

Let Freedom Ring!

Volume 7 Number 6

June 2005

Available electronically at www.libertyforamerica.com/cmlc/headerpublications.htm

Let Freedom Ring: Libertarians Run for Office, Special State Senate Election; LNC Meets; Reform the Rules; LNC Considers \$0 Dues.....1
Larry Fullmer, R.I.P.: LPMA State Committee Meets.....2 Freedom Ballot Access; The Free State Project.....6

Libertarian Strategy Gazette Organizational Planning for Libertarians, How Long is Our Party Platform? Electioneering.....1 Elements of a Press Release, Stirring Membership Interest.....3 Letters on Libertarian Strategy.....5

Let Freedom Ring/Libertarian Strategy Gazette are edited and published by George Phillis, 87-6 Park Avenue, Worcester MA 01605, who is solely responsible for the contents, for the Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association (www.pvla.net) and Liberty for Massachusetts (www.libertyformassachusetts.com) Subscriptions are available from the PVLA, c/o Carol McMahon, 221 Bumstead Road, Monson MA for \$15/year to Activists, \$20/year to others. Checks payable "PVLA".

Libertarians Run for Office Special State Senate Election

Libertarians in Cambridge and Springfield, the third and fourth largest cities in Massachusetts, are actively preparing to run for City Council. There is a vacancy in the Middlesex Second State Senate District; nominating papers are due July 27 for the November vote.

Our three Cambridge candidates are Jeff Chase, Jim Condit, and Bill Hees. They are supported by local activists, including the Liberty for Massachusetts affiliate 'Cambridge City Libertarian Club'. Walter Ziobro has agreed to serve as treasurer / filing clerk for the Cambridge candidates. The plan is for one candidate, Bill Hees, to actively fund raise and spend, while the other two candidates will not accept donations. This plan will ease the filing requirements for Walter.

[Libertarians Run for Office] (Continued on page 2)

LNC Meets

Dues Left at \$50/year; Farris, Hinkle Resign

Sean Haugh writes us: The most remarkable thing about this meeting is that the LNC for once failed to do something astoundingly stupid. They came close a couple times, but overall this meeting saw much more forward thinking in the interests of the membership rather than the reactive and insular thinking which had marked previous meetings this term. It was wonderful being back in north Texas after my last visit about 30 years ago. Back then Addison hardly existed but now it is vital corporate center. Then again everywhere else across the country has grown a lot too in that time. At least the weather hasn't changed much, mid-May starting to get hot enough for my liking. The meeting was very well attended by local party members, and it was very pleasant to see old and new friends there.

Table of Contents:

1) Tone 2) Political Activity 3) Executive Director

[LNC Meets] (Continued on page 4)

Reform the Rules

An Analysis of the Libertarian Party Bylaws and LNC Policy Manual by Sean Haugh

In a series begun in the prior issue, Sean Haugh discusses issues relating to the National Party's bylaws and how they may be fixed.

Policy Manual, Article II, Section 2 (Dues), paragraph B a member's dues shall be considered current if any of the following apply.... an affiliate party has collected \$10 from the member on behalf of the Party and forwarded it to the National office during the preceding 12 months

Policy Manual, Article II, Section 8 (Alternative Unified Membership), paragraph B Affiliate parties which join the Alternative Unified Membership Plan shall retain all initial membership income in excess of \$13 for regular members and \$500 for life members for members recruited by the affiliate party.

Commentary: These two rules are in direct conflict with each other.

I Recommend: Lower the amount alternative UMP states must send in to national to \$10.

[Reform the Rules] (Continued on page 6)

LNC Considers \$0 Dues

UMP State Support Program Would End

by Sean Haugh

LNC Regional Representative George Squyres (Arizona) has brought forward a "zero dues" proposal which would completely change the fundraising paradigm of the Libertarian Party. The rough form of the proposal almost passed as a motion to the national committee (LNC) at their recent meeting in Dallas, and was referred to a committee composed of Squyres, LNC Treasurer Mark Nelson, and Regional Representative Michael Gilson De Lemos (Florida). It is likely the committee will bring this proposal back fully fleshed out to the LNC for a vote at their August meeting in Kansas City.

Under Squyres' plan, "membership in the party shall be without payment of dues." One would simply have to keep the national office up to date on their contact information. The proposal does not mention the non-initiation of force pledge which members currently sign. However, the pledge is a matter for the convention to decide when it meets to hear amendments on the party bylaws next July in Portland.

Replacing the membership model of fundraising, ac-

[Zero Dues Proposal] (Continued on page 3)

Liberty for Massachusetts now live at <http://www.libertyformassachusetts.com>

Larry Fullmer, R. I. P.

Larry Fullmer, founder of the Libertarian Party of Idaho, passed away suddenly in mid-May. A message from Libertarian activist Ben Irvin to many Libertarians describes the memorial service:

I just got back from the memorial service for Larry Fullmer. It was held in beautiful Ross Park in southside Pocatello, about 12 blocks from where Larry had lived for most of his life. It was a bright sunny day with temperatures in the lower 70's. The memorial area was held on a green grassy opening surrounded by large silver-leaf maple and conifer trees. White fluffy seedlings that looked like giant snowflakes gently floated down during the memorial.

About a hundred very diverse people of vastly different ethnic, political, and religious ideologies showed: Mormon, Chicano, general Anglo, African-American, atheist, Christian, American Indian, Democrat, Republican, Independent, anarchist, and two Crow. It was a gathering that only a memorial for Larry could generate.

Larry's sisters and other relatives spoke, as did a devout Christian (whom Larry often debated with), and several Libertarian representatives/friends. His sisters noted Larry's life accomplishments and how their older brother was always their hero. His love of animals was remembered and how he cried the day his cat died. His beloved Ginger was mentioned several times.

All in all it was a well done memorial service that, as one of his sisters mentioned, Larry would have hated; for Larry disliked formality and ceremonial non-sense. However, his friends enjoyed the opportunity to say goodbye to Libertarian Larry.

To some, Larry's death meant that the heart of libertarianism in Idaho had stopped. May it have a new rebirth and flourish to honor his memory.

Diiawakaawik,
~ Ben

LPMA State Committee Meets

The LPMA State Committee met in mid-May. The major topic of discussion was rules for the use and availability of the State Party's mailing list, much of which is the Massachusetts component of the National Party membership list. LPMA Membership Secretary Dave Roscoe has posted his working set of rules on his wiki pages <http://www.libertarianwiki.org>. The rules focus on the need for a prompt response to rational requests. Roscoe has emphasized that if the State Committee does not like his rules they are free to remove him.

Amanda Phillips, President of the Free State Project, announced that she is resigning from the LPMA State Committee. Phillips noted that this Fall she will be beginning her studies at prestigious Harvard Law School and she has certain time constraints.

(Continued from page 1) [Libertarians Run for Office]

To reach the Cambridge candidates:

Jeff Chase jeffchase@email.com

Jeff Chase writes us that according to the Cambridge Election Commission, city council ballot petitions become available July 1 at 8:30AM. The petitions must be returned to the Election Commission office by 5PM on July 29. The office hours for the Cambridge Election Commission are Mondays 8:30AM to 8PM, Fridays 8:30AM to 12 Noon, and all other weekdays 8:30AM to 5PM.

The agenda for each Cambridge city council meeting agenda can be obtained via email through cambridgema.gov/eline/step1.cfm and selecting the city council agenda. Learn what your city government is doing before you run against them.

Springfield candidate Bob Underwood has the active support of the Liberty for Massachusetts affiliate Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association. He is now collecting signatures but is still distant from his collection goal. Your assistance now can make the difference. Reach Bob at:

rjunderwood2000@yahoo.com

Bob writes us that he already has some signatures, but not yet enough: "Thus far I have 133 signatures which I can find on the voting list. I need 200 to get on the ballot. I have 24 signatures of unregistered voters.

By party registration, I have:

D 86
L 2
R 8
U 36

Spanish surnames continue to make up a large percentage of my signatures. As we can see Democrats also make up a large percentage of my signatures One of the Libertarians was myself. The other was someone Shirley registered during my run for State Rep. I think we are off to a good start. When I get a good safety margin I will turn in the petitions. I do not want To end up with too few signatures."

Readers will note that if Bob had been running as a Libertarian in a Partisan race under major party rules he would have not 133 defensible signatures but only 38 valid signatures. With respect to the forthcoming State Senate election, to run for State Senate, you need to live in the district, satisfy the eligibility requirements, get signatures from 300 registered voters in the District (a safety margin is good) and file your financial disclosures with the Commonwealth.

Now Available in Paperback

George Phillies' books *Stand Up for Liberty!* on the Local Organization Strategy for the Libertarian Party, and *Funding Liberty* on the 1996-2000 Presidential campaign anomalies, are now available in paperback and ebook format.

For more information <http://www.3mpub.com/phillies>

(Continued from page 1) [Zero Dues Proposal]

cording to Squyres, the "primary activity and responsibility of both the national and state parties will be to turn members into contributors." Contributors would start accruing benefits at certain donation levels. For example, one would still receive LP News in the mail for an annual contribution of \$25 or more. The door is also open for the return of higher donor level categories, such as the Torch Club or Project Patrons.

State affiliates would also be encouraged to establish a zero dues policy. According to Squyres, "membership in the state affiliate becomes the primary vehicle" for national membership. There are 24 states which have party affiliation with voter registration, and most already consider their registered Libertarians as members. But any form of outreach could result in easy membership growth. We could rapidly inflate our numbers to more accurately reflect the number of voters across the country who consider themselves to be Libertarians.

The first great advantage of this plan is that it would remove one of the largest barriers to party membership. We could attract far more people to us and get them involved in the work of the party. Abolishing dues also abolishes the perception that the Libertarian Party is some kind of private club. Instead, we could become a very broadly based party that would make anyone who wants to work with us in any way feel welcome.

The plan would also get rid of the vexing membership model that drives our fundraising. Historically, membership dues has been the center around which all other party fundraising is planned. It has become an impediment to expansion of fundraising programs which we see being used by our competitors. Under the membership model, we see the people who have already joined the party as the primary pool of potential donors. Our competition on the other hand raises millions from all kinds of people, whether they have already pledged their allegiance to their organization or not. The zero dues proposal would greatly advance the current trend for project based financing. This makes us far more attractive to potential donors. People are more likely to give money for a tangible result than simply out of organizational loyalty. People who don't even consider themselves Libertarians would give us money if we were doing something they really cared about.

There are several obstacles to be overcome before this plan can be viable. Some aspects of it can only be enacted by the convention as it would require changes in the Bylaws. The most glaring example is in how we allocate delegates to the convention. A related Bylaws issue connected to dues paying members is how we form regions for representation on the LNC. The Bylaws Committee will have to develop some key aspects of the plan, and the earliest they could be approved is July 2006.

The biggest practical change is that without membership dues there is no more Unified Membership Program (UMP). This is a revenue sharing program that comprises a large part of many state parties' budgets. UMP was originally developed as the way the national party would provide affiliate support. Over time it has crowded out all other support programs, such as the Success '99 training seminars. This may provoke some opposition from the states. After all, why should anyone want to

give up a regular monthly check? Some critics call UMP a welfare program, and it's hard to deny their point. Revenue sharing has come to replace real help. It may be a whole lot easier to just write a bunch of checks, but UMP has not helped our party grow.

Squyres recognizes in his proposal that UMP has to be replaced by something else. Developing dedicated fundraisers within the states is at the top of the list. There would be quarterly or semi-annual training sessions at the national office for state party chairs, executive directors, treasurers, candidates and other activists, paid for by the LNC. Besides fundraising, topics could include leadership skills, FEC compliance and our database. The social aspect of getting fellow activists from across the country together would also help strengthen the party. Training would also hit the road. Regions would be encouraged to hold regional conferences or conventions. Scholarships would be provided for seminars given by campaign professionals and nonprofits, such as the Leadership Institute. Free training sessions would be also be heavily programmed at the national convention.

Under the plan, the LNC would also help the states with ballot access reform and similar organizational obstacles. State parties would also be able to purchase LP News subscriptions for their members at the cut rate price of \$10 a year. Outreach material sales would continue much as they do now. There would be some expectations placed on the states in return. State parties would have to comply with federal campaign finance laws where applicable, and would have to agree to formal terms on database sharing. Squyres' plan also calls for states to take responsibility for the behavior of their members and candidates, but that seems not only inessential to the plan, but a philosophical impossibility as well. It makes sense that the national office would finally hire a new Political Director to administer these programs. Filling this position again would also present the opportunity to tie core organizational training in with the current political initiatives of the national office.

Dues money also would have to be replaced with something else. The LNC would have to make a strong commitment to aggressive fundraising in all directions. They could start by ensuring that our staff has no unnecessary impediments to conducting their own initiatives. Since our fundraising would have to be based on actually doing politics, the LNC would also have to form an equal commitment to political activity at the national level.

Nelson provided an analysis of the proposal recently passed by the LNC which would instead increase dues renewals to \$50. That analysis reveals that people who give the national party precisely \$25 a year (the current dues amount) made up 46% of all our donors in 2004. While that makes up only about 12% of our income, it is about half our people. For this plan to be successful, the first task of the LNC will be to convince these people and more to keep giving at least \$25 a year voluntarily. Another figure that leaps off the page of Nelson's analysis is that only 29 people gave the national party over \$2,500 last year. That's a very low figure for any year, not to mention a Presidential election year. This plan would also have to result in a marked increase in our top level donors to be considered

Let Freedom Ring!

successful.

Executive Director Joe Seehusen has already shown a little of what can be done outside the membership model by raising over \$42,000 earlier this year to support our efforts to repeal the death tax. Getting away from the membership model of fundraising would free up a vast amount of time and resources for Seehusen and his staff to pursue similar initiatives. This would not only bring more money into the party, even better it would help us affect public policy.

(Continued from page 1) [LNC Meets]

Contract Renewal 4) FEC Filing 5) Financial Activity 6) Database 7) Ballot Access 8) Dues Proposals 9) Bylaws Committee Appointed 10) Sexual Harassment Policy 11) Political Director 12) Miscellaneous

1) Tone

The meeting was frontloaded with reports about real political action by LNC members. Messages were also read into the record early calling for civil discourse and concentrating on growing the party rather than bickering over how much dues should be. This theme was revisited frequently, with the presence of recent Libertarian Presidential candidate Michael Badnarik; our newest elected Libertarian, LP Texas Chair and Lago Vista City Council member Pat Dixon; and LP Texas Executive Director Wes Benedict who was recently a candidate for Austin City Council and endorsed by the Austin Toll Party, which opposes plans for toll roads in the city. Pat Dixon received standing ovations from the LNC on both days.

Regional Representative Jim Lark (Virginia) read a statement from Regional Representative Dan Karlan (New Jersey) who could not attend. Karlan called for LNC members to lead by example, especially in how they treat each other. In his statement, Karlan noted, "In February at the Portland LNC meeting, I was asked by the Chair to prepare a policy on harassment and offensive behavior.... But if we NEED a policy to advise Libertarians to treat each other with respect, can we really expect non-libertarians to treat each other – and us – decently? If we can't lead by a proper example, how can we ever expect to bring society around?.... The level – and even existence – of mean spiritedness, sniping, and offensive and otherwise disrespectful language, and especially the presumption of malice, are inappropriate within the LP and anathema to a party that bases its philosophy on the dignity and worth of the individual. If we are to have any chance, we must become the exemplars of our own philosophy and principles."

Chair Michael Dixon began his report by reading from a post on the state chairs' email list from Nathan Allen, Chair of the Michigan LP. Allen gave the perspective of someone who joined the party five years ago. His take is that the status quo is not working and yet many Libertarians remain attached to it. Allen said, "I would propose that we take a hard look at what we are doing and entertain any proposal that would break from the status quo. We are spending so much time deciding if \$35 is better than \$50 and we still aren't saying, here's a plan that will get Libertarians elected to office. We seem to be spending so much effort arguing that electing Libertarians to office isn't even being discussed."

Dixon used much of the remaining time of his Chair's report extolling the virtues of recognizing that success requires resources of all kinds, and of making the party a fun and congenial place to be.

As a seemingly spontaneous gesture, Dixon then added a Vice Chair's report to the agenda, so that Lee Wrights could report on his presence at the recent National Election Reform Conference in Nashville as the party's representative. The conference had invited us simply to thank us for the joint effort for recounts in Ohio, New Mexico and other states between Badnarik and Green Party candidate David Cobb. In his introduction of Wrights and Cobb, organizer Bernie Ellis said that this group of election reform activists may not have come together that weekend if not for the work of the Libertarian and Green Parties.

The focus on actually doing politics continued with the beginning of Mark Nelson's Treasurer's report, which he began by announcing that he had just been appointed to two city boards in his hometown in Iowa, the Davenport Parks and Recreation Board and the High Performance Government Working Group. Nelson also reported on attending policy meetings of the Heritage Foundation, and on a letter sent after their state convention which raised Iowa's membership by 5%.

I don't know if this was intentional on Dixon's part, but the heavy focus on actually doing politics both nationally and in one's own community certainly helped elevate the tone and sharpen the focus of the meeting. There were a few discordant notes however. Dixon said he was distressed that at least one member had distributed confidential reports outside the LNC in the past. He distributed several paper copies of such reports at the beginning of the meeting as a way to limit their distribution, and made reference later to other information he was afraid to share with the LNC

2) Political Activity

Joe Seehusen announced that he had formed an Executive Director's Legislative Action Advisory Council (EDLAAC), with Mike McKay as project champion. This effort raised \$43,200 in a five week period leading up to the meeting in support of our current and future federal legislative lobbying. This money came from only 13 donors, and includes more than one \$1,000 a month pledge.

Seehusen also reported that he is working with former Congressman Bob Barr on his new organization Patriots to Restore Checks and Balances <http://www.checksbalances.org/> which seeks to repeal the most egregious parts of the Patriot Act. Staff has also continued its work with the Death Tax Repeal Working Group, as evidenced by several of our recent press releases.

Seehusen said he sees a two year window of opportunity to put together our legislative coalition. For example in the last quarter staff represented the party at the Heritage Foundation's Resource Bank meeting in Miami and at the Marijuana Policy Project's 10th Anniversary shindig in DC. While we were in

Texas, Sam New was representing us at the Freedom Fest in Las Vegas. Seehusen listed 41 separate contacts within the last quarter he had made with various people and organizations ranging from members of Congress to the Objectivist Center. "We need to show up," said Seehusen, "magic happens when we do."

3) Executive Director Contract Renewal

On a roll call vote, the LNC chose to renew Executive Director Joe Seehusen's contract for another two years, with a 90 day mutual severance clause. This passed 11-3-1.

Voting FOR the new contract: Treasurer Mark Nelson, Secretary Bob Sullentrup, Vice Chair Lee Wrights, At Large Representatives Michael Colley, Rick McGinnis, Mark Rutherford and BetteRose Ryan, and Regional Representatives Ed Hoch (Region 1W-Alaska), Jeremy Keil (Region 5W-Wisconsin), Jim Lark (Region 5E-Virginia) and George Squyres (Region 6-Arizona).

Voting AGAINST the new contract: Regional Representatives Michael Gilson De Lemos (Region 4-Florida), Scott Lieberman (Region 2 alt-California) and Aaron Starr (Region 2-California).

Abstaining: Regional Representative Dena Breudigam (Region 3-Ohio). Chair Michael Dixon did not vote. Dan Karlan (Region 1E-New Jersey) and Bill Redpath (At Large) were absent.

The debate and the vote were held in open session. Starr argued that as a personnel matter, this should be discussed in executive session and the vote taken by secret ballot, to which Lark agreed. Dixon pointed out that everything which could be discussed had already been publicly aired, yet Seehusen had not yet had the opportunity to publicly answer the criticisms of his performance. Many of these came out in the questions asked of Seehusen during the debate.

The LNC was in receipt of memos by former employees Jennifer Villarreal and George Getz which made many accusations of incompetent leadership and a hostile work environment in the office. These were referred to often during the questioning by the LNC. While they were originally sent to the LNC only, both quickly were distributed to outside sources which broke their confidentiality. Dixon stated firmly that the LNC should have already learned the lesson that secrecy breeds mistrust. He stressed the need for the membership to understand and trust this particular decision. He referred to Karlan's statement that this is a place where the LNC must lead by example. Nevertheless, Starr moved and Lark seconded that the discussion take place in closed session. This failed on a voice vote. As far as I could tell, only Starr voted for it.

To be honest, I have sympathy for Starr's position here. I am an Executive Director in my state and every year my Executive Committee meets in something akin to a closed session to discuss my contract, and I find that perfectly appropriate. It would take a most remarkable set of circumstances to allow discussion of personnel matters, especially the very sensitive ones surrounding this decision, in public.

But the membership made sure those of remarkable circumstances. This was a direct result of the outrage expressed by the membership over the secret ballot which increased membership renewals to \$50. That the LNC so clearly repudiated another opportunity to conduct secret deliberations and votes is most definitely the result of them hearing your feedback.

Ryan began the debate by reminding the LNC of the disastrous history of a lack of involvement by the board in the conduct of the Executive Director and staff. Nelson noted that since then access to data to measure staff performance has vastly increased, which helps address this problem.

Regional Alternate Emily Salvette (Region 4-Michigan) began the questioning by raising the issue of Juliet Agyare's health insurance. Getz had charged that Seehusen had schemed to fire Agyare as she went on maternity leave as a way to eliminate her health coverage. Seehusen replied no, that there had been a misunderstanding with Agyare but he cleared it up immediately, and that her health insurance was not threatened by her taking a leave. Indeed, Getz quotes an email from Agyare later in his own memo which confirms that the misunderstanding had been cleared up. Dixon added that there were two issues involved, that our health insurance benefits are insufficient and Agyare's fear that they would be cut off. He said the benefits can only be cut off if she does not return from her leave.

Lark queried Seehusen about the Villarreal memo, specifically to square the reasons she listed for her resignation, which centered mostly around her lack of confidence in Seehusen, with his own remarks at the previous LNC meeting, where he concentrated on her alleged maltreatment by certain state party officers. Seehusen replied that her resignation was unexpected and they had a long conversation about it at the time. In that exit interview, she presented "a long laundry list" of complaints from a variety of sources, including those already referenced and many others. One other item which concerned her was how we regularly carry more in accounts payable than cash on hand. Seehusen noted that this is far more common for nonprofits and that many of her impressions came from a lack of experience. However in that interview, Seehusen said she had many positive things to say about him and the staff. Her negative review of Seehusen only came out in her memo to the LNC three days later.

Ryan asked about Getz' charge that Seehusen plotted to unjustly fix the blame for Villarreal's resignation on an LNC member for allegedly sexually harassing her. Seehusen replied that he was not pushing any particular take on her resignation. Ryan asked about the existence of emails to support Seehusen's version of events. Dixon replied that he is in possession of them. He feels there is no commitment to share them with the board and is loathe to do so in light of the LNC's inability to maintain confidentiality.

Wright reminded Lark that Seehusen was answering direct questions by the LNC at the last meeting, which may have caused him to concentrate his remarks on one of the many reasons behind her quitting. Lark replied that still the emphasis in Seehusen's public remarks were only on one thing. Dixon reminded them that other reasons were given in their executive session in Portland. **TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE**

Let Freedom Ring!

(Continued from page 1) [Reform the Rules]

Policy Manual, Article II, Section 6 (Premium Memberships): The LNC may establish premium membership levels, including the contributions required for each level and the benefits received.

Commentary: This system has fallen apart due to disuse. Any such designations left in our database are a legacy of when we used to do this. While the language does not prohibit the LNC from doing nothing here, they are wasting a prime fundraising opportunity by not taking advantage of it.

I Recommend: Vigorously revive this policy and establish different levels of membership with tangible benefits at each level.

Policy Manual, Article III (Officers), Section 1 (Position Description of National Chair), paragraph C: The Chair represents and serves as the chief spokesman of the Party as appropriate, including: 1. representing the Party to the public, including the business community, media, other political and educational organizations, government agencies, and elected officials; 2. planning and directing all investigations and negotiations pertaining to cooperative efforts of the Party with non-libertarian political organizations....

Commentary: These things get done, but not necessarily by the Chair. Lately our Executive Director and his staff have been doing them. We obviously need someone doing the high level networking and putting on a public show, I'm just not convinced it has to be the Chair. Given all the nuts and bolts organizational responsibilities of this position, maybe it is too much to expect that the Chair also be a public relations person.

I Recommend: Give these responsibilities to the Executive Director or other staff.

Policy Manual, Article IV (National Headquarters), Section 1 (LP Headquarters Responsibilities), Paragraph B (Member Services) 1. filling orders and requests 2. answering questions 3. handling complaints 4. acknowledging and reviewing correspondence

Commentary: The national office has been spotty at best in these matters of basic customer service. In the last half of last year, I pretty much gave up with any simple questions or updates for staff because I never got an answer. Several people in the state parties have reported a similar unresponsiveness to their most basic requests. Messages were routinely ignored. I personally had lost faith in the ability of our staff to do these things until Executive Director Joe Seehusen explained at the last LNC meeting that he had told various staff members that if they had to choose between these basic tasks and the larger projects they had on their plate to choose the latter. While it is certainly true that there is only so much time in the day and so many resources available, that does not change the fact that this is totally unacceptable from the viewpoint of customers who make these requests. This situation seems to have shown recent improvement. At least staff now return my calls in a timely manner.

I Recommend: Basic customer service should be a top priority.
[To Be Continued]

Freedom Ballot Access

Freedom Ballot Access has filed its IRS 990 form covering its 2004 income and expenses.

For 2004, Freedom Ballot Expenses had income of \$20,317 and expenditures of \$19,285. Included in the expenses were \$362 in payments to independent contractors, largely for telemarketing fund raising, \$403 in other payments (largely credit card charges, fast-track shipping of checks to remote locations, and setting up a bank account). Fundraising expenses were thus under 4% of income.

In addition, Freedom Ballot Access spent \$18,530 on ballot access efforts, leaving \$1022 cash on hand (and one check not yet cashed). Support included: Independent Alabama \$30, and Libertarian Ballot Access efforts in: Alabama \$30, Alabama \$4000, Connecticut \$3600, D.C. \$30, Kentucky \$30, New Hampshire \$30, New York \$4650, North Dakota \$530, Ohio \$1630, Pennsylvania \$150, and West Virginia \$150.

The Free State Project

Has forthcoming events:

» [Freedom Summit](#) – a seminar dedicated to promoting and advancing human freedom – will be held June 24-26 in Manchester, NH. Speakers include Ron Paul, Nathaniel Branden, James Bovard, Amanda Phillips (FSP), Don Gorman (NHLA), and other libertarian notables. <http://www.freedomsummit.com>
» [PorcFest '05](#) – the second annual Free State Project gathering in NH – is open to anyone interested in freedom or the Free State Project, and will be held July 23-31 at Roger's Campground in Lancaster, NH. <http://freestateproject.org/news/festival>

The Free State Project is an effort to recruit 20,000 liberty-loving people to move to New Hampshire. They are looking for neighborly, productive, tolerant folks from all walks of life, who will commit to move to New Hampshire, within five years of obtaining 19,999 other people who commit to move.

The Free State Project is not political action organization. It is not tied to any political party or organization. It does not run candidates for election, financially support or endorse candidates, or oppose or endorse legislation. All these things are done by [friendly organizations](#) with which Free Staters are involved.

There's no better place for freedom-loving Americans than New Hampshire... New Hampshire has the lowest state and local tax burden in the continental U.S., the second-lowest level of dependence on federal spending, a citizen legislature where state house representatives have not raised their \$100 per year salary since 1889, the lowest crime levels in the U.S., and a dynamic economy with plenty of jobs and investment.

In most of the United States, if you were a member of a State Libertarian Party, you might well have seen the full page ads that the **Free State Project** would have purchased in your state newsletter. Not in Massachusetts, though: I am advised by Free State Project officers that the LPMA refused their advertising on the grounds that the FSP's objectives were incompatible of those of the LPMA, which is a bit odd, considering that at the time the FSP President was still a member of the LPMA Board.