created land values

We can relate to every word of the will of Robert Schalkenbach in 1925.

Being firmly convinced that the principles expounded by Henry George in his immortal book entitled "Progress and Poverty" will if enacted into law, give equal opportunity to all and tend to the betterment of the individual and of society by the abolition of involuntary poverty and its attendant evils.

We promote a program to lift up our brothers and sisters. We want people to not just be human but to be humane. We counter the forces of evil. May the force be with you.

Times change but the truth of an idea does not. Robert Schalkenbach Foundation is involved in promotion and printing P&P and other related economic books. We will be doing a short presentation about our book launch of the Annotated Works of Henry George, Vol. 2. Many of those books will be available at our table during this conference. In addition to publishing books, we publish academic papers, have a number of websites, have an international presence, an experimental Henry George Radio Show at Stanford, and host other conferences.

We are fortunate that Robert Schalkenbach did not restrict us to printed word. Robert Schalkenbach made his fortune in the printing and publishing business. He did not restrict us, his heirs to the printed word, he saw beyond his domain. We are here today because RSF is part sponsor of this event. These goals of ours do not come cheaply. We all need resources to live. Henry George observed civilizations rise and fall. Organizations rise and fall. Likewise we are economic units and CGO is an economic unit. CGO needs your support if these conferences are to continue into the years to come. Please give what you can to CGO to continue this tradition.

I close with paraphrase of Shakespeare, Henry V. We few, we happy few, we band of brothers and sisters, for they today who joins with us in our cause land value taxation, shall be our brothers and sisters.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of this program. I look forward to meeting each and every one of you over the next few days.

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