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Massachusetts Liberty

Uniting Libertarian Party Activists

August 2009

Fall Convention Speaker — Katherine Albrecht

Liberty activist Katherine Albrecht, co-author of *"Spychips: How Major Corporations and Government Plan to Track Your Every Move with RFID"* will be the keynote speaker at the 2009 Libertarian State Convention.

The convention will be held in the Emerald Room of Tweed's Restaurant, Grove Street, Worcester, on Saturday, October 10. The convention will start at 10AM. We'll break for refreshments a bit before noon, with Albrecht's talk expected for about half-past twelve. A fundraiser will follow the talk.

Other Convention business includes election of the new State Committee, election of delegates to the 2010 National Convention (St. Louis, MO, Memorial Day weekend), and amendments to our Constitution.

Expect an exciting talk from Albrecht, who has spoken and led demonstrations from coast to coast. For pics see her web site <http://www.spychips.com>.

Albrecht's book *Spychips*, which won the 2006 Lysander Spooner Award for Advancing the Literature of Liberty, describes how radio frequency identification tagging destroys your privacy. The book has earned spectacular reviews. *"Brilliantly written...so full of fascinating vignettes and facts that I can't put it down."* — Author Claire Wolfe *"Spychips is one of the best privacy books in many years....The privacy movement needs a book. I nominate Spsychips."* —Marc Rotenberg, Executive Director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC).

Szafran Submits Signatures

Libertarian Dan Szafran is running for Mayor of Westfield. Last week, he submitted his nominating papers, and is now waiting for his signatures to be validated. Westfield may have four candidates this year. In addition to Szafran, candidates include Gaetana Aliotta, Daniel Knapik, and incumbent Mayor Michael Boulanger. We are told that Boulanger holds a unique distinction: He is the only mayor of Westfield in living memory to have had his budget rejected by the City Council.

Under election law, with four candidates on the ballot Westfield will hold a primary election on September 22 to determine which two candidates for Mayor advance to the November General Election.

Underwood on Ballot

Libertarian Bob Underwood is running for City Council in Springfield. The Springfield elections office has confirmed that he has collected 150 of the 100 required signatures for ballot access, and is now on the Springfield ballot. Springfield just adopted District elections for some City Council members; Bob is running in Ward 2. Bob's web site is electbobunderwood.org You can write him at 83 Cherrelyn St. Springfield, MA 01104-2441

He writes of his campaign: Robert Underwood - the Different Approach. Not only are the incumbents chanting the same mantra, but so are many of the

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State Convention: Saturday, October 10, Worcester, Massachusetts
Guest Speaker: Katherine Albrecht, author "Spychips"

Editorial

From Bob Underwood

Fellow Libertarians:

Last Fall, "Libertarian" was a minor party. Being a minor party meant that any registered voter could sign our nominating papers and help put our candidates on the ballot. In the 2008 U.S. Senate election, we surpassed all expectations. As your U.S. Senate candidate, I got 3.2% of the vote. That means "Libertarian" is now a Major Party, not a minor party.

If you want to run for office on the Libertarian line, you must now comply with major rather than minor party rules. When Libertarian was a minor party, any registered voter could sign your nominating papers to put you on the ballot. Major Party rules make life difficult. Under Major Party rules only Libertarian or independent voters may sign your papers. Democrats and Republicans can't sign your nominating papers.

We need those signatures from Democrats or Republicans. Without them, most of our candidates will fail to get on the ballot. Here's an example, my signatures for the 2009 Springfield City Council Elections. I needed 100 signatures. I collected 167 valid signatures. What Party did my signers belong to?

D	Democrat	106	63%
L	Libertarian	2	1%
R	Republican	15	9%
U	independent	44	26%

167

Those two "L" signatures are my wife and I. The other 32 "L" voters in the district could not be found, refused to sign, or were surprised to learn they were registered "L". Fortunately, this was a non-partisan race. If the ballot had party lines, I would not be on the ballot.

Here are the counts for my 2006 State Representative Campaign. I needed 150 signatures. The registrations of my signers were

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Underwood on Ballot

challengers. We no longer send a child to school to become the best in his chosen occupation, we send him to be safe. Cities are the creation of the state government and have limited authority. No one is going to save the world by being elected to the City Council.

A safe city is described in terms of more police. But if you had a safe city you would not need police.

All of them want us to spend more money on bureaucrats which they will hire, and they will not accomplish what we want.



Bob Underwood

A dangerous city is made by dangerous people. As a city councilor I would speak in a loud voice demanding that the legislature deal with the dangerous people who are hurting the rest of us.

We need our schools to become educational institutions once again.

Where will we get the money?

A revolving door criminal system costs no more than one which works. As a councilor I would demand that the state do more. The legislature passes laws, but leaves it up the city to pay for enforcement.

Good students are cheaper to teach than dangerous students and we get more out of it because we are teaching productive skills, not hiring guards just to make people "safe."

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Memberships are \$25 (paper mail issues) or \$15 (email issues) per year: Send checks payable "Libertarian" to POB 1154 Worcester, MA 01613. Join on the web: Go to <http://LPMass.org> and click on "Donate".

Editorial (continued)

D	95
L	3
Other	10
R	16
Independent	50

Under major party rules, only "L" and "independent" signatures count. They are not enough to get me on the ballot.

Every time I have run, a majority of my signatures were from dissatisfied Democrats. Under major party rules we will lose them, and we will have no Libertarian candidates on the 2010 ballot.

How do we fix this? Of course, our candidates could re-register as independents and run as independents. If they do that, we aren't visible as a political bloc.

I have found the answer. We set up a new "Party Designation". Our candidates register, all under that same designation. It's a "Designation", so any registered voter can sign their nominating papers. Voters across the state will see our candidates are all on the same side.

My proposed designation is "Liberty." To create the designation, fifty registered voters must sign the form. Any voter may sign; their party registration is not changed by signing. By registering as "Liberty Party", candidates can build on our past successes.

I am now setting up the petition form. Your help is welcome.

PHP Web Assist Needed

Webmaster Mary-Anne Wolf is preparing an upgrade to the Forum section of the web pages, which are in PHP. If any reader is familiar with PHP and would be willing to assist, please contact her at webmaster@LPMass.org

Celebrating Freedom... In a Red Plastic Cup

...Shawn Donovan

Over the holiday weekend, like millions of Americans, I celebrated the birth of our nation under a

brightly lit sky, illuminated by hundreds of little exploding rockets' red glare. I 'Ooed' and I 'Awed' at each one with glee. Then I quickly hid my empty beer bottles under my blanket as the cops came strolling through the public park, like a teenager hiding booze from his parents behind a couch in his basement. Except I'm not a teenager. I'm 25 years old, and I like to have a couple brews to enable the 'Ooing' and 'Awing' at a mediocre fireworks display. Sorry Weymouth. But luckily for me I didn't get busted for an open container law violation because I had my trusty partner in patriotism, the red plastic cup.

I'm not going to use the word ironic to describe having to hide alcohol during a celebration of our country's freedom. I'm going to go with infuriatingly, annoyingly, insipidly stupid. Especially since this was alcohol I legally purchased at a liquor store. I didn't steal this beer, so why should I have to hide it? As Americans we like to tote our freedom above all else. We have the freedom to practice whatever religion we so choose, we have the freedom to own firearms and we even have the freedom to write op/ed pieces to the local newspaper. But for the life of me, I don't know why we still can't enjoy a beer in a public place without having to hide it in a brown bag or a red plastic cup, like it's being kidnapped. Deliciously kidnapped. Other countries allow their citizens to do so. Nice ones too, with running water and elected officials. Aren't we supposed to be freer than they are? But as far as I've researched, which consisted of a trip to Wikipedia, the only places one can enjoy a drink on the streets in the States is Las Vegas or New Orleans.

But I don't live in Europe or Nevada or Louisiana, I live in Massachusetts. So drawing inspiration from my founding fathers, who protested a bad law by dumping tea into the ocean, I protested a bad law by dumping my beer into a little red plastic version of Boston Harbor and I became a true patriot, just like the guy on the bottle. Surely after a couple trips to the 'Harbor' I must have erupted into 'Yankees suck!' chant followed by tipping over cars in the street and lighting them on fire. Nope. I collected my empty bottles and properly disposed of them in a trash barrel. How can an adult both drink alcohol and act responsibly? It's a revolutionary concept, I

know. Some people can handle doing both. But what about the guy who does get drunk and start a riot? Well that meathead was probably going to do it anyway whether he got drunk at his house, at a bar or on the street because he's a meathead and that's what meatheads do.

Open container laws are the worst kind of law that exists. They're laws that assume guilt before any transgression has occurred. If you're having a drink in public, you must be bound to do something else like destroy property or drive drunk and kill someone, so let's stop the problem before it starts. Why not just go the extra step and ban alcohol altogether? Oh yeah, we did that and it failed miserably because people like to drink and most people can drink responsibly. Part of having a free society is allowing adults to make decisions for themselves, for better or worse.

Maybe I'm wrong. Maybe I'm a Libertarian. Or maybe I'm just a guy who would like to have a beer on the 4th of July without the fuzz killing my buzz.

Libertarian Shawn Donovan previously ran for mayor in Peabody. He is now Assistant and lead Organizer for our Essex County meetup group.

New Libertarian Primer

Rob Power, writing on the Outright Libertarians blog <http://outrightlibertarians.blogspot.com>, reports that Elinor Brandt has prepared a new, downloadable 34-page primer A Libertarian Primer for the Gay Community (and Everyone Else). The book, written in time for the San Francisco Pride Festival, includes much material explaining libertarian ideas that have nothing to do with gender politics, such as charity, education, social security, and health care. The primer is available online at <http://outrightusa.org/brandtprimer.pdf>

Letter Writing Group

The notion of the letter writing group is to organize and motivate libertarians across to the state to write letters to the editor, and to post pro-liberty statements as comments on newspaper articles where and when these are appropriate. The group would do fact-finding, suggest sound bites and cute phrases

People who want to write letters can go to <http://CLiPr.info>, pull down press releases, and use the press releases to write their comments and responses. It's not as good as a Massachusetts support group, but we are too short of manpower to have one of those yet.

You do need to say things in your own words. Under modern conditions, computer searches will rapidly catch someone who simply sends the same letter to 150 newspapers.

The Letter to the Editor group at this point is a sketch of a tactical tool. We need volunteers to make it happen. Until then, I urge you all to write letters to the editor and post comments on news articles. Be sure to mention LPMass and send sympathetic people in our direction.

State Committee Meets in June

The State Committee met June 21 in Worcester. In attendance were State Committee members David Blau, George Phillies, Arthur Torrey, and Mary-Anne Wolf. Much of the meeting was involved with preparing amendments to the organization's Constitution, which will be covered in a separate article.

Officer reports: Dave Blau reported he is compiling a list of volunteers. He intends to telephone them and learn their availability.

Arthur Torrey has done mailings to members who have expired recently. Very few of them are renewing. The State Committee will ask former members about their political interests, to see if we can match their priorities better and motivate them to renew.

By mail ballot, the State Committee appropriated \$72 to reimburse Arthur Torrey as organizer for three libertarian Meetup groups: Boston, Route 495/Lowell, and Western Massachusetts/Springfield. There appears to be local interest in Libertarian activity in Essex County and the South Shore.

Our organization missed having its usual booth at the Boston Pride Festival. The Operations Facilita-

tor thought that the event was later in the summer than was the case, and failed to get things moving soon enough. We retain our position in favor of the right of consenting adults to engage in, or not engage in, whatever sexual relationships they prefer, and that until such time as "government gets out of the marriage business", freedom of same-sex couples to marry is much better than restricting legal marriage to opposite-sex couples.

Arthur Torrey reported that a libertarian activist is doing national organizing for a Libertarian presence at the Van's Warped Tour. The organizer would provide admission bracelets for two people. Judging by our previous experience, staying for the whole event is exhausting enough that having more than two people, able to work in shifts would be better, and we are looking for additional volunteers to do this. Arthur Torrey will look into what is involved in participating in the event. There was agreement that we need to improve the follow-up with the libertarians whose names were gathered at the Operation Politically Homeless (OPH) booth there.

The Committee wished that we had a Volunteer Coordinator, to help volunteers become more active. Mary-Anne Wolf reported posting news on the website front page, and uploading a considerable number of old newsletters to the newsletter archives. Arthur Torrey added that we now have 74 members on the website forum.

George Phillies reported that we have 94 members and 2 monthly donors. The State Committee will have a booth at the Massachusetts Cannabis Reform Coalition Boston Freedom Rally on September 19th. We most need extra volunteers during setup and breakdown.

Phillies was approached by a student who wanted to redo our website. The student was urged to create a student-specific site first, and thus FreeMass.org was created. Dave Blau worked with Citizens for Change, whose goal is to remove the legislature from the initiative petition process with respect to amendments to the Massachusetts constitution.

The meeting adjourned shortly after 4 P.M.

State Committee Forwards Constitutional Amendments to the Members

Our Constitution requires that amendments to our Constitution first be approved by the State Committee and then presented for a member vote at the State Convention. The last State Committee meeting passed a series of these, which will be sent in full form in the September Newsletter, with original text and color-coding. Here's a summary.

One motion uniformizes spelling, capitalization, and similar issues. A second motion would strike the second paragraph of the Constitution's Preamble.

A third motion amends the membership requirements in order to be able to vote at the State Convention. The new text would read:

Article II: State Convention

1. A Regular State Convention shall be held in every year.
2. Persons, who are members of Massachusetts Libertarians whose dues are current, and who joined Massachusetts Libertarians at least 30 days prior to the date of the State Convention, are eligible to vote and participate in the business meeting at the State Convention. Persons who were dues-paying members of Massachusetts Libertarians, or Sustaining Members of the National Libertarian Party, within the past three years, including a period at least 90 days before the day of the State Convention, but whose Massachusetts Libertarians dues are not current, may join or rejoin Massachusetts Libertarians at the State Convention by paying their yearly dues. They may then vote and participate in the business meeting at the State Convention.
3. The State Convention may endorse candidates for office or it may explicitly endorse running no candidate for an office. If it does so, Massachusetts Libertarians will support those candidates to within the limits of State and Federal law and other demands on its resources, and will not support any

competing candidates for the same office. In the absence of a State Convention endorsement, either for a candidate or for no candidate, the State Committee may support a candidate for that office, again within the limits of law and competition for resources.

The opening parts of Article III of our Constitution refer to candidates getting on the ballot. The State Committee believes that the parts that simply duplicate State Law are not needed, leading to new text

1. The responsibility for meeting legal requirements for ballot access rests with each candidate.

2. In the event State or Federal Law authorizes this organization to place candidates on the ballot, whether to replace candidates, fill vacant ballot lines, or for whatever other reason, in the absence of contrary legal specification or directive of the State Convention, the State Committee is authorized to act on behalf of the organization for this purpose.

The State Committee agreed that we should replace the current article on the State Committee with a new one reading

Article IV: State Committee

1. Each regular State Convention shall elect as provided in the Bylaws up to nine State Committee, to serve as the State Committee until the conclusion of the next Regular State Convention.

2. Within 30 days of their election, the newly-elected State Committee shall meet and elect a Chair, a Treasurer, and such other officers as are specified in the Bylaws.

3. The State Committee shall elect officers to fill any vacancies. The State Committee may by majority vote appoint to itself additional Members.

4. All members of the State Committee shall hold office until adjournment of the State Convention at which the next State Committee is chosen.

5. The State Committee may make rules for its proceedings, for the calling of State Conventions, and for the selection of Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention. Delegates to the Libertarian Party National Convention shall be chosen at the State Convention held immediately prior to that National Convention. If elections for State Committee and Convention Delegate happen at the same State Convention, the State Committee is elected first. Persons who will be members of the State Committee at the time of the National Convention are entitled ex officio to be named as Delegates or Alternates, but must so request prior to the election of Delegates and Alternates. The State Convention or State Committee may promulgate Bylaws consistent with this Constitution to ensure a full delegation at the National Convention.

6. To be eligible to be elected as a Massachusetts Delegate to the National Convention, a person must, at the time of the National Convention, be:

a) a legal resident of Massachusetts, and

b) a member in good standing of the organization.

7. The State Committee shall have the authority to adopt or amend the Bylaws by a two-thirds vote, two weeks notice and an opportunity to respond having been given.

8. To be elected or serve as a Member or Officer of the State Committee, a person must be a Member of the organization whose dues are current.

9. Every Member of the State Committee must make available their name, their office in the organization if any, and a working way to contact them, in the organization's newsletter and on the organization's web site. This may be a physical mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number, or some combination of these.

12. The State Committee may by two-third vote of its entire membership expel a person from the State Committee, for cause, after affording the accused reasonable access to due process. Expiration of membership in the organization is cause, but payment of membership dues to renew membership,

prior to the vote, constitutes an absolute defense.

A further proposed amendment has as major effect permitting the membership to amend the organization's Constitution without needing permission of the State Committee:

Article VI: Bylaws, Rules and Amendments

1. Bylaws to implement and clarify the authority and duties of persons and bodies authorized by this Constitution may be adopted or amended by a majority vote at a State Convention, or by a two-thirds vote of the State Committee. When each State Committee meets for the first time to organize, any bylaws previously in force shall remain in force unless a two-thirds vote of the State Committee shall specify otherwise, provided that any amendments to the Bylaws shall be consistent with this Constitution and with actions at State Conventions.

2. Each body authorized by this Constitution may adopt rules for its proceedings.

3. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all persons eligible to vote and registered as attending the State Convention at which the vote is being taken, whether or not voting, provided that there is a quorum, if and only if the following conditions are met:

a. The amendment has been approved beforehand by a majority of the members of the State Committee, or has been endorsed beforehand by the signatures of at least ten percent of the Members whose dues are current, which amendment and endorsement shall be submitted in writing to the Chair of the State Committee, and

b. A copy of the proposed amendment has been sent by mail to each Member of the Organization whose dues are current, postmarked at least two weeks prior to the date of the State Convention in which the amendment is to be considered.

Discussions on the organization's name were postponed to the next meeting.

Your State Committee

Chair — David Blau chair@lpmass.org

Political Facilitator — Robert Underwood
politicalfacilitator@lpmass.org

Treasurer and Membership Secretary — George Phillies,
48 Hancock Hill Drive Worcester MA 01609
phillies@4liberty.net 508 754 1859 (h)

Operations Facilitator — Arthur Torrey
operationsfacilitator@lpmass.org

Webmaster — Mary-Anne Wolf
webmaster@lpmass.org

Recording Secretary — Steven Greffenius
recordingsecretary@lpmass.org

Contact the Party itself:
LPMass, POB 1154, Worcester MA 01613
508 754 1859

Partying Events

*Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association meets the second Wednesday of every month at Doctor Deegan's Restaurant in Springfield. RSVP for directions to rjunderwood2000@yahoo.com

*The Western Massachusetts Libertarian Meetup <http://libertarian.meetup.com/417/> — 2nd Wednesday

*The Boston Area Libertarian Meetup Group <http://libertarian.meetup.com/349/> — 2nd Sunday

*The Route 495 Area Libertarian Meetup <http://libertarian.meetup.com/413/> — fourth Tuesday RSVP REQUIRED. Email arthur_torrey@comcast.net

*Essex County Libertarians Meetup Group — still looking for a local person to set up meetings

*South Shore Libertarians Meetup Group — still looking for a local person to set up meetings

Massachusetts Liberty is published monthly by Massachusetts Libertarians and paid for by our Federal Political Action Committee "Libertarian Association of Massachusetts".

Reading your mailing label: The six-digit number after your name is your expiration date, YYYYMM means that your membership expires at the end of month MM of year YYYY.

Donations are not tax deductible. Donations to our Federal PAC may be spent in connection with Federal Election Activity. Federal and state law require us to make our best effort to determine occupation and employer of donors of \$200 or more in a year.

Support the Libertarian Party!



Join!

Sign me up! Subscribe me to *Massachusetts Liberty*.

LPMass Dues are \$25 per year if you want your newsletter via US Mail, \$15 per year if you want the newsletter via electronic mail and give us a valid email address, and \$5 per year or fraction thereof* if you share a mailing address with a member who already receives the newsletter. (*your expiration date will never be later than the person with whom you share the newsletter.)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Donate!

Your generous donation will be used efficiently to advance our activities. You may legally donate \$500/year to state political activities and \$2400/year toward Federal Political activities. Please give now!

\$200 \$100 \$50

\$2400 \$1000 \$500

Other _____

(And tell us if your donation is for State or Federal use.)
(Law requires **separate** checks for state and federal gifts.)

Donations are not tax deductible. Law requires us to ask occupation and employer for donations over \$200. Federal donations may be used to support Federal election activity.

Occupation _____

Employer _____

Donate on the net at LPMASS.ORG

Paid for by our LPMass Federal PAC C00332221

Volunteer!

I Want to Volunteer

I am prepared to (circle all that apply)

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Put up lawn signs | Host Social for Members |
| 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 |
| Man Booth at Outreach event | |
| I have special skills or suggestions, namely: | |

To Send Money:

Libertarian Party
Post Office Box 1154
Worcester MA 01613

Payment may be made by checks payable "Libertarian".
Donate on the internet at <http://LPMass.Org> **Your Treasurer really prefers credit card donations are made by internet. I would really rather not be responsible for your card data, which I destroy as soon as I process it.**

Your Credit Card Information for credit card donations
(will be destroyed after use):

Visa Mastercard Discover

Credit Debit

Card Number _____

CVV Number (three digit # on back of card) _____

Expiration Date _____

Name on Card _____

Your Signature _____

Activists Needed

Your time for **Libertarian** projects is urgently requested.

North and South Shore Libertarians

It's time to get together.
Meetup.com supplies the path.
Your local support will
make it happen.

Please join
meetup.com/Essex-County-Libertarians

Or
meetup.com/South-Shore-Libertarians

Please volunteer to be an organizer
so events get under way.

PHP Experts

Our webmaster needs help.
Please contact webmaster@LPMass.org

Attention Libertarian Students

Libertarian Student Ryan Lynch has
launched a Libertarian web site

FreeMass.org

He is looking for Libertarian student writers.
Please join him at his web site.

Attention Libertarian Activists Join LPMass discussions

<http://lpmass.org/publicbb2/>
Unite to Advance Liberty!

Outreach Opportunity

Saturday, September 19, 2009
Boston Freedom Rally
Boston Common

Rally for the legalization of marijuana. Help
run an OPH event. Distribute Libertarian
literature.

Contact phillies@4liberty.net to volunteer.

Our booth is space "U", at one end of the line
of booths, almost opposite the MassCann
tent. We need volunteers for 10AM-6PM,
especially at the two ends to help set up and
dismantle our booth..

It's time to help a campaign.

Do you want a full Libertarian ballot next
year? Do you want more successful cam-
paigns this year?

It's time to get involved in politics. It's time
to work for our Libertarian political party.

There's no free lunch at the ballot box. If
you want Libertarian candidates on the bal-
lot, in any election, you need to do your part
to make it happen.

Email Bob Underwood and volunteer
<rjunderwood2000@yahoo.com>

Join the Libertarians and Party!

Libertarian Party Activism Is Moving Ahead

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