



# A New Dawn for Freedom

## Social and Activism Events

### July

**15 2:00 PM** LPMA Social, at the home of Stephanie Woiciechowski and RJ, 4 Carp Road, Milford, Off Route 495 Exit 19, with barbecue, kiddie pool, and collation of mailing for LPMA State Convention

**22 6:00 PM** WCLA Monthly Meeting, Tweed's Restaurant, Worcester MA 01605 Contact: George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net 508-754-1859

### August

**9 6:30 PM** PVLA Monthly Meeting, Hu Ke Lau Restaurant at Mass Pike Exit 5 Contact: Carol McMahon, 413-250-6608 cjmcmahon@verizon.net

**19 6:00 PM** WCLA Monthly Meeting, Tweed's Restaurant, Worcester MA 01605 Contact: George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net 508-754-1859

**22 8:00 PM** Lowell Area Liberty Association, Outback Steakhouse, Reiss Street, Lowell Arthur Torrey, Arthur\_torrey@comcast.net<- NB underscore after 'Arthur' 978-663-0241

## Massachusetts State Convention September 23, Worcester MA

In June 2006 a committee was appointed by the State Committee to organize the next State Convention. Bylaws and other constraints have set the date of this convention to be Saturday September 23, 2006, 10:15 AM at Tweed's Pub on Grove Street in Worcester. **The Convention will elect the new State Committee.** There is a hotel in walking distance for persons who cannot travel by motor vehicle on Saturday. The convention registration fee is \$28 for LPMA members, including an Italian buffet lunch. Send registrations to Stephanie Woiciechowski, 4 Carp Road, Milford, MA 01757, checks payable LPMA. Expected convention speakers are Donald Gorman, LPNH, "Why New Hampshire Democrats are doing well and what we can learn from them" and Mr. Stephen Gordon, LNC Communication Director, on new LNC programs.

## July Social

The Massachusetts libertarian Social for July will be held at the home of Stephanie Woiciechowski and RJ, 4 Carp Road, Milford, Off Route 495 Exit 19 at 2PM. This is a pot luck event. Come and help collate the LPMA Convention call. Progress is possible.

### Directions:

From 495, take exit 19 (route 109). Take a left at the light at the end of the ramp onto 109 east. Go under 495 and straight through a light. Take your first left onto Trettle. At the end of Trettle, take a right onto Ferguson. Take your first left onto Carp. It's the second house on the left - 4 Carp Road, beige and brick. RSVP soonest to Stephanie Woiciechowski, veroamore@comcast.net

## A Message from the Chair

Thank you all for electing me as Chair and Editor of Liberty for Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Libertarian movement could have a great future, if we started working together on it. The next major outreach opportunity is Saturday, September 17, on the Boston Common, with the Boston Freedom Rally. Our other events this year have had rain, but the BFR has almost always had good weather. Please contact me phillies@4liberty.net if you would like to help. Also Robert Underwood rjunderwood2000@yahoo.com is our only partisan libertarian state rep candidate. Please help him. Note the July Social. You too can meet fellow libertarians and do outreach to them. I do not propose to stage a competing event this month, but would love to hear from members who would be willing to offer their homes.

## Liberty for Massachusetts

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### LPUS Convention Notes

#### **LP Convention Restores Dues; Platform Is Amended ; Redpath, Moulton, Sullentrup, Neale are National Officers.**

Two Days of Committee meetings and a two-day business session kept national convention delegates busy hour after hour, day after day. I arrived early and started with the Bylaws Committee, which uniformly felt that *zero dues* violated the Bylaws, as witness the large number of points where zero dues forced changes in the current Bylaws. The Bylaws Committee agreed on a new status *Sustaining Member* (anyone who has paid the LNC \$25 in the past year, or is a life member.)

I arrived Wednesday afternoon. There is one Hilton in Portland, with two buildings on diagonally opposite street corners. Rumors of sky bridges between hotel towers had no visible physical basis. Portland is a very pleasant city, with relatively light downtown traffic, clean and well-maintained.

The Platform committee met for a day and a half. The first morning was devoted entirely to the immigration plank, which the chairman of the Platform Committee felt to be defective. It was understood that the platform retention vote might be close, so Platform then concentrated on improving the Platform by consolidation planks and eliminate redundant language.

In addition to the standing committees, various caucuses met. From what I saw, the largest was Carl Milsted's Libertarian Reform Caucus, whose meeting had around 40 people in attendance. Other caucuses had rather fewer people in attendance. There had been no effort to arrange a debate between National Chair candidates, so I set one up. So far as I could tell, the LRC has a list of several dozen platform planks it did not want to retain.

The convention proper opened Saturday morning. Fewer than 300 delegates had registered, a number that gradually increased as time went on. Emily Salvette and committee had done the hard, thankless task of validating everyone's registration; Convention registration ran so far as I saw flawlessly. Delegates who bought a package were presented with an elegant leather zipper binder with a wide variety of components. The outside was embossed Badnarik for Congress, because the Badnarik Congressional campaign paid a very substantial amount for the adver-

tisement. Some prominent libertarians were visibly upset, because this was money unlikely to reach Badnarik's constituents effectively.

I had to be in a substantial number of different places, so my coverage of what happened has modest gaps. The first substantial agenda item was the Platform Retention vote, which allowed delegates to vote yes or no on the 60+ platform planks. The preambles were not discussed, and were presumptively up for amendment, but were not subject to retention.

The national officers reported. Treasurer Nelson showed that the financial situation is much as I have reported it in these pages in the past. Memberships and income are way down. One could propose that we have bottomed out to a new level, roughly where we were 12 years ago. The Treasurer's report included the complaint that we have too many single men in attendance, a comment that, to put it mildly, went over poorly with the GLBTQ attendees, and their non GLBTQ friends.

The Bylaws Committee made a series of reports. The Bylaws were altered to create the new category of *Sustaining Member*, someone who has signed the Pledge and given us at least \$25 in the past year or who is a life member. Sustaining Memberships will be counted to help determine delegation sizes. Later in the convention, Steve Dasbach offered a motion, which passed, to reduce the total number of delegates assigned various states by 1/3, from about 1500 to about 1000, with no change in formula. With three hundred delegates there were not vast numbers of empty chairs; if all 600+ delegates approved by credentials had appeared, they could not have sat. So far as I can determine, the site was totally incapable of handling the 800 delegates of some prior conventions, let alone the 1500 delegates who could in principle appear. My own Massachusetts started with two delegates, Rob Power and I, and added a third, Rene Ruiz from eastern Massachusetts.

The Bylaws committee submitted a change in the bylaws retention voting process, which passed. A major rationale for the alteration was that planks are always retained. Under the new scheme, each delegate will have up to five votes, each for eliminating a plank. Any plank supported for deletion by 4% of the votes is deleted.

The platform Committee recommended consolidation of a series of planks with overlapping language. None of the proposals were supposed to be changed, but things were reshuffled. There was some concern on the part of Gay Rights activists that all Gay Rights issues would be shuffled into a single plank, which could then be deleted. I gather that this issue was dealt with in a manner that avoided those concerns.

There was a prolonged debate over the immigration plank. I hope next month to have a final report on what was actu-

ally passed. There was a substantial debate over the Pledge requirement. A majority of delegates, but not 2/3s, so far as I could tell, voted to eliminate the Pledge, which during debate was given a wide variety of contradictory interpretations. David Nolan, who wrote the pledge, was not there to comment on what he had had in mind when he wrote it. A proposal to reword the pledge by rephrasing 'cult of the omniscient state' as 'ideology of the all-powerful state' did not quite attain the needed 7/8 positive vote.

In the end, there was a report on Platform retention. If I heard correctly, almost every plank was voted out. I thought I heard the number voted out as 58. Some of these Planks had already been amended, so those planks were retained. In addition, the preambles were left in place. The next day, we did the Restoration vote. The purpose of the restoration vote was to give delegates a chance to restore planks that had been deleted. Four planks, namely the planks on ending the Drug War, maintaining the right to keep and bear arms, freedom of religion, and freedom of communications, were restored.

There were elections for the officers.

## Chair

Redpath 182  
Hancock 66  
Phillies 26

## Vice Chair

Round 1  
Moulton 117  
Carling 96  
Ryan 71  
NOTA 3

Round 2  
Moulton 169  
Carling 105

**Secretary** Sullentrup unopposed

## Treasurer

Neale 191  
Nelson 77  
NOTA 12

## At Large LNC Members:

Admiral Michael Colley 251  
Angela Keaton 231  
Patrick Dixon 212 TX LP Chair, not to be confused with Mike Dixon, outbound LNC chair  
Jeremy Keil 175  
Dan Karlan 149  
Above were elected. Also running were Deryl Martin, Morey Straus, and M Carling.

Unlike 2002, there were no identifiable efforts to bring in crews of carpetbaggers to pad delegation votes.

Courtesy poster infojunkie on hammeroftruth.com the final platform (some explanations mine) is:

- I.1 Freedom and Responsibility
- I.2 Crime with I.3
- +I.4 The War on Drugs
- +I. 10 Freedom of Communication
- +I. 11 Freedom of Religion
- \* I.12 Property Rights >- III.9, IV.D.3, IV.C.3
- \* I.13 The Right to Privacy
- +\* I.16 The Right to Keep and Bear Arms
- I.17 Conscription
- I.18 Immigration
- I.20 Reproductive Rights (III.5 interspersed)
- I.22 Sexuality and Gender
- II.5 Government Debt
- II.6 Corporate Welfare, Monopolies and Subsidies (now with parts from 2.7, 2.9, 3.13)
- II.9 Public Services >- III.13

\*indicates approved by over 50% of delegates for retention on the first vote

>- indicates consolidation (the listed amendment includes parts from elsewhere)

+ indicates approved by over 50% of delegates for retention on the second vote

These are interspersed with the Preamble, which still reads

"As Libertarians, we seek a world of liberty; a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives, and no one is forced to sacrifice his or her values for the benefit of others. We believe that respect for individual rights is the essential precondition for a free and prosperous world, that force and fraud must be banished from human relationships, and that only through freedom can peace and prosperity be realized.

Consequently, we defend each person's right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest, and welcome the diversity that freedom brings. The world we seek to build is one where individuals are free to follow their own dreams in their own ways, without interference from government or any authoritarian power.

In the following pages we have set forth our basic principles and enumerated various policy stands derived from those principles.

These specific policies are not our goal, however. Our goal is nothing more nor less than a world set free in our lifetime, and it is to this end that we take these stands.

## Statement of Principles

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and defend the rights of the

individual.

We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle, that the State has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor. Even within the United States, all political parties other than our own grant to government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor without their consent.

We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual: namely, (1) the right to life -- accordingly we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others; (2) the right to liberty of speech and action -- accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and (3) the right to property -- accordingly we oppose all government interference with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation.

Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights, we oppose all interference by government in the areas of voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives and property for the benefit of others. They should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders; and the resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market.

#### I. Individual Rights and Civil Order

No conflict exists between civil order and individual rights. Both concepts are based on the same fundamental principle: that no individual, group, or government may initiate force against any other individual, group, or government.

#### II. Trade and the Economy

We believe that each person has the right to offer goods and services to others on the free market. Therefore we oppose all intervention by government into the area of economics. The only proper role of existing governments in the economic realm is to protect property rights, adjudicate disputes, and provide a legal framework in which voluntary trade is protected. Efforts to forcibly redistribute wealth or forcibly manage trade are intolerable. Government manipulation of the economy creates an entrenched privileged

class -- those with access to tax money -- and an exploited class -- those who are net taxpayers.

We believe that all individuals have the right to dispose of the fruits of their labor as they see fit and that government has no right to take such wealth. We oppose government-enforced charity such as welfare programs and subsidies, but we heartily applaud those individuals and private charitable organizations that help the needy and contribute to a wide array of worthwhile causes through voluntary activities.

#### III. Domestic Ills

Current problems in such areas as energy, pollution, health care delivery, decaying cities, and poverty are not solved, but are primarily caused, by government. The welfare state, supposedly designed to aid the poor, is in reality a growing and parasitic burden on all productive people, and injures, rather than benefits, the poor themselves.

#### IV. Foreign Affairs

American foreign policy should seek an America at peace with the world and the defense -- against attack from abroad -- of the lives, liberty, and property of the American people on American soil. Provision of such defense must respect the individual rights of people everywhere.

The principle of non-intervention should guide relationships between governments. The United States government should return to the historic libertarian tradition of avoiding entangling alliances, abstaining totally from foreign quarrels and imperialist adventures, and recognizing the right to unrestricted trade, travel, and immigration.

#### V. Omissions

Our silence about any other particular government law, regulation, ordinance, directive, edict, control, regulatory agency, activity, or machination should not be construed to imply approval."

So far, no significant number of people have walked out of the party over platform disputes. This is probably unsurprising, because in the biennium between national conventions it is rare to see libertarians debating what any particular plank should say. Not unknown! We have people debating the abortion plank with some frequency.

## Apologies

Yes, this issue is a bit late. As your editor, this is my fault.

I will work diligently to get us back on schedule this month.

I should have interesting news to report.