



A New Dawn for Freedom

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 cjcmahon@verizon.net

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

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. Alas, almost no Libertarians are on the ballot

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

LfM Board Meets

In August.

To make a long story short, it was clear that there would be an LPMA State Convention in September, and there was a reasonable likelihood that the LPMA State Committee elected at that convention would be dominated by responsible Libertarians out to build the party, namely the LfM Mutual Aid Committee. It was not a sure thing. If you look at the vote totals in the next column, you should recognize that if the forces that have paralyzed the LPMA had turned out a modest number of additional supporters and a slate of candidates, they might have won. In that case, LfM had several alternatives, including the full bore political party organizing route, but it was easier to wait than to spin hypotheticals. We chose to wait.

We Seem To Have Won

At the 2006 Libertarian Party State Convention, held in Worcester on September 23, the LPMA elected a new State Committee. You can read a detailed account on the net at libertarianwiki.org/2006_Massachusetts_State_Convention The core outcome was the election results, which were

Elected

Carol McMahon 15 ←New State Chair
 Steve Drobnis 14
 Art Torrey 13
 George Phillies 13 ←New State Vice Chair
 Bill Hees 13
 Mary-Anne Wolf 12←New Recording Secretary
 Bob Underwood 12
 Dave Roscoe 11←New Membership Secretary
 Steph Woiciechowski 11

Not elected:

Walter Ziobro 8
 Dennis Corrigan 8
 Bob French 7
 Shirley Underwood 4

Added By State Committee

Walter Ziobro←Treasurer

The State Convention also voted that the Party supports a state ballot proposition allowing the sale of wine in supermarkets, opposes a proposition on fusion voting, and took no stand on a proposition on day care centers. In officer Reports, we learned that we have 213 people who signed the pledge and gave money in the last year, of whom 100 have paid LPMA dues and 113 are members under UMP, and another group if I heard it correctly 20 have not signed the pledge but have given money in the past year. There are also 2762 people who have signed the pledge but not donated recently, and 14 621 contacts.

At the State Committee meeting following the convention, officers were elected as shown above. Also, Walter Ziobro was appointed to the State Committee and elected as

[Chair's Message] (Continued on page 2)

Liberty for Massachusetts

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(Continued from page 1) [Message from Chair]

Treasurer. If you look at the list of those elected, you see that 7 of the 9 were Liberty for Massachusetts founders, while Bill Hees is a local activist in Cambridge, Steph Woiciechowski was the long-time newsletter editor, and Walter Ziobro had loudly called for replacement of the former state committee for inaction. Ziobro, who has recently become a father, was unable to attend the convention because of parental care responsibilities, but said he expected that he would be able to attend all state committee meetings.

The forces of reform that motivated Liberty for Massachusetts are now firmly in a position to facilitate the forward progress of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts. Indeed, at the state committee meeting following the convention, the LPMA StateComm meeting schedule for the next year was fixed. There is a goal of holding the four meetings in four different parts of the state, in places that can readily be located and that have good, free parking.

The socials committee was revived with George Phillies as acting chair, and was authorized to receive a list of state party members so it could start contacting people and motivating social activity. Phillies agreed that he would search diligently for a replacement as social committee chair. Agreement was obtained that the State Committee should promptly establish working groups for fundraising, candidate recruitment, candidate support, outreach, and membership recruitment. Many of these are effectively done using local organization as the tool to support the real political objectives noted above.

In addition, the LPMA web site has long not been directly managed by the party state committee, largely because the State Committee did not have a volunteer to do it. Bill Heed will be working on password issues and Philip Reed offered to assist with web page support. Carol McMahon will be contacting Dennis Corrigan who historically had done good work for the LPMA on candidate support.

The Challenge for Liberty For Massachusetts

What should the future role of Liberty for Massachusetts be? The core issue is to what extent we should transfer our interests to the LPMA organization, and to what extent Liberty for Massachusetts should pursue an independent or separate role.

There is a near-complete overlap of officers between LPMA and LfM. Shirley Underwood is not on the LPMA Board; Steph Woiciechowski, Bill Hees, and Walter Ziobro are not on the LfM Board.

Unsurprisingly, the new LPMA Board agreed immediately in principle to adopt the core operational strategy of Liberty for Massachusetts, namely that there should be a

focus on fundraising, candidate recruitment, candidate support, outreach, and membership recruitment. Of these, LfM has prominently been successful at Outreach, with booths weather permitting at the Extravaganja, the Pride Festival, and the Boston Freedom Rally, not to mention our own Rally to End the War on Iraq.

At the point I became chair, it was already clear that there would be an LPMA State Convention this year, and there was no sign that the forces that had dominated the LPMA since 1998 were trying to maintain their grip on Lady Liberty's party. There was an option of launching a new fund drive, which had not quite come to fruition before I was elected, but that seemed to be better postponed.

What, then are our options?

- 0) LfM cannot legally give its remaining Treasury to the LPMA, because it would be illegal for them to receive the money.
- 1) LfM could fold up its tent, use its remaining treasury, e.g., to purchase ISIL literature, and distribute that to groups doing outreach, such as the PVLVA.
- 2) LfM could continue to exist with a separate set of officers, organization newsletter, etc. That would require having enough people active in the LfM to want to do this.
- 3) LfM could retain a shadow existence so that if once again the forces of inaction gained control of the LPMA there would be a Libertarian organization ready to go, though on pass two I would urge going the 'we are the libertarians who actually want a *political* party route'. Remember, our side won by a very narrow margin. If the opposition had shown up with a full slate of candidates, it would from the count on the opposite page had the votes to be elected.
- 4) What are *your* ideas here? I don't have a market on them. I would expect to bring out at least one more issue of the newsletter dealing with this, and LfM will need one more Board Meeting, at least, to resolve these questions.
- 5) *Naturally, first priority will be given to the opinions of activists who want to do work to put their ideas into effect.*

Please write your editor George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net with your opinions.

Finally, an apology: We missed the August issue because I moved in mid-August and am still unpacking.

Massachusetts State Election November 7, 2006

Alas, almost no Libertarians are on the ballot. Indeed, the only Libertarian Party candidate on the ballot for State Legislature is Robert Underwood, whose district covers parts of Chicopee and Springfield. He could use your help if you are close enough to reach his district during the campaigning season, but he is not raising money. You can email him at <RJUnderwood2000@yahoo.com> .