

Let Freedom Ring!

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March 2003

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An Open Letter From Charles Separk

Dear Friends of Liberty and Freedom,

Eli Israel has announced his resignation as State Chair. That is a shame.

During his years of service, he and I have disagreed on many issues. Yet I always felt a mutual respect and a willingness that supported my right to consider views other than his. He did this with honest and respect. Although we never said it, we knew the basis of any powerful and influential organization is both agreement and disagreement among the members.

I have always trusted Mr. Israel to be a solid, dedicated leader of our state. He was strong in principle and purpose. He was dedicated to developing a Libertarian force to be reckoned in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Mr. Israel was aware of the variety of opinions within the party. At all events and encounters I found him searching for ways to use this array of sentiments to strengthen the party. He deserves

[Separk Letter](Continued on page 2)

State Chairs Meet Impressions and A Report

New Presidential Hopefuls Appear

Let Freedom Ring! is fortunate to be able to bring you a series of reports on the latest LP State Chairs meeting, held at the Houston TX Airport Hyatt on February 22-23. This report should be of particular interest to our many New England readers, since the only New Englander at the meeting was apparently New Hampshire State Chair John Babiarz. We have some data from a marketing report, impressions of the event from Arizona State Chair Jason Auvenshine, and the full and detailed report by Tennessean Bob Sullentrup and many friends. In an unofficial event, State Chairs and other attendees heard presentations from possible Presidential candidates, including Gary Nolan, Michael Badnarik, and James Gray, and a representative of the campaign to draft L. Neil Smith, on which more in a future issue.

The marketing report presented an open-ended question, asking departing members why they left the LP. Non-answers in the range 'I forgot to renew' are not included. Reasons included LP Scan-

[State Chairs Meet](Continued on page 3)

LNC Financial Crisis UMP Default Deeper

The financial difficulties of the LNC remain deep. Debts to the state parties for UMP payments continue to climb. In January, the LNC paid the second half of the November UMP debt, leaving UMP states two months in arrears. Cash on hand fell from \$9023 at the start of January to \$383 at the end of January. On the bright side, the Party's itemized debts are now down to \$219,889, though this apparently does not include payments owed staff for vacation time, UMP payments to be made in future months, or a need to cover life membership payments. On some other side, the Party's total receipts for the month were \$133, 079.70, in a month in which the Annual Report began to be circulated. A linear yearly prediction leads to a 2003 income of 1.6 million dollars, somewhat less than was received in 2002 or 2001.

[LNC Financials](Continued on page 2)

Why You Can Afford To Be a Massachusetts Legislator

...details courtesy of the greatest newspaper columnist in the world, Howie Carr

If you live 50 miles from the State Capital, and about a third of the 200 reps and senators do, you get to take a federal income tax write-off of about \$150 a day every day the Legislature is in session. The chairman of a Senate committee get an extra \$7,500, on top of the \$50,000 base pay. If you dine out at a steakhouse or seafood restaurant, you can charge it to your campaign committee. There are also per diems, a mere \$3,250 a year, not to mention the automatic pay raises. If you live more than 50 miles from Boston, you get paid to drive to work. The State Senator from Auburn collected \$8,352 for driving to work. Rep. Dan Bosley (D-North Adams) got \$12,780 last year for the same reason.

redacted from Mr. Carr's regular column in the Boston Herald <http://www.bostonherald.com>

Our Biggest Issue Ever: Electronic Edition Is 42 Pages!

Let Freedom Ring!

(Continued from page 1) [Separk Letter]

much credit for this.

Because of our inability to pay a living wage to our elected leadership we are losing a good and decent man. So be it. In the future, this will handicap us to a greater extent. We are obligated to find ways to reward our leaders with more than nice words and good wishes. Their efforts are worth money, and a lot of it. With the shocking departure of Mr. Israel we should be awakened to the need to elect excellent people to our offices and pay them in an excellent manner. When we Massachusetts Libertarians are asked to contribute to a fund whose purpose is known in advance to be to support fellow Libertarians so that they can do politics all day every day, they will rise appropriately to the occasion.

Eli Israel has resigned and he will be difficult to replace. There are many wonderful and talented people in our party's membership. Many of them could carry on the vision Mr. Israel has left for us. A challenge to finding new leadership arises because the party has become divided. There are those who show loyalty and support for one faction or another. It should sadden all of us that this is taken place.

As a long time Libertarian, I hope all of us can fulfill the promises inherent in the ideals alive in our hearts. It is now time for all of us to put down our labels and take up a single standard, that of Libertarian. We cannot afford to ask what the party can do for what we each hold dear. We should not be concerned if our fellow Libertarians are man or woman, gay or straight or bisexual. We can no longer afford the luxury of being of one race or another. We cannot continue to squabble over the particular rights of gun owners or drug users. Ours can no longer be a party of divided allegiances. We must all proudly hoist high the banner Liberty and carry it forwards, as we march ahead in our causes of freedom and dignity for every person.

It is my hope that we can begin our march to unity by recognizing that the finest payment we can offer Mr. Israel is a unified party ever more strongly resolved to change our state's government and free its citizens.

Sincerely,
Charles A. Separk

Libertarian Strategy Gazette Electronic Edition Specials This Issue

Congressman Ron Paul (R-Texas): The Fall of the Republic has already happened (House, 1/29/2003)

State Chairs Meeting—Completion of the Sullentrop Report [to appear in future paper issues]

Local Offices in Georgia, a modestly complete list.

(Continued from page 1) [LNC Financials]

Disbursements for January included \$2318 and \$2263 to Steve Dasbach (Presidential aspirant Gary Nolan's campaign manager) for payroll, travel, and supplies, \$501.28 to Orpheus Publications (David Bergland) for printing, \$3670 to William Winter for payroll, travel, and supplies, and \$350 to American Contracting Services for videotape editing. Disbursements included over \$16,000 to TrizecHahn Watergate Office for what is likely two month's rent, \$14,000 to Prime Pay for payroll service and taxes, \$12,000 to Mount Vernon Printing, \$8200 to Blue Cross/Blue Shield for staff insurance, \$4000 to Accumail for mailing services, \$1900 to Lenco Management Services for accounting services, \$2000 to Ox Solution Development as accounting consultant, \$1099 to Ecountable for computer consulting, and \$3300 for phone service. Persons being paid for the month include other than Dasbach and Winter include Marc Brandl, Ananda Creager, Ron Crickenberger, Steven Damarell, Nick Dunbar, George Getz, Dollie Parker, Dianne Pilcher, Mark Schreiber, and Jonathan Trager.

As interesting as how much is being spent is what it is being spent on. The latest LP News ran a Volunteer column. The author's idea of outreach to prospective contacts is to 'send a prompt, professional information package', the notion of human contact by volunteers goes unmentioned. Having a 'bank account, treasurer, and an ongoing, implemented plan to raise money' ranks above running candidates. Membership control becomes 'interesting public meetings' and private meetings for the leadership. Leadership is to be dedicated to 'growth, success, and centralism—and determined to avoid factionalism, arguments, and obstructionism.' Inciting volunteerism is missing. In other spending, part of the National Staff has proposed dumping drug legalization as the party's keystone, in favor of becoming the party of small business. Instructions to this extent were sent by staff to State Chairs. Other staff members responded by distributing the Project Archimedes mailing spreadsheets: where, how many letters, what response. In addition to showing the plan's total failure with most nonlibertarian lists, the spreadsheets show that the 1998-2000 Party National Leadership rejected the Nolan chart's equidistant from left and right philosophy. Outreach went almost exclusively to right and far right groups. More on this next issue.

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(Continued from page 1) [State Chairs Meet]

dal—36.9%; LP Not Effective—23.9%; I'm not a Libertarian after all—17.4%; LP's Handling of 9/11—10.9; LP is too Anarchist, Negative—8.7%; LP's Drug War Position—2.2. The listed scandals reportedly included Harry Browne Campaigns, LNC Payroll Dept, Gene Cisewski Purging, Perry Willis Affair, Bergland Book Premiums, Bankrupt UMP, and Arizona.

We now repeat the Report from Jason Auvenshine, Arizona State Chair, as distributed to the lpaz discussion list:

AUVENSHINE NOTE: This report constitutes my best recollection of the facts of what took place at the state chair's conference that may be of interest to Arizonans. I have attempted to remove my opinions from this narrative and present only the facts. I will be sending a totally separate note with my personal opinions to the lpaz-discuss group. This note is deliberately a fairly short overview rather than "minutes". However, there were some folks at the conference who were semi-official note takers. Anyone who is particularly interested in the factual details should let me know, and I will forward along those notes when I receive them.

LOGISTICS

Approximately 30-35 State Chairs were present. Non-state chairs were observers and were only allowed to speak when the state chairs allowed.

STATUS OF THE PARTY

Geoff Neale was asked to give a status of the national party and UMP. He passed out some graphs of the financial position of the party, then proceeded to explain them. According to Geoff, receipts leading up to the 2002 convention were comingled with regular receipts and masked the financial problems of the party until the convention bills came due. It then became a question of shutting national's doors or withholding UMP payments. He chose to withhold UMP payments. Geoff stated that National is 2 years into a 5 year lease on the Watergate space. He indicated they are actively seeking a sublease.

Geoff indicated the desire to set aside UMP funds when they are received. He said that if National does this, there could be several hundred thousand dollars in the account. He said this in turn may cause people to complain in an election year that our candidates critically need funds and National is just sitting on money. He said he would need the help of the State Chairs to explain this to the membership.

INTENTIONAL DIALOG

This is a technique the Strategic Planning Team has been using. It requires a very disciplined approach to communication, where everything that is stated must be repeated to the satisfaction of the sender before anything else can be stated. This technique was used during a couple of the discussion sessions.

MEMBERSHIP

There was a discussion of membership vs. support base. It was decided that support base includes members, contributors, and volunteer activists. Some, including myself, brought up the importance of registered voters, but the group did not include this in the definition. Then there was a discussion of whether to retain the membership model. It was decided to retain the membership model as one option for growth among many.

BRANDING

Mark Schreiber presented his branding strategy proposal (a copy is available upon request or in the lpaz-discuss files area). In a nutshell, this proposal involves a conscious decision to name the small business community as the LP's constituency. The state chairs voted to recommend adoption of the proposal by the LNC. However, I voted "nay".

DRUG WAR STRATEGY

The group discussed retaining the party's current primary strategy of focusing on ending the drug war. After much discussion it was determined that the group was highly polarized and no consensus was reached.

PRESIDENTIAL PRESENTATIONS

Four candidates/representatives presented: - Mike Badnarik's stated goals are to double the party's membership and get 2 million votes. He is a constitutionalist educator, and he emphasized his belief that rights come from God. - Dan Weiner presented for the "Ad Hoc Conspiracy to Draft L. Neil Smith". He said Mr. Smith would run a very inexpensive campaign that would focus on gun rights. - Gary Nolan stated that he would run a positive and optimistic campaign. Until recently, he was a radio talk show host. - Jim Gray is a sitting judge in California. He joined the LP 2 weeks ago. His primary issue is ending the drug war, and his goal is to double the party's membership.

HOSPITALITY SUITES

There was one "general" hospitality suite, and Gary Nolan also had a hospitality suite. Both suites were alive with active discussion well into the night on Saturday.

BCRA

Sean Haugh presented his view of the impacts that the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA) will have on state parties. He recommended that the state set up a separate federal funds account to receive and send money to national and engage in "Federal Campaign Activities". This was the only technical/detailed presentation, and he has a document I'm going to get a copy of that explains all of the details. Anyone who would like a copy should let me know.

ELECTIONS There was a discussion of our election results for last year, and future strategy. The question of trying to fill the late vs. targeting key races was discussed, though the consensus answer was "both".

BREAK-OUT SESSIONS I participated in a break-out session

Notes and Letters

We are reminded that the gentleman from the Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership is Aaron Zelman, not Aaron Zettelman. We are advised that the LNC is going to be selecting a new Treasurer at its next meeting, three weeks from March 1.

Correspondents differ about challenges with ballot access.

Richard Winger of *Ballot Access News* writes: "The Feb. 2003 Libertarian Strategy Gazette has a column by John Famularo which says it is a myth that restrictive ballot access laws are holding us back.

John Famularo probably isn't aware of the Georgia ballot access laws. Georgia is our strongest state. Our presidential percentage in Georgia in 2000 was four times our national average. But in Georgia, neither we nor any other minor party has ever been able to place a candidate for US House of Representatives on the ballot. The existing law has existed since 1943 and has never been used by a minor party candidate for the US House! The law requires over 14,000 notarized signatures in the average district. No candidate for US House, whether a Republican, Democrat, independent, or minor party candidate, has ever managed to overcome a signature requirement this high in all U.S. history. John's article is wrong to say that restrictive ballot access laws aren't holding us back."

to which **John Famularo** responds: "It may well be true that federal office petitioning requirements in Georgia may be overly restrictive but my point is that the Libertarian Party is making a strategic mistake by focusing on statewide, federal and national races before having an effective credible cadre of people who have a political resume substantial enough to make them otherwise competitive candidates for high office. NONE of the announced LP presidential candidates have such a resume.

Listed (GP: in the electronic edition of *Libertarian Strategy Gazette for this month*) is a partial list of the thousands of Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Councils, Committees and Authorities in the state of Georgia at the regional, county, city and district level that Libertarians can seek a position by election or appointment. Many of these entry level positions go wanting each year. Credibility is not gained by running for high office but by performing in lower level office.

Jonathan Zwickel writes: "I urge everyone is has any interest in our national LP to read George Phillies monthly newsletter, "Let Freedom Ring" George tells it like is, without pulling any punches, and he is definitely not "PC". Controversy - only if you don't believe that the LP and some Libertarians don't have some dirty laundry. Available online at www.cmlc.org. Mail subscriptions available for only \$15.00 for 12 monthly issues, and worth every dollar you spend. Thank you George Phillies for all of your efforts so that I (and other readers) might understand what's happening in our own LP political party.

(Continued from page 3) [State Chairs Meet]

on party infighting. Many other states are having problems with party fights, some of which are similar and some of which are not. The amount of specific information I can convey is limited because some of the states wanted to keep the matters confidential.

Bob Sullentrup, State Chair of Missouri, has again prepared an extended set of notes on the States Chairs meeting. These notes were reviewed and Enhanced by Bonnie Scott, Jeff Allen, Joe Dehn, Sean Haugh, Dianne Pilcher, and Mark Schreiber.

Sullentrup writes:

This year's state chair's conference reflected a degree of maturation over the previous two conferences.

The 2001 conference in Indianapolis, our first in this series, was one in which participants got to know one another. We got a sense of which states were progressing well and had scored successes in various areas. Those states inspired the others who were struggling or just getting started. The contacts we made at that conference benefited MO, for example, when it came time to find mentors for our radio advertising initiatives (MI and ME).

The 2002 conference in Nashville provided all the benefits we accrued in Indianapolis and more. The prepared presentations delivered a wealth of information and then were supplemented with first-hand experience from the field. We opened up the phone lines and let people talk. From those discussions a pattern emerged: The message at that conference was to use "high touch in addition to high tech - talk to people and don't be afraid to ask for what you want".

The first inkling that we would have progressed that much further this year came from the multi-page survey distributed before the conference asking for income statements, press release counts, website statistics and so on. We are now focused on the LNC strategy with its six goals and 20 strategic items.

This was a definite maturation. At last year's conference we would have listed the attributes and practices of a well-run LP affiliate. At this year's conference, we proceeded to measure ourselves.

As a result, we moved to a "nuts and bolts" convention. Rather than reporting on isolated successes built on independent initiatives, we covered topics such as branding. This is a coordinated, focused, sophisticated and forward-looking template that promises to change the tenor of our message and forces us to step out of our issues-based methodology into the language of a constituency group. Who knows how that will turn out, but for the time being it has injected hope, direction and vigor.

As several indicated in the wrap-up as well as Harry Browne at the Indianapolis Convention, it is great to spend our time

with like-minded Libertarians. We share the common bond that we are not fooled by government pronouncements, and we understand that coercion where unnecessary leaves us worse off.

Throughout history, not many people have ever understood that. But I'm glad Thomas Jefferson and I do, as well as the rest of the folks in that room. I was pleased to be among them.

Attendees and Introductions

After the group reaffirmed Mark Nelson as the meeting chair, a question raised by NH Chair John Babiarz, the group approved the agenda.

34 representatives from 29 states participated in the conference. The participants and selected comments they made include:

- AL - Jeff Allen, Vice Chair, reported a record 58 candidates ran for office.
- AR - Robert Reed, Vice Chair, said their efforts are gaining access to legislators.
- AR - Gerhard Langguth, outgoing Chair, said 12 volunteers collected 108,000 signatures, 15% of voters, to put a food tax amendment on the ballot. Unfortunately, the ballot initiative failed 300k to 400k.
- AZ - Jason Auvenshine, Chair, stated the LP participated in a hotly contested gubernatorial race, and obtained good coverage through the televised debates.
- CA - Aaron Starr, Chair, noted CA elected 29 people and has a profit to report.
- DE - George Smith, Chair, reported successes stemming from its newsletter.
- FL - Michael Gilson De Lemos, Secretary, noted FL's "Florida Liberty" publication, and the LP's 14% in house races. A total of 500,000 people voted Libertarian in FL in 2002.
- FL - Doug Klippel, Chair, was present.
- IA - Mark Nelson, Chair, chaired this meeting and did not report IA highlights
- ID - Ted Dunlap, Chair, noted the state's membership growth, now up to 150 members, and a 22% showing for Secretary of State. Ted has sights on 2006, aiming to leapfrog the Democrats.
- IL - Austin Hough, Chair, reported IL got on the ballot for the first time since 1994 despite a stiff Republican challenge. The LP got an endorsement from the Chicago Tribune and Sun Times in a three-way state rep race.
- IN - Mark Rutherford, Chair, reported IN has had ballot access for three cycles.
- IN - Brad Klopfenstein, Executive Director, reported Libertarians were appointed to the committee for the "Help America Vote Act".
- KS - Steve Rosile, Chair, was present
- LA - Charles Sallier, Chair, reported LA fielded its largest slate of candidates ever.
- MN - Kevin Houston, Chair, stated MN has been able to

- MO - maintain its party infrastructure despite challenges. Bob Sullentrup, Chair, reported MO fielded its greatest number of candidates ever, maintained its infrastructure despite resignations, made inroads in collaborative political efforts outside the party, and retained ballot status.
- MO - Greg Tlappek, Executive Director, was present.
- MT - Mike Fellows, Chair, noted a parking meter issue in Missoula attracted media attention, and the party now has a website. They have been doing public access television since '95.
- NC - Sean Haugh, Executive Director, pointed to their "Ladies of Liberty" calendar featuring Rachel Mills. NC elected six people to office.
- NC - Barbara Howe, Chair, noted a bill to have third parties pay filing fees indicates the opposition feels threatened by us.
- ND - Keith Hanson, Chair, noted ND fielded a city council candidate in Fargo and now has a website.
- NH - John Babiarz, Chair, reported inroads on major TV in gubernatorial debates, and now certain party members have an open door at the current Governor's office.
- NV - Brendan Trainor, Chair, reported a success with petitioning to get back on the ballot .
- NY - Bonnie Scott, Secretary, noted NY's novel "guns for tots" giveaway in Harlem, a media sensation.
- OH - Dena Bruedigam, Vice Chair, noted OH's efforts have been particularly challenging, though it has a new web person, and will bring Neil Boortz to its convention in May.
- SC - Charles Williams, Chair, mentioned his state broke the color barrier by having run a black female for office.
- TN - Ray Ledford, Chair, noted the LP's participation in TN's anti income tax protest
- TX - Bob Lockhart, Treasurer. Although losing ballot access, TX ran a record number of candidates in 2002.
- UT - Cabot Nelson, Chair, reported UT has kept its ballot access and hired an executive director.
- VA - Shelly Tamres, Vice Chair, stated the VA LP was able to get an election law changed in the state.
- VA - Marianne Volpe, Chair, noted its increasing ranks of volunteers..
- WI - Jeremy Keil, Executive Director, noted gubernatorial candidate Ed Thompson received 10% of the vote in 2002. A recent drive netted 25 new members and \$2,500.
- WV - Richard Kerr, Chair was present.

Attending as adjuncts were:

Dr. Scott Lieberman, LNC Alternate, San Jose, CA

Phil Miller, Greenfield, IN

Mark Schreiber, marketing director, national staff

George Squyres, LNC member, AZ

Rick McGinnis, TX

Christopher Loyd, Houston, TX

Kurt Gibby, a Houston local who "just showed up" (gcgconsult@n-star.com)

Conrad (Ed) Hoch, LNC member, AK

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Betty Hoch, AK
 Ron Crickenberger, Political Director, staff, VA
 Mike Dixon, LNC member, now of Charlotte, NC
 Carl Milsted, NC
 Joe Dehn, LNC member, CA
 Steve Dasbach, campaign manager for Gary Nolan for President
 Dianne Pilcher, staff
 Steve Givot, LNC Secretary, CO
 Nancy Neale, more than a chair's spouse, worked for Ed Clark for Governor in 1978
 Geoff Neale, LNC Chair
 Monica Granger, TX
 R. Lee Wrights, LNC member, NC
 Royce Mitchell, TX
 Susan Mitchell, TX
 LP presidential candidates also attended including: Gary Nolan, Libertarian syndicated radio talk show host from Cleveland;(Judge) James P. Gray, former Republican dedicated to ending the failed War on Drugs from Orange County, CA (LA area); Michael Badnarik, from Buda, TX (Austin area), a Constitutional expert who offers classes and who is dedicated to promoting Liberty; and Dan Weiner of the Ad Hoc Conspiracy to Nominate L. Neil Smith, who said L. Neil Smith would run if drafted.

TO BE CONTINUED

General Letter from Donald Gorman

*If we don't change the direction we're going,
 we're likely to end up where we're headed.
 -- Ancient Chinese Proverb*

Greetings to all! PART II

There has been a lot of discussion over the years about "are we a membership club or a political organization?". In my opinion, we are a membership club, calling ourselves a political organization.

Let us take a moment to look at our Conventions.

The states with the most members sit up at the front. The states with more members have more voting clout. The states with the most members, working in conjunction with each other, can easily control the agenda and direction of the "club".

Some will say "well, what's wrong with that?". I would suggest that we read the above Chinese proverb again. I would suggest looking at the present landscape. I for one feel like a survivor of a tornado that has just gone through a trailer park and I suggest that it's time to rebuild as a POLITICAL organization.

INTRODUCING THE SENATE

Each state shall elect or appoint, by any means they deem appropriate, two Senators.

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE SENATE:

- 1) Upon petition by 1/3 of the State Senators or 1/3 of the LNC, the Senate shall convene to act upon the petition (this could be a virtual meeting, using email or conference call).
- 2) Upon conclusion of the facts surrounding the petition, the full Senate shall vote up or down by majority rule.
- 3) The Senate shall have the power to override decisions of the Executive Director, LNC Chair and LNC. The Senate shall have the power to remove the Executive Director and/or staff of the National office. The Senate shall have the authority to replace the LNC Chair with another elected member of the LNC; however, the former Chair shall remain an LNC member with full rights and privileges.

* REMEMBER, THIS CAN ONLY HAPPEN BY PETITION OF 1/3 OF THE BODY AND A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE SENATE.

(This means that anyone with a nose out of joint about some issue cannot control the procedure.)

- 4) (Conventions) A majority of the Senate in attendance at the Convention shall confirm or deny the election of President, Vice-President (if appropriate), Chair and LNC members. If the majority of the Senate deny, then that position shall remain open until a candidate is found who can win confirmation (before the end of that Convention).

#

I am sure that the above suggestion will elicit some commentary or light up enough computers to cause rolling brown-outs! Please remember that none of this is cast in concrete and at best is only a skeletal outline of something totally new and different for the LP. Again, I have tried very hard to keep away from personalities and simply address the structure.

Consider, though, if this structure had been in place, Mr.Tuniewicz would have had two other avenues to turn to—1/3 of the LNC or 1/3 of the Senate—to alleviate his frustrations. Likewise, a petition and a majority vote by the Senate could have stepped in and taken control of the "Willis affair". And just for a moment, conjure up the number of scenarios that could have happened in the Bergland/Cisewski race for Chair.