



# Libertarian Party of Massachusetts

## Newsletter for December, 2007

### It's Time to Stand Up

Friends of Liberty!

This Holiday Season, give yourself a gift...

*... Give yourself the gift of Liberty!*

Next November is our quadrennial chance to be noticed by the votes. Next year is an opportunity that only comes every four years: a Presidential election campaign. For many Americans, this is the only time to pay any attention at all to politics.

For Libertarians, this is our last chance in this decade to make many Americans to notice that there really is a Libertarian Party. This is our last chance until 2012 to persuade Americans to agree with our message.

For Massachusetts Libertarians, there is only one path to using the Presidential election campaign. We need to put our Presidential candidate on the ballot in Massachusetts. Ballot access will ensure that our candidate, whoever he or she is, will have the opportunity to be noticed by the people and press of Massachusetts.

Ballot access doesn't just happen. If we want our candidate on the ballot in Massachusetts, we have to put him there. We need to collect ten thousand valid signatures, plus an adequate safety margin, to guard against ballot challenges. We can do that two ways, and we'll need both to succeed.

First, we can individually collect signatures from our neighbors, signatures of registered voters.

Second, we can pay petitioners to collect signatures in our place.

Between these two paths, we're going to need to collect between fifteen and eighteen thousand signatures. That costs money. A lot of money. At a rough estimate, we need fifteen to twenty thousand dollars for

ballot access.

Don't believe the dueling Presidential candidates on television. No matter what the Democratic and Republican candidates claim, money does not grow on trees. Nor does it fall from the sky like snowflakes in a blizzard.

If we want money to move our Libertarian Party forward, we need to raise it ourselves.

Your State Committee has already taken the first step. We have raised \$8000 in matching funds, money that will be available for ballot access, just as soon as we raise the matching \$8000. \$8000 takes us almost halfway to our goal. Now we need the rest of the Party to stand up and have your donations counted. Every penny you send to your State Committee earmarked for Federal ballot access will be spent as you requested.

Please give very generously.

I know some of you have limited incomes. Sweat equity is worth just as much to us as real money. Every you collect from a neighbor is worth a dollar or more toward ballot access.

There are prizes, too. The two largest donors will each receive as a gift from Art Torrey a bottle of his finest honey wine (if you are a minor, your parents will be grateful). The next three donors will each receive from George Phillies a personally autographed copy of his libertarian science fiction novel "The MinuteGirls". For other donors, we have still more awards.

Please give very generously.

Send your money, checks payable to LPMass, to:

**Libertarian Party of Massachusetts**  
**30 East Chestnut Street**  
**Sharon, MA 02067.**

We're also delighted to accept monthly pledges. For more information on monthly pledging, please contact:



**Carol McMahon**  
**State Political Facilitator**  
**221 Bumstead Road**  
**Monson, MA 02057.**

You can email her at [cjmcMahon@verizon.net](mailto:cjmcMahon@verizon.net). To help her find you through the spam, please make your subject line *LPMASS MONTHLY PLEDGE*.

Please make her day: send LP Massachusetts your maximum contribution.

And for those of you sending money to the LP National Party: your State Party spends money efficiently. We don't spend \$100,000 a year on office space. We don't have a large, salaried staff. Our people are unpaid volunteers, giving their time and money to build a freer country. We spend our money on doing real politics. (And, if you're wondering, \$2000 of the matching funds came directly from your Party State Chair.)

Donations are not tax deductible. Federal regulations require us to make our best effort to determine the occupation and employer of every donor of \$200 or more. Paid for by the LPMA.

## December Events

**December 2, 1:00 PM:** LP Massachusetts State Committee Meeting. Held at the home of Steve Drobnis, Sharon, Massachusetts. Please contact [steve@mrd.net](mailto:steve@mrd.net) for directions. **Social follows at 3:30 PM.**

**December 10, 6:00 PM:** Boston Libertarian Meetup. Bertucci's Restaurant, Stanhope St. in Boston, Massachusetts. Relaxed conversation.

**December 12, 6:30 PM:** Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association. Hu Ke Lau Restaurant, Memorial Drive in Chicopee, Massachusetts. Dinner and work session.

**December 15, 6:00 PM:** Worcester County Libertarian Association. Starbucks Coffee, intersection of Grove St. and West Boylston, look for the Curry College sign.

## AdWords Campaign Update

Your State Committee's AdWords campaign has run its course, reaching out to those across Massachusetts with short, pithy messages spurring Massachusetts residents to support our Party and its stands. So far, our campaign has generated more almost 400,000 reader exposures for a cost just over \$200.

Your donations can build a stronger outreach campaign. For more information on donating to our Libertarian Party of Massachusetts, see the donation form on the outside cover of the issue, or send your check to Libertarian Party of Massachusetts, 30 East Chestnut Street, Sharon MA 02067. Donations are not tax-deductible. State and Federal law require us to ask the occupation and employer of anyone donating \$200 or more.

### ***Give Now If You Want Ballot Access!***

Your donation to the Ballot Access Matching Fund will help pay the costs of putting our Presidential and Senate candidates on the ballot for next fall. Without the success of the Ballot Access Fund, fellow Libertarians across the Commonwealth will have no Libertarian to vote for. They might feel obliged to vote for a Democrat. Or a Republican. Please help save our fellow Libertarians from a dire fate!

## Pictures from the State Convention



*Michael Jingoian speaking at the Presidential Candidate Debate*



*George Phillies speaking at the Presidential Candidate Debate*



*Walter Ziobro (debate moderator) taking written questions for the candidates from the audience*

## Minutes of the Annual State Convention of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts

Saturday, October 6, 2007

Tweed's Restaurant, Worcester, MA

### Call to Order and Officer Reports

The Convention of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts was called to order at 10:17 a.m.

It was agreed by unanimous consent that the Chair and (Recording) Secretary of the party, George Phillies and Mary-Anne Wolf, should be the chair and secretary of the convention.

Mary-Anne Wolf and Rich Tomasso were chosen to be the tellers. This mostly involved guarding the ballot box.

Arthur Torrey moved (seconded) to approve the agenda. The membership agreed to approve the agenda.

There was unanimous consent that late arriving officers can report when they arrive.

Chair George Phillies reported that "we're back in business!" and that the newsletter and socials and regular state committee meetings are happening again.

Political Facilitator Carol McMahon reported that we have two candidates who had run for office, Bob Underwood and Bill Discipio.

Operations Facilitator Arthur Torrey reported that "we are operating", that the website is up and running, there are discussion forums.

Recording Secretary Mary-Anne Wolf reported on posting State Committee minutes in the newsletter, and on posting references to possibly relevant News stories in the forum set aside for this purpose.

Treasurer Walter Ziobro passed out the following pair of reports, from all of 2006, and from the beginning of 2007 to the present.

The Treasurer's report was in two parts. For the year 2006, we had UMP (Unified Membership Program) income and were not doing all that much. Since the beginning of 2007, we have no UMP money and have been doing more, including trying to make restitution to members who paid for newsletters and never got them. We still have about \$9000 in the bank, which is on a par with what we had at this time last year. We have spent about about \$4000 of the \$13000 we had to work with.

Membership secretary Dave Roscoe reported that last year was more complicated than usual. We extended newsletter

subscriptions 6 months starting in October, 2006. We reached the end of UMP, by which the state party gets a share of money paid to the national party. We had received a lot of our income through the national party. The phase out ended in November, 2006.

Last year we had 213 members and paid newsletter subscribers, of which 113 were through the national party and 100 contributed directly to us. Now all members and subscribers come directly through us. As of September 6, 2007, we have 140 contributing members and 5 subscribers. This means 145 newsletter subscriptions. The difference between a subscriber and a member is that a subscriber has not signed the pledge.

The newsletter editor, George Phillies, reported that the previous newsletter editor, Stephanie Woiciechowski, was unable to continue in her duties. Mr. Phillies took over the position in her stead. However, Mr. Phillies said that he only wished to be in the position temporarily, and that we need a new newsletter editor. The editor needs to know how to use some software that "gives you pages", and how to "drop text in". Mr. Phillies said he has been using the newsletter as a "bully pulpit". The newsletter is not a one person job. The editorial committee currently consists of Mary-Anne Wolf, Arthur Torrey, and Sue Mosher. The Webmaster, Bill Hees, was not present, but others involved discussed the progress on combatting spam posts on the website forums.

### **Nominations to the '07-'08 State Committee**

The following people were nominated and were present to accept the nomination immediately: Walter Ziobro, Dave Roscoe, Arthur Torrey, Mary-Anne Wolf, Bob Underwood, Dick Clark, Dave Blau, Carol McMahon, George Phillies.

Steve Drobnis was not present, but had expressed his interest in being nominated by email to multiple people, and had given George Phillies permission to speak on his behalf.

Walter Ziobro wanted to nominate Bill Hees but had not previously received his consent. Attempts to reach Bill Hees by telephone were not initially successful. Bill Hees later asked the Recording Secretary, Mary-Anne Wolf, explicitly to record that Bill Hees was not present for the nominations.

George Phillies noted that it was 10:55. Arthur Torrey moved (seconded) to close nominations. The motion was opposed and defeated. Walter Ziobro moved (seconded) that nominations be held open until 11:45. The motion passed unanimously.

It was explained that voting members attending the state convention can either vote for up to 9 state committee members or can vote for NOTA (none of the above).

### **Selection of Delegates to the Libertarian Party National Convention**

The Chair explained that State Committee members may attend, ex-officio, and that the convention will be Memorial Day week-end 2008. The Chair also explained that although the official count of delegates has not been announced, according to GreenPapers.com, and the formula in the party by-laws, we can safely assume at least 24 people.

The number of delegates is the sum of two numbers. The first number, which is based on the percentage of the population who voted for the previous presidential candidate is 11 people. The second number, which is based on the percentage of the national membership which comes from your state, is about 16 people.

Richard Martin was nominated to be a delegate and there was unanimous consent to elect him.

### **Amendments to the State Party Constitution**

Arthur Torrey moved (seconded) that our state party should have a platform different from, or in addition to the platform from the national party. It was moved to replace text of the Constitution, which reads:

*Article II § 4. The convention shall have the authority to adopt a platform. The Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party shall be included as a part of such platform, and shall not be amended except by a vote of seven-eighths of the delegates present. The platform, other than the Statement of Principles, shall be the most recently adopted platform of the national Libertarian Party, provided that, any plank of such platform, excluding the Statement of Principles, may be deleted in its entirety by a simple majority of the delegates present. The substitution of a new plank for an old plank, or the addition of a new plank, shall require approval by a vote of at least two thirds of the delegates present.*

To instead read:

*Article II § 4. The convention shall have the authority to adopt a platform. The Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party as it existed on January 1, 2008 is the opening statement of that platform. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the delegates present is required to replace or amend the Statement of Principles. The remainder of the Platform other than the Statement of Principles is determined by vote of the State Convention, a majority vote of delegates present being required to adopt, add, amend, or delete statements from the remainder of the Party Platform.*

The motion was opposed on the grounds that the national platform was a better presentation than what the state party had come up with, although the opposer had not contributed to the state party platform. A member noted that at the previous national convention, the national party's Statement of Principles came within 3 votes of being deleted in its entirety, only 12 of 65 planks were retained, and argued that under the current constitution if the national convention changed the national platform before our next state convention, we will have the national platform, with no choice or control over it. Another member approved of the fact that the current constitution makes it hard to change the Statement of Principles.

The motion to amend the Constitution was voted upon and defeated.

Another amendment was moved (seconded) identical to the previous amendment but requiring seven-eighths of the delegates present to replace or amend the Statement of Principles. A member favored the state party keeping control of party platform. Another member expressed the same opposition to this amendment as to the previous amendment. There were 3 votes in favor, 6 votes opposed, the motion did not pass.

### **Adoption of State Party Platform**

The Chair began the report of platform committee. The committee intended the platform to consist of statements, not reasons. Each member was presented with a copy of the planks proposed by the platform committee.

The committee recommended that, when presenting the platform to the public, the State Committee shall re-order the planks to group them by subject and present them with appropriate subject headings. Mary-Anne Wolf moved this recommendation (seconded), and the motion carried.

Arthur Torrey moved (seconded) that the State Convention hereby strike all present and future planks of the National Platform from the State Platform.

A member clarified that this did not mean deleting the preamble, and spoke approvingly of the national platform. Another member said that in his proposals for state party replacements for the national platform, he had removed Platonist references. Another member argued that a party platform should be a general guideline for Libertarian communication. A member disapproved of the national platform because of its length.

A member suggested that expressing a stance on Massachusetts-specific issues is important. Another member asked whether every candidate must use the state platform, and pointed out that we have no enforcement mechanism. It was noted that a Libertarian's opponents can quote from the state party platform as well.

A member opposed 'dumbing down' our platform to sound bite level. Another member argued against an overly complex platform because it discourages people from reading it. A member pointed out that we are still a small party, having a coherent message between the national and state parties shows that we are united, and we can teach each candidate how to present the platform as a sound bite.

The debate being concluded, a vote was taken. There were 2 votes in favor of striking the national platform, and 9 opposed. The motion failed, and the national platform was adopted.

Bill Hees was successfully contacted by cell phone, and confirmed that he would be willing to serve on the state committee.

### **State Platform Planks**

The membership took up consideration of the planks recommended by the platform committee.

The platform committee recommended that the planks be first considered for objections, to pass those over which there was no objection, and only discuss the others. A member stated that he would object to each plank.

The first plank considered was:

*1) The Libertarian Party stands for Peace, Freedom, and Prosperity.*

The motion to adopt the plank passed.

It being 11:45, the orders of the day were called, and the convention recessed to take lunch.

During the recess, candidates for President of the United States presented statements. Paul Frankel spoke as a surrogate for Steve Kubby. Wayne Allen Root sent a DVD, of which the first six minutes were played.

A debate among presidential candidates was held between Mike Jingoian and George Phillies. Mr. Jingoian gave the opening statement first, and Mr. Phillies gave the closing statement first. (Barry Hess was invited, but did not appear.)

After the debate, the convention was called back to order.

Dick Clark moved (seconded) to discuss Massachusetts specific platforms first. The motion passed unanimously.

To conserve time, only those planks having substantial membership interest were discussed. Each plank was read by the Chair, and a vote taken on whether there was interest in discussing the plank.

The next plank considered was:

6) *The Libertarian Party calls for the repeal of the Massachusetts compulsory health insurance law.*

The motion to adopt the plank passed.

The next plank was:

9) *The Libertarian party endorses the new pro-freedom initiatives being brought to the voters and urges Libertarians across Massachusetts to support their passage.*

There was discussion of which initiatives we meant. Alternatives included marijuana decriminalization, removing automobile excise taxes, repealing the state income tax, reducing the voting age, and repealing 40B housing.

A member supported the first four initiatives but not the others. Another member said that explanations of which initiatives should not be in the platform, and another member agreed that the platform should not be too precise. Another member said it was more beneficial to support issues one at a time than to have a generic statement in the platform, that the plank was not necessary.

Bill Hees moved an amendment (seconded) to endorse all new pro-freedom initiatives. A member argued the plank was not specific enough to be meaningful. A vote was taken and the amendment failed. Bill Hees said that as new pro-freedom initiatives come about, we should support them.

Tony Piccorello moved an amendment (seconded) to endorse future initiatives. A member pointed out that we don't know what initiatives might be coming down the road. Another member responded that we are Libertarians, and there will always be disputes. Another member did not see the amended version as better than the original plank. A vote was taken, and the amendment passed with 9 votes in favor and 2 against.

A vote was taken on the main motion, plank 9, and the motion passed with 10 votes in favor and 4 against. The text of the plank as adopted:

9) *The Libertarian party endorses new and future pro-freedom initiatives being brought to the voters and urges Libertarians across Massachusetts to support their passage.*

The next plank considered was (after a friendly amendment):

10) *In the case of divorce with children, there should be a rebuttable presumption that child custody is shared equally between both parents.*

A member expressed the opinion that this is not a

Libertarian issue. Another member agreed, that these issues should be decided on a case-by-case basis.

A member disagreed, and said that this is both a state issue and a Libertarian issue, that if custody by the mother is assumed, it creates a disadvantage of being male. Another member agreed about the experience of men unfairly separated from their children. A member stated that the law should not discriminate based on gender, but that talking about child custody in divorce was too specific.

A vote on the plank was taken. There were 7 votes in favor and 7 opposed. Failing to reach a 2/3 majority, the motion to adopt did not pass.

The next plank was:

11) *The Libertarian Party condemns the Bush Administration's war of aggression against Iraq and calls for its immediate end.*

In the vote whether to discuss this plank, there were 7 in favor and 4 opposed.

A member said that Iraq is a national issue, not a state issue. John Driscoll moved (seconded) that the plank call for the immediate return of the Massachusetts National Guard. There were 9 votes in favor and 2 against. The amendment passed.

Returning to the main motion, a member disapproved in that the plank does not say what a proper defense policy is. It was argued that we should support and end to aggression by the U.S. against Iraq, not civil war between different parties in Iraq. Another member said that this is a national issue, not a state issue, but so important that we should include it anyway.

Tony Piccorello proposed an amendment (seconded) to the plank to call for the withdrawal of the Guard. The change passed with 8 votes in favor and 2 against.

The main motion passed with 10 votes in favor and 2 against. The plank, as adopted, reads:

11) *The Libertarian Party condemns the Bush Administration's war of aggression against Iraq and calls for its immediate end, and calls for the immediate withdrawal of the Massachusetts National Guard to Massachusetts.*

The next plank was:

16) *In accord with existing Federal Law, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts should move vigorously to replace its National Guard with a State Defense Force whose service is limited to the boundaries of the Commonwealth.*

There was brief discussion about the distinction between a National Guard, which is part of the federal military structure, can be federally funded, and can be sent overseas, and a State Defense Force, which is exclusively state funded, and limited to activity within the state. The motion to adopt the plank passed.

The next plank was (after friendly amendments):

*17) The Commonwealth of Massachusetts cannot long endure a huge underclass of people whose civil liberties and civil rights have been lost to the war on drugs. There should be a general pardon of all persons who were convicted of violating state laws defining nonviolent drug crimes.*

The motion to adopt the plank passed.

The next plank was:

*19) Laws requiring the use of personal protective equipment intended primarily to protect the user, such as Motorcycle Helmets and Automobile Seatbelts, should be repealed, because protecting people from their own actions is not a fundamental purpose of government.*

A member said that these laws had more to do with revenue raising than safety. Another member noted there is no statistically significant difference with respect to motorcycle fatality rates in states with and without helmet laws.

A member called these laws "a door opener to intrusion on personal rights". A member argued that this plank states a principle but only applies the principle to one case. Another member responded that we are only applying the principle to one issue, but that is the issue in which the government is intruding.

A member said that other people might understand our principle to apply to industrial issues, which might not be what we intended. A member said we should clarify that we are talking about adults.

Walter Ziobro moved an amendment (seconded) that we refer to adults not in work situations. It was decided that smoking should be in a separate plank. The amendment received 2 votes in favor and more than 2 opposed, and failed.

The main motion passed with 11 votes in favor and 1 opposed.

The next plank was:

*20) Mindful of the rights clearly provided for in the Bill of Rights, the Libertarian Party calls for the repeal of all permit laws and other restrictions on the right of law-abiding adults to keep and bear firearms and other weapons.*

There were 6 votes in favor of discussing this plank, and less than 6 opposed.

Dave Blau proposed an amendment (seconded) to limit the repeat to restrictions on responsible adults. A member said this is redundant. Another member raised the issue of who decides who is "responsible". A member responded that a mental patient, for example, would not be. A vote having been ordered, the amendment failed with 6 votes in favor and 7 opposed.

Returning to the main motion, a member discussed how many things are forbidden in addition to guns, such as double-edged knives and ammunition, which is why the plank has the reference to other weapons.

Bill Hees moved an amendment (seconded) to the plank to call for the repeal of Massachusetts permit laws. The motion passed.

Walter Ziobro proposed a blanket motion to replace all references to "the Libertarian Party" in all planks (except those from the National Party) with "the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts". The motion passed unanimously.

Plank 20, with the change, passed unanimously. The plank, as adopted, reads:

*20) Mindful of the rights clearly provided for in the Bill of Rights, the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts calls for the repeal of all Massachusetts permit laws and other restrictions on the right of law-abiding adults to keep and bear firearms and other weapons.*

The next plank was:

*21) So long as household internet service is a monopoly, or near monopoly, suppliers of household internet service should be chartered as common carriers obliged to provide equal access to all users.*

This plank was defeated.

The next plank was:

*22) Prohibition did not work last time, and it is not working this time either. The war on marijuana is an appalling expensive failure that should be ended.*

A member discussed how drug legalization will happen one state at a time, and another member replied that the drugs laws as written are not specific to states. A member said this plank is lacking in reference to current Massachusetts issues.

The motion to adopt the plank received 7 votes in favor and 5 opposed. Failing to reach a 2/3 majority, the motion failed.

The next plank was (after friendly amendment):

24) *Abortion is a strictly private issue in which the Commonwealth of Massachusetts should play absolutely no role.*

The vote whether to discuss this plank was 5 in favor and 5 against. The chair broke the tie in favor of discussion.

Another member spoke against the motion, saying that plank 9 contradicts plank 24. A member raised a point of order (well-taken) that plank 9 was not adopted. Another member discussed how the father's rights are a good point in the discussion of abortion, and there was more discussion of late term abortions. A member discussed how very late term abortion is infanticide.

Mary-Anne Wolf moved (seconded) an amendment regarding timing of abortions. The amendment was defeated.

The main motion received 6 votes in favor and 6 against. Failing to reach a 2/3 majority, the motion failed.

### Further Business

The Chair discussed how our party needs a candidate for U.S. Senate, and warned those present that if they do not donate and volunteer, we may not see the Libertarian Party on the ballot. As an incentive to the two biggest donors before November 30th, Arthur Torrey is donating 2 bottles of mead. As an incentive to the next 2 biggest donors, George Phillies is donating 2 autographed copies of his book, MinuteGirls.

George Phillies received unanimous consent to edit next newsletter.

The results of the election for state committee were announced. State Committee members-elect were asked if they planned to attend the national convention, and this is indicated as (yes) or (no) after their names. The '07-'08 Libertarian Party of Massachusetts State Committee is:

1. George Phillies (yes)
2. Dick Clark (no)
3. David Blau (no)
4. Arthur Torrey (yes)
5. Carol McMahon (yes)
6. Walter Ziobro (no)
7. Mary-Anne Wolf (yes)
8. Dave Roscoe (no) and
9. Bob Underwood (no)

Steve Drobnis also expressed his intent to attend the national convention.

It being 4:00, the orders of the day were called, and the convention adjourned.

## 2007-2008 State Committee

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# Minutes of the September State Committee Meeting

Sunday, September 23, 2007

The chair of the state committee of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts convened the meeting at 1:33 p.m. Present were George Phillies, Arthur Torrey, Mary-Anne Wolf, David Roscoe, and Walter Ziobro, which was enough for a quorum.

Arthur Torrey moved (seconded) to approve the minutes from the August meeting. The motion passed with 4 votes in favor and none opposed.

George discussed how we need to make the tables in the minutes look prettier.

## State Convention

Present at the convention will be George Phillies, Michael Jingoian, and Barry Hess. Steve Kubby asked to interact with the convention by internet, but our site lacks a live internet connection. Thus, as a back-up, Steve Kubby will send a surrogate to speak on his behalf.

Wayne Allen Root wishes us to play his DVD. Mr. Torrey will post our need for equipment to play it with, on the forum.

The chair reported that he called Ed Thompson, who says that he is not a candidate for president and is currently supporting someone else. If that person withdraws, he will be supporting yet another candidate.

The chair contacted the Libertarian party member in Pittsfield who wanted to form a local group there, and this person never answered.

We have further information about using meetup to facilitate local groups. For the single monthly fee, meetup allows us to have three such groups. It was suggested that there be a group for Worcester and points west, route 495, and the eastern Coast of Massachusetts.

Walter Ziobro will refer Jeff Case to David Roscoe.

With respect to our party finding a U.S. Senate candidate, the chair called Steve Epstein, who declined. Mr. Ziobro called Kamal Jain, who said that he is very busy and disinclined to run.

It was clear that we would not be asking the Senate candidate to raise money. Also discussed as candidates were Walter Ziobro, Rich Aucoin, and Carla Howell. Mr. Torrey will ask Carla, and possibly also ask about Rich. With respect to ballot access, we would share petitioners.

The chair has sent the text of a letter which Mr. Torrey will be sending to all newspapers, saying that we are looking for candidates. Mr. Torrey has had difficulty creating a mailing-list long enough to include all of the names without encountering length limitations. A solution was sug-

gested that he send the emails to newspapers individually.

Robert Underwood joined the meeting.

The chair moved (seconded) to propose amending the State Constitution by replacing:

*Article II § 4. The convention shall have the authority to adopt a platform. The Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party shall be included as a part of such platform, and shall not be amended except by a vote of seven-eighths of the delegates present. The platform, other than the Statement of Principles, shall be the most recently adopted platform of the national Libertarian Party, provided that, any plank of such platform, excluding the Statement of Principles, may be deleted in its entirety by a simple majority of the delegates present. The substitution of a new plank for an old plank, or the addition of a new plank, shall require approval by a vote of at least two thirds of the delegates present.*

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*Article II § 4. The convention shall have the authority to adopt a platform. The Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party as it existed on January 1, 2008 is the opening statement of that platform. An affirmative vote of seven-eighths of the delegates present is required to replace or amend the Statement of Principles. The remainder of the Platform other than the Statement of Principles is determined by vote of the State Convention, a majority vote of delegates present being required to adopt, add, amend, or delete statements from the remainder of the Party Platform.*

Mr. Torrey moved (seconded) that the state committee approve bringing this amendment to a vote at the convention. The motion passed with 3 in favor, 1 opposing, and 1 abstention.

Mr. Torrey moved an amendment identical to this one, but replacing the text "An affirmative vote of seven-eighths of the delegates present is required to replace or amend the Statement of Principles" with "An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the delegates present is required to replace or amend the Statement of Principles."

The chair ruled that discussion of the process of voting for these related amendments was not germane to these motions. Ms. Wolf appealed this decision. Mr. Ziobro seconded the appeal, and the chair was overruled 3 votes in favor, one opposed, and one abstaining.

The motion to move this proposed amendment at the state convention passed with 3 in favor, 1 opposing, and 1 abstention.

## Presidential Debate at the Convention

Each candidate will make an opening statement and a closing statement. The order of candidates will be reversed between the opening and closing. The chair, who will participate in the debate, volunteered to be the middle candidate in that order.

It was moved to state questions out loud with a 60 second time limit. People would raise their hands and ask questions in the order they were recognized. The motion failed with 2 votes in favor and 3 opposed.

Mr. Ziobro moved (seconded) that questions for debate will be submitted in writing. The motion passed with 4 in favor and none opposed.

It was moved that the debate start at 1 p.m. with Walter Ziobro as the moderator and Arthur Torrey as the time keeper. Mr. Torrey said that he would try to get Jeff Jacoby or Garth (radio personality) instead, but that Mr. Ziobro would be moderator if that did not succeed.

It was moved that surrogates for the candidates will be allowed to speak for the same amount of time as the opening and closing statements. The motion was approved 3 votes in favor and 2 abstentions.

The chair will ask Wayne Allen Root whether we should play the beginning of what he already sent or whether Mr. Root would prefer to send something else, given the time limit. Mr. Torrey will try to figure out how to play Mr. Root's DVD.

With respect to fund raising for ballot access in 2008, we have \$5000 in matching funds: \$1000 from Bill Hees, \$2000 from the campaign of George Phillies, and \$2000 from Steve Drobnis. This money will go into our FEC account. Assuming that signatures cost \$1.25 each, we need about \$20,000 in total, of which we have \$5000 in matching money. Arthur will research Vistaprint hats, fridge magnets, and patches.

Ms. McMahon will call Chris Crawford to see what Chris might be willing to donate.

The chair spoke with Kristen Green, an attorney at the office of William Francis Galvin, the Massachusetts Secretary of State, and she said that she would research if we can do a substitution for the presidential candidate. The chair also asked if the state committee can get a list of registered voters in Massachusetts, and was told that this would need to be researched.

The party website was discussed. Arthur will distribute the website passwords to members of the state committee after the convention. The chair will ask Ms. McMahon to change the URLs to ones for which we know the passwords.

Muni Savyon still owns the lpma.org URL. We will send a registered letter asking Muni for it. The chair will draft the letter and Mr. Torrey will sign and send it. A motion authorizing the letter to be sent passed with 6 votes in favor and none opposed.

Mr. Roscoe gave the Membership Secretary's report. As of 08/26/2007, 106 LPMA subscribers had signed the Libertarian Oath, and 6 had not for a total of 112 subscribers. As of 09/23/2007, 108 LPMA subscribers had signed the Oath, and 7 had not, for a total of 115 subscribers. As of that date, there were 1489 former sub-

scribers who had signed the Oath, 13398 who had not, for a total of 14887 former subscribers.

Ms. Wolf began recording subscription/dues payments and separate donations in the database.

Mr. Ziobro gave the Treasurer's report. Ms McMahon has set up a new credit card system, but has not shut down the old one yet. There was discussion of what period of time was appropriate for the treasurer's report at the state convention. It was decided to use both calendar year 2006 and the year 2007 to date.

Mr. Torrey moved to accept the recommended changes to the by-laws (seconded.) The motion passed with 5 votes in favor and none opposed.

The chair raised the issue of a "motion arising". With respect to maximizing the money to get candidates onto the ballot in 2008, it was proposed that we cease to send gratis issues of our newsletter to parties which had been receiving them. We send one to the national party, one to the national chair, and about 40 every month to other people and organizations. It was also proposed that we write this in the next issue of the newsletter, including how to subscribe for a paid issue if the recipient was still interested in receiving one. This motion passed with 5 in favor and none opposed.

Next month's state committee meeting will be hosted by Ms. McMahon.

It was observed that membership renewals must be sent to two people, namely Ms. McMahon who deposits the checks and Mr. Roscoe who updates the membership records. This means that no matter what there are two mailing delays in passing information. There was agreement that it was more important that the membership records be updated as soon as possible, so that members are welcomed immediately, and that the loss of a couple days interest on depositing the checks was less critical than the delay in welcoming people. Therefore it was moved and seconded that Mr. Drobnis will be directed to forward business-size letters to the Membership Secretary, who will forward all mail containing checks, bills, or other financial matters to the Treasurer.

At 4:20 p.m. Mr. Roscoe moved (seconded) to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

**Give Now If You Want Ballot Access!**

Your donation to the Ballot Access Matching Fund will help pay the costs of putting our Presidential and Senate candidates on the ballot for next fall. Without the success of the Ballot Access Fund, fellow Libertarians across Massachusetts will have no Libertarian to vote for. They might feel obliged to vote for a Democrat. Or a Republican. Please help save our fellow Libertarians from a dire fate! Give now for ballot access.

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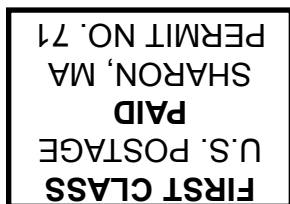
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