



Massachusetts

Liberty

The Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts
www.lpma.org

October 2006

State Convention Meets

New State Committee Meets

...by Mary-Anne Wolf

After the 2006 State Convention, the newly elected LPMA State Committee met to elect officers and set an agenda. The next State Committee meeting has been set for October 29 at the home of Steve Drobnis in Stoughton. An LPMA Pot Luck Social will follow the State Committee meeting.

The newly elected LPMA state committee held its first meeting from 2:30 until 4:00 in the afternoon on September 23rd.

The state committee voted unanimously to add Walter Ziobro as a tenth state committee member.

State Committee officers were elected:

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New State Committee Elected

...by Mary-Anne Wolf

Libertarians from across Massachusetts gathered in scenic Worcester on September 23 for the 2006 State Convention. Keynote Speaker and National Party Media Director Steve Gordon spoke on exciting new activities from our Party National Committee.

Officers of the old State Committee reported. The most elaborate was the treasurer's report by Carol McMahon, four pages of spreadsheets describing our two bank accounts. She reported that the loss of UMP reduced our income somewhat, but vigorous action by Membership Secretary David Roscoe has encouraged people to renew their membership in the state party.

Elections were held for a new State Committee. We

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Robert Underwood Our Candidate for State Representative



Newly elected LPMA State Committee member Robert (Bob) Underwood is running for the Massachusetts House of Representatives, in the 9th Hampton District, which covers wards in Springfield and Chicopee. He has a web site at http://www.libertyforamerica.com/wmlp/candidates/Underwood/rep_en/rep_en.htm

Bob thinks that getting rid of laws against victimless crimes will free up resources for crimes that have victims. He thinks that many laws are redundant, and enforcing existing laws would solve problem better than adding redundant new laws. He wants to abolish plea bargaining. He believes that this combination will allow those who commit crimes to be tried sooner and to have the trial

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Letter from the Chair



We enter the fourth quarter with a new state committee and a lot of work to do. The 10 members of your state committee can not do all this work alone. Your help is needed.

It's time to grow again. That takes candidates at all levels, people to host socials, people to volunteer for OPH booths,

people who are willing to notice when a law or ordinance that reduces individual freedom or increases is being proposed, people who are willing to speak out against legislation that increases taxes.

Which one of these groups do you belong to? Or do you belong to more than one? Let your state committee know what you can do even if you only have an hour 1 day a month. If you think you can't do much in an hour, here's some ideas: Collect 10 or more valid signatures for a candidate. If he or she is running for a local office that may be enough to get a Libertarian on the ballot. Write a letter to the editor of your local paper highlighting a Libertarian solution to a local problem. Volunteer in an OPH booth.

If you have more than an hour a month to promote liberty, pick something and invite a friend to join you. It's even more fun promoting liberty with a partner, and you're more effective.

What is in the works? Here are just a few things: candidate recruitment and support, compiling a list of every elected office in the state. This list will include signature requirements, petition deadlines, the term, and when the next election is. Member recruitment at all levels from those who will register and vote Libertarian to those who will actively promote Libertarian solutions.

Keep an eye on this newsletter. If you're doing something, drop a line to the newsletter committee so they can include it in the next issue.

Carol McMahan

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State Convention

had nominations, speeches by candidates, and then voted. One candidate who was unable to attend had his message read for him.

The people elected to the State Committee, in order of their votes, were:

- 15 Carol McMahan
- 14 Steve Drobnis
- 13 Arthur Torrey
- 13 Bill Hees
- 13 George Phillis
- 12 Mary-Anne Wolf
- 12 Bob Underwood
- 11 Stephanie Woiciechowski
- 11 David Roscoe

The following people also ran:

- Dennis Corrigan
- Walter Ziobro
- Bob French
- Shirley Underwood

Speakers

Two speakers highlighted the State Convention. Steve Gordon discussed activities at LP National. He described ballot base, which is a database intended to facilitate a candidate having volunteers make calls to get out the vote. Voters to call are categorized by how they registered. The candidate provides scripts for use calling people registered in the different parties. Volunteers are provided with a phone number and the corresponding script.

Gordon described candidate tracker, which is a database allowing empirical evaluation of the success of Libertarian candidates. This data can be used for the candidates to evaluate what works and what does not work. It can also be used for LP National to target its support to candidates which have been more successful.

Gordon described a marketing survey measuring the extent to which American voters agree with Libertarian party positions on issues. He explained that, while the specific sample, from a nationwide sample, showed definite trends, such as that our party's stands on sexual freedom and abortion rights are

popular, the survey has the limitation that the same results will not always apply in a particular geographic district.

Steve Gordon described how he gains press coverage through personal friendships with reporters, how legal complexities have resulted in removing advertisements from the LP News, and how financial downsizing has done away with the separate LP News editor position.

Finally, Gordon described the Libertarian Leadership school, which LP National will provide as online training.

Dan Karlan was the second speaker. He discussed the history and motivation of the transition of the LP National membership database from SQL Server to Raisers Edge. He explained why repeating complaints might be necessary, and the role of the database community. Our membership Secretary, Dave Roscoe, added that the situation with the Raisers Edge database has improved greatly since the original transition.

Ballot Questions and Platform

The convention debated three questions that will be on the Massachusetts ballot in November. The first ballot question allows stores other than package stores to sell wine. The LPMA voted to support passage of this question.

The second ballot question would allow fusion voting under which a candidate could, with the permission of the Party State Committee, run on the ballot line of several different parties. The LPMA voted to oppose this measure.

The third ballot question would permit child care suppliers who receive state money to engage in collective bargaining. The LPMA voted to take no position at the convention.

At the 2006 National Convention, the National Libertarian Party made extensive changes in its Platform. The LPMA State Convention voted to direct the LPMA State Committee to come up with an independent LPMA platform, to insulate our state party's positions against similar future changes in the LP national platform and to take stands on issues specific to Massachusetts.

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New State Committee Meets

Carol McMahon as Chair

George Phillies as Vice Chair

Walter Ziobro as Treasurer

Mary-Anne Wolf as Recording Secretary, and

Dave Roscoe as Membership Secretary.

Carol McMahon, the new Chair, arranged (with consensus of and input from the rest of the state committee) that the next state committee meetings will be Sundays at 2PM, namely:

October 29th, 2006

January 28th, 2007

April 29th, 2007

July 29th, 2007.

Meetings may be earlier if held at a restaurant where attendees can buy themselves lunch. Further information on locations and agendas will be announced when available.

Locations for future State Committee Meetings were discussed. Steve Drobnis offered the use of his house as the location for the October meeting and the rest of the State Committee agreed to this. State Committee meetings are public events and all State Party members are welcome to attend. The other locations are to be determined. There is a goal to hold the meetings in four different locations in Massachusetts, in order to balance who drives how far. It was also agreed that locations should be chosen where parking is free and readily available.

The outgoing chair, Tom LaRoche, proposed that the new by-laws which had been drafted last year by George Phillies for use by the LPMA, but not adopted, were more appropriate for a larger organization than the LPMA currently is, and that the by-laws currently in use by the LPMA were more appropriate for an organization of the current size of LPMA.

LPMA Web Pages

Bill Hees volunteered to contact Muni Savyon to find out the passwords for the LPMA web site and to clarify who owns the LPMA.org domain name.

The hosting of the web site was discussed. No immediate reasons for dissatisfaction with the current

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hosting were expressed, although a less expensive alternative might be possible. It was agreed that the web site needs to be brought up to date. It will probably be useful to use the email addresses which the current hosting arrangement provides. These might include an email address for the LPMA state committee chair. Philip Reed volunteered to assist in reviving the LPMA web site, but made clear that he was interested in working with others on this project.

New Committees

George Phillies proposed, and the state committee voted, to form a publication committee consisting of:

Sue Mosher
Stephanie Woiciechowski
George Phillies and
Mary-Anne Wolf.

The goal of the publication committee is to revive the newsletter. George will get in touch with the members of the publication committee who were not present.

George Phillies indicated that he thinks that he has figured out why the UMP checks for LPMA have not arrived from the Libertarian National Committee, namely that they may have been sent to an obsolete address. He offered to contact the appropriate people at the LNC office to determine whether the estimated \$1200 can be retrieved.

George Phillies proposed that the social committee be revived. He proposed using socials to collate the newsletter, to give Party members and guests an additional reason to attend. Phillies will serve as the interim chair. Volunteers to coordinate future social events would be most welcome. The State Committee agreed that George should have access to contact information for LPMA members in order to restart the monthly socials.

It was moved that the State Committee should form working groups for fund raising, candidate support, candidate recruitment, outreach, and membership recruitment. Members will prepare ideas on this for the next meeting.

At Mary-Anne Wolf's suggestion, Carol McMahon agreed to contact Dennis Corrigan about becoming active in candidate support, which he did with great success in the past.

Keep Your Money In Massachusetts!

Are you a contributor? Do you give money to pro-Liberty causes and campaigns around the country, using your checkbook to stand up for liberty by supporting pro-Liberty campaigns from sea to sea?

Here's an idea for you:

Keep your money in here in Massachusetts! Give your funds to support pro-Liberty campaigners here in your home state. In Massachusetts, current campaigns are run by unpaid volunteers. They may pay a secretary or accountant or petitioners or printers - - your friends and neighbors, people who will spend their money here at home. Our fine Massachusetts campaigns spend their money on real politics.

When you make your political donations here in Massachusetts, your money will be spent on advancing the cause of Massachusetts liberty through fliers, radio and press advertisements, lawn signs, bumper stickers, sign carriers, press releases, ballot access, and other activities that actually advance liberty here in Massachusetts.

Please remember your state party, now under a new State Committee. LPMA State Dues are only \$15 per year. Members receive the monthly newsletter Mass Liberty. Please give!

Your donations to the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts will be used for organization, outreach, and candidate recruitment and support from the Cape to the Berkshires. State and Federal Law limit how your money is spent. Donations to the LPMA (State Account) can support Massachusetts state candidates. Donations to the LPMA (Federal Account) can support Federal candidates, including Presidential Ballot Access.

State and Federal Laws require us to determine your name and address and to ask your occupation and employer. Donations are not tax deductible. Legal donation limits are \$500 to the State Account and \$2100 to the Federal Account. Send donations to LPMA, 30 East Chestnut Street, Sharon MA 02067.

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Robert Underwood, Our Candidate For State Representative

end faster, which saves money otherwise paid to those who work in the court, prisons, law enforcement, and so on.

He wants to eliminate ineffectual spending. For example, his web site reports, a study funded by the Springfield Control Board said that Springfield had more police and more highly paid police than comparable cities, so Bob does not agree with responding to that analysis by hiring more police.

He believes that the train to Boston should be paid for by passengers who use it, not by gas tax payers who don't.

He thinks the best solution to differing opinions on marriage is to move all of the government defined relationships to domestic partnerships, defined quite apart from any religious definition of marriage, and to leave the religious ceremonies to religions. He is a member of a Methodist church. Under current reality, he prefers to leave the Supreme Court ruling allowing gay marriage as it is, in that he does not wish to devote "time and energy making someone ineligible for health insurance or raising their already exorbitant taxes."

He also wants to improve ballot access by drastically reducing the signatures needed to get on the ballot. He has been communicating with people in the Green Rainbow Party, attempting to organize a state-wide effort for instant run-off voting.

Bob describes the war in Iraq as a war he "did not want" and that he "would be for just pulling out of Iraq."

Bob believes that people who voted for free trade agreements should be turned out of office, that these agreements in effect export jobs, which he believes is bad for most of us. When asked, he explains, "As for the Free Trade Agreements, most of them are with countries where the people are not free and dictatorial governments use force to prevent people from forming independent unions. Those governments are propped up by the US government, at our expense. On the other hand President George W. Bush has been talking tough to Canada, where the people have rights comparable that of US citizens."

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Bob believes that Department of Social Services intervention in families on behalf of children, based on unsubstantiated and anonymous complaints, cause more harm than good. However, he believes decisions about these interventions should be made in the courts.

Bob's ability to communicate in sign language and in Spanish has allowed him to reach communities that many Libertarians do not reach. People in his district from Puerto Rico have been especially supportive when he was seeking signatures.

If you would like to help Bob, you may contact him through his web site or at (413) 739-4534. Bob is not set up for spending donated money because of the complexity of campaign finance laws, but he indicates that if someone runs an ad on his behalf in local publications it would be appreciated. He could also use help knocking on doors but explains "district boundaries are tricky in Springfield".

Activities for State Committees

State groups have many appropriate activities that they should perform. State groups may run state-wide candidates, and are certainly well-placed to publish newsletters. A state organization should support local groups and foster friendly competition between them.

A good state committee member spends his time travelling, telephoning, and using the net. He talks to people, finds people to develop local activism, and finds people who will run for office or work as campaign staff. A good state committee develops resources to support local groups and candidates, and develops expertise to advise local groups and help them develop their own people and resources.

A good state chair opens her conversation: "How can we help you?". A good state chair knows her people, identifies what her people need even when her people don't know themselves, and makes sure that her people get the support that will let them succeed at what they are doing.

All but the smallest states should publish two state newsletters: First, an activist newsletter targeting

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Libertarian Party members. Second, an outreach newsletter, targeting prospective Libertarians with articles of general interest

The activist newsletter covers political action news, petitioning deadlines, and campaigning methods. It gives activists the information they need to be active effectively. The activist newsletter also supports healthy internal discussion on party policies. It promotes healthy positive competition between different local groups. Who had the best election results? Who registered the most voters into our party? Who elected the most candidates? Challenging local groups to better their own records incites harder work by Libertarian activists.

The outreach newsletter covers Libertarian news and candidates. It writes about efforts of the duopoly parties in a light that motivates people to *Vote Libertarian!* It encourages readers to take the first steps to activism: lawn signs, bumper stickers, and donations.

The state Party appropriately supports libertarian campaigns, focusing attention on activities being done well. The Libertarian Party is still quite small. We do not have the masses of town committees, political consultants, elected officials, and activists that the Democratic and Republican parties have. Nonetheless, when people run for office we should support them vigorously. The state Party cannot sit back and ignore its own party's candidates. Why else would libertarians support their state party? A state organization has expertise in ballot access issues, lists of donors and volunteers, and statewide media contacts.

A State Chair and State Committee must remember that except in the very smallest states they are primarily facilitators. The task of a facilitator is to contact Libertarian groups around the state, listen, offer advice, and provide support. Is that what your state committee is doing? The answers are an excellent measure of the quality of your state party's leadership.

A good state committee does not view itself as a prime source of major candidates. Look at the other major parties. When is the last time a national chair of the Republican Party ran for office? (Hint: Bill Miller, Vice President, Republican, 1964). Of course, a small state organization may not have a choice. There may not be enough Libertarians to do all mission-critical tasks. Some people may have to multitask or key tasks will be left undone. ...George Phillies

State Committee Revives Monthly Socials

The new LPMA State Committee has moved to revive our ancient and effective custom of holding a monthly social at locations around the state. To enhance interest, socials will now be an opportunity to make a useful contribution to the party, too: Future issues of Mass Liberty will be addressed and readied for mailing at the monthly socials.

Why not help liberty and help build the party by hosting a social? Socials are typically scheduled for the last Sunday of the month, in the afternoon, perhaps right after a meeting of the state committee.

In the short term, LPMA Vice Chair George Phillies has been tasked with contacting people to hold events, helping with publicity, and most important finding other LPMA members to serve as lead Socials Coordinators to replace him and work to revive a vigorous program of state party events.

State Committee to Form Working Groups

At its first meeting, the new LPMA State Committee voted to form working groups to forward the political aims of the Party. The first set of working groups will focus on fund raising, candidate support, candidate recruitment, outreach, and membership recruitment.

The objective of the working groups is to do real work, for example by raising money, helping candidates to win, persuading libertarians to run for political office, educating the public about libertarian ideas and goals, and persuading our supporters that they should join our party.

If you have ideas about what we should do, or more important if you are willing to invest some time and sweat equity to develop a stronger Libertarian Party in Massachusetts, please contact our new State Chair,

Carol McMahan
cjcmahon@verizon.net
413 267 9339 Home
413 250 6608 Cell

Libertarian Social and Activism Events

October

11 6:30 PM PVLA Monthly Meeting, Hu Ke Lau Restaurant at Mass Pike Exit 5 Contact: Carol McMahon, 413-250-6608 cjmcMahon@verizon.net

17 9:30 PM Wilton High School, Wilton CT. Connecticut Party State Central Committee, open meeting following LWV Congressional debate including Libertarian candidate Phil Maymin.

21 6:00 PM WCLA Monthly Meeting, Tweed's Restaurant, Worcester MA 01605 Contact: George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net 508-754-1859

24 8:00 PM Lowell Area Liberty Association, Outback Steakhouse, Reiss Street, Lowell
Arthur_torrey@comcast.net NB underscore after 'Arthur' 978-663-0241

28 All Day Libertarian Party of New Hampshire State Convention, Red Blazer Inn, Concord NH

29 2PM LPMA State Committee Meeting and LPMA Social, at the home of Steve Drobnis, Canton, MA

November

7 Election Day Show Up. Vote!

And if you are in Western Massachusetts remember that you have an opportunity to help Libertarian Robert Underwood in his campaign for State Representative. Email Bob at rjunderwood2000@yahoo.com .

8 6:30 PM PVLA Monthly Meeting, Hu Ke Lau Restaurant at Mass Pike Exit 5 Contact: Carol McMahon, 413-250-6608 cjmcMahon@verizon.net

18 6:00 PM WCLA Monthly Meeting, Tweed's Restaurant, Grove Street Worcester MA 01605

28 8:00 PM Lowell Area Liberty Association, Outback Steakhouse, Reiss Street, Lowell ,
Arthur_torrey@comcast.net NB underscore after 'Arthur' 978-663-0241

Contact Your State Committee

Carolyn McMahon - Chair PO Box 29, 221 Bumstead Road, Monson, MA 01057 cjmcMahon@verizon.net 413 267 9339 (h) 413 250 6608 (c)

George Phillies - Vice Chair 48 Hancock Hill Drive Worcester MA 01609 phillies@4liberty.net 508 754 1859 (h) 508 831 5334 (w)

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mgwmgw@comcast.net 978-663-0241

David Roscoe - Membership Secretary 30 Worthen Street Apt A-9 Chelmsford MA 01824
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Publications Committee:

Sue Mosher
Stephanie Woiciechowski
George Phillies
Mary-Anne Wolf

Socials Committee: George Phillies

Web Page Activists:

Bill Hees
Philip Greer

Contact the Party itself:

LPMA, 30 East Chestnut Street, Sharon MA 02067



Join the Libertarian Party!

Libertarian Party
30 East Chestnut Street
Sharon MA 02067

Sign me up for the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts. Subscribe me to *Massachusetts Liberty*. As a member, I agree that I believe that no person, or group of people, or government has the right to initiate force against any other person, group of people, or government. The word 'force' is broadly interpreted to cover such acts as fraud, stealing, and threats against life and property as well as physical aggression.

Annual Membership, including Massachusetts Liberty Subscription: \$15 per year
Your generous donation to our state party will be used efficiently to advance Party activities. Please help us by donating.

- \$200 \$100 \$50
- \$2100 \$1000 \$500
- Other _____

Your monthly pledge will give us a consistent revenue stream.
I pledge \$_____ per month to be charged to my credit card.

- Please make Checks payable to "LPMA".
- Visa Mastercard Discover
- Credit Debit

Card Number
Expiration Date
Name on Card
Cardholder Signature

Signature

Name
Address

City, State, ZIP
Phone
Email
Occupation
Employer
(Federal Law requires us to ask . Donations are not tax deductible)

I Want to Volunteer to Help Our Party

I am prepared to (circle all that apply) Put up lawn signs
Write letters to editor Place Bumper Sticker
Help Organize local group Petition for candidates
Help with fundraising Help Get Out the Vote
Help Local Candidates Run for office

Massachusetts Liberty
c/o David Roscoe
30 Worthen Street Apt A-9
Chelmsford MA 01824