



Massachusetts Liberty

The Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts

May 2000

State Convention Approves LPMA/LAMA Merger

Eve Maler

This year's Massachusetts Libertarian convention, titled "Critical Mass," was a rousing success. Paid attendees at the day-long Newton Marriott event numbered 196, and speakers and members of the press pushed the attendance numbers over 200. Unlike last year, most people attended for the full day, making for an especially large and lively crowd.

"Critical Mass"

David Bergland, chair of the National Libertarian Party, gave the keynote speech on the theme of reaching critical mass. He shared his ideas on how to grow party membership to tip us over into ever-growing success.

Bergland recommended developing formal local organizations with regular meetings, and suggested inviting small local government officials to speak so that they'll know they have friends. "The next new member may be the first

Libertarian president. The future of Western Civilization may depend on how you treat newcomers," he quipped. He pointed out that Toastmasters International gatherings always have a designated greeter, which can help protect first-timers from well meaning yet socially challenged know-it-alls.

Bergland addressed the topic of professionalism by suggesting that as the party grows, it can't depend entirely on volunteers. He pointed out that many state parties are moving towards having paid staff, and weighed in in favor of the Massachusetts merger plan because he felt it would be a step to greater professionalism.

Finally, Bergland noted that there are no magic bullets; even if the party were to run a celebrity for high office, it would have a positive impact only if a great deal of the hard work had been done



The Libertarian Party's elected State Committee

first. He said, "We need to build a foundation to be an overnight success."

Business Session

A busy business session followed the keynote. The proposed merger plan was the biggest agenda item; because the session of necessity started out as a combined session of two organizations, new voting mechanisms were introduced to keep all the details straight. LAMA members voted by holding up yellow cards, and registered Libertarians voted by holding up blue cards.

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Libertarian Office Holder Bill Bates

Christine Schoaff

This month Massachusetts Liberty interviews office holder Bill Bates. A member of the Ludlow Planning Board since 1992, Mr. Bates is one of the Party's longest serving office holders.

local government should have any control over what I do in my own home.

ML: Tell us about Ludlow.

ML: What position do you currently hold?

BB: I am a member of the Ludlow Planning Board, an elected position with a five-year term. I first started with the Board in 1992 as an alternate member, then was elected a full member in 1993 and re-elected in 1998.

I first came into contact with the Planning Board when I opened my own business in 1992, after leaving an engineering position at Monsanto Company. Since I wanted to operate my business from home, the Town required that I have a special permit for home occupation attached to my property. Those permits are granted - or sometimes not granted - by the Planning Board. Shortly thereafter, when the Board advertised for an alternate member, I thought it would be a good opportunity for me to take a closer look at why the



BB: Ludlow is a Town of just under 20,000 people. It is a suburb of Springfield with a pretty fair balance of business and residential uses. It covers a lot of what used to be agricultural land, with a great assortment of topographical features. It has - and is struggling to maintain - a high proportion of undeveloped open space, both young and established forests, dotted with small ponds and streams.

A study of population and growth done in the 60s, when the population of Ludlow was about 17,000, predicted that the town would reach a population of 20,000 by 1970 and continue to grow exponentially throughout that decade. Those were the days of the yet to materialize 'population crisis', of course. In the year 2000, we haven't reached that number yet.

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Massachusetts Liberty

May 2000

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letter from the chair

What a Party!

Writing these letters to you is always tremendous fun right after a convention. What a thrill it was to have over 200 party members, speakers, and members of the press together for another one of our famously exciting gatherings!



Elias Israel

Merger Approved

This year, we had so much work to do that I almost feared we might not get it done. First of all, we had the proposal to merge LAMA and LPMA, which had been in development for more than a year and a half. Thanks to the work of Kamal Jain who led the organizational committee, plus Dean Cook, Doug Krick, and Walter Ziobro, who also served on the committee, we have accomplished an historic merger: after consideration by the members of both LAMA and LPMA present, the convention voted overwhelmingly in favor of combining LAMA and LPMA into a single entity that is able to meet the requirements of both the national LP and the laws of the Commonwealth. Right now, we are one party, united in a common goal: electing Libertarians to office in Massachusetts and fighting for small government, individual liberty, and personal responsibility.

Kamal Jain has already volunteered to lead the merger committee to oversee the details of the merger, including updating the web pages, the stationery, the financial accounts, and all of the smaller operational and legal details that are involved. He was also selected by the State Committee as our Vice-Chairman, and I am excited about having his help in the upcoming year.

Howell Endorsed

Possibly the easiest and certainly the least controversial of the items on our agenda was endorsing Carla Howell in her race against Ted Kennedy for US Senate. In a unanimous and uproarious vote, the convention gave Carla their endorsement and encouraged her to go out and give the 38-year incumbent a good thrashing.

Delegates and State Committee Members Selected

Finally, using the mechanisms of a major party for the first time, we selected both regional and at-large members to fill out our State Committee, and selected our delegates to the

upcoming national convention. For the first time ever, our State Committee has representatives on it from all around Massachusetts, including all eight of our state regions: Western Massachusetts, Central Massachusetts, the Cape and Islands, the North Shore, the South Shore, Metro-Boston NorthWest, Metro-Boston West, and Boston.

If you plan to attend the upcoming national convention, please let Laura El-Azem, our party Secretary, know right away. We're sure to need alternate delegates because we have 42 delegate slots to keep filled, and some of the folks who have been selected will almost certainly find that they are unable to go when the time comes. You can help select our presidential nominee, or help decide on the party's platform for the year 2000 and beyond, or vote for national party officers.

Successful Fundraiser

Also, as we always do at our conventions, we ended the evening with a tremendous fundraiser. This year, convention-goers donated \$15,000 to the party. Added to the registration fees that they paid to attend, that means that the average convention attendee donated a stunning \$152 to the party. This is the highest per person total we've ever recorded, and it's a testament to the successes we've enjoyed in the last year.

A New Year, The Same Mission

Now that the convention is behind us, and we're organized ourselves for major party strength in the years ahead, we still have the same mission: electing Libertarians to office. And we're not going to do it with flashy programs or magic bullets, but with simple execution. We must train our town committees so that they can carry the message of the party to their neighbors. We must educate another new crop of candidates and campaign managers. We must organize every Libertarian in every city and town so that they all know what we are doing and how they can help.

I am honored to have been selected by the State Committee to continue as Chairman, and I hope to do everything that I can to accelerate the day when we can finally accomplish our goal: A Libertarian Massachusetts, with a government small enough to respect your liberties and strong enough to defend them.

Victory!

libertarian events

Waltham Libertarian City Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 27, 7:00 P.M.
Waltham Public Library Lecture Hall, 735 Main St.

Provincetown Town Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 3, 7:00 P.M.
At the Provincetown Inn on the first Wednesday of each month. Coffee and pastries will be on hand and the committee will be working to make an event of each meeting. Everyone is welcome. Contact Dave Atkinson at 508-487-0759 for more information or directions.

MassCann Millennium Marijuana March

Friday, May 5, 7:30 P.M.; Saturday, May 6, 12:00 P.M.
MassCann's participation in the Millennium Marijuana March begins with a candlelight vigil to end the war on Friday, May 5th, 2000, at 7:30 P.M. at the JFK Federal Building, Boston. On Saturday, May 6th, there will be a rally to protest the world wide botanical genocide of Cannabis at the Arnold Arboretum, from noon to 5:00 P.M..

Euchner Ballot Access Drive

Saturday, May 6 and Sunday, May 7
David Euchner's campaign for congress is organizing a final push to get on the ballot in November. Please contact his campaign at 508-376-2786 to help.

Whitman Libertarian Town Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 9, 6:45 P.M.
The Glass Room at TJ's Pub, on Route 18 near Route 27 in Whitman. Pizza and soda available starting at 6:30 P.M..

Nashoba Valley Libertarians Meeting

Wednesday, May 10, 6:00 P.M.
At the Westford Public Library.

Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association Meeting

Wednesday, May 10, 7:00 P.M.
Bickford's, Springfield. The Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association meets the second Wednesday of every month at Bickford's on Boston Road in Springfield.

Gun Owners Action League Annual Meeting and Banquet

Saturday, May 13, 4:00 P.M.
Royal Plaza Best Western, Marlboro. GOAL's annual meeting will begin at 4 P.M., at which GOAL officers and staff will discuss GOAL's accomplishments during the past twelve months, and our plans for the future. The Banquet will begin at 5:30. Dave Rizzo is organizing a Libertarian table at this event. If you would like to join your fellow Libertarians, please call him at 781-631-1484.

Social Night

Saturday, May 20, 7:00 P.M.
At the home of Vera Meyer, 521 Fellsway East, Malden. 781-321-0210.

Worcester County Libertarian Association

Sunday, May 21, 6:00 P.M.
Tweed's Pub Restaurant, 231 Grove St., Worcester. Anyone is invited and welcome. Interested activists can contact Kevin Haskell at khaskell@lpma.org for more information.

L PMA Board Meeting

Sunday, June 11, 10:00 A.M.
In Westboro

notes from around the state

Critical Ballot Access Push

By the time you read this, our local candidates will have turned in their signatures to meet the May 2nd deadline. However, our two candidates running for federal office have until May 9th and can still use your help.

For those who will be finished collecting signatures on May 2nd and still have a shred of energy, please help David Euchner and Carla Howell achieve ballot access. David is the only Massachusetts Libertarians for the U.S. House of Representatives.

If you can assist David please call his campaign immediately at: 617-463-6650 during the day, 508-376-2786 in the evening, or email deuchner@lpma.org.

WCLA Inaugurates Web Page

The Worcester County Libertarian Association now has a web page, thanks to Chris Tavares. It is a work in progress, and they still want to add more to it in

terms of appearance and links, but it's an important first step. The address is: wcla.tripod.com. The URL was posted on the signs that were used at the tax protest.

Watertown Elects New Officers

Edward McCormick is now Chair of the Watertown. He and Donna Purin traded positions for the upcoming year with Donna becoming the Secretary.

Nashoba Valley Persistently Petitioning

The April meeting of the Nashoba Valley Libertarians attracted a record turnout. Members are actively collecting signatures and expect to have five candidates on the ballot for elections in the year 2000. Christine Schoaff will be on the ballot running for Library Trustee in Westford's Spring election. In the fall Joe Fischetti and Patrick El-Azem will be running for State Rep. Kamal Jain and Peter Schoaff will be running for State Senate.

Their next meeting will be on May 10th at the Westford Library. Please note that this month's meeting will be at 6 P.M., earlier than usual. All Libertarians in the Greater Lowell Area are invited to attend.

Worcester Libertarians Hold Tax Protest

On April 18th, members of the Worcester County Libertarian Association braved the cold and the rain to stage a tax protest at the Central Street Post Office in Worcester.

Kevin Haskell, Bernard Kingsley, and C. D. Tavares led the protest, handing out "Million Dollar Bill" flyers to postal patrons.

Although they were hassled by postal officials, the activists raised consciousness of the Libertarian Party in Worcester.

notes from around the state

Brickner Seeks Volunteers for Election Project

John Brickner is looking for Libertarians in the following towns to get involved enough to get the video "an Evening with the Presidents" aired on local cable just prior to November elections. These are towns that voted both significantly higher for Libertarians in the last election and hence, could be little hot beds of Liberty. If you live in Holland, Brimfield, Palmer, Sturbridge, Belchertown, Ware, Hubbardson, Royalston, Phillipston, New Braintree, Hardwick, Barre, or Oakham and are willing to help out, please contact John at John_Brickner@spfldcol.edu.

Millennium Marijuana March

The Massachusetts Cannabis Reform Coalition announced that it has joined organizations in over 80 cities, in 19 countries, and on 6 continents, to protest marijuana prohibition on May 5th and 6th in the Millennium Marijuana March.

MassCann's participation in the Millennium Marijuana March begins with a candlelight vigil to end the war on Friday, May 5th, 2000, at 7:30 P.M. at the JFK Federal Building, Boston. On Saturday, May 6th, there will be a rally to protest the world wide botanical genocide of Cannabis at the Arnold Arboretum, from noon to 5:00 P.M..

For further details about this event, or about MassCann membership, please contact Steve Epstein at Epeggs@aol.com, or just send \$15.00 annual membership dues to MassCann, P.O. Box 0266, Georgetown, MA 01833-0366

Libertarian Lobbying Wins Ally

Following February's request for Libertarians to call Ted Kennedy's office urging him to support asset forfeiture reform, Mark Tessier informs us that Senator Kennedy is now one of several Judiciary committee members who supports S1931. It might not hurt to call him and thank him for his support, just to remind him we care. Mr. Tessier also recommends asking him not to support S1701; a competing bill that expands asset forfeiture!

And Seizes Victory for Restaurateurs

Also reported in the February issue of Liberty, restaurant owners in New Bedford were fuming about a board of health regulation which effectively

banned smoking in area restaurants. Many area restaurants were losing over \$1000 a week due to the ban which appeared to be in violation of the city charter.

After intense pressure from local groups organized by Libertarian activists, the board of health has backed down. While not rescinding the new rules, they have amended them to allow separate smoking areas. In addition, smoking will be allowed in restaurants which declare themselves adults-only establishments.

Libertarians Preparing for Massachusetts Pride Parade

Doug Krick is organizing this years Libertarian presence in the upcoming Massachusetts Pride Parade to be held on June 10th in Boston. There are still openings for Marshals, OPH booth volunteers, and marchers.

This is an opportunity for *you* to meet all of those candidates who are putting their name on the line for Liberty. You can now meet those volunteers, board members, and committeemen and committeewomen who have volunteered countless hours of their time to help advance our cause.

For more information about marching, volunteering, helping with the OPH Booth, or getting your campaign involved, please contact Doug Krick, Massachusetts Libertarian GLBT Outreach Director at doug.krick@lpma.org, 617-678-LPMA.

Flying to Anaheim for the national convention?

Richard Freedman did some research on air fares for delegates and alternates to the National Convention. USAir and Continental each have a convention program that allows people flying their own itineraries to be counted as part of a group, for group discounts. Find your own best arrangements for flying to Anaheim (John Wayne Airport, 12 miles from the Convention Center) or Los Angeles (LAX, 40 miles from the Convention Center), but tell them you're a member of a convention group.

If you're flying Continental, cite Ref #NNY70X, to be counted as a member of the group. You will qualify for a discount, about 5% for coach and 10% for first class.

If you're flying USAir, cite Goldfile #18611528, to be counted as a member of the group that they have set up. (If

using a travel agent, tell them to call 1-877-874-7687 and cite the Goldfile number.) You will qualify for an extra 5% discount for ANA, 7% for LAX.

There are Super Saver flights available at \$109 (plus tax) each way from Manchester NH (MHT) to LAX.

From the Convention

Finally, for those of you who missed the convention, here are the Chairman's Top ten things we expect to see when the Libertarian Party hits the big time...

10. McCain offers apology to Libertarians for comparing them to "those wacky, fringe vegetarians."

9. On a very special edition of "The Man Show," hosts Jimmy Kimmel and Adam Carolla explain why "Libertarian Chicks are So Hot."

8. In an effort to earn some revenue from his most recognizable feature, Sam Donaldson shaves his eyebrows so that they read www.lp.org and 1-800-ELECT-US.

7. The Massachusetts GOP officially changes its slogan to: "I don't know. Isn't there a Libertarian Running?"

6. Boston press commends Carla Howell for "opening a fresh can of whup-a** on Ted Kennedy."

5. Globe Headline: "The Drug War: Dangerous Anachronism, or just A Really Bad Idea?"

4. Will Smith recaptures the title of Independence Day Box Office Champ with the summer blockbuster "The Moon Is A Harsh Mistress"

3. CNN Show Crossfire gets a Libertarian makeover: it's still just Democrats and Republicans, but now they can use real guns.

2. On the surprising season finale of Ally McBeal, we learn that the Big Dig was just a bad dream. Meanwhile, Ling defends an AIDS patient who uses medical marijuana.

And the number one thing we expect to see when the LP hits the big time...

1. Ted Kennedy, in Harvard Square, with a sign that says: "Will Filibuster for Food." ■

Vera Meyer Is On The Ballot!

Muni Savyon & R. Dennis Corrigan



By the time you read this, the deadline to submit signatures to town halls, May 2nd, is over. As of now, this is the status of our thirty five candidates:

One candidate, Vera Meyer, submitted her Nomination Papers to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and she will be on the ballot. Thank you, Vera!

Eighteen candidates are in various stages of submitting the signatures to town halls or in the final stage of collecting the signatures. Five more have had some problems with paid petitioners or signature gathering - I hope that they can make it.

Five haven't started yet, or have almost no signatures, and six will probably not get on the ballot for various reasons, but who knows, maybe we will have several pleasant surprises.

When we started with this effort, over one year ago, we set a goal of twenty candidates for State Senators and Representatives. Thirty seven started the process, and it was expected that not all of them would succeed. The main hurdle was getting signatures and finding reliable paid circulators. Other reasons were personal reconsideration and ineligibility to run as Libertarians.

In the next issue of Mass Liberty, we will know better who made it and will be on the ballot in September (the state primaries), and in the July issue we will have the official list of candidates that the Secretary of the Commonwealth will print on the ballots.

Once again, I would like to thank you, the candidates. Because of your efforts and commitment, the LP of Massachusetts is bigger, stronger and much more prepared for the 2002 cycle.

Candidates for U. S. Senate
Carla Howell **District**
Massachusetts

Candidates for U. S. Congress
David Euchner **District**
4th Massachusetts

Candidates for State Senate:
Ilana Freedman **Senate District**
4th Middlesex
Michael Froimowitz Hampshire & Franklin
Kamal Jain Middlesex & Worcester
Marie Katzen 1st Essex
Bob O'Keefe Norfolk & Suffolk
P. Christopher Schoaff 1st Middlesex
John Sullivan 5th Middlesex

Candidates for State Representative:
Heather Ashcraft **District County**
9th Suffolk
Ron Bargoot 30th Middlesex
Charles Beauregard 21st Middlesex
Paul Bello 8th Plymouth
Jim Condit 27th Middlesex
Dean Cook 6th Essex
Scott Coughlin 2nd Norfolk
Scott Cousland 9th Norfolk
Charles C. Cox 28th Middlesex
Eric Davis 12th Middlesex
Steven R. Drury 1st Worcester
Patrick El-Azem 16th Middlesex
Joe Fischetti 2nd Middlesex
Carl Garfield 7th Middlesex
Michael Haag 36th Middlesex
Dale Hogeland 5th Plymouth
Irwin Jungreis 13th Middlesex
Doug Krick 14th Suffolk
Frank Mackay-Smith 4th Essex
Daniel MacKenzie 9th Middlesex
Vera Meyer 38th Middlesex
Jim Mollison 24th Middlesex
Celeste Parent 6th Middlesex
Dave Rizzo 8th Essex
Frank Ross 15th Norfolk
Alan Wilcox 2nd Hampden
Rich Yampell 6th Norfolk



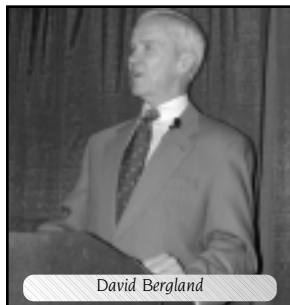
Submissions Welcomed

Liberty Cat asks...

Do you have news to share about a Libertarian event in Massachusetts? Photographs of a freedom rally? Are you looking for volunteers for an outreach booth or a campaign? Why not write a quick article for *Massachusetts Liberty* and submit it by sending e-mail to ma-liberty@la-ma.org, or by USPS to Mass. Liberty Editor, Post Office Box 2610, Boston, MA 02208.

Delegates Endorse Howell in Senate Bid

(continued from page one)



David Bergland

After debate, LAMA members voted 58-11 to accept the language that would merge it with LPMA. Then LPMA members voted without debate, 64-7,

to accept it as well. The merged organization then voted 67-0 to change its now-common bylaws.

Carla Howell's nomination to run for U.S. Senate was endorsed by acclamation - and much cheering! (The Boston Globe attended the convention, and interviewed Carla and others. The next day, the Globe published a strong article on her campaign, and even included a picture of her talking with several Libertarian UMass-Amherst students.)

The merged body also elected state committee members and delegates to the national convention. In addition to committee members elected at large, the convention also elected eight regional representatives. These members, each of whom will represent five state senate districts, have been charged with organizing town committees and establishing a Libertarian presence in their regions.

"Welcome Home"

Barbara Goushaw, campaign manager extraordinaire, gave a luncheon speech in a rousing take-no-prisoners style. She personally welcomed all the people attending their very first convention, and described what it was like for her to find her "home" in the party.

Goushaw then challenged the audience to give a clear statement of why they're involved in Libertarian politics, recalling seeing an interview with Ted Kennedy, where he stumbled on the question "Why are you running for office?" She only works with candidates



Barbara Goushaw

who have a clear and compelling answer to this question.

The assembled lunch crowd was treated to Goushaw's "Rule of the One Hundred," a yardstick she uses for accepting advice when she's running a campaign: You can contribute an opinion only once you've donated \$100 or 100 hours.

She then shared her strategies for reaching critical mass.

- Taking ourselves seriously as players in the political process. She noted, "We need to take ourselves seriously before the media will."
- Preparing to govern. Libertarians are starting to win significant public offices, and having mastered campaigning, we must also master serving in office.
- Building consensus. Goushaw pointed out the futility of being the lone "no" vote, and instead encouraged everyone to learn how to build support for our positions politically. She intoned, "Talk, work, lobby," reminding her listeners that this is how votes get changed.
- Filling the void of leadership. Goushaw pointed out that many towns and cities have appointed positions that sit unfilled.
- Getting a campaign manager, a critical role that candidates often overlook. Goushaw sees every contest between candidates as being a match between two campaign managers, and she encouraged those who don't want to run for office to consider the job of campaign manager instead.

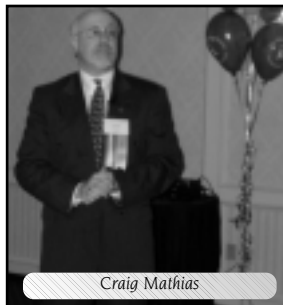
Goushaw closed by sharing her odd experience touring Boston the previous day, seeing a statue of Sam Adams on one side and the Big Dig on the other, and wondering what happened to bring us to this state of affairs.

Governance in the Trenches

Craig Mathias, vice-chairman of the board of selectman in Ashland and a small business owner, spoke on his experiences in government. Mathias' campaign slogan, and one he continues to use to drum up support for his positions, is "It's your

money." His 14-year-old daughter Stephanie is his campaign manager.

Mathias relayed the welcome news that votes in his town are no longer 4-1 against; the Libertarian position wins more than half the time. Quoting Benjamin Franklin, he said "If you would persuade, you must appeal to interest rather than intellect." He advised not to fight, but to educate; he also advised to spend time talking with those who disagree with you, because you will have an easier time marketing your ideas to them later.



Craig Mathias

He explained his "Mathias Filter" for government action: (1) Is it legal and constitutional? (2) Can the private sector do a better job? He pointed out the many ways that government competes with its own citizens, such as keeping rainy day funds and creating an increasing load of regulations.

His final piece of advice? Simply "Get into office!" Our success as a party is measured by our number of elected candidates.

Howell for Senate

Riding a wave of recent media coverage, Carla Howell, candidate for U.S. Senate, spoke on the advantages of small government, saying that it fuels prosperity. She reiterated her promise to vote against big government, saying she will "vote for small government, every time, no exceptions, no excuses."

She made a plea for attendees to volunteer in her campaign, to donate money to keep it strong, and to ask their friends to do the same.

Convention delegates expressed their appreciation for her campaign by bookending her speech with standing ovations.

Getting Ready for Revolution

Ken Krawchuck, Pennsylvanian political dynamo and Libertarian vice-presiden-



Ken Krawchuck

Convention Speakers Energize Crowd

tial hopeful, challenged the assembly to get ready for revolution, saying that if we want to become law-makers, we must have an understanding of the law. He suggested learning the law by “fight[ing] every traffic ticket,” because it affords an opportunity to test your skills against the judge.

Krawchuck discussed needing to know three things: Where you are, where you want to go, and how to get there. He encouraged people to serve in appointed office to get to know the people in the system. He said, “You will know how to disassemble government if you know how it works.”

Demonstrating the power of clever marketing in shaping public opinion, Krawchuck told the story of a Pennsylvania town that tried to impose a law fining owners of property that had been painted with graffiti. Libertarians there were able to abolish the law by labeling it the “Victim Punishment Act.”

Finally, Krawchuck strongly recommended Toastmasters International for candidates, noting the surprising statistic that more people fear public speaking than death.

Harry Browne

Harry Browne, Libertarian presidential candidate, spoke on the national issues that he wants most to bring to the American people’s attention. He remarked that no one he has met thinks George W. Bush, Al Gore, or **anyone** else can run that person’s life better than he himself can.

Browne talked passionately about setting people free. “Only people who have the responsibility to learn from their mistakes will grow and act responsibly.” He also addressed racism and other forms of group hatred, saying that people often grow to hate other groups more when they believe they can impose their beliefs through government.

Browne tackled the issue of letting people know they will be better off in a Libertarian America. His strategy is to become “big enough and

well enough financed that we don’t need the press,” so that with paid advertising, we can reach the critical mass that will then have the media coming to us.

“Third-Party Movements”

Over a banquet dinner, Roy Innis, civil rights leader and CEO of the Congress of Racial Equality, spoke on the importance of third-party movements and keeping the media honest.

He discussed the critical role of third parties in bringing sense and morality to politics. He felt that the LP can learn from the history of the Republicans, who won the presidency in only two election cycles and who represented the high moral ground at that time—but who no longer do.

Innis pointed out how the press often obscures the truth by omission, and then act offended when we challenge their authority. Rather, it’s our duty to point out their lapses. Regarding the growing prominence of African-Americans in the public eye, he spoke with incredulity about the press’ claim of racism when Virginia **elected** a black governor by a slim margin; no one in the media commented on the fact that this result would have been unthinkable even twenty years ago.

Innis described how two of the organizations he’s associated with, the LP and the NRA, are misunderstood by the press. The NRA is reviled in the press, and he warned the dinner gathering that the LP will too, when it reaches a certain threshold of popularity.

Entertainments Galore

Throughout the day, the ever-entertaining Jim Sullivan served as Master of Ceremonies, bringing the introducers of speakers up to the stage and ensuring that everyone was paying attention. At one point he said he was “tickled pink”

to be introducing the next introducer, who turned out to be himself!

After Roy Innis’ dinner speech, state chairman Elias Israel regaled the crowd with a list of the Top Ten Things We Expect to See When the Libertarian Party Hits the Big Time, and then proceeded to ask for donations to make it all happen.

A per capita record of \$15,000 was raised, partly through a spirited auction of Craig Mathias’s recording of a mythical LP voicemail message, which he bought back himself.

Libertarians in Massachusetts seem to be a musical bunch, and this year we not only had Rich Yampell roaming the halls with his guitar, but also LAMA-member-for-life Craig Franklin serenading the dinner attendees with a folks song, and performances by The Mental Notes, a top-notch barbershop quartet that managed to work a Libertarian them into their songs.

Convention Provided Focus and Connection

We were lucky this year to have an outstanding roster of speakers, who not only riveted and educated us while on stage but also generally made themselves available during the rest of the convention. Most spoke on two themes: getting over the hump of size and influence, and being ready when we get there. The merger between the two halves of the Massachusetts presence of the LP was completed, which many hope and expect will set the stage for achieving these goals.

The success of this year’s convention would not have been possible without the efforts of organizers Carol Lapin and Ilana Freedman and a host of volunteers. Elaine Berchin’s work with the media resulted in a stream of reporters who interviewed Carla Howell and Harry Browne and reported on the convention itself.

If you missed the convention this year, surely you will want to reconsider in 2001! ■



An Interview With Bill Bates

(continued from page one)

The Town uses the representative town meeting organization, with a Board of Selectmen and various other elected and appointed boards handling the functions of government. Town Meetings are generally held twice a year, with 90 precinct voters representing five precincts, plus at-large members from the selectmen, and the chairs of other boards and committees. Budget and funding motions are generally heard in the spring meeting, and other motions such as zone changes, by-law changes, and new project authorizations are brought up at the fall meeting.

ML: What do you do as a member of the Planning Board?

BB: The Board meets weekly for from one to three hours, and on an ad hoc basis with other groups such as the selectmen, the public works department, and occasionally for an on-site review of circumstances of a business or a subdivision under development.

The Board's primary functions are to consider and vote on new construction proposals, to review and approve site plans, to recommend to the Town Meeting on applications for zone changes, and to review and update the Town's zoning by-laws.

ML: How were you elected?

BB: I was appointed as an alternate member after submitting a letter of interest in response to the Board's advertisement in the local paper. That appointment was by vote of the Planning Board. After serving in that capacity for several months, and upon the announced departure of one of the members, I ran for and won the vacant seat in the Town's annual election. It wasn't very difficult - my candidacy was unopposed. The hardest part was tracking down fifty registered voters to sign my nomination papers in the dead of winter.

ML: Do you have any advice on getting elected?

BB: In fact, increasing numbers of elected positions in the Town are unopposed, or even unfilled by election due to lack of interest. This last election in March there were at least four of 30 Town Meeting Member seats that were without a candidate - they were won by a two- or three-vote write-in campaign.

Still others were without a single vote and will be appointed by a caucus of precinct members prior to Town Meeting.

This is where the LP could make definite inroads into the local government - for the price of five signatures, any registered voter can get his or her name on the ballot in Ludlow. I'm guessing that a similar situation may exist in many other Massachusetts communities.

Usually, being appointed to fill a vacancy only requires submitting a letter of interest to the selectmen or the appropriate board or department; in a few cases there is more than one applicant, but in many cases, there are none at all. I suppose this suggests that folks are happy with the way things are in town, and no one has an agenda of things they want the government to 'fix'... and I also suppose this is a sign of good political health of the community. I'm sure it's also a sign of prosperity and of the 'leave us alone' mentality. But it also can be a great opportunity for the LP to gain some ground.

ML: Do you have any advice on being successful at your position?

BB: I know this will sound overblown, but Lord Acton's words extend even unto the lowly function of small town planning boards... power - even the privilege of holding sway over one single member of your community - corrupts. There is always the urge to 'fix' things by your arguments and your vote, there is always the tendency to look with favor on the people you know and to treat strangers less favorably, and there is always the temptation to extend your political territory and to create some new regulations to enforce.

With that in mind, for me the key to being successful as a libertarian is to look at the side of the property owner, or the person who wants the government to leave them alone, and act accordingly. I am pleased to report that the Board has rarely voted to infringe the property rights of community members, and has not sought to extend its reach or increase its scope during my tenure. We

have, in fact, managed to streamline some of the processes that are under our jurisdiction.

ML: How do you find working with others at your level of government?

BB: We work most closely with the Building Commissioner and the Board of Public Works in carrying out our functions. We also are called upon occasionally by the Board of Selectmen where our knowledge or jurisdiction makes our input appropriate. It's not surprising that a few differences surface, and that border wars erupt once in a while where functions overlap, but in general we have worked harmoniously with others, and I'd like to think, for the greatest benefit to the Town.

ML: What are you most proud of?

BB: If I have any reason at all to take pride in my accomplishments, it would be in speaking and voting to keep the Board

tending to its business and honoring the rights of those who come before it. Perhaps my single most significant accomplishment is in helping to get a fellow Libertarian appointed to fill a vacancy. Though he was already acting as the alternate member, he was one of three qualified applicants. He won the appointment by a single vote, and has since gone on to win the seat in Town election.

ML: Is there anything that you would like to have done differently?

BB: In my two terms as chairman, I was responsible to present the Board's motions at Town Meeting. In two cases, motions that should have passed were not passed because of special interests arguing against them. Maybe they would have gone down anyway, but in retrospect I wish I had been better prepared to argue in favor of them.

What I learned from these experiences is that common sense doesn't always prevail against the almighty 2/3 majority requirement. I also learned that a bit of ranting in a lost cause is good for the soul. However, politics is and always

(continued on next page)

An Interview With Bill Bates

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should be about compromise and rational consideration.

In a more general sense, though, I feel whatever small influence I may have had has honestly been for the good of the Town.

ML: What are your goals for the future?

BB: My most important goal right now is to pull together a Libertarian Town Committee to try to take advantage of the 'big' election year and the current number of positions going without candidates. It seems likely that with a coordinated effort, we will be able to install several registered Libertarians as Town Meeting Members and perhaps in other appointed or elected positions, given that those who are registered can be convinced to fill out the forms and get on the ballot.

I sometimes wonder if 'libertarian candidate' isn't an oxymoron - why people who believe in small government would want to participate in it. But I have found that it's much easier to influence the system from within than from without, and I hope others will see that posi-

tion and be convinced to - dare I say - infiltrate the ranks of the statist.

ML: What's your history with Libertarianism?

BB: I think I have always been a small 'l' libertarian; at least, thinking back, since I was first in college. But family, career, and other interests kept me from wanting to get involved in 'yet another meeting'. After three years of running my own business, though, I began to see things differently. Government was no longer just that big deduction from my pay and the group that gave me the all-expense paid year in southeast Asia - it became the regulatory monster that took up huge amounts of my time as a business owner.

What tipped me over the edge, interestingly, was a promotional offer from *Reason* magazine (highly recommended reading) which focused me on the unheard of concept of thinking about government. Shortly after I subscribed, I also read Harry Browne's *Why Government Doesn't Work* and David Bergland's *Libertarianism In One Lesson*. After reading those books, one really has no choice. I loan them out every chance I get.

ML: Anything else you'd like to say to our readers?

BB: There are a lot of dormant libertarians out there. Read up on what your government is doing to you, get informed, and start communicating with them. There are plenty of 'hot button' issues that will get heads nodding if you just provide a little informed input.

Form a Town Committee if you don't have one - the time is ripe and the state organization has lots of helpful material on how to go about it.

Find out what your state and federal legislatures are considering doing to you next session. Write informed letters to your senators and representatives. They occasionally listen.

If you've got a few bucks you can spare, support some libertarian organizations. The state and national LP, of course; and candidates for office; the Institute for Justice is one of my favorites - they fight government intrusiveness and idiocy on several fronts through the courts - check out www.ij.org. As they say, liberty isn't free - get some while it's still cheap. ■

Officeholders Honored at March Dinner

Approaching the Spring Town Elections, the Massachusetts Libertarian Party has more office holders than ever before. Our current count shows sixteen officeholders, in twenty one positions. At least eleven of our officeholders have been publicly elected, with the balance being appointed positions.

In March, many of our Libertarian elected officials attended a fund raising dinner at the Naked Fish in Westboro. At this event the officials were presented with unique lapel pins to identify them as Libertarians as they attend to their official duties.



- David Atkinson *Selectman, Provincetown*
- Richard Avery *Town Meeting Member, Arlington*
- Bill Bates *Planning Board, Ludlow
MA Open Space Planning Committee, Ludlow
USDA Farm Service Agency, Hamden County*
- John Brickner *Planning Board, Wales
Commissioner, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission*
- Jerome Erickson *Town Meeting Member, Holbrook*

- Ilana Freedman *Town Meeting Member, Billerica*
- Richard Freedman *Town Meeting Member, Billerica*
- Russ Hamilton *Mohawk Trail Regional School Board*
- Jack Hirschmann *Town Meeting Member, Dartmouth*
- Ron "Rocky" Jepson *Town Meeting Member, Saugus
Finance Committee, Saugus*
- Craig Mathias *Selectman, Ashland
Vice-Chair of Board of Selectmen*
- Jim Mollison *Town Meeting Member, Billerica*
- Bob O'Keefe *Town Meeting Member, Dedham*
- Raymond Phoenix *Planning Board, Ludlow
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Executive Board*
- Ben Rivard-Rapoza *Town Meeting Member, Dartmouth*
- Robert D. Ruplenas *Chairman, Weymouth Cultural Council*

Howell Campaign Garners Media Coverage

In the month of April the Carla Howell for U.S. Senate campaign was covered by the *Boston Globe*, the *Boston Herald*, *The Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, *The Lowell Sun*, *The Patriot Ledger*, the *Salem Evening News*, and the *Brockton Enterprise*. Wayne Woodlief's column in the *Boston Herald* titled, "Ted Should Worry About Howell's Run", opened with this:

"Forget about the Republican candidate. It's Carla Howell, the surprising Libertarian candidate, who is likely to make beads of perspiration pop on Senator Ted Kennedy's brow, if not a full sweat."

Carla Howell recently appeared on the WGBH show "Greater Boston" with Emily Rooney and Jay Severin's talk show on 96.9 fm.

You probably heard about the coverage of this campaign on the Channel 7 evening news a couple weeks ago. It was highlighted at the top of the hour.

Covered by reporter Andy Hiller it was very positive and upbeat. Andy Hiller closed the segment by saying,

"Carla Howell has every reason to smile, because she's not only a candidate, she's also an advertisement for the Libertarian Party. So she can lose this US Senate race and still win something very important: increased recognition and wider support for other Libertarians. And you know what? That's probably exactly what's going to happen."

On April 1st Carla Howell spoke to over 800 people in Carver, MA at a rally organized by the Gun Owners Action League. She will address thousands more at two more rallies: one at the State House on April 24th and another in Hudson, MA on the 29th.

In May, two major radio appearances are planned. On May 15th Carla will appear from 6 A.M. to 7 A.M. on WRKO's morning show with Peter Blute. On May 17th she will appear from 9 P.M. to 10 P.M. on David Brudnoy's show on WBZ.

Volunteers Needed Immediately

As the ballot access drive concludes, volunteers are needed **immediately** to help with the petitions. The Howell campaign needs sorters, counters, distributors, drivers and gofers.

There is an excellent chance that the Republicans will fail to place a candidate on the ballot leaving Carla in a two candidate race with Kennedy. But to do so petitions need to be sorted and delivered to every town and city hall in the Commonwealth by May 9th. This will be a huge endeavor and will require Libertarian volunteers from around the state.

If you are unsure whether you can help, call Kay Pirrello immediately at (508) 276-1400. You can make a difference.

Book Carla Howell to deliver her speech "Small Government Is Beautiful!"

Do you have ties with an organization that might be interested in scheduling Carla Howell to speak at one of their events? Do you belong to a Lions, Rotary, Elks Club, or other civic organization in Massachusetts? A Libertarian town committee? Chamber of Commerce or business group? Church or Temple? Gun Club? Are you affiliated with a university, high school, or any other group that has meetings where Carla Howell can deliver her Small Government is Beautiful speech?

If so, please contact the Carla Howell for U.S. Senate campaign to make arrangements.

We are best able to accommodate venues that meet the following criteria:

- 1.) 50 attendees or more.
- 2.) promoted in advance (e.g. newsletter, local newspapers, or electronic distribution list.)
- 3.) a 20-40 minute time slot for Carla Howell to speak and take questions.
- 4.) time for Carla Howell and other campaign workers to meet with attendees afterwards

If your event meets these criteria, please contact Kay Pirrello at (508) 276-1400 with the following information and we'll arrange to book an appearance:

- 1.) Name of organization.
- 2.) Name, contact, phone number and person's position within the organization.

If you anticipate the event to be a fund-raising opportunity for the Carla Howell for U.S. Senate campaign, please coordinate with campaign CEO Michael Cloud by calling the above phone number in advance of making plans.

Thank you for helping us spread the word that "Small Government is Beautiful!" ■

If you're interested in joining an exciting campaign that is drawing the attention of Libertarians from across America, the
Carla Howell for U.S. Senate
campaign, please contact Volunteer Coordinator
Kay Pirrello at kpirrello@carlahowell.org
(508) 276-1400

Raise Awareness of Your Campaign

Laura El-Azem

Ok, so you've decided to run for office. You've steeled yourself for your biggest chore – gathering the necessary nomination signatures – and maybe you thought the fun would stop right there. Silly candidate! The fun is just beginning!

Certainly, media coverage will broadcast your libertarian message to more voters faster than you could ever get the word out one-on-one. What may not be so obvious is exactly how a “political unknown” can command the attention of the local media and use it to his or her best advantage. So, here are a few tips that have worked well for me and for Patrick, who is running for State Rep in the 16th Middlesex District:

Take Advantage of Community TV Programming

Do you ever stop to watch your local TV channel? People do – so you should, too! After formalizing the Chelmsford Town Committee in the fall, our super-nice Town Clerk passed our names along to the host of a local TV discussion group. (Betty, it seems, thought that “a real 3rd party” voice should be heard along with the political regulars, instead of a Reformer!) Now, granted, this part was pure luck, but we have since achieved the same result by taking the initiative to call other TV hosts. Anyway, the show made a few waves, simply because Patrick articulated a libertarian viewpoint that viewers found either refreshing or infuriating, but most importantly, *new*. The feedback made the host very happy, and he invited Patrick to return. This time, we arranged for Patrick to announce his candidacy for State Rep. The host was able to use the “big mystery announcement” as bait for viewers, but Patrick also benefited from the publicity.

Get On-Line

Thanks to Al Gore's technical prowess, your community newspaper is probably on the Internet. (Check www.townonline.com, among others.) The web site may have a calendar for you to post your events and appearances, or – even better – a discussion forum on which you can participate in email chatter about local issues. You win by gently educating the visitors to the site and by soaking up undiluted local flavor; the web site, town or newspaper benefits by increased interest and usage. If your local site doesn't have a calendar or a forum, talk to the web master. You may be able to get one rolling.

Write Intelligently

Your local paper has long been an open venue for your bright ideas, whether or not you have chosen to take advantage of it. Write a carefully considered, brief editorial that doesn't rant, and they'll probably print it. Newspapers editors like to know that their stories are being read, but they love to provoke a reaction. Best of all is a *fresh* reaction on a *local* issue. Don't forget to sign your letter with “Libertarian Candidate for XXX”!

Hitch Your Wagon to A Star

Do you know someone who is already involved in politics in your area? Maybe a local journalist, maybe the Selectman or School Committee member who lives next door? It doesn't have to be someone who shares your views, as long as you can converse comfortably. LISTEN to this person talk (as most will be more than happy to do) about the issues and the concurrent races as much as possible. Try to pinpoint the political “movers and shakers”, who stands where on which issues, and which events you should attend for maximally efficient networking and publicity. If you are of

like minds on most issues, he or she may actually want to help you by teaching you the ropes. If you are ideologically opposed, on the other hand, he or she may be game for a public (and possibly televised) debate. Just remember: never, *ever* pass up an opportunity to learn from someone who's walked the path ahead of you.

Get out there and network!

Town meetings, fund raisers, and elections for School Committee, Library Board, Town Meeting, etc. provide many opportunities to network with the townie illuminati. Watch for notices in your community newspaper and on the scrolling ads on TV (tape them for an hour, then play them back and make notes!), and get out there. Introduce yourself, put faces to the names you've read about, and – once again – LISTEN. You'll probably be surprised at how small the circle of people attending turns out to be, and how happy they are to see a new face.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Each and every day, write a few thank you notes on postcards that advertise your candidacy on the front. You can order them or make them yourself on your computer. Write to the reporter who covered your candidacy, the neighbor who called to ask about your views, the person who debated you on the community bulletin board. Just find a simple reason to say thanks, and you'll be sending out a little publicity with every \$.22 stamp.

The moral of the story is simple: there are a million win-win publicity opportunities out there in your community, right now, just waiting for you.

Go get 'em! ■

Freedman Announces Campaign for State Senate

Ilana Freedman of Billerica has announced her bid for a seat in the State Senate representing the Fourth Middlesex district.

The incumbent, Democrat Robert Havern, is a career politician who has run unopposed in recent elections.

Freedman says he won't receive a free

pass into the Senate this time. She calls on Massachusetts Libertarians to “Be a part of this effort to oust a complacent politician and replace him with a Libertarian who is not afraid to challenge the status quo in the Senate.”

Activists interested in working on this aggressive campaign should contact

Freedman at 978-362-2140.

The Fourth Middlesex district includes Arlington, Billerica, Burlington, Lexington, Woburn, and a small part of Cambridge. ■

volunteer opportunities

Rizzo Campaign Seeks Volunteers

Dave Rizzo's campaign is actively seeking volunteers in the North Shore area to do all the things campaigns do: write press releases, develop a web site, write position papers, get bumper stickers, yard signs and letterhead, collect nomination paper signatures, fund raise, contact the media, and walk the district door-to-door (in the nice weather later on). Please contact Mr. Rizzo at 781-631-1484.

Wilcox Campaign Seeks Volunteers

The Alan Wilcox campaign in the 2nd Hampden district is also looking for volunteers. This district covers Hampden, Longmeadow, Wales, and pieces of other towns in the area. To volunteer please contact Mr. Wilcox at 413-596-8587.

Carla Howell campaign wants your help

Want to help spread the words "small government is beautiful"? Arrange to have Carla Howell, Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate speak to your church, civic organization, classroom, or club anywhere in Massachusetts. Or just send a contact name and phone number to Kay Pirrello at kpirrello@carlahowell.org or call (978) 741-2581.

Massachusetts Liberty Needs Writers

Massachusetts Liberty is looking for a few people to write our regular articles and cover interesting Libertarian events. Most notably we need someone to contact the town committees each month and write up the one page "Notes From Around the State." The time commitment would be about 2 hours a month. If you're interested, please contact ma-liberty@lpma.org.

Euchner Campaign Needs Volunteers

Help is needed immediately for our ballot access drive. Work alone or in organized groups. Please contact the campaign at deuchner@lpma.org, or visit www.euchner2000.org.

Operation Politically Homeless

Volunteers are needed to staff Libertarian outreach booths at conventions, fairs, gun shows, and similar events around the state. For more information please contact Elias Israel at 888-627-2725. ■

Play a Role in the Party's Future

Richard Freedman and Dave Rizzo

As I'm sure you're reading elsewhere in this issue, we are coming off a tremendously successful convention, have accomplished great things over the last year, and in the coming year have the opportunity to eclipse all of the Massachusetts Libertarian Party's previous successes combined.

There are many facets to a successful political party, and we all have our pet projects. Dave's is supporting our candidates for office. Yours may be finance, membership growth, public relations, or one of many others. In adopting the Massachusetts Libertarian Party Bylaws as approved by the convention delegates, the State Committee observed the need for volunteers to serve on several committees. These volunteers do not have to be members of the State Committee, but can be anyone who wants to help the party.

Under the newly united LPMA, you now have the opportunity to participate in our future in the area that's most important to you and where you feel you can make the greatest contribution. The State Committee is looking for Committee Chairs and Members for the following committees:

The Candidates Committee, which has the responsibility for recruiting, training, and assisting candidates for all elective offices in the Commonwealth.

The Finance Committee, which is responsible for fundraising for the State Committee

The Program Committee, which is responsible for producing and publishing responses to events of the day, including newsworthy events, statewide matters of public policy, and questions to be placed before the voters.

The Public Relations Committee, which is responsible for fostering, promoting, and developing Libertarian proposals and Libertarianism in order to inspire the party members and to advise the party leadership as to how best to present Libertarianism to the public.

The Registration and Membership Committee, which is responsible for encouraging and promoting local and regional efforts and to monitor program implementation at the state and regional levels.

The Rules Committee, which is responsible for drafting, reviewing, and making recommendations to the State Committee with respect to local, regional, and State Committee bylaws, charters, and party organizations.

The Convention Committee, which is responsible for scheduling, organizing, publicizing, and operating the Nominating and Program Conventions of the Massachusetts Libertarian Party.

Please join us in creating a better future for your family, friends, and all the citizens of Massachusetts. Contact Laura El-Azem at lelazem@lpma.org or 978-455-1155 with a brief description of the committee(s) you're interested in, your contact information, and any specific skills that you can lend to that effort. On behalf of the Massachusetts Libertarian Party State Committee, thank you for your contribution to our cause. We all look forward to working with you in the near future. ■

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