

# Let Freedom Ring!

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### It's a Tent!

Gathering their collective wills and the Association Treasury, members of the Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association have purchased a 10x10 Pavilion tent for use at fairs, political rallies, and other events at which the PVLA distributes literature, recruiting members, selling our newsletter,... The tent, 9' tall, includes side panels, permitting literature handouts during rain, wind, and snow. PVLA member Charles Separk has donated a large-size "Libertarian Party" banner to fly across the front. "There'll be no doubt who we are," said PVLA Chair George Phillis, "nor where we stand!"

### Tuniewicz Resigns!

National Libertarian Party Treasurer Mark Tuniewicz announced that he will resign 8AM, April 21, the start of the next National Committee meeting. On that date, Tuniewicz will also revoke his membership certification ("the pledge") and cancel his life membership in the National Party. Tuniewicz had previously announced his resignation from the Massachusetts Libertarian Party state board. Tuniewicz's actions will end his 21 years in the National Party, six on the National Committee.

Tuniewicz promised that he is not joining

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### Letter

I have read of plans for a project Archimedes II. Archimedes I was next to useless. For one thing I think the party hierarchy has it backwards. I think that you have to get voters first. Then some of the voters become activists and party members. I think you have to slog it out door to door. Well to do suburbanites are accustomed to buying just about everything they want, but I do not think this approach will work in politics.

My observation is that while people may agree that we need to go door to door, when it comes time to go door to door I find myself doing it pretty much alone. I know find that to run for mayor I have to go through significant aggravation, special accounts, reports, etc. The time spent on this takes away from being a candidate and campaigning. I would think that a handful of retained professionals at the state party level could relieve the candidates of this burden, where there are small or nonexistent local parties. I am not holding my breath

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### New Civil Liberties Group Launched!

Hi, this is David Rostcheck. I'm a progressive civil rights activist currently working on restoring firearms rights in Massachusetts. Most recently I've been doing media work and activism with the Pink Pistols. I and some other pro-gun-rights activists have noticed that many of the standard pro-gun-rights techniques and positions do not get good traction in the more liberal media climate of Massachusetts. For better or worse, this is the climate we have to work in, so we believe we need new, more effective techniques to make our case in the court of public opinion. We are interested in developing techniques, positions, and messages that come from nontraditional, unexpected angles and work better in this climate. We will develop training programs on these techniques and teach other pro-gun-rights activists how to use them.

We'd like to form a roundtable group of firearms rights advocates who are interested in working on

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waiting for this to happen.

In the 9th Hampden House District. I do not think that the registered Libertarians voted for Libertarian candidates. I have been unable to get the final accurate statistics as of yet, but I think this is the case. It looks like I got about 45 write in votes. I spent about \$150 in leaflets. I spent about 32 hours walking the streets. Paul Norton, in the previous election got about 100 votes. I think more money was spent. I also think more man hours were spent. People want to donate money and hold signs, but I think we need to go door to door. We are in Democratic Patronage country.

The Libertarian party is still a small party. The numbers of voters are like the paper members of a church that has a handful of people in it on a Sunday morning. Typically Libertarian candidates campaign like democrats. Their brochures list a biography, a few theoretical items, and that is it. They attempt to use the mass media, which is controlled and is going to ignore them.

The emphasis seems to be on Eastern Massachusetts. It looks like Libertarians did better in small towns. Allan Wilcox is a good example of this. He got about 30% of the vote. He did better in his home town. While local people were helping the state campaign, I did not see any state help for the local campaigns. The local candidates are the missionaries that are going to slog it our door to door. They are the ones that are going to convert people to Libertarianism. They are the ones who are going to use local examples of Libertarian theories, and demonstrate how particular problems are the fault of the incumbent. Apparently, they are going to do this without very much help.

One problem is that our Libertarian Leadership at the state level and national level seem to be hanging onto a losing strategy. But not everyone lost. In any campaign there are expenditures for services provided by people, etc. I suppose there is some hope that the new members will elect to pay the \$25 membership fee. Personally, I am under the impression that Harry Browne has a loud voice simply because he has the time and money to put into it, and it does not matter all that much what kind of results he gets. In short we are subsidizing failure.

Another impression I have, from reading some of the email I get, articles in LP News, etc., is that many Libertarians read mostly Libertarian literature. They speak cult talk, and seem to have no idea on how particular phrases are interpreted by the general population, the people whom we are attempting to convert. I think this was a factor in nominating Browne. Just from what I have read, I believe that Hess and Gorman would have done a much better job of communication with a broader based constituency. Browne may have been misquoted, but there again, everyone should know by now that we cannot count on the media.

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another major party. In this, he differs from his 2000 opponent for National Treasurer: After the last National Elections, Terry Savage, de facto candidate against Tuniewicz of the Libertarian Party establishment, defected to the Republicans.

An explanation has been promised. Tuniewicz has been reported to have been less than totally enthused with recent National Party policies.

Under National Committee bylaws, the National Committee fills vacancies by majority vote. Tuniewicz named Deryl Martin of Tennessee as LNC Assistant Treasurer. Martin is currently the Region 7 representative on the Libertarian National Committee. Tuniewicz, explaining the appointment, spoke highly of Martin.

new strategies and messages. Experience in civil rights activism, social justice, disability activism, GLBT rights, progressive activism, or liberal activism may be helpful, as many techniques from these fields can be repurposed to firearms rights activism. Proposed techniques include :

- Sue the Attorney General under the Americans with Disabilities Act to strike down gun "consumer protection" laws that make guns physically difficult to use.
- Form broad coalitions to present an unexpectedly diverse image of Mass gun owners.
- Position Chapter 180 as a pervasive system of discrimination, and using antidiscrimination laws and civil rights laws and social support to dismantle it.
- Form a media watch project to document systematic media bias against reporting gun rights positions in Massachusetts, release white papers documenting the pattern, and meet with editors to insist on fair coverage.

We're sure there are more great ideas out there, and we want them. If you are interested in firearms rights and/or the right to self defense, if you're not afraid to throw away the rulebook and come up with a new one, and you've got some ideas and want to participate in the roundtables, please email me a brief description of yourself and your interest. If you represent, belong to, or know of any pro-gun-rights group in New England that represents a specific minority community, please send me a note Our next meeting will be in Arlington on May 14th - if you are interested in attending, please email davidr@pinkpistols.org or call 617-510-2275.

## Our Web Pages

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