



Massachusetts Liberty

The Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts - www.lpmass.org May 2007

Party Web Site Introduces On-Line Discussion Forum

The web site for the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts moved from lpma.org to lpmass.org, and it has been slowly improving its design since then, thanks in large part to the effort of webmaster Bill Hees. One of the recent improvements was the addition of an online discussion forum, which allows members of our party, and interested members of the public to make contact with one another. (We can construct more private locations for discussion if you need them.) This forum also allows discussion with members of the party state committee.

Thus, for example, if you would like to find out whether other

party members near you would be interested in participating in an activity, or forming a local organization, or if you would like to tell the state committee that there is something which the party should be doing, or stop doing, or if you would like to discuss issues specific to Massachusetts Libertarianism, there is now an online place to do it.

Please come to the web-site, and click on the forum icon, and register. People already there would be delighted to hear from you.

Party Participates in Extravaganja

State Committee Members George Phillies and Carol McMahon ran an outreach booth at Extravaganja, on April 21st, 2007, on the common in Amherst, Massachusetts. Extravaganja was a festival in favor of marijuana legalization, organized by the Cannabis Reform Coalition of the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Carol reported that there was contact information collected at the booth and the world's smallest political quiz was administered, and the crowd was more receptive to Libertarian ideas than had been the case in some previous years. She said

there were about 3000 people, and the bands played 1970's "mellow" music, especially Black Sabbath covers. One of the primary organizers was Terry Franklin, a long term marijuana legalization activist who also had some history of having supported some libertarian causes and candidates. There was a variety of speakers, including politicians, activists, victims of enforcement, musicians, and cancer survivors who believed that they owed their health to the availability of medical marijuana.

Our Most Important Resource is Our People

What are our resources? How can they be employed? Why will Local Organization make most effective use of them?

Resources are the people, the material goods, and the events we have available when we Stand Up for Liberty! Resources are the tools we will use to Make Liberty Happen! in our lifetimes. Resources are the strengths we deploy to elect Libertarians to office, to pass Libertarian laws, and to gain new resources for the Libertarian Party.

What are our resources? Above all, we have people, American citizens working individually to build a Libertarian America. We have material resources: newsletters, Email lists, databases. We have the financial support of our many donors, amplifying the efforts of those Libertarians who give their time as a gift in kind. We do things; we have events that build the Libertarian Party. We have associated groups: local, statewide, national, special interest...

This article discusses only one resource, the human resource. After all,

Our Most Important Resource is Our People

The most important resource that the Libertarian Party has is the

people who support our Libertarian cause. We do not have the hundreds of millions of dollars raised -- and largely wasted -- by the Democratic-Republican duopoly and its trains of PACs and sycophants. We do have human beings, every bit as intelligent, hard-working, and motivated as the people who support our opponents. It is our people who are ready to Stand Up for Liberty! and work for liberty in our lifetime. It is through the Local Organization Strategy -- and only through the Local Organization strategy -- that the Libertarian Party can mobilize and use these people effectively.

What sorts of people do we have? A traditional answer of the other parties is that party members are young and old, white and black, male and female, union members and veterans and war heroes. Now, it did happen that in 2000 the Massachusetts Libertarian Party had a female majority (58%, up to 2/3 in some towns, with an electorate that is 53-54% female), but I'm not going to dwell on that number. Libertarians prefer to honor the uniqueness of each human being.

Most Libertarians give a non-traditional answer. Most Libertarians say every American is an individual, different from every

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May 2007

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Next Deadline

May 31, 2007

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

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

First, Massachusetts is about to have a special election for U.S. Congress. Congressman Meehan is about to resign. When he does, the fifth Congressional District will have a special election to fill his position. Do we have a Massachusetts Libertarian willing to stand up and be counted as a Libertarian candidate for the position? It seems you are running against a Democrat whose main rationale as a candidate is that Federal positions are hereditary, and a Republican whose claim to fame is as a modern gladiator. We will need to collect about 3000 raw signatures to put you on the ballot. There is volunteer support. Our Party Treasury is not entirely empty. Your willingness to get involved in politics at the personal level remains critical.

Second, We're Libertarians. We're supposed to be radical. This month the State Committee made radical changes in our bylaws. Core change: we set up permanent working groups to do the party's work. The most important rule: "Other libertarians who volunteer and contribute in a positive way are welcome to join working groups."

Libertarian Events

Pioneer Valley Libertarians Meeting

Wednesday, May 9, 6:30 P.M.

Pioneer Valley Libertarians meet the second Wednesday of each month. Meet other local Libertarians at the Hu Ke Lau Restaurant at Mass Pike Exit 5, at 6:30PM. For more information, contact Carol McMahon at **(413) 250-6608** or cjmcMahon@verizon.net.

Worcester County Libertarians

Sunday, May 20, 6:00 P.M.

The Worcester County Libertarian Association meets on the third Sunday of the month. Join us 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.

Lowell Area Liberty Association

Tuesday, May 22, 8:00 P.M.

Meet other like-minded folks at the Outback Steakhouse on Reiss Street in Lowell at 8PM. For more information or to RSVP, contact Arthur Torrey at Arthur_Torrey@comcast.net or **(978) 663-0241**. Meeting cancelled if no RSVPs.

Drinking Freely

Monday, May 28, 7:00 P.M.

On the fourth Monday of each month, Cambridge area Libertarians meet at 7pm Flat Top Johnny's in 1 Kendall Square.

That's right. We set up groups to do our party's important work, and made sure they were open to you the members. If you care about recruiting and supporting candidates, local organization, lobbying and litigation, outreach to non-Libertarians, recruiting and helping members, fundraising, or our annual convention, the invitation is open: you, too can pitch in and help your party become stronger.

Third, we have forthcoming events. Your help can make a difference. The Boston Pride Festival is Saturday, June 9 on City Hall Plaza, Boston. The LPMA will have a booth for outreach and support. This September, we will also have a booth at the Boston Freedom Festival. We have a full series of Summer Socials, the last Sunday of every month, too. Show up! Meet your fellow Libertarians!

Yours for Liberty,

George Phillies

May Social

Sunday, May 27, 2:00 P.M.

George Phillies is hosting the May Social and a 'meet our candidates' sponsored by Phillies 2008. People considering running for Libertarian office in 2008 are welcome to attend and meet potential supporters. Join everyone at 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester. For more information, contact George at **(508) 754-1859** or phillies@4liberty.net.

July Social

Sunday, July 29, 2:00 P.M.

Art Torrey and Mary-Ann Wolf are hosting the July Social. For more information, contact Art at arthur_torrey@comcast.net.

August Social

Sunday, August 25, 2:00 P.M.

Carol McMahon is hosting the August Social. For more information, contact Carol at cjmcMahon@verizon.net.

September Social

Sunday, September 30, 2:00 P.M.

Steve Drobnis is hosting the September Social. For more information, contact Steve at steve@mrd.net

Meehan Resigns

George Phillies

Congressman Meehan has resigned to a better-paying position with our state government. There will be a special election.

We need a candidate! Strictly speaking, the Congressman does not need to live in the District, which is District 5.

To get on the ballot, you need 2000 valid signatures. As a practical matter, allowing for invalidity and a safety margin, 3000 raw signatures should be enough. We as a party have until mid-August to collect those signatures, but we can't do anything without a candidate.

This is your chance to call out the Democratic and Republican Parties for their policies of perpetual war, out of control spending, and attacks on our civil liberties. This is your chance to speak out and give the American people our sound Libertarian answers to their nagging questions.

The Meehan District is:

ESSEX COUNTY	WORCESTER COUNTY
Andover	Berlin
HAVERHILL	Bolton
LAWRENCE	Harvard
Methuen	Lancaster
MIDDLESEX COUNTY	
Acton	Ayer
Billerica	Boxborough
Carlisle	Chelmsford

Concord
Dunstable
Hudson
LOWELL
Shirley
Sudbury
Tyngsborough
Westford

Dracut
Groton
Littleton
Maynard
Stow
Tewksbury
Wayland - Pcts. 1, 3, 4

State Committee Elects New Officers

The LPMA has elected new officers, to match our new Bylaws. They serve until the next state convention date. Please thank your fellow Libertarians for volunteering to serve our party. The new officers are:

- Webmaster--Bill Hees
- Editor--Stephanie Woiciechowski
- Corresponding Secretary--Mary-Anne Wolf
- Membership Secretary--David Roscoe
- Treasurer--Walter Ziobro
- Operations Facilitator--Arthur Torrey
- Political Facilitator--Carol McMahon
- Chair--George Phillies

LPMA launches advertising campaign

George Phillies

That's right! We're sending the people of Massachusetts a message:

Vote Libertarian!

We're using Google AdWords to put Vote Libertarian! on media web pages across Massachusetts. The four-line AdWords messages send a short, instantly read message to Massachusetts readers. Each message includes a link to our web site LPMASS.ORG.

Your State Committee appropriated \$200 to keep the campaign running for 100 days. At present rates, that's half-a-million impressions, every single one bringing readers to our web site <http://www.lpmass.org>.

Your donations to LPMA can be used to expand this campaign to more web locations, and to run up our bids so that our ads run more often. (And if you think you have a better message, please let us know, and we'll try to get it to run.)

The ads that have actually run read:

- Vote Libertarian
...Say Yes! to marriage equality...
-Say No! to high taxes.....
LPMAss.org
- Vote Libertarian
....Lower taxes. Less Government..
.....More freedom for all.....
LPMAss.org
- Vote Libertarian
You could win a free country
Peace - Liberty - Prosperity
LPMAss.org
- Vote Libertarian
....Help keep Uncle Sam's nose.....
out of your bedroom and your wallet
LPMAss.org

(We have some more ads, and are trying to solve technical issues that seem to cause them not to appear.)

Wanted

Mass Liberty News Editor

Requirements:

Talent for catching grammatical, spelling, and style errors. Ability to make judgments about content priorities. Flair to gather electronic submissions by a deadline. Creative talent in newsletter design and layout. Interest in recruiting volunteer reporters to write material. Basic digital photo cropping, and minimal familiarity with software. Ability to attend most State Committee meetings would also be helpful but not required.

Reason for change:

Stephanie Woiciechowski, our existing newsletter editor will soon lack the time to perform the job, but her excellent contributions have been much appreciated.

Please write to:

LP Mass Newsletter
30 East Chestnut St.
Sharon, MA 02067

Our Most Important Resource is Our People

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other American, and as entitled to his or her constitutional freedoms as every other American. Other parties may ask a newcomer "What's your special interest group? Who are you with?" Most Libertarians follow me in saying "Hi! I'm George Phillies. Welcome to our Libertarian meeting." and hope to learn the newcomer's name and why she has chosen to Stand Up for Liberty!

I'm going to talk about sorts of people who work for our party. I'm going to talk about what individual people choose to do, not how many votes their friends have, or what color eyes they were born with. I could say we have three sorts of people, more or less. We have members, we have specialists, and we have activists. I could also talk about political campaigns, and say that we have four sorts of people. We have candidates, we have staffers, we have volunteers, and we have voters.

All these people are important. Members are the bedrock on which the Libertarian movement rests. Specialists and activists are the workers who toil to construct the Libertarian movement. Candidates run for office. Except in the most local of elections, a candidate without a staff is not going to do well. Volunteers are the people who amplify the efforts of the staff, turning a few thin voices into the great shout of Libertarian voters demanding low taxes, small government, and personal freedom!

Members, Specialists, and Activists

Libertarians have a wide range of commitments to Libertarian action. Members made a limited commitment to the Libertarian movement. They read a newsletter, come to an occasional meeting, register Libertarian, or usually vote for Libertarian on the ballot. Specialists are people prepared to work for the party, but only in certain ways that they have chosen. A specialist's activity may be a simple task. Some specialist activities are so challenging that most of us could not imagine doing them. Activists do not necessarily work harder than specialists. However, activists are willing to do many different things to Stand Up for Liberty!: They run for office, collect signatures, hold up signs at street corners, and make telephone contacts, depending on the party's needs.

Who are the members?

The members are the masses of people who have discovered that they are Libertarian at heart. They may look for Libertarian candidates on the November ballot. 28 states register voters by political Party. In many of these states, members may have checked a box on the voter registration form and registered Libertarian. Members may show up occasionally at a local supper club, have dinner, and listen to a Libertarian speaker. They may pay their dues to a state party, or may send their dues to Washington, D.C. Alternatively, they may belong to a special interest group that takes Libertarian stands, a friend of liberty such as Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership, Separation of School and State, or National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. All these people are members of the Libertarian movement, one way or another.

Many members want to hear what the Libertarian Party is doing. They want to know who we are running for office and how our last campaign did. A membership newsletter, outreach telephone call, web page, or a local newspaper may satisfy this interest. Members are not activists. Their interest in campaigns gener-

ally ends with the voting booth and the vote totals.

More or less by definition, a member has no overriding interest in Standing Up for Liberty! by working for his party. Some members believe there is a free lunch at the ballot box, so they can show up and vote Libertarian without doing anything to put Libertarians on the ballot. Other members don't believe there's a free lunch at the ballot box. They know there are real costs to getting Libertarians on the ballot. However, those costs are more than they are willing to pay for the chance to vote Libertarian. These are member attitudes: these are the positions of people who will buy tickets, sit in the bleachers, and cheer on their Libertarian team if one happens to take the field.

From the standpoint of Local Organization, it does not matter a great deal which group a member joins. All libertarian groups need Libertarian members. All groups -- when well run -- expose members to the greater Libertarian movement. Every group creates some likelihood that their members will choose to Stand Up for Liberty! and become more committed to our cause.

Who are the specialists and the activists?

The specialists and the activists are the people who do the Libertarian party's work. Specialists and activists do the tasks that advance the Libertarian movement. Specialists perform a single activity for their party. Activists are more prepared to do what the situation demands of them.

The distinction between activists and specialists has not historically been emphasized. Activists are people willing to do a range of things, some tedious, dull, or simply unpleasant. Activists are people who show at meetings regularly and sometimes get things done. Activists will collect signatures, hold signs in front of polling places, stuff envelopes, phone members to get out the vote, or -- within their broad zone of comfort -- do whatever else is necessary to support the Party.

In contrast, specialists are people who support the party by doing the particular tasks that they have chosen. Donors are specialists. People who give outreach lectures to outside groups are specialists. The party member who stays at home and writes letters to the editor is a specialist. The html guru who debugs the party web page is a specialist. Petitioners are sometimes specialists. Specialists differ from activists; they have defined what they are willing to do for the party.

It is often possible to persuade a specialist to do something outside their specialty, e.g., collect signatures for a nominating petition. However, 'something else' is not what the specialist wants to do. If the specialist is too often put into what *he* finds uncomfortable as a task, he is likely to cease performing his specialist activity, too.

In many cases, specialists and activists first became libertarian members, and then decided to Stand Up for Liberty! by working for the cause. In some cases standing up is easy. The information systems guru who is a key member of a Fortune 500 company has no real trouble tracking three dozen mailing labels for the local newsletter. The professional voice who records ads and messages all day knows exactly how to prepare and place a one-minute radio spot, complete with extra voices and theme music. In other cases activation is much more difficult. The shy young person who commits to collecting signatures at a mall faces a personal as well as a political challenge.

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Libertarian Party of Massachusetts

Massachusetts Liberty

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Sign me up for the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts.
Subscribe me to *Massachusetts Liberty*.

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 interpreted broadly to cover such acts as fraud, stealing, and threats against life and property, as well as physical aggression.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (day) _____ (evening) _____

E-Mail: _____

Occupation _____

Employer _____

(Federal Election Commission requires us to ask)

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.

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Credit Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Cardholder's Signature: _____