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Massachusetts Liberty

Uniting Libertarian Party Activists

September 2009

Libertarian State Convention

October 10, 2009

Tweed's Restaurant, Grove Street, Worcester—Map, Page

Admission \$25

Please mail checks payable "Libertarian" to Libertarians, POB 1154, Worcester MA 01613

Business

Adoption of Agenda—See Page 2

Adoption of Platform—See Page 3

Amendments to Charter—See Page 3

Election of State Committee

Election of Delegates to 2010 National Convention

Speakers

Keynote Speaker — Katherine Albrecht

Provisional list of other speakers includes

Steve Epstein — MassCann

Kamal Jain — Independent Candidate for Auditor

Brad Wyatt — Campaign for Liberty

Coffee-Tea-Cocoa-Danish

The Business Meeting starts at 10:15

Short speeches begin at 11:30

Break for food—noon

Hot and cold appetizers

Keynote speech—Katherine Albrecht—12:30

Fundraiser and Business Session — 1 PM.

Liberty activist Katherine Albrecht, co-author of
Spychips: How Major Corporations and Government Plan to Track Your Every Move with RFID
will be the keynote speaker at the 2009 Libertarian State Convention.

Expect an exciting talk from Albrecht, who has spoken and led demonstrations from coast to coast. See her web site spychips.com.

State Convention: Annual Mailing to All Members

State Convention

This October 10 is our Annual State Convention. All members are urged to attend! Important Convention Business includes:

- 1) Adopt a party platform.
- 2) Amendments to the Party Constitution and By-laws.
- 3) Elect a new State Committee.
- 4) Elect delegates to the 2010 Libertarian National Convention.

To Register

Use the enclosed envelope. Send a check for \$25 per person, check payable "Libertarian" to George Phillis, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 01609. Remember, only members whose dues are current can vote, but everyone is welcome to hear the speakers. Note the Agenda schedule.

Location

The Convention is at Tweed's Restaurant, 231 Grove Street, Worcester, at 10AM. The Convention will be in the Emerald Room. We start before the Restaurant opens, so you will need to enter by the Emerald Room Rear Door, which is on the side of the Restaurant away from the street.

Tweed's is actually quite close to Exit 17/18 (one strange exit, two numbers) from Route 290. With a map, reaching Tweed's is straightforward. Without a map, the following route is longer, but easy to follow:

From the northeast, take exit 18. At the bottom of the ramp, take a right. About 2 blocks ahead is Route 9/ Highland Street. Take a right on Highland street.

From the south, take exit 17. At the top of the ramp, take a left onto Highland Street.

Drive about a mile. The intersection with Park Avenue has a traffic light. Go right (North) on Park Avenue. The 3rd Light is Sagamore Street. Take a right on Sagamore street. At the end of the street (one block) take a right. Tweed's is a few hundred feet ahead on the right.

Agenda

1. Call to Order 10:10 AM
2. Approval of Agenda
- 3) Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws
- 4) 11AM Nominations for State Committee, and remarks
- 5) Nominations for Delegates to National Convention, and remarks
- 6) Return to Constitution and Bylaws
- 7) 11:30 Speeches by invited guests and candidates
- 8) 12:00 Lunch -- speeches may continue
- 9) 12:20 Formal Call to Order prior to collecting votes
- 10) 12:30 Katherine Albrecht, Author, Spychips
- 11) 1:00 PM Fundraiser and Auction
- 12) 1:10PM Continuation of Business Meeting -- Platform
- 13) 2:00 PM Adjourn

Food

Morning
Tea, Coffee, Cocoa
Danish Pastries

Noon
Hot and Cold appetizers:

Fruit and Vegetable Tray
Boneless Buffalo Wings
Fried Chicken Tenderloins
Italian Sausage Kebabs
Swedish Meatballs
Potato Skins with cheese and bacon
Seafood stuffed Mushrooms
Ice Cream

Alcoholic beverages will be available for individual purchase in the bar after 11AM

Massachusetts Liberty is published in paper and electronic form by the Outreach Committee. Editorial Address c/o Massachusetts Libertarians, POB 1154, Worcester MA 01613. Subscriptions by PDF via email are \$15/year, and are sent gratis on request to institutions that cannot legally give us money. Memberships are \$25 (paper mail issues) or \$15 (email issues) per year: Send checks payable "Libertarian" to POB 1154 Worcester, MA 01613. Join on the web: Go to <http://LPMass.org> and click on "Donate".

Platform Plank Proposals

PEACE

Libertarians support non-intervention in the affairs of foreign nations. Our foreign wars should end; our armed forces should be brought home from around the world. The Cold War is over; the vast military machine that the Cold War justified is no longer needed.

FREEDOM

Libertarians stand for protecting your Federal and State Constitutional Rights, all of them without any exception or omission. There is no National Security exemption to the Bill of Rights. Politicians who ignore our Constitutional Liberties are the chief threat to our country.

OPPORTUNITY

America should be a land of opportunity for every citizen. Massive expansions of the Federal Budget and Debt are strangling those opportunities. We need massive cuts in government spending or our grandchildren will be crushed by their grandparents' wastrel extravagance.

END REGRESSIVE TAXATION

The sales tax should over several years be repealed. Let's hear the giant sucking sound of the good people of New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine coming to Massachusetts to our high-quality, no-tax shops, creating jobs and income for the Commonwealth.

FEES SHOULD NOT BE HIDDEN GENERAL TAXES

Cut in half all license fees.

END TURNPIKE TOLLS

The cost of maintaining the turnpike is a small fraction of the tolls levied on it. Turnpike tolls primarily pay for the cost of collecting the tolls. End tolls, move money back to people.

Proposed Amendments To Party Constitution

Motion #1) The name of this organization is hereby changed from "Libertarian Party of Massachusetts" to "Libertarian Association of Massachusetts", and is referred to throughout the Constitution as 'the organization' or 'this organization' as appropriate.

Motion #2) The name of this document is hereby uniformly changed to "Constitution". The members of the State Committee are uniformly called "Members". "Bylaws" and "Bylaw" are to be uniformly so spelled. "State Committee", "State Convention", "National Party" and "National Convention" are uniformly capitalized.

Motion #3) The second paragraph of the Party Constitution is deleted.

THE CURRENT TEXT

Preamble, Name and Purpose

We, the Libertarians of Massachusetts, do hereby unite to form the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts, in order to give voice to and implement the fundamental principle of libertarianism: that no person, group of people, or government has the right to initiate force against any other person, group of people, or government. We shall do this by supporting candidates for public office, publicizing the principles and goals of libertarianism, and taking any actions that the state convention or the state committee deem will further our aims. The Party, its By-Laws and State Committee exist solely as a path for reaching the objectives of this preamble.

We assert our rights of freedom of speech, press and association as guaranteed in the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution and the precedent set by the Supreme Court's decision in *Eu v. San Francisco County Democratic Central Committee, et al.*, 489 U.S. 214, 109 S.Ct. 1013, 103 L.Ed.2d 271 (1989), and the same rights, however worded, guaranteed in the Massachusetts Declaration of Rights, to govern this Party and participate in the electoral process as we deem fit.

Becomes

Preamble, Name and Purpose

We, the Libertarians of Massachusetts, do hereby unite to form Massachusetts Libertarians, in order to give voice to and implement the fundamental principles of libertarianism: that no person, group of people, or government has the right to initiate force against any other person, group of people, or government. We shall do this by supporting candidates for public office, publicizing the principles and goals of libertarianism, and taking any actions that the State Convention or the

State Committee deem will further our aims. The Party, its By-Laws, and the State Committee exist solely as a path for reaching the objectives of this preamble.

Motion #4) To replace the Constitution Article II Section 2, so that

Article II: State Convention

1. A regular state convention shall be held in every year.
2. The delegates to the convention shall be those Members who have registered for same, according to provisions set by the state committee for timeliness, attendance limits, and cost defrayment, and who have also been Members for 90 days prior to the start of the convention.

becomes

Article II: State Convention

1. A Regular State Convention shall be held in every year.
2. Persons, who are members of Massachusetts Libertarians whose dues are current, and who joined Massachusetts Libertarians at least 30 days prior to the date of the State Convention, are eligible to vote and participate in the business meeting at the State Convention. Persons who were dues-paying members of Massachusetts Libertarians, or Sustaining Members of the National Libertarian Party, within the past three years, including a period at least 90 days before the day of the State Convention, but whose Massachusetts Libertarians dues are not current, may join or rejoin Massachusetts Libertarians at the State Convention by paying their yearly dues. They may then vote and participate in the business meeting at the State Convention.
3. The State Convention may endorse candidates for office or it may explicitly endorse running no candidate for an office. If it does so, Massachusetts Libertarians will support those candidates to within the limits of State and Federal law and other demands on its resources, and will not support any competing candidates for the same office. In the absence of a State Convention endorsement, either for a candidate or for no candidate, the State Committee may support a candidate for that office, again within the limits of law and competition for resources.

Motion #5) In Article III of the By-laws, delete Sections 1 and 3 and Amend Section 2, so that

Article III: Nominations of Candidates

1. The state convention shall have the authority to nominate a candidate for any office or a slate of candidates for any set of offices to be filled by the voters, or some portion thereof, of the state. If the Libertarian Party has party status and is required to participate in the Primary Election in order to be included in the General Election, or if the State Committee has so chosen to participate, then the secretary of the convention shall prepare the certificates of nomination of all such candidates as required

by Chapter 53 of the General Laws of Massachusetts, obtain the signature, oath and residence of the presiding officer, and affix his or her own signature, oath and residence to the same, obtain the written acceptance of the nominee in each case, and submit each such certificate to the secretary of state within the time required by Chapter 53, Section 5.

2. Except as stated in the preceding section, the responsibility for meeting the legal requirements for ballot access, as determined by state law according to the Party's status, shall rest with each candidate. This shall be the case without regard to whether the Party holds a primary election. Such responsibilities include, but are not necessarily limited to, the number of signatures and the qualifications of petition signatories, and the manner and timeliness of their collection and submission to the correct town and state election officials.

3. A person's name shall not appear on any Libertarian primary ballot, nor shall any person receive the nomination of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts, for any partisan election, unless that person is a recognized member of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts.

4. In the event of the withdrawal, death, or ineligibility of any candidate to be elected by the voters, or some portion thereof, of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the vacancy may be filled in accordance with current state laws, or by the State Committee.

Becomes

Article III: Candidates

1. The responsibility for meeting legal requirements for ballot access rests with each candidate.
2. In the event State or Federal Law authorizes this organization to place candidates on the ballot, whether to replace candidates, fill vacant ballot lines, or for whatever other reason, in the absence of contrary legal specification or directive of the State Convention, the State Committee is authorized to act on behalf of the organization for this purpose.

Motion #6) To Amend Article IV by amending or striking sections so indicated, so that

Article IV: State Committee

1. The delegates to each regular state convention shall select up to 9 state committee members, to serve as the state committee until the conclusion of the next regular state convention. To be eligible for election to the state committee, a person must be a member of the state party whose dues are current.
2. The Representatives on the state committee shall within 30 days of the state convention, meet and organize by the choice

of a Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer and such other officers as they may decide to elect.

3. A vacancy in any office, or in any Representative position on the committee originally filled by the state convention, shall be filled by the state committee.

4. The State Committee may appoint additional Representatives.

5. Representatives of the State Committee, **including the State Committee serving at the time of the adoption of this Constitution**, shall hold office until adjournment of the next state convention at which their successors are chosen.

6. **The state committee may make rules for its proceedings, and for the calling of state conventions, for the selection of delegates and alternates to the national convention. The rules made for the selection of delegates and alternates to the national convention shall be submitted to the secretary of state as provided by Chapter 53, Section 70B of the General Laws of Massachusetts, whenever said Section applies to this Party.**

7. **The state committee shall notify the secretary of state of its decisions whether or not to hold primaries to the extent required or allowed by Chapter 53, Section 2. To the extent the state committee has the option of whether to hold a primary under Chapter 53, Section 2, it shall notify the Secretary of State of its chosen option, and shall do so in a timely manner under that Section. In the event the state committee has failed, by two weeks before the date described in that Section, to make an affirmative choice to hold a primary, the Chair shall notify the Secretary of State that the state committee has chosen not to hold a primary.**

8. **The state committee shall nominate presidential electors as required by Chapter 53, Section 8.**

9. The state committee shall have the authority to adopt or amend the bylaws by a two-thirds vote.

10. To be elected or serve as a member or officer of the state committee, a person must be a dues paying member of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts as defined by the state party constitution and bylaws. A person who ceases to be a member of the party ceases at the same moment to be a state committee member or officer.

11. Every member of the state committee must make available their name, their state party office if any, and a working way to contact them, in the party newsletter and on the party web site. This may be a physical mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number, or some combination of these.

Becomes

Article IV: State Committee

1. Each regular State Convention shall elect as provided in the

Bylaws up to nine State Committee Members .

2. Within 30 days of their election, the newly-elected State Committee shall meet and elect a Chair, a Treasurer, and such other officers as are specified in the Bylaws.

3. The State Committee shall elect officers to fill any vacancies. The State Committee may by majority vote appoint to itself additional Members.

4. All members of the State Committee shall hold office until adjournment of the State Convention at which the next State Committee is chosen.

5. The State Committee may make rules for its proceedings, for the calling of State Conventions, and for the selection of Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention. Delegates to the Libertarian Party National Convention shall be chosen at the State Convention held immediately prior to that National Convention. If elections for State Committee and Convention Delegate happen at the same State Convention, the State Committee is elected first. Persons who will be members of the State Committee at the time of the National Convention are entitled ex officio to be named as Delegates or Alternates, but must so request prior to the election of Delegates and Alternates. The State Convention or State Committee may promulgate Bylaws consistent with this Constitution to ensure a full delegation at the National Convention.

6. To be eligible to be elected as a Massachusetts Delegate to the National Convention, a person must, at the time of the National Convention, be:

- a) a legal resident of Massachusetts, and
- b) a member in good standing of the organization.

7. The State Committee shall have the authority to adopt or amend the Bylaws by a two-thirds vote, two weeks notice and an opportunity to respond having been given.

8. To be elected or serve as a Member or Officer of the State Committee, a person must be a Member of the organization whose dues are current.

9. Every Member of the State Committee must make available their name, their office in the organization if any, and a working way to contact them, in the organization's newsletter and on the organization's web site. This may be a physical mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number, or some combination of these.

10. The State Committee may by two-third vote of its entire membership expel a person from the State Committee, for cause, after affording the accused reasonable access to due process. Expiration of membership in the organization is cause, but payment of membership dues to renew membership, prior to the vote, constitutes an absolute defense.

Motion #7) Strike the following from the State Constitution

Article V: Delegates to National Convention

1. In any year in which candidates for presidential electors are to be elected, the selection of delegates and alternate delegates to the national convention shall be by that system adopted by the state committee. The system adopted by the state committee shall be set forth in written rules and procedures covering all aspects of the delegate selection process and, if the state committee has made a timely decision to hold a presidential primary, a copy of such rules and procedures shall be filed with the secretary of state on or before October first of the year preceding the year in which presidential electors are to be elected.

And renumber later Articles.

Motion #8) Article VI, the final section, strike the final sentence, and amend as indicated. The current text:

Article VI: Bylaws, Rules and Amendments

1. Bylaws to implement and clarify the authority and duties of persons and bodies authorized by this charter may be adopted or amended by a majority vote at a state convention, or by a two-thirds vote of the state committee. When each State Committee meets for the first time to organize, any bylaws previously in force shall remain in force unless a two-thirds vote of the State Committee shall specify otherwise, provided that any amendments to the bylaws shall be consistent with this charter and with actions at State Conventions.

2. Each body authorized by this charter may adopt rules for its proceedings.

3. This charter may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present, whether or not voting, at a state convention, provided that there is a quorum, if and only if the following conditions are met:

a. The amendment has been approved beforehand by the state committee, or has been endorsed beforehand by the signatures of at least that number of representatives which is two more than a majority, which amendment and endorsement shall be submitted in writing to the secretary of the state committee, and

b. A copy of the proposed amendment has been sent to each delegate to the state convention by mail, postmarked at least two weeks prior to the date of the state convention in which the amendment is to be considered. **Article Two, Section 4, and this section, shall be amended only by a seven-eighths vote of the delegates present, whether or not voting, at a state convention.**

becomes

Article VI: Bylaws, Rules and Amendments

1. Bylaws to implement and clarify the authority and duties of persons and bodies authorized by this Constitution may be adopted or amended by a majority vote at a State Convention, or by a two-thirds vote of the State Committee.

When each State Committee meets for the first time to organize, any bylaws previously in force shall remain in force unless a two-thirds vote of the State Committee shall specify otherwise, provided that any amendments to the Bylaws shall be consistent with this Constitution and with actions at State Conventions.

2. Each body authorized by this Constitution may adopt rules for its proceedings.

3. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all persons eligible to vote and registered as attending the State Convention at which the vote is being taken, whether or not voting, provided that there is a quorum, if and only if the following conditions are met:

a. The amendment has been approved beforehand by a majority of the members of the State Committee, or has been endorsed beforehand by the signatures of at least ten percent of the Members whose dues are current, which amendment and endorsement shall be submitted in writing to the Chair of the State Committee, and

b. A copy of the proposed amendment has been sent by mail to each Member of the Organization whose dues are current, postmarked at least two weeks prior to the date of the State Convention in which the amendment is to be considered

August State Committee Meeting

August 9, 2009, Tweed's Restaurant, Worcester, Massachusetts. Present were committee members David Blau (chair), George Phillies, Arthur Torrey, Mary-Ann Wolf, and Steven Greffenius.

Officer Reports

Treasurer: The OCPF account now has in it \$2412. The FEC account has in it \$3931.

Membership Secretary: Ten July members expired. Since the start of July, we have had 15 people join or renew. We currently have 94 members.

Motions Passed in the Online Forum

George moved that he be reimbursed for printing and mailing expenses, namely: 70 issues of the newsletter at 3 color and 7 monochrome pages at 4 cents per color page and 2 cents per black and white page \$18.20, 10 1-page letters \$0.20, 30 two-sided renewal forms \$1.80, 50 two-page renewal letters

one side color \$3.00, 26 x 2 page letter, color \$2.08,
60 mailing labels \$0.60 Total 25.88

Motion #2:

George moved to appropriate \$200 from the FEC general and administrative fund to send renewal requests to members reaching farther back in time than we have reached thus far.

Convention planks were distributed for consideration electronically. After several amendments, the planks were recommended by the State Committee for convention adoption, and appear elsewhere in the Newsletter.

New Business

Legal Status and Name: Members discussed the legal status of our organization in light of state law. Also discussed was the organization's official name, and the name to be used in the organization's literature. The discussion resulted in four motions, to be presented for consideration at the state convention:

- #1) The formal name of the Organization, in the State Constitution and Bylaws, is changed to "Libertarian Association of Massachusetts".
- #2) The organization will as appropriate refer to itself in speaking to the Party as "the Libertarian Party" or "Libertarians".
- #3) The organization may informally refer to itself as "Massachusetts Libertarians".
- #4) The OCPF PAC will be renamed "Massachusetts Libertarian Political Action Committee".

Reading your mailing label: The six-digit number after your name is your expiration date, YYYYMM means that your membership expires at the end of month MM of year YYYY.

Your State Committee

Chair — David Blau chair@lpmass.org

Political Facilitator — Robert Underwood
politicalfacilitator@lpmass.org

Treasurer and Membership Secretary — George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive Worcester MA 01609 phillies@4liberty.net 508 754 1859 (h)

Operations Facilitator — Arthur Torrey
operationsfacilitator@lpmass.org

Webmaster — Mary-Anne Wolf
webmaster@lpmass.org

Contact the Party itself:

LPMass, POB 1154, Worcester MA 01613
508 754 1859

Partying Events

*Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association meets the second Wednesday of every month at Doctor Deegan's Restaurant in Springfield. RSVP for directions to rjunderwood2000@yahoo.com

*The Western Massachusetts Libertarian Meetup <http://libertarian.meetup.com/417/> — 2nd Wednesday

*The Boston Area Libertarian Meetup Group <http://libertarian.meetup.com/349/> — 2nd Sunday

*The Route 495 Area Libertarian Meetup <http://libertarian.meetup.com/413/> — fourth Tuesday
RSVP REQUIRED. Email arthur_torrey@comcast.net

*Essex County Libertarians Meetup Group — still looking for a local person to set up meetings

*South Shore Libertarians Meetup Group — still looking for a local person to set up meetings

Massachusetts Liberty is published monthly by Massachusetts Libertarians and paid for by our Federal Political Action Committee "Libertarian Association of Massachusetts".

Donations are not tax deductible. Donations to our Federal PAC may be spent in connection with Federal Election Activity. Federal and state law require us to make our best effort to determine occupation and employer of donors of \$200 or more in a year.

Support the Libertarian Party!



Join!

Sign me up ! Subscribe me to *Massachusetts Liberty*.

LPMass Dues are \$25 per year if you want your newsletter via US Mail, \$15 per year if you want the newsletter via electronic mail and give us a valid email address, and \$5 per year or fraction thereof* if you share a mailing address with a member who already receives the newsletter. (*your expiration date will never be later than the person with whom you share the newsletter.)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Donate!

Your generous donation will be used efficiently to advance our activities. You may legally donate \$500/year to state political activities and \$2400/year toward Federal Political activities. Please give now!

\$200 \$100 \$50

\$2400 \$1000 \$500

Other _____

(And tell us if your donation is for State or Federal use.)
(Law requires **separate** checks for state and federal gifts.)

Donations are not tax deductible. Law requires us to ask occupation and employer for donations over \$200. Federal donations may be used to support Federal election activity.

Occupation _____

Employer _____

Donate on the net at LPMASS.ORG

Paid for by our LPMass Federal PAC C00332221

Volunteer!

I Want to Volunteer

I am prepared to (circle all that apply)

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Put up lawn signs | Host Social for Members |
| Write letters to editor | Place Bumper Sticker |
| Help Organize local group | Petition for candidates |
| Help with fundraising | Help Get Out the Vote |
| Help Local Candidates | Run for office |
| Man Booth at Outreach event | |
| I have special skills or suggestions, namely: | |

To Send Money:

Libertarian Party
Post Office Box 1154
Worcester MA 01613

Payment may be made by checks payable "Libertarian".
Donate on the internet at <http://LPMass.Org> **Your Treasurer really prefers credit card donations are made by internet. I would really rather not be responsible for your card data, which I destroy as soon as I process it.**

Your Credit Card Information for credit card donations
(will be destroyed after use):

Visa Mastercard Discover

Credit Debit

Card Number _____

CVV Number (three digit # on back of card) _____

Expiration Date _____

Name on Card _____

Your Signature _____

Convention Registration

Your Name:

Your Address:

Your Email or Phone:

Send this form and a check for \$25 payable
"Libertarian" to:

George Phillies (LPMass Treasurer)
48 Hancock Hill Drive
Worcester MA 01609

Only Members whose dues are current may participate in the business session, but all libertarians are welcome to attend and listen to speakers and debate.

Donate on the Internet:

Go to <http://LPMass.org>, and donate \$25 by using the line that reads "Click here to donate via Donortown Square to our Federal Political Action Committee."

Donations are not tax deductible. Law requires us to ask occupation and employer for donations over \$200. Federal donations may be used to support Federal election activity.

Join the Libertarians and Party!

State Convention

Special Issue

October 10—10AM—Worcester

Registration—Agenda—Speakers

Motions Requiring Notice

Platform—Constitution—Bylaws

Elect State Committee

Elect National Convention Delegates

Registration Form—Other Side of This Page

Massachusetts Liberty
c/o Libertarian Party
POB 1154
Worcester MA 01613