

Free Gift
Issue

April 2004
Issue 1

Liberty For Massachusetts

Informational Monthly

A New Dawn for Freedom

Who We Are

Liberty for Massachusetts Organizing Committee

Steve Drobnis-LfM Chair Steve Drobnis, former member of the Libertarian Party State board, ran for Governor's Council. A successful entrepreneur who has owned nine companies; community activist in the Jaycees, Masons, Shriners, and Knights of Pythias.

Carol McMahon-PVLA Local Group Representative Treasurer—Libertarian Party of Massachusetts, Treasurer, Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association, Massachusetts State Senate candidate, Accountant, does taxes.

Doug Krick-WCLA Local Group Representative Founder, Pink Pistols (Gay/Lesbian gun owners association); former candidate for state legislature.

Jonathan Lombardi-LfM Recording Secretary Webmaster, The Modern American, themodernamerican.com.

George Phillies-LfM Political Facilitator and LfM Editor Author, Stand Up for Liberty!, Editor, Let Freedom Ring, Chair-Worcester County Libertarian Association.

Rob Power-LfM Treasurer National Chair of Outright Libertarians. Past Vice-Chair-Libertarian Party of San Francisco. Candidate County Supervisor—San Francisco.

Rick Rajter-LfM Webmaster Graduate Student, MIT.

David W. Roscoe-LPMA Membership Secretary since 1988; past member LAMA State Committee; interest: Project Media Matrix.

Peter Sheinfeld-Transportation consultant, Taxicab medallion owner, school bus company partner, First President, Cambridge Small Property Owners Association

Alvin See-LfM Membership Secretary Chair, Westfield Flood Control Commission; past member, LPMA State Committee; ran for Westfield City Council; campaign activist.

Robert Underwood-computer programmer, translator, Web Master-Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association, ran for State Representative, Spanish Translator for libertarians.

Shirley Underwood-Activist, Underwood and McMahon campaign volunteer, American Sign Language translator.

What We'll Do For You

Liberty for Massachusetts brings to our fellow libertarians in Massachusetts an organization focused on doing political work, to help you gain lower taxes, smaller government, less intrusive laws and regulations, increased individual freedom, and equality before the law.

To help libertarian activists, people like you, we're here to:

- **recruit and support candidates** for your ballot,
- support **local and topical groups** you can join,
- help you and friends with **referenda and lobbying**,
- **find other libertarians** you can meet,
- **educate your neighbors** on libertarian objectives,
- **create** PACs, 527 organizations, and nonprofit and for-profit organizations to help you reach your political goals

When you want to get involved, just remember: Liberty for Massachusetts: **here to help you help yourself** and your community. *Why not join LfM today?*

Social Hours

April 30, 2005

3PM at the home of Steve Drobnis, Stoughton. RSVP for directions to steve@mrd.net.

The Liberty For Massachusetts Organizing Committee will meet at 2, an hour before the social event. All libertarians are welcome to attend.

June 11, 2005, 3 PM at the home of George Phillies, 87 Park Avenue Unit 6, Worcester MA 01605 (Rumford Lane "Salisbury Estates" driveway off Park Avenue to the extreme rear.)

Every Second Wednesday of the Month: 6:30PM. Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association, Bickford's Family Restaurant, Old Boston Highway and Pasco Roads, Springfield.

Third Weekend of the Month: Worcester County Libertarian Association monthly meeting. Saturday June 18, 2005 3PM Tweed's Restaurant, Grove Street Worcester.

Liberty for Massachusetts

Published by the Liberty for Massachusetts Outreach Committee, (outreach@libertyforamerica.org) Papermail Subscriptions are \$20/year, checks payable Liberty for Massachusetts, to Liberty for Massachusetts, 30 East Chestnut Street, Sharon MA 02067. To join Liberty for Massachusetts, see Page Three.

Public Policy Questions: Send Boston a Message! Prove LfM Wins Votes!

Public policy questions let voters give instructions to their state legislators. The questions appear on the November ballot. By putting them on the ballot as LfM questions, we can move policy and show we are winners. To get on the ballot, a question needs 1200 signatures for a State Senate District or 200 signatures for a state representative district

Successful questions from the last election included: "Shall the state representative from this district be instructed to vote in favor of legislation requiring that in separation and divorce proceedings involving minor children, the court shall uphold the rights of both parents to the shared physical and legal custody of their children...?" and

"Shall the state senator from this district be instructed to vote in favor of legislation that would allow seriously ill patients, with their doctor's written recommendation, to possess and grow small amounts of marijuana for their personal medical use?"

Public Policy Questions are a positive way for to create debate on our issues. A small group of people can put a question on the ballot. By putting forth winning questions, we establish that we are winners.

The Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association is working on a ballot question supporting commercial production of industrial hemp (the plant the Navy uses for rope), and a ballot question urging reductions in ballot access obstacles. Other possible questions include:

"Shall the state representative be instructed to introduce and vote for legislation that would establish tax credits for persons and corporations supporting the education of any child in a private, non-sectarian school or home schooling environment?"

"Shall the state representative be instructed to introduce and vote for legislation that would seek to suppress terrorism by making issuance of Massachusetts gun permits "shall issue" to all legally eligible persons at level "Class A" for "all lawful purposes", upgrade current gun permits to "Class A" "all lawful purposes", and to maintain public safety require public schools to establish age-appropriate compulsory programs of instruction in safety, use, and care of small arms for all students not disqualified by religion, conscience, or physical, mental, or legal handicap?"

Public Policy Questions: Easy for a small group of people to put on the ballot. Proven effective. Why not next year?

From the Chair

I wish to thank the members of Liberty for Massachusetts for electing me as our first Chair. I hope to achieve our goal of educating the public, the members of our organization, and others of our objectives.

The purpose of our organization is to enlighten the world about the original principles that our country was founded upon: Freedom and Liberty for all without governmental oppression. We seem to have gone astray from our founding fathers' vision. Today's society needs to be enlightened as to our own ability to control our destiny: That without governmental control, you can survive and flourish, that you have the ability to think for yourself, and that your hard earned dollars should be yours to do with as you please. Through our organization we hope to assist those with libertarian principles, goals, and directions in getting elected, educating the public, and fostering the idea of liberty for all.

...Steven B. Drobnis

LfM Chair

Why We Need Liberty for Massachusetts—Now!

Every day, our freedoms are eroded by a Democratic-Republican Congress. Every day, our chances of living our own lives, of keeping government out of our bedrooms and pocketbooks, get smaller and smaller. Every day or two, our Federal government racks up another two billion dollars in debt. That's debt your children and grandchildren will bear for the rest of their lives.

Fortunately, there's an alternative—the alternative of lower taxes, smaller government, more freedom, and equality before the law. That alternative won't happen by itself. **It will only happen if we join together and make it happen! We must make it happen soon, because very soon it will be too late!** Too late for you. Too late for your children. Too late for America.

To Make Liberty Happen, we've formed a new libertarian organization in Massachusetts, an organization dedicated to effective political action.

For a brighter future, join Liberty for Massachusetts!

Liberty for Massachusetts Web Pages Now Open for Business

Thanks to the hard work of Liberty for Massachusetts Webmaster Rick Rajter, the Liberty for Massachusetts web pages at <http://www.libertyformassachusetts.com> are now up and running. The web pages include opportunities to volunteer, activities, news from LfM working groups, Members running for office, picnics and other social events, PDFs of this and other fine newsletters, minutes of Mutual Aid Committee meetings, and our Bylaws and Standing Rules.

The Liberty for Massachusetts Web Pages will soon be expanded. Public education and outreach pages will be available. A Calendar will advise libertarians about forthcoming events, local groups and outreach opportunities.

Selling Libertarianism

Last weekend, I was talking with a fellow libertarian about growing our ranks beyond the paltry 1% of support that we currently muster. The first target market I brought up was women. Attendance at any libertarian event will quickly educate TMA readers about the greater than 90/10 male-to-female ratio prevalent amongst our activist ranks. But why is this? My guess has something to do with the preponderance of logic-based thinking. (www.themodernamerican.com/blog/ for the link.)

Many libertarians tend to analyze from a purely logical standpoint, but that's not how most men and women think. There's a combination of emotion and reason whose sum makes a human mind. Libertarians lean **very** heavily toward the reason side, often at the expense of what they feel. The general population does not share this imbalance which is partly why we don't relate to Joe and Jane Public. We neglect the soft side of life, and demand that they understand and agree simply based on logic alone.

A quick look at libertarian publications demonstrates this failure. Each publication rests solely on the premise that content is important and style is not. I will give the LP website credit for using the nice Statue of Liberty and American flag, but other than that, they're pure information and no flair. Those specific sites are simply examples of the greater problem. But so long as we continue to ignore or deny the existence and power of emotions, we will never achieve greater than a few percentage points of the popular vote as a party.

Where am I going with this? Right now I'm specifically referring to how we market ourselves. A Libertarian publication that addresses concerns from both a logical and an emotional standpoint is the Institute for Justice's *Liberty and Law*. If we spent half as much time addressing emotional concerns such as style, compassion, and marketing as we do to making our arguments appear bulletproof, we would easily break free from

Liberty for Massachusetts Memberships

Dues are \$20 per year. There is a \$10 per year discount for all membership classes if you agree to receive your LfM communications electronically.

Massachusetts Residents: **Voting Members** agree that their mailing addresses are available to all other Voting Members for noncommercial Purposes. (We need the address from which you would vote because LfM elects regional representatives by town.) Voting Members may vote and hold LfM Office. **Associate Members** must supply a mailing address to join; that address is confidential. People beyond Massachusetts join as **Subscribing Members**.

Liberty for Massachusetts Informational Monthly: Our parallel electronic newsletter is available for free as a PDF file to people who supply a valid email address. Subscribe via email sent to: outreach@libertyformassachusetts.com.

How To Join

Mail your name, mailing address, and optionally email address, telephone numbers, and/or fax numbers, together with \$20 or \$10 payable to Liberty for Massachusetts, 30 East Chestnut Street, Sharon MA 02067. Massachusetts Residents: your voting address (whether you vote or not) is needed. Out-of-Massachusetts: For Subscribing Members, we only need your mailing address.

We're here to help each other help everyone. Please indicate activities, events, and working groups for which you'd like to volunteer.

If you live in Massachusetts, please indicate whether you want to become a Voting Member (your address is available to other Voting Members) or an Associate Member (your address is kept confidential).

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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

Email (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.

LfM Social Hour

Saturday April 30, 2005

3PM at the home of Steve Drobni, Stoughton. RSVP for directions to steve@mrd.net.
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Keep Your Money In Massachusetts!

Are you a **contributor**? Do you give money to pro-Liberty causes and campaigns around the country, using your checkbook to **Stand Up for Liberty!** by supporting pro-Liberty campaigns? Here's an idea for you:

Keep Your Money in Massachusetts! Give your funds to support pro-Liberty campaigners here in your home state. Give your money to **support Massachusetts candidates** you like. Give your money to **support Massachusetts groups** you like. Give your money to **support Liberty for Massachusetts**. In Massachusetts, the effective pro-Liberty campaigns are run by unpaid volunteers. They may pay a secretary or petitioners--your friends and neighbors, people who will spend their money here at home. However, effective pro-Liberty campaigns do not have flocks of out-of-state advisors, paid political consultants, media spin doctors,... people who earn a living by taking your donations and, for services performed, give themselves your money.

When you **spend your money here in Massachusetts**, you can be reasonably sure that it will actually be spent on advancing the cause of liberty through fliers, radio and press advertisements, lawn signs, bumper stickers, sign carriers, press releases, ballot access, and other activities that actually **advance liberty here in Massachusetts**.

Besides, when you **Keep Your Money in Massachusetts**, you will contribute to the income of your fellow residents of Massachusetts, people who are your friends, neighbors, relatives, and potential customers.

But no matter who gets your money, invest wisely! Look at the record of how your chosen groups spent money in the past. As a result of campaign reform laws, the Federal Election Commission <http://www.fec.gov> and the Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance <http://www.mass.gov/ocpf/> report how money was spent by party committees, candidates, and ballot action committees.

Liberty for Massachusetts Informational Monthly

Welcome to the Inaugural issue of *Liberty for Massachusetts Informational Monthly*. *Liberty for Massachusetts Informational Monthly* plans to become the public outreach magazine for Liberty for Massachusetts, distributed broadly to interest the public in supporting our objective and plans.

To reach the public, *Liberty for Massachusetts Informational Monthly* will be available for free on our web site. We intend to keep its price as low as possible, so that pro-liberty people around Massachusetts can give subscriptions to public and school libraries, college liberty clubs, and sympathetic friends and neighbors.

This magazine will focus on positive news about pro-liberty political activity, Liberty for Massachusetts members running for political office, events you might enjoy attending, and opportunities for political activism. We hope that you will find our introductions to Liberty for Massachusetts interesting and our articles entertaining and educational.

Looking to the future, our next issue will report on important forthcoming LfM events, including a social on June 4 in Worcester, an outreach opportunity Saturday June 11 on the Boston Common at the Boston Pride event, the Freedom Summit (<http://www.freedomsummit.org/>) in Manchester Massachusetts on June 24-26, and an LfM fundraising spaghetti dinner in Stoughton Massachusetts in mid-July. Liberty for Massachusetts will also have a booth at the Boston Freedom Rally on the Boston Common in mid September.

Liberty for Massachusetts affiliates are launching serious political campaigns around the state. Liberty for Eastern Massachusetts the Cambridge Libertarian City club has three candidates—Jim Condit, Jeff Chase, and Bill Hees—running for city council, and has had talks with the Republican candidate about sharing cross-support. The Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association has a member, Robert J. Underwood, Jr., running for city council in Springfield. The City of Springfield is unique in Massachusetts: It is in receivership with a fiscal control board.