

Liberty For Massachusetts

A New Dawn for Freedom

Social and Activism Events

May

10 6:30 PM PVLA Monthly Meeting, Hu Ke Lau Restaurant at Mass Pike Exit 5 Contact: Carol McMahon, 413-250-6608 cjmcmahon@verizon.net

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

23 Drinking Freely, Cambridge Chapter. Meeting at the Miracle of Science Bar and Grill, opposite MIT. Contact Rob Power, robpower@robpower.com for information.

24 8:00 PM Lowell Area Liberty Association, Outback Steakhouse, Reiss Street, Lowell Arthur Torrey, arthur.torrey@comcast.net 978-663-0241

June

10 Noon-6PM Boston Pride Festival on the Boston Common. Liberty for Massachusetts has been invited to work from the Outright Libertarians booth, distributed literature and spreading the word.

14 6:30 PM PVLA Monthly Meeting, Hu Ke Lau Restaurant at Mass Pike Exit 5 Contact: Carol McMahon, 413-250-6608 cjmcmahon@verizon.net

Phillies Opens Federal Campaign

Liberty for Massachusetts Political Facilitator George Phillies has authorized the formation of a Federal political candidate committee Phillips 2008 in support of a campaign for the Libertarian 2008 Presidential nomination. The Committee has raised the statutory amount requiring filing as a candidate committee and will file. A temporary web site is at www.phillies2008.org. A fully-functional web site with electronic data handling, newsletter, and donation features will appear before the national convention. The site includes *concept videos*—not full TV ads with blended voice and music, and full graphics, but video storyboards for ad development—on important issues, such as deficit spending, the War on Iraq, and warrantless searches. Noting that the disappearance of ipus-misc@dehnbase.org has eliminated the libertarian agora, the campaign has committed to funding the front part of a non-campaign site whose name will **not** be 'the Libertarian Daily Kos'. The Drupal/CivicSpace based site will feature edited statements, diaries, reader recommendations, and other standard site activities.

Liberty for Massachusetts Holds State Convention

Elections are under way. Vote Now!!!!!!!!!

Your ballot paper is enclosed. Vote Now!!!!!!!!!

May 7, 2006, Assembled under a brilliantly sunny Worcester sky, members of Liberty of Massachusetts gathered for the annual Liberty for Massachusetts State Convention.. The first order of business was nominations.

For Political Facilitator-no nominations. [However, several members committed to active participation in the corresponding Working Groups].

For Operations Facilitator: Art Torrey of Billerica.

For Treasurer: Steve Drobnis of Stoughton.

For Editor: George Phillies of Worcester.

For Membership Secretary: Steve Drobnis of Stoughton.

For Chair: George Phillies of Worcester.

For Regional Representative, Region 1: Robert Underwood and Shirley Underwood of Springfield

For Regional Representative, Region 5: Steve Drobnis of Stoughton

For Regional Representative, Region 6: Arthur Torrey and Mary-Anne Wolf of Billerica.

The ballot is on a separate page. Also, Mary-Anne Wolf volunteered to manage the web site when the new beta material has been incorporated completely.

To Vote: All LfM Elections are by secret ballot using Instant Run-Off Voting. Number your first choice for each office #1, your second choice #2,... Put the ballot in an envelope. *Sign the Envelope!* Send the envelopes to the

[State Convention] (Continued on page 3)

Liberty for Massachusetts

Published by the Liberty for Massachusetts Outreach Committee, (outreach@libertyformassachusetts.org) Papermail Subscriptions are \$20/year, \$10 if you will take material by email, checks payable Liberty for Massachusetts, sent to Liberty for Massachusetts, 30 East Chestnut Street, Sharon MA 02067.

New Fundraising and Volunteerism Drives

At its March meeting, the Liberty for Massachusetts State Organizing Committee discussed plans for the forthcoming LfM state convention. (See Page One for details). Some issues were refined, but we are going ahead with May 7 as the date and 48 Hancock Hill Drive Worcester as the place.

How To Join

Mail your name, address, and dues to:

Liberty for Massachusetts, 30 East Chestnut Street, Sharon MA 02067. Dues are \$20/year

(\$10/year if you agree to receive publications electronically and send us a valid email address).

Massachusetts Residents: Please indicate if you want to be a **Voting Member** (your address is available to other voting members) or an **Associate Member** (we keep confidential the address data you send us.)

People who live outside Massachusetts become **Corresponding Members**.

We're here to help each other help everyone. Please indicate activities, events, and working groups for which you would like to volunteer. Liberty for Massachusetts will succeed when you, not neighbors or friends but you, invests in the political process.

The fundraising mailing was discussed. The first test mailing was ineffective. A new and different mailing will be tried, to the same size audience. The new mailer will one side of one sheet of paper, the return sheet being the bottom third of the page, dropped in an envelope together with a return mail envelope. Steve Drobnis successfully urged that we attempt a postcard mailing to libertarians around the state urging them to run for office and to contact us for help. The postcard will be the largest allowed conventional size, printed on light astrobright card stock, with a simple and clear message and our contact information. It was agreed that future mailings will be sent first class so that we get all address corrections.

Campaigning methods were discussed. Drobnis urged that the time to start a 2008 legislative campaign was now. He proposed that starts are done slowly, a few nights a week being used to meet with small groups of constituents and listen to their opinions, slipping in the libertarian take on some issues when time arises.

Cut off and mail to Liberty for Massachusetts, 30 East Chestnut Street, Sharon MA 02067

Join Liberty for Massachusetts

Liberty for Massachusetts dues are only \$20 per year (\$10 per year if you agree to receive communications electronically).

Your Name:

Your Volunteer Political Activism Interests:

Voting Address (You do not have to be a voter):

Mailing **Address** for LfM (or say 'same'):

(Optional) Other Contact data:
Phones, Fax

Email Address (Not optional if you want the \$10 Dues Discount):

Dues: \$20 for Membership

-\$10 Discount if you agree to receive communications electronically and give us your valid email address.

Liberty for Massachusetts April 2006

Three

Chair, Steve Drobnis, POB 199, Sharon MA. At a vote-counting meeting, the envelopes will be opened, the ballots placed in a box, and the now-anonymous ballots will be counted. The next issue of *Liberty For Massachusetts* will report a list of all members who voted, and will report the outcome of each election.

The officers and working groups reported on their activities for the year. Political Facilitator: In 2005 LfM was represented at four major political events. We had a booth at the Extravaganja in Amherst in April. In June, we shared the Outright Libertarians booth, getting extensive photographic coverage in LP News. In mid-September we shared the Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association booth at the Boston Freedom Rally. At each of these events, we handed out literature, in summer introducing new, specially-designed, LfM trifolds targeting the audience involved with each event. These trifolds are now available on our web site. Finally, at the end of September we staged our own event, namely a Rally to End the War on Iraq on the Amherst Common. We had a series of speeches, musical events, and the nationally unique performance poet. Literature was distributed. The local television station taped parts of speeches. The April 2006 Extravaganja was too rainy to appear.

Operations Facilitator: The State Organizing Committee did not fill the Operations Facilitator post.

Treasurer: The Treasurer reported on our spending and outgo for the year, most recently \$80 for renewing our post office box and \$2.50 in bank charged. In the last year we raised and spent over \$1000, largely on printing and mailing trifolds and brochures. We ended the year, having spent the money we were given, with \$43 in the bank.

Editor: *Liberty for Massachusetts*, the membership newsletter, appeared every month, if not perfectly regularly. We did not have the resources or material to publish more than a few issues of the planned public outreach newsletter.

Membership Secretary: The Political Facilitator received a copy of the membership records and will forward it to the new treasurer. It was noted that it is time to start sending out membership renewals to people who joined a year ago.

Chair: The Chair noted that we have been in existence for a year. During that time, we have recruited new members, published a newsletter *every month*, staged a fundraising drive, done outreach at four major political events. Several members were elected to political office, while others ran serious if unsuccessful races for city and town office. Our biggest weakness is membership. We need more members, so that we can distribute our volunteer operations over more people and so that we can get more successful work done. For a new organization we have done well in getting our activities in place and creating a foundation for the future.

Working Group Reports (other than parts noted above):

Local Organization: Every active local libertarian group in Massachusetts is affiliated with *Liberty for Massachusetts*. There are two new libertarian groups forming. A Harvard Student Libertarians will be approached about affiliation. The new Cambridge MA Drinking Freely will meet at the end of the month at Miracle of Science Bar and Grill and will have to decide if affiliation with outside groups is appropriate.

Elections: We need more people willing and able to supply vol-

unteer time and make donations to support our candidates. However, several of our members have run for office..Art Torrey and Mary-Anne Wolf were elected as Town Meeting Members. Others including Steve Epstein (unable to attend today, as his election is this week and he is campaigning) and Bob Underwood are now running vigorously.

Political Action/Outreach: There was vigorous support from the convention for using new technical means to put the Liberty for Massachusetts name and message in front of Massachusetts libertarians. In particular, there are a wide range of Massachusetts libertarian email lists. Under modern conditions, it can be very effective to set us forward by using blog comments, in which you post a reasonable message, and ID yourself with your name, email, and URL. If the beta test and original material on the LfM web site were to be melded to present a unified appearance to the public, it would become very effective for large numbers of members to post comments while using <http://www.libertyformassachusetts.org> as their URL label, thereby luring potential members to our web materials. There are also possibilities of linking our new material as an RSS feed to people who want to hear about Massachusetts Libertarian activities.

Membership: Members present agreed that the lack of membership was one of the largest single obstacles to the success of *LibertyforMassachusetts*. A more extensive membership recruitment drive is needed. If we had several times as many active members, the political activities that now get cursory attention would get thorough support and other new activities would become possible.

Fund Raising: The outcome of the first fundraising drive was less than satisfactory. We are going to try again with a different message and a different target audience. It was urged that we should supply potential donors with a list of projects, an estimate of what they would each cost, and an invitation to check off projects and amounts being donated. People give more when they know exactly where their money is going.

Budget and Finance: It was noted that we have reached the time at which we need to send letters to old members asking them to renew their memberships for the new year. This ended the working group reports.

The convention then turned to the Bylaws. Mary-Anne Wolf offered a Bylaws amendment "Dual Memberships: In a household in which mail is sent to the same address for several people, if one of the people is a member, a second person may join *Liberty for Massachusetts* by paying \$5 for the year." The amendment was moved, seconded, and will be forwarded to the full membership for a vote.

Finally, there was discussion of methods for conducting practical politics. The major issue is that we share our space as a 'statewide libertarian political organization' with an entity that appears to be substantially inactive, with no recent newsletter issues, annual convention, or governance committee meetings. Can the alternative entity be persuaded to carry out the tasks its founders envisioned for it? Or are their other ways to move forward positively without the other entity continuing to serve as an obstacle to progress?

Official Ballot

Instructions: Vote for candidates or write in names.

Number your choices 1, 2, 3... as needed.

Mail your ballots by May 28, 2006 to Steve Drobnis, POB 199, Stoughton MA 02067. Sign and put your return address on your ballot, so that we may confirm that the ballot is yours. For regional representatives, vote in your region only. A list of regions—>>>

Political Facilitator

Write-In _____

Operations Facilitator

Arthur Torrey _____

Write-In _____

Treasurer

Steve Drobnis _____

Write-In _____

Membership Secretary

Steve Drobnis _____

Write-In _____

Editor

George Phillies _____

Write-In _____

Chair

George Phillies _____

Write-In _____

Regional Representative

Region 1 Shirley Underwood _____

Bob Underwood _____

Write-In _____

Region 5 Steve Drobnis _____

Write-In _____

Region 6 Art Torrey _____

Mary-Anne Wolf _____

Write-In _____

Any other Region

Region Number: _____

Write-In _____

By-Laws Amendment

"Dual Memberships: In a household in which mail is sent to the same address for several people, if one of the people is a member, a second person may join Liberty for Massachusetts by paying \$5 for the year."

Yes _____

No _____

Towns in Each Region

a. Region One: Adams, Agawam, Alford, Amherst, Ashfield, Becket, Belchertown, Bernardston, Blandford, Buckland, Charlemont, Cheshire, Chester, Chesterfield, Chicopee, Clarksburg, Colrain, Conway, Cummington, Dalton, Deerfield, East Longmeadow, Easthampton, Egremont, Erving, Florida, Gill, Goshen, Granby, Granville, Great Barrington, Greenfield, Hadley, Hampden, Hancock, Hatfield, Hawley, Heath, Hinsdale, Holyoke, Huntington, Lanesborough, Lee, Lenox, Leverett, Leyden, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Middlefield, Monroe, Montague, Monterey, Montgomery, Mount Washington, New Ashford, New Marlborough, New Salem, North Adams, Northampton, Northfield, Orange, Otis, Pelham, Peru, Pittsfield, Plainfield, Richmond, Rowe, Russell, Sandisfield, Savoy, Sheffield, Shelburne, Shutesbury, South Hadley, Southampton, Southwick, Springfield, Stockbridge, Sunderland, Tolland, Tyringham, Ware, Warwick, Washington, Wendell, West Springfield, West Stockbridge, Westfield, Westhampton, Whately, Wilbraham, Williamsburg, Williamstown, Windsor, and Worthington.

b. Region Two: Ashburnham, Ashby, Athol, Auburn, Barre, Bellngham, Berlin, Blackstone, Boylston, Brimfield, Brookfield, Charlton, Clinton, Douglas, Dudley, East Brookfield, Fitchburg, Gardner, Grafton, Hardwick, Holden, Holland, Hopedale, Hopkinton, Hubbardston, Lancaster, Leicester, Leominster, Lunenburg, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Northborough, Northbridge, Oakham, Oxford, Palmer, Paxton, Petersham, Philipston, Princeton, Royalston, Rutland, Shrewsbury, Southbridge, Spencer, Sterling, Sturbridge, Sutton, Templeton, Townsend, Upton, Uxbridge, Wales, Warren, Webster, West Boylston, West Brookfield, Westborough, Westminster, Winchendon, and Worcester.

c. Region Three: Acushnet, Aquinnah, Barnstable, Bourne, Brewster, Carver, Chatham, Chilmark, Dartmouth, Dennis, Eastham, Edgartown, Fairhaven, Fall River, Falmouth, Freetown, Gosnold, Harwich, Kingston, Lakeville, Marion, Mashpee, Mattapoisett, Nantucket, New Bedford, Oak Bluffs, Orleans, Plymouth, Plympton, Provincetown, Rochester, Sandwich, Somerset, Swansea, Tisbury, Truro, Wareham, Wellfleet, West Tisbury, Westport, and Yarmouth.

d. Region Four: Amesbury, Andover, Beverly, Boxford, Danvers, Dracut, Essex, Georgetown, Gloucester, Groveland, Hamilton, Haverhill, Ipswich, Lawrence, Lynn, Lynnfield, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Marblehead, Merrimac, Methuen, Middleton, Nahant, Newbury, Newburyport, North Andover, North Reading, Peabody, Reading, Rockport, Rowley, Salem, Salisbury, Saugus, Swampscott, Tewksbury, Topsfield, Wenham, West Newbury, and Wilmington.

e. Region Five: Abington, Attleboro, Avon, Berkley, Braintree, Bridgewater, Brockton, Canton, Cohasset, Dighton, Duxbury, East Bridgewater, Easton, Foxborough, Halifax, Hanover, Hanson, Hingham, Holbrook, Hull, Mansfield, Marshfield, Medfield, Middleborough, Milton, Norton, Norwell, Pembroke, Quincy, Randolph, Raynham, Rehoboth, Rockland, Scituate, Seekonk, Sharon, Stoughton, Taunton, Walpole, West Bridgewater, Weymouth, and Whitman.

f. Region Six: Arlington, Bedford, Belmont, Billerica, Burlington, Cambridge, Everett, Lexington, Lincoln, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Needham, Newton, Somerville, Stoneham, Wakefield, Waltham, Watertown, Wellesley, Weston, Winchester, and Woburn.

g. Region Seven: Acton, Ashland, Ayer, Boxborough, Bolton, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Concord, Dover, Dunstable, Framingham, Franklin, Groton, Harvard, Holliston, Hudson, Littleton, Lowell, Marlborough, Maynard, Medway, Millis, Natick, Norfolk, North Attleborough, Pepperell, Plainville, Sherborn, Shirley, Southborough, Stow, Sudbury, Tyngsborough, Wayland, Westford, and Wrentham.

h. Region Eight: Brookline, Boston, Chelsea, Dedham, Norwood, Revere, Westwood, and Winthrop.