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Lindell Resigns!

Tuniewicz To Explain Resignation!

Why Did Tuniewicz Resign?

Former Libertarian National Committee Treasurer Mark Tuniewicz has stated that he will explain to the Libertarian Public why he has resigned as Treasurer. Look for those articles here. Meanwhile, Let Freedom Ring! has obtained from its confidential sources a statement from Tuniewicz to the National Committee, outlining several issues related to his resignation.

I have received the following from a highly reliable source. I have confirmed with Mark Tuniewicz that the following is authentic. Mark asked me not to quote one number until it could be verified exactly, and I have deleted that sentence from the following. Addressing the National Director, Tuniewicz wrote

“At the Executive Committee teleconference held in February of 2001, I let you know that the end of your Director's report that I hadn't been receiving At the Executive Committee teleconference held in February of 2001, I let you know that the end of your Director's report that I hadn't been receiving my normal weekly financial information for at least the 3 weeks prior. You said you would check with Nick Dunbar as to the status and that you'd take care of it.

At March's EC teleconference, I again pointed

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Let Freedom Ring/Libertarian Strategy Gazette

Subscriptions \$13 per Year

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Checks Payable “Carol McMahon”, please.

LNC Regional Representative

Ken Lindell has resigned

Lindell represented our region: New England, New York, and New Jersey. Lindell did not respond to inquiries from your Editor as to the cause of his resignation. Under National Committee By-Laws, Lindell's replacement will be chosen by the 8 State Chairs in his Region.

Extravaganja is Big Hit!

Saturday April 21 dawned bright and early for PVLA members bound for the Amherst Common and the Extravaganja, Massachusetts' second-largest rally for the re-legalization of marijuana. The PVLA Giant Tent made its debut, erection being handled by long-time members Charles Separk and George Phillies. The 10x10' green and white tent, with the Association's newly-purchased (courtesy of Charles Separk) “Libertarian Party” banner across the front, was a gathering point for Libertarians at the rally.

PVLA Speakers included Charles Separk, who got rounds of applause for his defense of Medical Marijuana. PVLA Chair George Phillies gave the opening speech of the event, on the theme “Above All, The War on Drugs is a War on the Bill of Rights”. Phillies urged attendees to support the PVLA and the American Civil Liberties Union. Other PVLA members, including Ben Rivard-Ripoza of the UMass

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out that I STILL had yet to receive this reporting, now about 8 weeks behind. I expressed this in the context of our discussion regarding the new monthly reporting package that the EC was in the process of developing. You again cited the need to speak with Mr. Dunbar, and had no other explanation.

Steve, it's April, and I STILL haven't received these simple, system-generated reports. In my opinion, there is just no excuse for this...It is simply outrageous! I'd appreciate it if you wouldn't attempt to pass off responsibility for this to others. You are responsible for insuring that this information is provided on a timely basis.

While I recently announced my resignation effective later this month, all of these events took place prior to that announcement. I plan on continuing my oversight responsibilities up until then, which obviously include review of financial information. You should also be aware that my inability to carry out my responsibilities as Treasurer due to this situation was one key factor in my recent decision to resign. I can't do my job when you can't (or won't) provide me with the information I specifically and repeatedly request to do so.

For the Committee's information, there have been MANY instances during my tenure as Treasurer when my weekly reporting has been 1, 2, or even 3 weeks late. This was repeatedly discussed by members of the executive committee under Mr. Bergland's administration. [snipped sentence until numbers verified. GP] There have also been repeated instances of our monthly financial information being provided very late to the LNC, and periods of many months on end when regular providing of monthly revenue and expense information to state chairs did not take place. This is a longstanding problem that Mr. Dasbach has been made aware of previously.

Steve, I've attempted to be understanding about those situations, which I consider to be sloppy and unprofessional at best, and incompetent at worst. I've been hesitant to raise this issue strongly in the past because of our friendship and close working relationship.

But this most recent string of events is, in my view, serious enough to easily be considered just cause for termination because of the clear inattention to an important job responsibility after repeated notifications to correct same.

I urge you to reconsider your position as National Director. LNC members, state chairs, and members are concerned, as am I.

Mark Tuniewicz

Treasurer

Libertarian National Committee, Inc.

Statements have been circulated in some quarters that these issues had never been raised before to the LNC Executive Committee. Your editor quotes from the LNC ExComm Minutes, available to all LPUS members at archive.lp.org:

**LNC ExComm Teleconference
September 26, 2000**

"...Dehn asked why the EC has not been receiving updated financial information on a regular basis.

Dasbach said he has been swamped. He said that he would send out a report the following day.

Dehn said that he has not received an income sheet and a balance sheet in some time.

Givot said that he has not received one in several months.

Dasbach said that he would discuss this with Nick Dunbar."

And at the March 13 LNC ExComm meeting, Michael Gilson asked if a written copy of the National Director's report on "outstanding accounts payable" had been emailed. The National Director, among other things, reported that there is a technical limitation on LNC financial software "which precludes generation of reports in a given year until the prior year's books are closed."

Your Editor has discussed this with several persons knowledgeable in financial reporting software. There was agreement that it was possible for a firm using paper ledgers to need three months to close its books on a year. It is however, dismaying to read that in a party with a large number of computer-literate members that the Executive Committee and its staff must go nearly a quarter of a year without getting detailed financial reports.

Mark Tuniewicz' resignation went into place on April 21. A motion was made that the LNC should determine why Tuniewicz resigned before appointing a replacement. The motion was rejected. The LNC exercised its authority to appoint a replacement. There were two candidates: Derryl Martin and George Phillies. This final vote was 15 for Martin and 1 for Phillies.

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Amherst libertarian group and Richard Watras, Jr., chair of the PVLA's new Franklin County group manned the tent, while Phillies worked the crowd, distributing the PVLA's version of our college recruitment "more beer, less taxes" poster pitching "Tom Paine, Beer of Liberty". Phillies reports slowly passing through the crowd, handing out fliers.

"The 'beer' flier is really effective. I'd give a copy to one of the people in a couple. She'd read it. Eyes would widen. She'd hold it firmly under the nose of her partner."

In late afternoon, Michael Cloud arrived. He gave a fine speech, reminding attendees that if they did not register to vote, politicians would not care about their opinions. Also, the ranks of jurors are drawn from the ranks of registered voters. In America, he reminded, jurors can vote their consciences.

Howell, Cloud to Run

Your humble correspondent shook hands with attendees in the crowd, recruiting them to the Party (Most treasured line, repeated "I'm not old enough to vote yet. But when I am, I'm registering Libertarian!") Meanwhile, Libertarian movement activists gathered by the PVLA Giant Tent. Eyewitness accounts passed back to your Editor say that it is confirmed: Carla Howell is definitely running for Governor. And Michael Cloud will be running for the U.S. Senate against Senator Kerry. There was discussion of a \$3 or even \$15 million dollar campaign.

In evaluating these campaigns, it is important to remember that the Republican Party of Massachusetts is in a state of total disarray. They have an Acting Governor, currently pregnant with twins. Our sources say that Mitt Romney is prospecting activists in Western Massachusetts, possibly planning to launch a divisive primary campaign against Acting Governor Swift. The Republicans have no plausible candidate for U.S. Senate; rumor has it that Jack E. Robinson III may possibly try again. The two previous Republican Governors, Weld and Cellucci, used their very substantial fund-raising abilities to tap the party's extensive donor base, but for their own campaigns and the campaigns of their friends.

A Modest proposal

Long-time PVLA member Charles Separk gives us a modest proposal, a compromise between the Libertarian position that the War on Drugs is insane and should be brought to end, and the Republican proposal of Newt Gingrich that what we need to win the war is mass public executions of drug users "Smoke a Joint! Become Half-Time Entertainment at a football game, just like in Communist China."

A Most Excellent Solution to the Marijuana Question

There are more serious problems facing our country today than at any other time in our history. All reasonable and clear thinking people know the illegal use of drugs is the largest. Logical people all are aware the greatest question under the heading of the drug problem is the use of marijuana. For years the government has fought an unsuccessful "War on Drugs". It is the duty of each and every citizen to support this War on Drugs. Our Society, as we now know it, will be destroyed unless our government is willing to go all out to end the importation, growing, and use of that most destructive of all drugs, marijuana.

The major problem the faithful and resourceful soldiers in the war against Marijuana is simply this: They are not armed with the single most powerful weapon needed to finally put an end to this dastardly blot on our country's landscape. Therefore, I offer this most excellent solution to the problem. Give our drug warriors the weapon they need. Of course, my answer is not perfect, and I will share my quandary about the solution right now. I am not clear if people who either produce, or distribute, or use this hemp should be sentenced at the first offence to life in prison at hard labor, or if they should be publicly executed. That may have to be left to the discretion of the court. However, the courts should have only those two options, life, or death.

I make this case for a number of reasons. First, it is proven that marijuana is the gateway drug to all other drug use. Therefore, if marijuana use is stopped then all other drug use will be stopped. Thus the War on Drugs is won!

Second, marijuana is the cause of most violent crime in history. It is well known that when a Marijuana user is being robbed he will resort to violence to protect his stash. It causes me to ponder: Was Cain smoking pot before he met Abel? That may be the cause of Cain's crime. Nevertheless, the stopping of pot use will stop violent crime. Another benefit to our society!

Little know, but just as factual above is that marijuana causes infertility and retards sexual development in adolescents. How tragic this is! Young people are having their libidos and even their private parts held in an infant stage by pot use. If this continues, two results will curse our population. The worse of these is that young men and women will no longer be able to enjoy God's wonderful gift of lovemaking. On the other hand, the whole pornography industry will be destroyed. Just who would want to watch people with retarded genitalia perform sexually?

The last item in my case is based on one more fact about the use of the drug. Unlike alcohol, which will cause death when overused, marijuana does not kill binge smokers or long time users. Thus, the poor marijuana addict must suffer four score and seven years of cravings and desperation.

It is totally illogical to ignore the use of this dangerous drug and all of its users. The only way to deal with marijuana is to petition our government to do the right thing and imprison or execute everyone who has ever had any involvement with this substance.

...Charles Separk

**Where Your Money Went
The Liberty Tree PAC**

The Liberty Tree Small Government Low Taxes Political Action Committee is the only libertarian-oriented State PAC in Massachusetts. It supports pro-liberty candidates at the local and regional levels, seeking to build a strong libertarian movement across Massachusetts.

In 2000-2001, Liberty Tree supported campaign expenses (not to be confused with ballot access) for more libertarian candidates than did any other group in Massachusetts. It did so more efficiently than any other group, with more of its money going to candidates and campaigns, and less of its money going to non-campaign issues. And its candidates did better, too.

Liberty Tree raised \$350 in 1999, \$414 in 2000, and in 2001 has so far raised \$312, with a serious fund drive about to launch. Candidates supported in the past two years include:

Jerry Horton, Worcester City Council, 46% of the vote.

Ilana Freedman, State Senate, 25% of the vote.

Al Wilcox, State Representative, 19% of the vote (36% in Wales, which is not his home town).

Not to mention libertarian candidates Bargoot (State Rep), Fischetti (State Rep), Tuniewicz (Easton Town Finance Committee) and offers of support to State Rep candidates Doug Krick and Terry Franklin and State Senate candidate Mike Froimowitz.

The State Party Committee reported campaign support for only two candidates, Carla Howell and David Euchner.

Committee Expenses to date were \$28 for postage and printing. to support \$550 in campaign support.

Letter

Editor,

I liked part 4 of the campaigning article. I found it to be very informative. It also raises some important issues. Here in the Hampden 9 House District, there are 80 registered Libertarians (on paper) most of whom are in a fog and do not know that they are registered Libertarians, nor do they understand what the party is, nor any other party for that matter. It is entirely possible that there will not be enough Libertarians in this district to put a Libertarian candidate on the ballot in the primary. It remains to be seen how redistricting will affect the district.

Simple voter registration may make us a major party on paper, like a church with 800 members that has 30 people in it on a Sunday morning. If I were the Democrats, I would not be concerned about the U.S. Senate Race. I would be more concerned with the local and legislative races that are within the reach of more people. Even when we get the voters to register turnout in a primary is low. Seven people voted for Paul Norton in the primary. I think the turnout in the last primary was even less than that. 20 people in any local bar could have had enough votes to thoroughly sabotage our presence on the ballots, simply by casting writein votes in the Primary.

There is no Libertarian presence to keep a sustainable major party status. Yes, I know, we have web sites, radio adds, etc., etc. The people on the sidewalk still do not know who we are. As I have said before, when one starts walking the streets to build the party, one is alone.

We arrive at the question as to why Libertarians continue to pursue tactics that appear to be doomed to failure. There never was a collective Libertarian Party campaign. There were individual campaigns. The money and workers went to the high end of the ticket, U.S. Senate, President, etc. The local candidates are pretty much left to fend for themselves. The Carla Howell campaign assets are the assets of her campaign, not the state Libertarian Party. I have not seen the statistics yet, but I think we are going to find that the high end of the ticket had a negligible effect on the low end of the ticket.

I think another big problem is that there are no Libertarian candidates. One reason for this is that the state party simply does not lend support to get Libertarian Local parties started. A voter registration drive is going to be useless if there are no Libertarian Party candidates on the ballot. A handful of candidates on the high end of the ticket will not help. I think we will find that it will be difficult to get over the 15%-20% threshold for a long time. People may feel good, but they will not win. I think we need masses of candidates running over and over again. It is unrealistic to expect to win the first elections. A handful of campaigns simply to support individuals will not accomplish this.

Robert Joseph Underwood; 83 Cherrelyn, Springfield, MA