



# Massachusetts Liberty

The Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts

June 2003

## For Rich Aucoin, It's All about Taxes

Bob Giramma

Rich Aucoin sat down with Massachusetts Liberty recently to provide an update on his libertarian activities in Waltham. Rich is a lifelong resident of Waltham and participates in libertarian activities at the state and local level. He was the LPMA's candidate for Lieutenant Governor in 2002 and is currently running for Councilor-at-Large in Waltham. In addition, he was Outreach Director for last November's Ballot Question 1 to end the state income tax.

"Question 1 proved that a huge number of people in Massachusetts want bold tax cuts," said Aucoin. "Now we must maintain our small-government momentum."

And Aucoin knows a way to do just that: local tax cuts.

He says the biggest issue in this year's election in Waltham is the ever-expanding city budget. The situation in Waltham is similar to what is happening at the state and federal levels, where budgets have approximately doubled in little more than a decade. "The 'bigness' of the state and federal governments has oozed down and contaminated local government," said Aucoin. "Big-government mandates are strangling our cities and towns, driving costs up very quickly, and confounding local taxpayers with messy and complicated intergovernmental formulas."

For example, in 2000 Waltham's school department had been promised racial-balance funding from the state if it agreed to close good neighborhood schools in favor of building eight new schools that would accommodate students from the various ethnic enclaves within the city.

But after the construction project began, the overspending crisis on Beacon Hill left Waltham scrambling to finance the project. "This is happening to taxpayers across the state," said Aucoin. "Local officials gave the impression that they were heroically scoring free state money for their communities, while their constituents were also paying for the free schools of many other cities and towns whose officials were playing the same



**WCTJ member Rich Aucoin**

game. It's been a scam of mammoth proportions, rivaling the wasteful spending of even the Big Dig."

But Rich Aucoin says wasteful spending by city hall goes far beyond unnecessary construction projects. Waltham residents have seen their city budget nearly double from \$82 million in 1990 to over \$156 million today, while city services have remained relatively the same.

That's why Aucoin and other local activists have formed Waltham Citizens for Taxpayer Justice, which is circulating a citizens petition to reduce city spending by 25%.

The group is demanding the city publish a report accounting for the last decade's budget increases, so the taxpayers can see where their money has been going. "We want a complete breakdown in numbers of city employees over the last decade, the cost of hiring them, their specific functions, and we want this report to be audited by someone with no ties to government," said Aucoin. "If they refuse to provide the taxpayers this honest accounting of their sharp spending increases, then well be back next year for another bold reduction," he said.

Aucoin believes that Proposition 2 ½ Underrides, such as the one being sponsored by WCTJ, are the perfect way to keep the momentum of Question 1 strong. "The public has a short memory," he said. "While activists from other parties continue fighting off overrides, Libertarian activists need to be doing overrides, leaving no doubt in voters' minds about which party is serious about making government small."

WCTJ has collected over 700 signatures, on their way to 3,300, which must be submitted to the city clerk's office no later than September 5th. Rich is confident that the spending reduction is an easy sell, but he says he needs volunteers to help petition and/or to help distribute fliers. Anyone willing to volunteer some time to help WCTJ should contact Rich at [raucoin@lpma.org](mailto:raucoin@lpma.org) or call him at **(781) 899-1418**.



## Massachusetts Liberty

June 2003

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### Next Deadline

June 14, 2003

*Massachusetts Liberty* is the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts, a state affiliate of the Libertarian Party of the United States.

*Massachusetts Liberty* is published twelve times a year. Subscriptions are \$15 per year.

Send changes of address, subscription requests, and materials for publication to *Massachusetts Liberty's* e-mail address or mailing address. All submissions are subject to editing.

## Letter from the chair

### Plenty of Reasons for Optimism

If you attended this year's convention, you probably heard David Roscheck's speech "Welcome to the Resistance". I know I was re-invigorated to fight for liberty by David's words, and I suspect that if you heard it...you were, too.

And Michael Cloud's speech, especially when he told of his dialog with Rosa Parks and how she said "you just put one foot in front of the other and march into history," was inspiring. OK, OK...you already know, whether you were at the convention or not, that we had some great speakers and a great day.

Optimism is something that some people have inside most of the time, while others might need some external stimulus to evoke that feeling within them. For that purpose, some things are pretty darn close to universally applicable. Need examples? OK, Rich Aucoin and Arthur Torrey.

Rich not only rose to the challenge of running for Lieutenant Governor last year, but he handled key responsibilities on the Committee for Small Government's Question 1 activities. He has become an ardent and eloquent spokesperson for liberty and for the LP, and now he's leading an effort to reduce property taxes in the city of Waltham. While collecting signatures, Rich reports, "What an appetite I'm finding for downsizing big government! Oh the fun it is to be a Libertarian."

Rich isn't the only one who inspires us. Arthur Torrey of Billerica explained in last month's issue of *Massachusetts Liberty* how easy it was for him to win local office. Though it is a non-partisan position, he used the campaign to promote the LP and the word "Libertarian".

In his role as Town Meeting Member, Arthur will have a bully pulpit from which to speak against the growth and intrusiveness of government which continues at all levels where Libertarians are not present to resist it. If you really want to make a difference, Arthur has shown a reason for optimism — it's easy to do.

There are many more reasons for optimism. Across the nation and even around the world, the word "libertarian" is being used more and more frequently and state and local government offices are looking to us more and more for participation and guidance.



**Kamal Jain**

I was recently appointed to the newly formed State Steering Committee for the Help America Vote Act. At the kickoff meeting I was the only non-governmental employee in attendance and Secretary Galvin — who chairs the committee — thanked me for participating.

Are there reasons for pessimism? Only if you're looking for them.

Do we have huge challenges ahead of us? Sure we do...the voter registration drive being the biggest of them all. But getting 25,000 new Libertarian registrations by February of next year is completely achievable if we focus and remain committed to liberty in our time.

Call Kay Pirrello at **978-317-0355** or email her at [kpirrello@lpma.org](mailto:kpirrello@lpma.org) and tell her how you plan to help us keep major party status. And while you're at it, call or email me to tell me what local office you plan to run for or seek appointment to.



## Get Involved! Melanie Mork

### Be Heard, Be Represented

With near-unanimous approval, the small city of Arcata, California has recently become one of many cities across the country to pass resolutions against the Patriot Act. The FBI is calling these resolutions a "misunderstanding". These resolutions send an important message to our legislators that we do not want more government intervention in our personal lives. Could your local community preserve their personal freedom by keeping out this intrusive act?

### Other Events of Libertarian Interest

The Objectivist Center will hold its 14th Annual Summer Seminar at Bentley College in Waltham, MA from June 28th through July 5th. For more information, visit [www.theobjectivistcenter.org](http://www.theobjectivistcenter.org) or call **(845) 471-6100**.

## Libertarian Events

### **Marlborough Libertarian Association** Sunday, June 8, 7:00 P.M.

Marlborough-area Libertarians gather the second Sunday of each month at the Joy Asia buffet on Route 20 in Marlborough. For more information, contact Jess Bowen at [jbowen@lpma.org](mailto:jbowen@lpma.org) or Stephanie Farrell at [sfarrell@lpma.org](mailto:sfarrell@lpma.org) or **(508) 485-3341**.

### **Pioneer Valley Libertarians Meeting** Wednesday, June 11, 7:00 P.M.

Pioneer Valley Libertarians meet the second Wednesday of each month at Bickford's on Boston Road in Springfield. For more information, contact Carol McMahon at **(413) 250-6608** or [kilshandra@mindspring.com](mailto:kilshandra@mindspring.com).

### **Worcester County Libertarian Association** Sunday, June 15, 6:00 P.M.

The Worcester County Libertarian Association meets on the third Sunday of each month at Tweed's Pub Restaurant at 231 Grove Street in Worcester. For more information, contact George Phillies at **(508) 754-1859** or [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net) or Dean Cook at **(508) 765-5011** or [dcook@lpma.org](mailto:dcook@lpma.org), or visit [wcla.tripod.com](http://wcla.tripod.com).

### **Executive Committee Meeting** Saturday, June 14, 1:30 P.M.

The next Executive Committee meeting will take place on Saturday, June 14, 2003 at 1:30 PM at the home of Carolyn McMa-

hon. The meeting is scheduled to run until the LPMA Social begins at 3:00 PM.

### **Pot Luck Social**

Saturday, June 14, 3:00 P.M.

Location: 221 Bumstead Road, Monson MA

What to bring: Your favorite entree, salad or desert and the recipe. I'll provide plates, cups, soft drinks, coffee, tea and a grill.

Directions:

From the Mass Pike take exit 8 (Palmer)

Take a right at the end of the exit

Take a left onto Main St Palmer at the second traffic light Main St becomes Route 32, Follow Rt 32 through the center of Monson

After you cross the railroad tracks take a right turn onto Robbins Road

At the end of Robbins Road take a left onto Bumstead Rd. 221 Bumstead Road is a Brown ranch with a huge Maple tree in front of it approximately 3/4 of a mile from Robbins Road.

If you get lost or need directions from a different starting point, call Carolyn McMahon at **(413) 267-9339**.

## Volunteer Opportunities

City and town elections are happening now — are you running for local office?

### **Candidates Needed**

Cities and towns tend to hold their elections in "off" years. Why don't you consider running for local office? It's a great way to start your political career, build grass root support, and show the Libertarian platform in action. If you're interested in running, contact Kamal Jain at [kjain@lpma.org](mailto:kjain@lpma.org).

### **Campaign Volunteers Needed**

Every Libertarian candidate running will need some help. There are many ways to volunteer for a campaign: writing, making phone calls, driving the candidate to events, being part of the campaign staff, and so many other ways.

If you are interested in assisting with a campaign, contact Dennis Corrigan at (978) 352-4435 or [dcorrigan@lpma.org](mailto:dcorrigan@lpma.org).

### **Operation Politically Homeless**

Operation Politically Homeless is a booth set up at events that draw crowds. Volunteers ask event attendees to take the World's Smallest Political Quiz, hand out Libertarian literature, answer questions, and encourage people to register to vote as Libertarians and join the party.

Many fairs and festivals are candidates for OPH booths. Find out if there's one in your area. Running an OPH booth is easy and fun. We can help you plan the event, recruit help, and supply you with an OPH kit. For more information about OPH booths, see [www.discoverliberty.org](http://www.discoverliberty.org).

### **Massachusetts Liberty Needs Reporters**

Do you enjoy writing? Want to help make this newsletter even better? *Massachusetts Liberty* is looking for a few good

people to cover Libertarian events around the state. Whether you're willing to travel across the state or prefer to stay near home, your help is needed. We will provide you with the when and where of the event and you provide us with an article and photo (digital if possible!) For more information, contact us at [ma-liberty@lpma.org](mailto:ma-liberty@lpma.org).

### **Voter Registration Drive**

The LPMA needs to register 25,000 new libertarians by the end of 2003 to maintain major party status in Massachusetts. There are a variety of jobs that need to be filled by volunteers — from fund raising to running OPH and voter registration booths. To help the LPMA maintain major party status, contact Kay Pirrello at [kpirrello@lpma.org](mailto:kpirrello@lpma.org) or Jess Bowen at [jbowen@lpma.org](mailto:jbowen@lpma.org).

### **Host a Social!**

The LPMA socials are parties held in Massachusetts on a monthly basis for the purpose of getting together with other Libertarians and having fun.

Although there is rarely an "activism agenda" at a social, we often have new Libertarians showing up to find out what we're all about, and it's a good way to meet candidates and activists.

The traditional date is the third Saturday of the month, and the traditional time is 7pm. Traditionally, there is no social during the month in which the annual state convention is held.

To volunteer to host a social, contact the social coordinator at [socials@lpma.org](mailto:socials@lpma.org).

# Free Tickets to the 2004 State Convention!

Kay Pirrello

This year's convention was a great event and a lot of fun. Next year's will be even better! How would you like a free ticket to the 2004 State Convention? We're giving them away!

How do you get one? It's fun and easy! Just collect 25 new Libertarian Voter Registrations between now and the end of the year, and send them in to our Registration Drive Headquarters!

## How do I collect Libertarian Voter Registrations?

*Step One:* Get some voter registration cards! You can pick them up from your town clerk, from the Registry of Motor Vehicles, from the Secretary of State's office in Boston, or call or email us and we'll send you some! Email Kay Pirrello at [kpirrello@lpma.org](mailto:kpirrello@lpma.org) or call (978) 317-0355.

*Step Two:* Register Libertarians! Think about the people who agree when you talk about Libertarian ideas. Who doesn't like the way our government is doing things? These people are perfect candidates! If they're not registered to vote, they can register now as Libertarians. If they are already registered to vote, they can fill out the same voter registration card and check the "Party Enrollment Change" box. Everyone must check "Libertarian" under "Party Enrollment".

*Step Three:* Send the registrations to us! To qualify for a free convention ticket, the registrations you collect must be sent in to our Registration Drive Headquarters. Include a note with your name, address, phone number and email, and mail



## Who will you mix and mingle with at the 2004 State Convention?

them to: Libertarian Registration Drive, 168 Bracken Drive, Marlborough, MA 01752. You don't have to wait until you have all 25. If you send them to us as you collect them, we'll keep track of how many you've submitted.

*Step Four:* We'll send you a Congratulations letter when you've collected 25 Libertarian registrations, and you'll get to attend the 2004 State Convention for free!

This isn't a contest. Everyone who collects 25 or more Libertarian voter registrations will get a free ticket to the 2004 State Convention. That's a \$95 value!

Want to bring a guest to next year's convention? Keep collecting registrations! We'll give you one free ticket for every 25 Libertarian Voter Registrations you collect.

## How are YOU registered?

Are you registered as a Libertarian voter? Or are you still registered unenrolled or independent? Might you even be registered in another party? Now's the time to make the change! If you send us your Libertarian Voter Registration, we'll count it toward your 25 for a free convention ticket.

## This Month in History

Melanie Mork



Author Thomas Sowell

This June we celebrate the birthday of Thomas Sowell, who was born on June 30th, 1930. Sowell was born into poverty in the Jim Crow South during the Great Depression, and grew up in Harlem. His incredible life story involves time with the Marines, having a career as a controversial writer, teacher, and economist, and earning a PhD in Economics at the University of Chicago. Sowell is currently a Rose and Milton Friedman Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution in California.

Already a prolific author on liberty, Thomas Sowell has finally put down in words the incredible story of his life from poverty, to Harvard, so socialism, and finally, under the influence of Hayek and Friedman, to a passionate dedication to freedom and economic liberty. Check out his autobiography, entitled "A Personal Odyssey: Thomas Sowell."

## Working for Liberty on Independence Day!

What are your plans for the evening of the 4th of July? Want to see fireworks? Have we got the plan for you! Celebrate America's Independence Day by working for Liberty, and see a great fireworks display at the same time!

Rich Aucoin and the Waltham Citizens for Taxpayer Justice will be mounting a huge petition collecting effort the evening of July 4th festivities in Waltham. They need the help of every volunteer we can muster.

The group is collecting petition signatures to reduce Waltham's property tax. For more details, read the front-page article about Rich Aucoin and his initiative.

Here's the plan for the night of July 4th:

## Voter Registration Drive Update

For a couple of months now, we have been telling you that the number one priority of the state party is to register 25,000 new Libertarian voters by February 2004. At the convention in April, Dave Rizzo told you that the money you gave would help us achieve that goal.

So here we are 60 days after the convention and it is time you got an update: Before, during, and after the convention, we tried to call people to get volunteers and donations to the registration drive. It's probably no surprise to any of you that in these lean times, many Libertarians just cannot give the way they were able to a couple of years ago. And so, while the amount raised at the convention was significant, it didn't get us far enough to reach our goal.

Of course money isn't everything, though in politics it's pretty darn close. The other thing we need from people is their

## Buying Books to Keep a Spirit Alive

On June 14, 2000 Peter McWilliams died at the hands of a U.S. government bent on controlling our lives by keeping us ignorant. Many Libertarians held McWilliams in high regard even before he joined the party. He was a tender, thoughtful man with a sharp wit.

Peter McWilliams was an outspoken critic of the War on Drugs and an advocate of medical marijuana. He also suffered from AIDS and colon cancer. When the DEA busted into his home and confiscated a computer that stored his latest book in progress, according to McWilliams, he "suddenly had two books to write." He was placed under house arrest where he eventually succumbed to his illness. The Federal government prosecuted McWilliams even though, prior to his arrest, California passed a medical marijuana referendum known as Proposition 215.

How can Peter McWilliams' spirit be kept alive? Ed Bowers of the California Libertarian Party's Media Relations Committee began an effort to put McWilliams' book *Ain't Nobody's Business*

Meet Rich Aucoin at Bickford's in Waltham at 7:00pm. He'll coordinate all the volunteers, and we'll start collecting signatures from people walking to nearby Leary Field to see the fireworks. Once we get to Leary Field, we'll spread out and blanket the whole crowd with petitioners. If you need to arrive after 7:00pm, call Rich Aucoin on his cell phone at: **(781) 956-6013**.

This will be an exciting evening for Libertarians! After a great day of barbeques and parties, join Rich Aucoin and Waltham Libertarians to help them reduce taxes in Waltham!

For more information or to RSVP that you'll be there, please email Rich Aucoin ahead of time at [raucoin@lpma.org](mailto:raucoin@lpma.org).

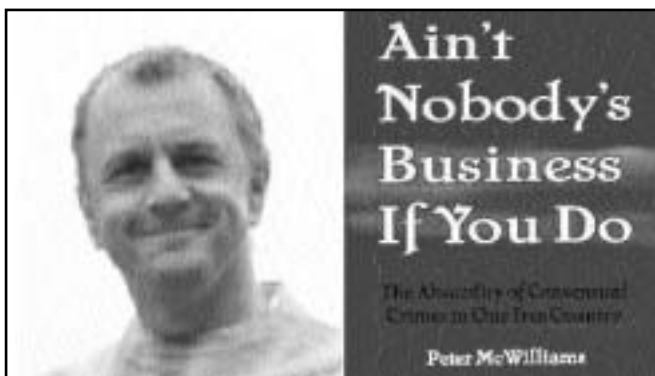
time and energy. We need volunteers to make phone calls, collect registrations, and do other things to carry us across the finish line.

You're not only helping a great cause — you can also save money! (And who doesn't like saving money?) The party is offering FREE ADMISSION TO NEXT YEAR'S CONVENTION to anyone who personally registers 25 Libertarian voters. There's no limit, either. For every 25 registrations you get one free admission to next year's convention. See the article about this program on page 4 of this issue for more details.

To contribute to the registration drive, please go to <http://www.lpma.org/contribute> to donate online or call **(978) 317-0355**. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Kay Pirrello at [kpirrello@lpma.org](mailto:kpirrello@lpma.org) or **(978) 317-0355**.

Thank you for your support!

Celeste Parent



**Author Peter McWilliams**

*If You Do* on the national best-seller list. At the beginning of June, Libertarian activists and medical marijuana activists were encouraged to buy copies of the book during the week of June 8 and 14.

The rationale for the timing, according to Bowers, was that bestseller ratings are based on Sunday to Monday sales, and the period ending June 14 marks the anniversary of McWilliams' death.

For more information about Peter McWilliams visit <http://www.mcwilliams.com> or <http://homepage.mac.com/ebowers/PeteQYMA.htm/>, for information on Bowers' efforts to honor him.

A successful "bestseller drive" might lead to other libertarian initiatives of its kind. Imagine a national bestseller list promoting other thoughtful pro-freedom and pro-economics literature for a change: Hayek, Rothbard, Friedman, Rand, Sowell, Bastiat and so many more!

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## Calling All Officeholders

Are you a Libertarian serving in office, or do you know of any serving Libertarians? If so, we need your help. Some time ago we lost the services of the volunteer who tracked Massachusetts Libertarian officeholders. While it's not a huge task, it is hugely important... and without someone "owning" the task it just won't get done.

To get us back on the right track, LPMA chairman Kamal Jain has taken this task on himself, but will gladly hand it off to you if you are sincerely interested. It will be a fun, easy way to make a difference for the state party, and will help the state party to recognize and honor Libertarians in office.

As a political party, gaining elective or appointed office is our number one goal. By getting people into office, we achieve

political success before we even start to change how things are done. People get to know and trust their local officeholders, and when they do that, they realize that Libertarians don't have three heads, don't want to install heroin vending machines in public schools and aren't dangerous radicals.

Please email Kamal Jain at [kjain@lpma.org](mailto:kjain@lpma.org) with all the details of the office or offices held by you and/or any Libertarians you know of. He needs to know the title and term of the office, whether the office was gained by election or appointment, and any other pertinent details you can provide. And remember, it's never too late to seek an office in your home town.

## Host a Social!

### What are LPMA socials?

The LPMA socials are parties held in Massachusetts on a monthly basis for the purpose of getting together with other Libertarians and having fun.

Although there is rarely an "activism agenda" at a social, we often have new Libertarians showing up to find out what we're all about, and it's a good way to meet candidates and activists.

The socials are advertised online on the LPMA events calendar, through weekly messages generated from the calendar entries and sent to the activists email list, the monthly e-zine sent to the announcements list, and the monthly issue of Massachusetts Liberty.

### When and where are the socials held?

The traditional date is the third Saturday of the month, and the traditional time is 7pm. Occasionally this date moves around if it conflicts with other big events (such as the Mass-Cann Freedom Rally in Boston, which is usually held in September or October), and sometimes a social is held at another hour. For example, summer socials are often afternoon barbecues.

We try to schedule them all around the state so that everyone gets a chance to attend. For example, in the summer of 2001 the social was a daytime ice-cream party in Provincetown; groups of people arranged to take the ferry from Boston together.

### Who can host?

To a first approximation, anybody! You don't have to "know someone" in LPMA, and occasionally we've had hosts who gave a social as the first LPMA event they had ever attended.

### If I don't live in a mansion, can I host a social?

The average social probably has about 20 people in atten-



**Arthur Torrey fries a turkey at a past social**

dance. You should have room for at least this many. If you have a small house but a huge backyard, you might want to host a summer social where most of the action is outside.

It's best if you can offer parking nearby (an easy walk) for ten or twenty cars. However, if you're interested in hosting and the parking options are limited, we may be able to suggest solutions; talk to the Social Coordinator.

### How do I sign up?

Just contact Social Coordinator Kay Pirrello at [kpirrello@lpma.org](mailto:kpirrello@lpma.org) or (978) 317-0355 to coordinate the date/time and type of event. Kay person will know about any special events that might conflict with the usual social date.

### What kind of event should I host?

This is up to you and your preferences; this is the Libertarian Party, after all. In the past, we've had a traditional evening party (buffet or potluck), pool parties, afternoon barbecues, ice-cream parties, movie nights, and board game parties.

### What kind of food and drink should I make available?

It's basically up to you. If you're having a potluck, you should say in the invitation what you'll supply and what you expect others to bring. Some hosts supply the food but not the drinks, or vice versa. It's always nice to ensure that a vegetarian option is available. You may want to mention in your invitation whatever food restrictions you plan on catering to (soy allergy, etc.). The key is simply to let people know what to expect; beyond that, they're on their own.

### Is there anything else I need to do?

It would be wonderful if you could plan to take photos at the event and provide them to the Massachusetts Liberty editor afterwards. If you're so inclined and the party was especially unusual, you might even want to write an article about it.

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