



Massachusetts Liberty

The Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts

November 2003

WCTJ Question 1

Carla Howell

The opposition was out in force with "No on 1" signs and brochures. Unlike the fliers of the Waltham Citizens for Taxpayer Justice headed by Rich Aucoin which proudly identify their source, the "No on 1" fliers did not cite any committee at all! Illegal under the law, but we did not report it since we believe in FREE SPEECH.

The "No on 1" signs were believed to be sponsored by government union employees. They identified themselves as "Concerned Citizens", but last we checked no such committee was registered with the city (also illegal), so we're not sure. They were indeed concerned — about protecting their cushy government jobs!

Rich Aucoin appeared in the City Council debate on Wednesday, October 22nd, which will be aired on the local cable access.

The Waltham Daily News Tribune ran articles almost daily about Question 1. You'll be SHOCKED, no doubt, to hear that most articles, letters-to-the-editor, and "speak outs" (unsigned graffiti-like comments that they publish which were being submitted by the opposition) were biased against, if not outright opposed to, Question 1.

The two mayor candidates were attacking Question 1 as were



Rich Aucoin

the other council candidates — while trying to pretend they're "fiscally responsible". It was comical to watch them simultaneously kiss up to their Big Government supporters while trying to convince taxpayers that they're somehow on their side.

Question 1 was THE issue of this election!

One city bureaucrat tried to get the Globe to run a story that Rich Aucoin was "deceiving voters" in his claim that they would save \$1000 per year in taxes. But the accuser was caught doing his math wrong — oops! Even the Globe had to drop it.

But in one of two stories that ran in a recent issue of Boston Globe West, they allowed another accusation to go unchallenged, despite Rich Aucoin's pleas to set the record straight. Another city council candidate accused him of withholding the size of the \$40 million tax cut which is printed right smack at the top of the petition sheet — that the accuser signed! Unfortunately the two articles posted on the Globe web site were removed later in the day for unknown reason (a media blackout??).

This tax cut was the most amazing thing voters have ever seen on a local ballot.

This Month in Libertarian History — November

Melanie Moore

As Congress continues to cross out the fundamental principles of the Constitution to make way for more regulation and government power, advocates of liberty believe in the return to the traditional American principles of limited government, private property, and individual liberty originally outlined in the Constitution.

As you celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday this month, remember that in the 18th century, this holiday was observed as a day to be thankful for the opportunity to peaceably establish a constitution

In 1789, "a joint committee of both Houses be directed to wait upon the President of the United States, to request that he would recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging, with grateful hearts, that many signal favors of almighty God, especially by affording them the opportunity peaceably to establish a Constitution of government for their safety and happiness." - First Federal Congress, Representative Thomas Tucker on Church and State.



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letter from the chair

When Thanks Are Due

As it does each year, November brings the holiday tied with Independence Day for my favorite: Thanksgiving.

It appeals to me and interests me in a number of ways. It strikes me as a truly American holiday, and yet it lacks the feigned advocacy of liberty that so often comes out in people and the media around July 4th.

Perhaps those gestures are misguided rather than feigned. After all, with the government so involved in "education", is it any wonder most people don't really know what liberty is?

Thanksgiving has allure to nearly everyone. It is a secular holiday, yet people who are faithful often go the extra mile in saying prayers and thinking of others — a virtue often associated with religion. It provides people an occasion to consider how fortunate they really are to live in America compared to many other places in the world, so it appeals to natives as well as those who are foreign-born.

It is this day, perhaps more than any other, when we enjoy great food and the company of loved ones, and rather than feel sad in remembrance, we can feel good thinking of the people and events in our lives that we are truly thankful for. We can say thank you to the living, the deceased, those near... and those far away.

Naturally since we Libertarians believe in personal responsibility, we also often take personal pride and credit for being where we are and having what we have; being overly grateful to others and "giving something back" are concepts that often make us roll our eyeballs.

And yet we are thankful... aren't we? Of course we are. What am I thankful for? I am thankful for the tens of thousands of Libertarians around the country who give their time, money, and energy to fight for liberty. I am thankful for the leaders among us, many of whom aren't always the bright stars that capture people's eyes.

I am thankful for the legacy of the Massachusetts LP and for the privilege to know some of



Kamal Jain

those who created, nurtured and fortified it. At each year's state convention we honor one of those people with the lifetime achievement award, but it is always so hard to choose.

Enormous thanks are due to the founding fathers, for the wisdom they shared with the world in creating a place that recognized that all men are created equal, endowed by

their creator with certain inalienable rights.

Over 227 years ago these brave souls dared to challenge the status quo, to defy all known authority... and providence smiled upon them and gave birth to a new nation.

Some would suggest that Ayn Rand be thanked for rekindling the individualist movement. Others would say that Mises, Rothbard, Hayek and Friedman deserve thanks for stirring the intellectual defense of liberty. I think an interesting exercise would be to find out who the people were — especially the lesser-known folks — and what they did to keep freedom alive between the founding of our nation and more recent advocacy.

Perhaps now is a good time for you to think about who and what to be thankful for. Think especially hard about those who acted in the spirit of "extremism in defense of liberty is no vice; moderation in pursuit of justice is no virtue". Remembering that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, don't stop at verbally expressing your gratitude for the efforts and sacrifices made by those came before us, go find your own way of furthering the cause of liberty and DO it.

When you do something for liberty, whether it is to run for office, volunteer with a campaign, donate money or time, or whatever...you will earn not only my gratitude, but that of all your fellow Libertarians as well.

Libertarian Events

Marlborough Libertarian Association Sunday, November 9, 7:00 P.M.

Marlborough-area Libertarians gather the second Sunday of each month. In November we are meeting at the McDonald's on Route 20 in Marlborough. For more information, contact Jess Bowen at jbowen@lpma.org or Stephanie Woiciechowski at swoiciechowski@lpma.org or **(508) 485-3341**.

Pioneer Valley Libertarians Meeting Wednesday, November 12, 7:00 P.M.

Pioneer Valley Libertarians meet the second Wednesday of each month at Bickford's on Boston Road in Springfield. This month, Amanda Phillips speaks on the Free State Project, an exciting new proposal to persuade 20,000 liberty-minded peo-

ple to the same small state. Also: Campaigns for office. Petitioning. Magazine collation and mailing. For more information, contact Carol McMahon at **(413) 250-6608** or kilshandra@mindspring.com.

Worcester County Libertarians Sunday, November 16, 7:00 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 Phillis at **(508) 754-1859** or phillis@4liberty.net or Dean Cook at **(508) 765-5011** or dcook@lpma.org, or visit wcla.tripod.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

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 or Jess Bowen at jbowen@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.

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.

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.

Mass Liberty Congratulates and Thanks Rich Aucoin!

Mass Liberty congratulations and thanks Rich Aucoin and his Waltham Citizens for Taxpayer Justice. They initiated the boldest, most exciting tax cut initiative happening anywhere in America this year by giving voters a chance to cut property taxes by \$40 million — and giving taxpayers back \$1000 — every year!

Get Involved - November

Melanie Moore

Libertarians produce a plethora of research reports, articles, and briefing papers. How about taking a break from reading and get your hands dirty with liberty activism! The group known as Bureaucrash is doing just that. Recently, the group went down to the WTO ministerial meetings in Cancun to challenge the ant-globalization, anti-capitalist protesters. In November, they are heading down to Miami "to engage the enemies of freedom with guerilla activism."

Bureaucrash is looking for volunteers to join them in Miami! If you can't make it or guerilla activism isn't your thing, learn more or send a donation to this innovative group by visiting their website, www.bureaucrash.com.

The Libertarian National Committee is the "Board of Directors" of your favorite political party. You, as members, are the "owners". Since July of 2002 I have represented the Massachusetts LP, as well as the state party affiliates of NY, ME, RI, VT, NH and CT. We meet every three months or so, to provide oversight and planning.

I am very happy to report that the "state of fiscal exigency" that we voted to recognize at our December 2002 meeting has ended. The LNC began to recognize the fiscal crisis in September, 2002, although some members had been warning the committee for some time. We did not take any substantive action until December 2002. The fiscal crisis grew through the first half of 2003 and the LNC was forced to stop monthly payments to the state affiliates in order to pay vendor debt. In effect we were trading one debt for another.

The hiring of Joe Seehusen as Executive Director was fortuitous. Joe has managerial experience in solving cash shortfall problems. Reductions in staff and costs were made and fund raising efforts were increased. Ron Crickenberger, Mark Schriber, Nick Dunbar, and several other staffers were laid off. Joe now has a smaller staff than the previous ED and it is working more efficiently.

The recent fund raising letter from Joe Seehusen resulted in a spectacular outpouring of support from the membership. More than 1,000 members donated \$100 or more, at least \$180,000 has been received and we are now current with all Accounts Payable, including the state affiliates, and we have a modest reserve in the bank.

This favorable financial condition allows us, finally, after years of talking and promises, to proceed with the purchase of

Raiser's Edge, a membership database program written specifically for non-profits. The LNC set a December 31, 2003 deadline for the initial purchase. RE is a modular package. The approximate cost over a three year period of purchase and implementation will be \$50,000. As any state database manager will tell you, the current system is horrible. When RE is fully implemented, authorized local managers will have access for corrections and updates.

The restructuring of National's budget to cover only the core costs of operations allows competitive bidding of contractors to provide services for special projects. These include ballot access and the "branding and marketing" efforts, and more. To cover the incidental costs of involvement by the National office in special projects, a small percentage of all special projects funds will be paid to the National office. People with a dim view of a large and growing staff at the National office should be pleased with this. People who believe the National office should co-ordinate large scale projects should not be dismayed.

I urge Massachusetts members to attend the May convention in Atlanta. The Platform reformatting efforts will be up for a vote, new LNC officers will be elected and our presidential candidate will be selected. Let me be very frank with you. After the disappointing convention in Indianapolis, I know many MA members are discouraged, if not disgusted, with National LP affairs. This is no time to concede to detractors of the MA LP. You have one of the best organizations in the country, and your presence in Atlanta must be felt!

The next LNC meeting is in December and I will report to you afterwards.

Report from Western and Central Mass

George Phillis

The Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association had as its October guest speaker the vigorous and persuasive Amanda Phillips, new Treasurer of the Free State Project www.freestateproject.com. Phillips explained the plan of the project, which is to persuade a large number of Libertarians to pick up their life and move to the same small state.

The destination state was chosen by vote of the people who had agreed to move; New Hampshire finished first. Our fellow Libertarians are already moving to New Hampshire; some current NH politicians are happier than others. The speaker choice was very successful; we had the largest meeting in some time, and had several new people appear to listen.

The Worcester County Libertarian Association also had as its October guest Amanda Phillips. The WCLA had one of the larger meetings of the year. The audience differed from the PVLA audience; Amanda discussed issues relating to ongo-

ing events of interest to Free State supporters.

PVLA/WCLA members have investigated supporting the various quasi-libertarian referenda now available for petitioning. The changes in the major party rules are going to be taken to the State Legislature next spring, and will not be on the ballot. Jack E Robinson's Auto Excise Tax Elimination, which appears to be very popular, is not having signatures collected; by report, Robinson folded his tent when enough donations to support the petitioning did not appear.

Republican contacts report that the Bush 2004 fundraising machine is so effective that Republican Federal candidates in Massachusetts are starved for cash. Also, the Republican Governor is apparently little interested in supporting Republican down-ticket candidates. There are some potential opportunities here for LP candidates.

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LPMA Email Groups

List Name *Subscribe/Unsubscribe Address*
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Very low volume of messages, perhaps one or two per month. Intended to convey important information and good news.

Activists activists-request@lpma.org
Low volume of messages, perhaps one or two per day. Intended to make people aware of the latest activism opportunities.

To subscribe to any of these groups, send email to the address shown, with the word "subscribe" in the body of the message. To unsubscribe, send email to the address shown, with the word "unsubscribe" in the body of the message.

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Annual Membership, including both newsletters:

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- \$500 Patron
- \$250 Sponsor
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- \$25 Subscribing

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- \$_____ each month (billed to credit card)
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