

# Let Freedom Ring!

Volume 7 Number 8

August 2005

Available electronically at [www.cmlc.org/headerpublications.htm](http://www.cmlc.org/headerpublications.htm)

**Let Freedom Ring:** Recruit candidates!, Rally To End The War On Iraq!, Massachusetts Libertarian Action, PVLA On Marriage, And Speaking of Marriage....1  
Hudson, Aucoin Resign from State Committee, Seehusen Resigns as LNC Executive Director....2 State Parties on Dues Model, Libertarian PACS and 527 Launch Fund Drive....3 LNC Meets—Sean Haugh Reports....4 Free State Project...5 Now Is The Time. Put The Elephant To Sleep....8  
**Libertarian Strategy Gazette** Letters on Libertarian Strategy. Upon Strategic Planning. Organize a Campaign.....3  
**Free State Project.....3**  
**Let Freedom Ring!** and **Libertarian Strategy Gazette** are edited and published by George Phillips, 87-6 Park Avenue, Worcester MA 01605, who is solely responsible for the contents, for the Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association ([www.pvla.net](http://www.pvla.net)) and Liberty for Massachusetts ([www.LibertyForMassachusetts.org](http://www.LibertyForMassachusetts.org)) 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".

## Recruit Candidates!

Liberty for Massachusetts Chair Steve Drobnis has called for Liberty for Massachusetts to launch a campaign to recruit Libertarians to run for State Representative and State Senator. The objective is to take advantage of two important facts about Massachusetts politics: (i) We have a one-party state with a few token Republicans. (ii) In 2006, highly unpopular Republican Governor Mitt Romney may well be running for re-election, dragging down Republican vote totals around the state.

The proposed first phase of the campaign is a post card mailing to Libertarians around the state, urging them to become a candidate or to help Libertarian candidate-volunteers. By building a serious core of people who are willing to try running for office, we will advance to building local support organizations to help them and

[Lfm Candidate Recruitment] (Continued on page 2)

## Massachusetts Action

Bill Hees of Cambridge is apparently on the ballot for Cambridge City Council. He joins Robert Underwood of Springfield as a libertarian candidate for City Council. Springfield is the third largest city in Massachusetts, and Cambridge is the fourth.

Liberty for Massachusetts staged a successful fundraising dinner. "This will be the first of many LfM activities," State Chair Steve Drobnis promised, "as we build an effective political organization for Libertarian activism." Future LfM Social events (held 3-6PM, after LfM State Board meetings at 2PM) are scheduled for August 20 (LFMAugust05@robpower.com 158 Broadway Street #2 Cambridge) and September 10 (221 Bumstead Road, Monson, cjmcmahon@mindspring.com).

Local libertarian groups now meeting in Massachusetts include the Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association (2nd Wednesday 6:30PM, Hu Ke Lau restaurant, Exit 5 from the Mass Pike), Lowell libertarians (4th Tuesday, 8PM, currently at the Outback Steakhouse on Reiss Road), Worcester County Libertarian Association (Tweed's Restaurant, Grove Street, Worcester Third Sunday, 6PM) and the Cambridge City Libertarian Club (quarterly, Pizza Uno, Porter Square)./ Liberty for Eastern Massachusetts.

The LPMA has scheduled social events:

[Massachusetts Libertarian Action] (Continued on page 2)

## Rally!

### End the War on Iraq

September 25, 2005 Amherst Common Noon-5 PM  
The Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association, in concert with Liberty for Massachusetts, is staging a Rally For Ending The War on the Amherst Common, complete with speeches and music. The Rally will call for an end to the War on Iraq, and the withdrawal of all American forces from that country.

### Other September Rallies

September 17 Boston, MA Noon-6PM 16th Annual Freedom Rally on the Boston Common, sponsored by Mass Cann. Join Liberty for Massachusetts and others to do Outreach at the Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association Booth.

September 17 Quincy, MA 9AM Constitution Rally at Faxon Field, Route 3A. Sponsored by the Gun Owners Action League and the NRA.

## PVLA Takes Stand On Marriage

### Massachusetts Libertarians should lobby Boston

At its July meeting, the Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association unanimously adopted a resolution on the marriage issue. The resolution reads:

*For very many residents of Massachusetts, the question of who may marry whom is a religious matter. The Commonwealth should not insert itself into questions of religious doctrine. The Commonwealth should not enshrine the beliefs of a particular sect within the Constitution, while discriminating against the beliefs of others. This year, it might be the case that the State is in favor of your beliefs, but remember: Once that doorway is open, next year it may be your beliefs that the State is discriminating against.*

*The PVLA calls upon Massachusetts Libertarians to work to oppose State Constitutional Amendments that would infringe on the opportunity of people to marry each other.*

## And Speaking of Marriage

Congratulations to long-time Libertarian activist Jeff Chase and his charming wife on the birth of their first son.

Liberty for Massachusetts now live at <http://www.LibertyForMassachusetts.com> and org

## Let Freedom Ring!

(Continued from page 1) **[Massachusetts Libertarian Action]**

Sunday, September 4, at the home of Art Torrey, Billerica (978) 663-0241 [atorrey@cybercom.net](mailto:atorrey@cybercom.net) RSVP For directions and location. Swim at 2, grill at 4.

Saturday, October 22, 2PM at the home of Stephanie Woiciechowski and RJ, 4 Carp Road, Milford, Potluck, BYOB, and have board games for adults and kids—kids are very welcome!! Please RSVP with what you're bringing. 508.381.3002

### Hudson, Aucoin Resign from StateComm

David Hudson has resigned from the LPMA State Committee. Rich Aucoin has resigned from the Libertarian Party (and therefore also the LPMA State Committee).

### LPMA Changes Mind

On a second request for names and addresses of local activists, Bob Underwood was successful. He will be receiving names and addresses of LPMA activists in Springfield and neighboring towns. Details are complex; wait for next month.

(Continued from page 1) **[Libertarian Activities]**

help our future candidates.

Massachusetts State Senate and State Rep districts are mostly small enough that a single person or a few activists can work them effectively. A serious candidate running to win will need to give up working for several months of full time 70 hour a week campaigning and fundraising. However, candidates who can only make a lesser time involvement can still show the flag and increase press and public awareness of our party.

Liberty for Massachusetts will need to provide active support for these candidates to show that activism and volunteerism are vigorously rewarded by real libertarians who actually care about politics. That support may have several pieces:

An important part of the effort will be a branding plan for lawn signs and bumper stickers. If ten candidates each order 250 lawn signs, all the same except for their name, that's effectively a 2500 lawn sign order with nine plate changes. Plate changes are cheap: by pooling orders, candidates can get lawn signs at a fraction of the costs. A uniform design motif means that each candidate's signs tend to support all the other candidates.

*Liberty for Massachusetts* can also help with contacts to local activists. While we do not have the current list of National Party members, we do have a very extensive list of Massachusetts Libertarians available to us. Those are people that candidates can contact. These are people that by and by we will be contacting, urging them to *Stand Up for Liberty!* and run for office.

Printing and palm card design are central to outreach. As a candidate, you may not be able to reach every resident, but you can knock on lots and lots of doors and leave behind an attractive record of your presence. *Liberty for Massachusetts* activists include in their numbers people whose professional expertise is marketing and development.

Money is the lifeblood of politics. Unfortunately, *Liberty for Massachusetts* is presently not a political party or a PAC, so it cannot give its own money to candidates. However, *Liberty for*

*Massachusetts* activists include principal officers of major state and Federal libertarian Political Action Committees and 527 organizations, so if you do have a campaign, there are legal paths whereby which Massachusetts libertarians can supply your campaign with first dollar money.

## Seehusen Resigns as LNC Executive Director

In a memo from July 25, 2005, LNC Executive Director Joe Seehusen announced:

"I am resigning my position as Executive Director of the Libertarian National Committee, Inc. My last day will be Friday August 5, 2005. I am appreciative of the confidence the board has shown in my work by its 11 to 3 vote at the Dallas 2005 board meeting to renew my contract. Thank you. I am honored to have served the board and to have played a leadership role in the parties turnaround.

Under my administration the LNC has:

1. Gone from financial insolvency to solvency
2. Made UMP payments on time and in full
3. Increased membership after four years of decline
4. Built a powerhouse web site which has eclipsed both the Republican and Democratic parties as measured by web traffic
5. Entered the arena of legislative action at the national level
6. Significantly lowered overall costs including payroll and vendors
7. Issued a major position paper offering the American people a viable exit strategy for the war in Iraq
8. Rebuilt the back office in accounting and database
9. Personally raised significant donations to the party from major donors as Executive Director
10. Developed an outreach program including CPAC, Freedom Fest, Heritage Resource Bank and National Taxpayers Union
11. Successfully promoted the Libertarian brand in political and activist circles in Washington
12. Raised the overall profile of the Libertarian Party to represent a credible alternative to the Republican and Democratic Parties

Congressman Ron Paul (R-Texas and former Libertarian Party Presidential Candidate) said "Joe Seehusen has raised the visibility of the Party on Capitol Hill, where voices for liberty are in short supply."

My thanks go to the champions on my staff, who are the people that stand tall and do the work, namely Robert Kraus, Jessica Neno Wilson, Shane Cory, Sam New, J. Daniel Cloud, Chris

[Seehusen Resigns] (Continued on page 3)

### 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 2) [Seehusen Resigns]

Thorman, Matt Dailey, Gladis Douwopka, Susan Dickson and Rod Severson.

My thanks also goes to the LNC members, past and present, for their thoughtful leadership in moving this party forward namely; Michael Colley, George Squyres, Bob Sullentrup, Ken Bisson, Emily Salvette, Austin Hough, Rick McGinnis, Jeremy Keil, Chris Farris, Bill Hall and Ed Hoch.

And special thanks to former Chair, Geoff Neale, for the role he played as the chief architect of the party's turnaround."

There has been a great deal of speculation, but absolutely no evidence as to why Seehusen has chosen to resign on such short notice, in particular, why he has chosen to resign immediately before an LNC meeting, which he may or may not now be attending.

### State Parties on Dues Model

Laura Coker-Garcia writes that on June 11, 2005, the LP of Texas Executive Committee unanimously passed a motion saying:

"To instruct our Libertarian National Committee Regional Representative that the elimination of dues be submitted to the National Convention and not be decided by the LNC as per National Libertarian Party Bylaws."

Richard Burke, LP Oregon Executive Director, writes that His State Opposes the Zero-Dues Model:

"The LP of Oregon opposes the "zero-dues" model. At our last State Committee meeting we passed a resolution instituting state membership dues in the event that UMP is cancelled. Generally, we favor the approved \$50 UMP dues provided that the states' share is increased from its present level. If the membership dues are increased without a commensurate increase in the states' share, the LPO may well decide to leave UMP unilaterally, thereby enacting the state dues policy we passed.

I have some initial thoughts on the matter, which I would be happy to alter or abandon upon receiving more information and analysis. Here goes:

Under the draft I read of the "zero dues" contract, it seems it might be better to for the LPO to make ad-hoc agreements with the LNC regarding database sharing and other such topics. We've been developing a growing list of donor and membership prospects, derived from lists received from PACs sympathetic to many of our issues. LNC will want access to these lists, so we will have something to deal with. In short, I see no benefit from the draft contract that cannot be realized through a series of ongoing agreements. At the same time, such agreements preserve flexibility on secondary issues (like how to deal with FEC issues) that could be lost if we entered a formal contract.

Most of my State Committee does not believe that a national

organization like the LP, nor its state affiliates, can be financially stable when relying entirely on direct fundraising appeals. I think it is fair to say that most of my board sees membership dues as a source of predictable revenue that can be budgeted for. I think they also regard dues as a way to identify people who are willing to make tangible commitments to our organization: People willing to pay dues are often more willing to donate their time, talent and money than those who are not. I think we need to do a better job of reaching out to registered Libertarian voters and philosophical libertarians, but lowering dues to 0\$ is not the answer. If we all make the LP more politically relevant, finding members willing to pay dues should pose no problem.

Richard P. Burke, Exec. Dir.  
Libertarian Party of Oregon"

### Libertarian PACs and 527 Launch Fund Drives

Leaders of the country's major Libertarian PACs and 527 organization have announced plans for substantial fund drives. Sean Haugh, Treasurer of the 527 Organization **Freedom Ballot Access**, writes us:

"Freedom Ballot Access is a 527 organization formed in May 2004. Our purpose is to knock down ballot access barriers in every state, by any political means available... Why a 527? Because this frees us from the insane campaign finance laws...we are regulated by the IRS, not the FEC... 527 rules are designed to control advertising, but we do not advertise. We can legally raise and spend as much money as possible from people, corporations, and unions. In 2004, we were a vital part of Michael Badnarik's ballot access effort. We take great pride in spending your money wisely, Freedom Ballot Access sent 88.7% of your donations to state ballot access. Overhead has accounts for only 3.8% of our spending."

The Massachusetts State Small Government Low Taxes PAC and the Liberty Congressional PAC, which aid respectively state candidates in Massachusetts and Federal candidates, are known to be planning similar drives in this election off-year. They seek to raise enough money to effectively change Libertarian internal politics.

## Stand Up for Liberty!

## Funding Liberty

George Phillipies' books on our Party's  
strategy and history

**New! Now in trade paperback format!**

Also available in e-book  
<http://3mpub.com/phillies>



## LNC Meets

### Sean Haugh's Report, Continued

We continue from the last issue with LNC May Meeting minutes, in particular a discussion of why several staff members had recently resigned. According to Sean Haugh:

#### 5) Financial Activity

In other Treasury matters, Nelson said the clean up of our database is continuing both to produce more accurate financial reports and for the audit our Life Memberships. There are currently 1,876 records for Life Members, although some appear to be duplicates. He stated that 157 of our Life Members only made a one time gift of \$1,000 (which is supposed to be the minimum requirement). There are 259 who have given less than \$1,000, with 104 of them showing no record whatsoever of any gifts. Over 45 of them only show a record of a gift of \$60 or \$62 made in 1997, which appeared as part of the conversion to Unified Membership payments to the state parties (UMP), although the details of how this occurred are unclear. He said 101 of them have not made any donations in the past ten years, and 283 have not in the past five.

Nelson suggested those who have not donated in the last ten years be converted to Honorary Life Member status and no longer be used as part of the calculation for UMP, which would save the national party about \$10,000 now and between \$12-14,000 next term.

Kraus reported on further cost cutting measures in the office involving the canceling of several redundant services for communications and media. Development Program Coordinator Jessica Wilson said in her written report that she has been concentrating on cleaning up the sorry state of our database and accounting procedures in the wake of Jennifer Villarreal's resignation and Raiser's Edge consultant Chase Moore's inadvertent double charging of monthly pledgers.

Wilson also spoke a great length about the tremendous success of the intern program which not only provides significant cost savings but also increases our positive relationships with local universities. Part of the success of the program is that interns are given significant work to do, not simply given those boring tasks which nobody else wants. By including vital high profile tasks in the intern's portfolio, students reap much greater enjoyment as well as practical benefits from their experience, which increases our reputation among future potential interns. Wilson does a very thorough job of documenting her procedures, and I asked her to modify what she has documented about this program so that the state parties can take advantage of these programs too.

#### 6) Database

Kraus has been relentless in negotiating a refund from BlackBaud, the company which makes Raiser's Edge (RE). After several months, it has become clear that RE cannot deliver everything we expected when we bought it and their customer service has been lacking. BlackBaud still provided technical support during the refund negotiations, and Kraus even got them to extend out term of service for several more months to make up for what we had not received previously.

The result is that out of \$107,345.81 billed to date by BlackBaud, they owe us a refund of \$25,735.13. One interesting note for those who have followed this closely is that the credits include the entire amount paid to RE consultant Chase Moore. Still in negotiation are credits for selling us the wrong add on items such as RE:Anywhere. Kraus is still trying to determine if these can be replaced by other RE products or if we will have to seek other software solutions. He is also seeking continued technical support beyond the contract period until the remaining bugs can be worked out.

Farris gave a lengthy report which is now pretty much meaningless since he quit in a huff less than two weeks later. Farris had created an adversarial relationship with several key state database volunteers, an attitude which also infected the office while Farris served as the LNC's liaison to the states on these issues. At one point he actually resigned his official position but continued to do the work, just so he could avoid dealing with four or five particular people.

Salvette took Farris to task for his demeaning language, such as referring to the LP-Database discussion list as the "LP-DB-Anger-List." This prompted a heartfelt apology from Kraus for including similar remarks in his printed report.

The LNC seems to have repeated the mistake of not holding Farris to a non-disclosure agreement when they let him have access to the database. While Farris claims to have destroyed all the LP information in his possession, it is still alarming that yet again a high profile person with complete access to our database storms off with no protections in place for the party. It is not yet known how the LNC intends to replace Farris in that role.

The LNC did pass a Data Transfer Service Level Agreement composed by Farris, which describes the limits of information the national party is obligated to give to the states. A proscription that communications about data export formats will go through the state chairs and not the actual people who handle the data in each state was deleted.

Regional Alternate Chuck Moulton (Region 5E-Pennsylvania) had offered input and was generally supportive of the idea, but said he would vote no because this plan required more input from the states. Salvette agreed that buy-in was required for this plan to work.

A roll call was requested on the service level agreement, which went as follows:

YES: Colley, Farris, Keil, Lieberman, McGinnis, Nelson, Rutherford, Ryan, Squyres, Starr and Sullentrup.

NO: Hoch, Moulton, Salvette and Wrights.  
The motion passed 11-4.

#### 7) Ballot Access

Gilson and George Phillies both submitted preliminary reports for their separate ballot access audits. Gilson had originally

been assigned this task, but it was given to Phillie by Dixon after Gilson failed to provide a report at the last meeting. Gilson apparently failed to receive the message and continued with his work. He said his final product would be completed in two weeks. The thrust of Gilson's report is to gain a total view on how much the whole party spends on ballot access, not just the LNC's contribution. By doing so he hopes to adequately compare the costs of signature gathering versus costs for lobbying and litigation to bring down ballot access barriers.

Phillie found that the LNC spent \$270,458 in direct and indirect costs on ballot access in 2004. Just over \$200,000 of that went to petitioning with the rest going to litigation, fundraising and administrative expenses. He found that prices per signature ranged from one to four dollars each.

Both reports suffer from a severe lack of data. Indeed one of the main reasons this report was commissioned was to determine what was not documented. Many states used haphazard record keeping, and national project coordinator Bill Redpath kept almost no records at all.

Having run several ballot drives myself, including one currently underway, I can easily understand how this happened. Redpath would conduct most of his business over the phone, determining the needs in the various states and then transmitting orders to the national office about who needs a check. That would leave him with almost no paper trail and pass the responsibility for creating it to the national office. This seems to also have been performed inconsistently. For example, Phillie noted that there was one state where he knew for sure that LNC money was spent where he could not identify any matching expenses. While this seat of the pants style is common to most ballot drives, given the high pressure to collect enough signatures by deadline, it is no longer acceptable to the LNC or to its core duty of fiduciary responsibility for our members' money.

Nelson stated that he still wants a plan to retire the negative balance in the ballot access project fund, which remains by his accounting at \$29,062.82. Wilson reported that she and her team had identified a total of \$9,700 in pledges for ballot access made to contractor Scott Kohlhaas and was starting to call these folks to shake loose their promised donations, which had resulted in \$700 raised so far. Lark asked how much of the negative balance was office overhead, to which Nelson replied that he did not know. Since Redpath could not be at this meeting, more substantial discussion of this lingering matter was yet again deferred to the next meeting.

### 8) Dues Proposals

Besides the increase of membership renewals to \$50 which passed last meeting and the "zero dues" proposal by Squyres which is featured in a separate article, both Lark and Gilson came forward with alternate proposals. Lark's was simply to set dues at \$35, which died for lack of a second. Gilson's was simply an amalgam of past practices which was presented at the table and did not come to a vote. Since no new action was taken, the previous vote for \$50 rate still stands.

In the debate over Squyres' proposal, Lark suggested that only the convention could enact it, to which Starr agreed. Nelson then moved to amend the motion so that the proposal simply be endorsed and for Squyres to bring back the actual Policy Manual changes and detailed implementation plan for the August meeting.

Starr moved instead to postpone this to August, which Wrights seconded. Several regional reps said they needed more time to solicit the opinions of their members, and that in general more sales were needed to make the plan viable. The postponement failed 10-6 (requiring two thirds to pass).

Roll call was requested for the final vote recommending the zero dues proposal, which went as follows:

YES: Gilson, Hoch, Nelson, Ryan, Rutherford, Squyres and Sullentrup.

NO: Breudigam, Colley, Lark, Lieberman, McGinnis, Starr and Wrights.

Abstaining was Keil. The motion failed 7-7-1.

Starr brought back to the table the increase in UMP payments which had failed as part of the secret ballot to raise dues to \$50. He stated that it may not have passed before because time ran out before it was debated in Portland. Lark seconded for purposes of discussion.

Squyres opposed monkeying with UMP as a band-aid on a terminal patient. He stated we need to get away from the welfare model of UMP. Ryan said she likes the idea but would vote against it because she wants to see what will become of the zero dues proposal, which would make UMP obsolete if passed.

Roll call was requested on the UMP increase, which went as follows:

YES: Breudigam, Gilson, Lieberman, Starr and Wrights.

NO: Colley, Hoch, Keil, McGinnis, Nelson, Rutherford, Ryan, and Squyres.

Lark and Sullentrup abstained. The motion failed 5-8-2.

Salvette moved on Sunday to reconsider the Lark proposal, which failed 9-5 (requiring two thirds).

### 9) Bylaws Committee Appointed

A record 22 nominations were received for the ten spots on the

## Free State Project

The Free State Project proposes to persuade 20,000 Libertarians to pack up their bags and move to New Hampshire, where 20,000 new activists can have an enormous effect on the politics of this small state. They are a third of their way to their goals, with near 7000 libertarians who have committed to move if enough volunteer, and hundreds and hundreds who have already moved.

Across the country, ads promoting the Free State Project have appeared in LP State Party newsletters, but not in Massachusetts, where the ad was rejected because the Free State Project was claimed not to be compatible with the interests of the State Party. As a public service, *Libertarian Strategy Gazette* is carrying this advertisement without charge, so that Massachusetts Libertarians can make up their own minds without being told what they may think about.

## Let Freedom Ring!

(Continued from page 5) [Reform the Rules]

Bylaws Committee. Each LNC member had ten votes which they could cast positively or negatively. Negative votes were subtracted from positive ones to achieve the final result. The following nine were elected to the committee on the first ballot:

14 - Geoff Neale (Texas) (14-0)

13 - Bill Hall (Michigan) (13-0)

10 - Chris Farris (Georgia) (10-0)

10 - Dan Karlan (New Jersey) (10-0)

8 - Sean Haugh (North Carolina) (9-1)

8 - Deryl Martin (Tennessee) (8-0)

8 - Rick McGinnis (Texas) (8-0)

7 - Rich Maroney (Iowa) (7-0)

5 - Tim Hagan (Nevada) (5-0)

Fred Collins of Michigan (5-2) and Carl Milsted of North Carolina (3-0) came in tied for the tenth spot with a score of three.

Milsted was selected for that spot by a voice vote, and Collins was named first alternate. With the resignation of Chris Farris, Collins is now a full member of the committee. Under our rules, Neale is the interim chair until the committee formally selects one.

Nelson suggested the August agenda include discussion of LNC recommendations for the Bylaws Committee. Salvette added that they should also appoint the Credentials Committee at that meeting.

The remaining votes were cast as follows:

2 - Donny Ferguson (Virginia) (2-0)

2 - Phil Schmidt (Oregon) (2-0)

2 - Tony Wall (Tennessee) (2-0)

2 - Christy Welty (Iowa) (2-0)

1 - Mark Hinkle (California) (2-1)

1 - Nick Sarwak (Maryland) (2-1)

0 - Derrick Gilliland (North Carolina) (0-0)

0 - Bill Redpath (Virginia) (6-6)

-8 - M Carling (California) (2-10)

-9 - Marianne Volpe (Virginia) (1-10)

-11 - Dana Johansen (Virginia) (1-12)

I personally am most grateful to the LNC for electing me to this committee, and humbled by the trust they have placed in me and my fellow committee members. It looks like it will be a good group of folks I'd enjoy hanging out with at the bar, which gives me incentive to not throttle any of them during deliberations. I personally have a great interest in hearing from any of our members who have suggestions for how we can improve our bylaws. Please feel free to write to me at the address below and I will be happy to pass along any practical suggestions to the rest of the committee.

\*

### 10) Sexual Harassment Policy

Dixon submitted a lengthy addition to the Policy Manual which had been developed by legal counsel explicitly prohibiting sexual harassment and offensive behavior, which Nelson seconded.

Normally I would want to summarize such a lengthy proposal, but in this case the full text is instructive:

"The Libertarian Party is founded on the key principles of liberty, responsibility, and respect. With that foundation, it is expected that libertarians treat each other with professional respect, thoughtful consideration, and fundamental decency. Violation of

this expectation by members of the Party not only risks substantial legal penalties, it also undermines the very legitimacy of the Party and the honor of its members. Violation of this expectation by members of the LNC, whether towards other LNC members or HQ staff, is therefore especially egregious. To prevent such inappropriate behavior, the following standards must be observed:

"a. All collective deprecation, whether alluding to sex, race, color, national origin, disability, age, religion, or any other protected category, must be avoided. Every person is a unique individual, and as the Libertarian Party is the Party of Individual Liberty, this injunction should doubly apply.

"b. Sexual harassment, like other forms of harassment, is prohibited. Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or any other conduct of a sexual nature when: (1) submission to the conduct is made either implicitly or explicitly a condition of employment; (2) submission to or rejection of the conduct is used as the basis of an employment decision affecting the harassed employee; or (3) the harassment has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the employee's work performance or creating an environment that is intimidating, hostile or offensive to the employee.

"c. Any behavior, whether verbal or physical, that clearly offends a reasonable person – libertarian or not – must be avoided. Libertarianism is a philosophy of respect for the individual, and must not be presented as being in harmony with behavior generally regarded as offensive.

"d. Any interaction which might be interpreted as abusing the apparent employer-employee relationship must be avoided. This applies to interactions of LNC members with staff, and is to be extended to interactions with any consultant hired by the LNC.

"You must exercise your own good judgment to avoid any conduct that may have been perceived by others as harassment. The following conduct could constitute harassment:

\* unwanted physical contact \* racial or sexual epithets  
 \* derogatory slurs \* off-color jokes \* sexual innuendo  
 \* unwelcome comments about a person's body \* propositions  
 \* leering \* unwanted prying into a person's private life \* graphic discussions about sexual matters \* suggestive behavior, sounds, gestures or objects \* threats \* derogatory posters, pictures, cartoons or drawings "As a rule of thumb, if you think it might be offensive, it probably is.

"Toward ensuring that all LNC members are thoroughly familiar not only with the policy but also the ramifications of it, they must participate in a standard program of exposure to the issues raised by these concerns. The Chair is responsible to select the content of this training program, in consultation with Counsel, and the participation should be arranged at the earliest practicable opportunity after the person becomes an LNC member.

"Any agreement that the LNC enters into with an affiliate must stipulate that the affiliate incorporates the principles set forth in this policy.

"Any violation of this policy should be brought to the attention of

## Let Freedom Ring!

the Chair, or the Chairman of the Judicial Committee. In response to every complaint, LNC will take prompt and necessary steps to investigate the matter and will protect the individual's confidentiality, as much as possible, recognizing the need to thoroughly investigate all complaints. LNC will take corrective and preventative actions where necessary. LNC will not retaliate against any individual who in good faith brings a complaint to the attention of LNC or participates in an investigation regarding a complaint. Any employee who violates this policy is subject to discipline, up to and including discharge."

Starr and Squyres both wondered if this policy would apply to the whole party. Dixon said besides the reference to affiliates establishing similar policies, there would be separate equivalent provisions put in the employee manual for staff. Colley urged his fellow board members to take the moral high ground, which explains much of the language of the preamble. He suggested the removal of the laundry list because of its vagueness. Wrights agreed that such lists are not exhaustive. Squyres defended the whole document as coming from counsel and needed to cover ourselves.

Dixon stated that a sensitivity session will take place at a future LNC meeting and will become a part of LNC new member training.

Sullentrup moved to amend to add disciplinary action up to and including removal for both LNC members and staff. This passed on a voice vote with no objections.

Starr moved to delete the last sentence. He questioned if the language regarding affiliate agreement with this policy was supportable under the Bylaws which grant state parties autonomy. Time expired, a motion to extend failed, and Starr's motion was defeated on a voice vote.

The main motion as amended carried by a voice vote. Starr and Gilson both wanted their objections noted for the record.

### 11) Political Director

Lieberman and Moulton presented a motion to fill the long vacant position of Political Director before the next convention. Starr and Squyres both said they would want to see a detailed job description before voting to approve. Nelson viewed the motion as micromanagement, saying a better approach would be to give the Executive Director goals and let him determine for himself the staffing required to meet them. When queried for his opinion, Seehusen expressed support for Nelson's view while noting that such a position fits in with the current political initiatives of the national office. He said he is looking for lower cost alternatives than hiring someone with director status.

A roll call vote was requested on the motion to urge the appointment of a Political Director, which went as follows:

YES: Gilson, Lieberman, Moulton and Wrights.

NO: Colley, Breudigam, Hoch, Keil, McGinnis, Nelson, Rutherford, Ryan, Squyres and Starr.

The motion failed 4-10.

### 12) Miscellaneous

Colley reported on the office move upstairs in the Watergate

building to Suite 200, as previously reported. This should be done in mid to late July at a cost of only about \$2,700 and two days work time. Colley said that Kraus has prior experience with commercial real estate and has been very helpful in the process. They are currently negotiating with the management company to improve the lighting and wiring in the call center area. The offices and conference room will be painted a tasteful light broadcloth blue with dark smoke blue trim and smoke blue carpeting. Meanwhile the hallways, call center, galley and server room will be appointed in an unobtrusive light grey blue with dark smoke blue trim and grey multi-blue spec carpeting.

Starr brought forward his test mailing proposal which was detailed in a previous article <http://www.libertyforall.net/2005/april17/Lies.html>. Gilson seconded. Wrights asked for the opinion of legal counsel on whether this passes muster under federal campaign finance law before he would vote. McGinnis moved postponement to the August meeting pending legal review, which passed on a voice vote. Starr also had a proposal for providing states with incentives for membership recruitment, which failed on a voice vote.

Michael Badnarik was given 15 minutes on the agenda and after a few words about the importance of college outreach promptly ceded his time to Raymond Bryant. Bryant is forming a "national youth contact initiative" designed to create and support Libertarian activists on campus. He sees a need for a communication network for LP college organizers and a special mission focus for college youth which he hopes to provide. He handed out a report describing how five member teams would travel to a campus once per week for a three day seminar, at an estimated cost of \$250,000. Lark apprized Bryant of the campus organizing efforts already underway and they continued their conversation after the meeting. You can check out Bryant's vision at <http://www.libertymove.org/>.

Sullentrup proposed that the approval of the minutes take place automatically through an online process of review. This passed by a show of hands 8-7. Later in the meeting and possibly for the last time, Wrights once again cast the only vote against approving the minutes.

Sullentrup reported that the final Presidential vote totals used in determining delegate allocation were distributed to the states. They have until May 31st to report any corrections. The final version of this is due at the end of July.

Shane Cory gave a presentation on the redesigned website, as described in my last meeting report, which launched on April 23rd. He reported that responses for both the poll and the blog were very high and very positive. Our Alexa rating has jumped over 10,000 places since then, reaching the highs of November 2004. (As of this writing Alexa lists us at 22,507, with a gain of 9,472 spots from three months ago.)

Keil submitted a report on the status of the Branding project. After meeting with three finalists, Keil and Seehusen chose the Frost Miller Group as a contractor. Keil reports that it is, "one of the top 25 branding and marketing firms in the DC area and has done a large amount of work with the many membership associations in DC." The first phase of their work, to discover the LP



## Let Freedom Ring!

brand, should commence in early June at a cost of \$17,500. That is less than the cash on hand for the project so no additional fundraising is needed yet.

Gilson submitted a report on the status of the Program. The report can be viewed at <http://www.libertarianprogram.uni.cc/>. Gilson envisions the Program as far more than a set of transitional public policy recommendations as dictated by the party bylaws, but as a complete resource toolkit for candidates and activists. He stated that the Program should be complete in time for the next convention. Several LNC members expressed impatience with the lack of progress, as there has not been a new one created since 1994. A few commented that while it may be very nice, Gilson's toolkit is everything but a Program. It will be interesting to see if anything gets done in this area before next July.

Dixon said he hesitates to keep Strategic Planning review (SPT) on the agenda for the August meeting as he does not see broad support for it on the LNC. Nelson suggested they focus on about three items achievable in the next term. Starr agreed with this as well as the need for solid metrics. A consensus was reached to move forward according to this plan. Dixon is still seeking nominations of libertarians from outside the party and elected Libertarians for the SPT review.

Matters that received scant attention and were deferred to the August meeting due to either the project coordinators not being present or reports or actions not submitted in a timely manner include approval of the governing documents of the Libertarian National Congressional Committee, the appointment of a new external auditor for 2004, and the restructuring of the Policy Manual. Dixon and Lark are working on the Convention and still looking to assign its various responsibilities. Dixon said they were working with the Oregon LP, especially on outreach events. The Texas LP is hosting a regional conference in Austin September 16-18. Nancy Neale is organizing the event, which will include candidate training by the Leadership Institute. The LNC agreed to help promote it.

There are many changes in regional representation either already taking place or possibly happening in the near future. Starr reported that Regional Alternate Mark Hinkle (Region 2-California) has resigned and is being replaced by Mark Whitney. Regional Representative M Carling (Region 2-California) has established a residence in New York and accepted a position on the NYLP Executive Committee, but there was no word on whether he will retain his seat on the California LP's Executive Committee or his seat as a Regional Representative from California. With the resignation of Farris, Region 4 will have to appoint someone to replace him. And Breudigam announced she is moving to Texas, which depending on the timing of her move may cause her to step down as the Region 3 rep.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 13-14 at the Airport Marriott in Kansas City. The meeting scheduled for November 12-13 was planned for Denver but may be moved to Baltimore. A straw poll of LNC members showed a preference for Baltimore, and a site will be chosen soon.

\*

This report is funded by your generous donations. I can only continue to provide them if you contribute. All donors to my meeting report fund receive my LNC reports and articles as they are submitted for publication. Please contact me at [seanhaugh@mindspring.com](mailto:seanhaugh@mindspring.com) or 919-286-0152 to find out how to help. Also feel free to call or write if you have any follow up questions on this report.

## Now is the Time! Put the Elephant to Sleep

The American electoral system tends to favor the political outcome that there exist at most two major parties. Here in Massachusetts, those rules are equally happy to give the current outcome, namely that in Massachusetts we have one major party.

Now is the time to change the rules, and ensure that Massachusetts again has two major parties, us and the Democrats.

What of the Republicans? It is not that we hate the elephant. In Massachusetts, the elephant is a family pet, old, tired, and sick. The Republican Party controls but 6 of 40 Senate seats, fewer than two dozen State Representative seats, not a single seat on the Executive Council, and not a single Federal office. The Republican elephant deserves to be put mercifully to political sleep.

To allow the great beast to slumber a little deeper, we need to run strong candidates in those 6 State Senate and two dozen State Representative districts, and good candidates elsewhere across the Commonwealth. Our candidates must emphasize issues that divide the Republican Party. By reducing the Republicans to a half-dozen seats their last traces of credibility will vanish.

In the Federal level, there are no Republicans. Massachusetts Libertarians can therefore proceed to run serious candidates for Federal office.

Core Republicans stands: criminalization of abortion, defense welfare, Internet censorship, farm and industrial welfare, labor and gay-bashing, green-bashing, and the War on Iraq are not very salable in Massachusetts. These are issues on which Republicans and Libertarians differ. Our stands in favor of low taxes, small government, the whole Bill of Rights, and free-trade, and against government regulation, the war on drugs, conscription, and foreign intervention are issues that voters support.

Some will argue that the Republican Party restrains the Democrats. There are six Republicans in the State Senate. They are as useless as a snow shovel in Hawaii. Even on as fundamental an issue as gun control, in 1998 it was the Democratic Party that provided the votes to save the Second Amendment.

The question is simple. Are there enough pro-liberty candidates in Massachusetts who are willing to **Stand Up for Liberty!** and run in the necessary seats?

I remind you, though, of one basic principle. Libertarians and many others piously profess not to believe in a free lunch. When it comes to the ballot box, though, these pious professions sink to inaudibility. All too many Libertarians believe that there is a free lunch at the ballot box. All too many Libertarians believe that they need to do nothing but show up and vote on election day, and that magically there will be Libertarian candidates on the ballot, awaiting their votes.

There are no truly free lunches. In particular, there are no free lunches at the ballot box! If you want candidates for whom you can vote, you have the responsibility of going out and getting them on the ballot, so that come November 2006 you can vote for them.