

# Let Freedom Ring!

Volume 5 Number 10.

Back Issues at <http://www.cmlc.org/cmlc/pubs.htm>

October 2003

**Let Freedom Ring!** 2002 NatCon Financials, PVLA Tent Reaches Boston, LNC Meets!, Things to Do....1; Foreign Translation Cheap Effective Outreach!, Improve Ballot Access....2, How LPMA Resources are Being Used.....6  
**Libertarian Strategy Gazette** LNC/State Chairs Debate Spending, State Chairs Meet...1; New Polling Technology.....3; Data Base Management, A Rational View on Homosexual Marriage....4; What a Good State Party Does.....5, 6

**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](http://www.pvla.net)) and others. 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", please.

## 2002 National Convention Financial Report

Let Freedom Ring! has had supplied to it by fine sources the Financial Report on the 2002 National Convention, as prepared by Geoffrey Neale, to be presented to the LNC on September 13, 2003. The report shows the enormous amount of work that National Chair Neale has had to do to overcome the situation created by his three predecessors as National Chair and the two immediate past National Directors. We follow his report with a summary of interesting data from the spreadsheets. The report as given to **Let Freedom Ring!** reads:

"I have spent some considerable time over the last six months trying to assemble as much detailed information regarding the final disposition of the 2002 Libertarian National Convention held in Indianapolis, Indiana from July 4<sup>th</sup> through July 7<sup>th</sup>.

In order to do this, I have taken copies of every document related to the 2002 Convention I could find at National, including all data files of Steve Dasbach, copies of Dasbach's physical files,

[NatCon 2002 Financials] (Continued on page 3)

## LNC Meets!

Abridged LNC Meeting Report, September 13-14, 2003, Denver CO by Sean Haugh, Region 4 Alternate

1) Executive Director Hired  
Joe Seehusen was offered a permanent contract at this meeting. Up until this point, he had been working through a probationary period. Based on his rather remarkable performance since he was brought on in May, we were unanimous in approving the terms. Mr. Seehusen was offered a salary of \$80,000 a year, but chose to return \$2500 of that as a donation. He is eligible for bonuses of \$5000 each quarter and \$5000 at year's end, which will be given if the national office meets standards for membership growth, donor growth, and media placement. The contract has an effective date of September 15th, the Monday after the meeting, and a renewal date of

[LNC Meets] (Continued on page 4)

## PVLA Tent Reaches Boston!

Saturday, September 20, 2003. 50,000 Bostonians congregated on the Boston Common to hear rock bands and political speeches advocating the re-legalization of marijuana. From 12 until 6 musical sound and rhetorical profundity echoed out into neighboring Boston streets.

Square in the middle was the Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association's tent, with OPH booth, literature of all sorts, all assembled to advance the cause of Liberty. Without the tent the sun and heat would have been truly staggering. PVLA members present were Carol McMahon and George Phillis. We were joined by Free State Project supporter Amanda Phillips, daughter Elaine, and Connecticut FSP supporter Bob Lloyd. We found a significant number of people who were interested in volunteering for serious Libertarian activities such as petitioning.

The tent also meant that everyone looking for Libertarians came to us first, so we sent on the right way LPMA volunteers, friends, and event organizers trying frantically in the last minutes before his scheduled speech to find Gary Nolan. (They found him. He spoke. He named fine local candidates from eastern Massachusetts.)

## Things to Do

Rich Tomasso reports: Today I was able to get the Nashua Public Library to display our newsletter in their "community" section with the newsletters of other civic and charitable organizations. I'm asking for every member to check with their public library if it has a similar option for non-profits (which we are) to leave copies of their newsletter for display and distribution. I can provide you with all the necessary copies and be the contact for any inquiries you can't handle from the library staff.

Cinda Jones: is mobilizing people to oppose the Federal taking of the M&M Trail as a National Scenic Trail. There are opportunities to join the feasibility task force. First, to become informed, contact Cinda Jones POB 9303, North Amherst MA 01059, 413 549 1403. Then become active. She has contacts for the commission for people living in counties are Franklin County: and for the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission in West Springfield.

**Let Freedom Ring! Available Electronically at <http://www.cmlc.org/cmlc/pubs.htm>**

## Foreign Translation Cheap, Effective Outreach!

I sometimes have doubts about Libertarian outreach programs. PVLA and CMLC, considering the scant resources seem to be very visible. I cannot help but wonder if many of the stories coming out of Arizona are merely a tempest in a tea pot.

As the planes with immigrants arrive, the immigrants go to "citizenship" classes and get their information mostly from the government and party operatives. What do new immigrants find if they explore political parties? The Democratic and Republican National Parties have web sites in Spanish, widely spoken in the U.S., but not the Libertarian Party at <http://www.lp.org/>

You also have to look pretty hard to find your states' Libertarian Party page. Most government is in the hands of the states.

Southern states with very large Spanish speaking populations apparently have web pages in English only, such as

<http://www.aznorthernalliance.org/>

<http://www.lpnm.org/>

<http://www.ca.lp.org/>

I guess Californians will have to listen to Bustamente

<http://www.lpf.org/>

The State of Maine pages have No French

[www.lpme.org/](http://www.lpme.org/)

PVLA and CMLC web sites have Spanish language information, mostly directed toward Puerto Rican immigrants who are citizens with full voting rights

<http://www.pvla.NET>

<http://www.cmlc.org> (some pages are less visible than others)

Connecticut, with comparable Number of Spanish Speakers is English Only

<http://www.lpct.org/>

as is New York

<http://ny.lp.org/>

The Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership has the Bill of Rights in many modern languages

<http://www.jpfo.org/bor.htm>

Translation was probably relatively inexpensive to do, much less than the cost of Project Archimedes.

Robert Joseph Underwood

**PVLA MEMBER**

83 Cherrelyn St.

Springfield, MA 01104-2441

## Improve Ballot Access

Libertarian Hunter Schaeffer of Georgia provides us with a draft letter to your Congressman. The letter, sketched by Richard Winger, seeks to improve ballot access in Federal elections.

Dear Congressman (NAME),

Please co-sponsor HR 1941, by Congressman Ron Paul. HR 1941 would override state election laws that make it difficult or impossible for minor party or independent candidates to get on the ballot in US House races. Article One, sec. 4, of the Constitution gives Congress the authority to write election laws for Congressional elections, so HR 1941 is well within the authority of Congress.

HR 1941 is badly needed, because a few states have virtually outlawed competition to the Democratic and Republican nominees in US House elections. Georgia's law is so severe, in 60 years, no party other than the Democratic and Republican Parties has been able to place a nominee on the ballot for the US House. Former president Jimmy Carter recently criticized this Georgia law, yet predicted that the Georgia legislature will never change it. All attempts to get the courts to strike it down have failed.

During the 20th century, one-half of 1% of all US House elections have been won by people who were not Democratic or Republican nominees. Georgia, by keeping such candidates off its ballot, is denying the voters a free choice of whom should represent them in the US House. Some other states are little better. Congress can fix this problem. Please co-sponsor HR 1941.

## Show Your Liberty Spirit!

### Become

your name@4l i b e r t y . n e t

## Now \$14/month

## for Libertarians

[excell.net/excellnet\\_national-dialups.htm](http://excell.net/excellnet_national-dialups.htm)

**Dialup in most states and Canada.**

## Libertarian Owned

## Libertarian Operated

## Supporters of the

## Pioneer Valley

## Libertarian Association

(Continued from page 1) [National Convention Financials]

records of all AP accounts related to convention expenses, and data files provided to me by Nick Dunbar. I have obtained detailed records from the Marriott hotel where records in office did not exist. Additionally, Marti Balcom at Balcom Group was most helpful in filling in some of the details that were otherwise not available.

For the record, I want to state that I found record-keeping practices at National to be an obstacle to constructing this report. I found the following circumstances to exist:

1. I could find no copies of any speaker contracts, and could only assume the compensation negotiated based upon various sources such as hotel charges, reimbursements, etc.
2. Although banquet fundraising revenues were not credited to the Convention in the GL, premiums purchased for the fundraiser were (I've remove them from my numbers).
3. Credit card charges for travel often did not specify the person traveling. To the best of my ability I have back-tracked who the traveler was based upon flight schedule and timing.
4. Our use of the GL to monitor the status of the conventions is totally insufficient, as what we need is a project P&L, not a calendar year P&L. I have assumed no expenses prior to 2001 for the convention, but some may exist. Further investigation at this point would be pretty difficult, and not of significant impact (in my opinion).
5. Bookkeeping practices to the account system were totally insufficient to properly reconcile expenses, due to the practice of booking a net amount instead of booking the individual component transactions that made up the net. Example: Balcom Group presented us with an invoice for \$319.82. This was composed of two separate line items of revenue for a sum of \$10,316.00 and expense items for \$10,335.82. Sure, the net is correct, but by doing the accounting in this manner, the revenues are understated, as are the expenses.
6. Exhibitors were charged rates of \$0 to \$600 per space, with no annotation as to why.

I've done my best with what I could find or dig up, and have created this report. There is also an Excel spreadsheet that shows what I've determined in greater detail. This spreadsheet (2002 LP Convention Report) contains the following tabs:

1. 2002 P&L – a Profit/Loss Statement for all convention ex-

### Now Available in Paperback

George Phillie's 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>

penses and revenues

2. Registration revenues – a breakdown of registration sales by package and individual event.
3. Registration Patterns by Units – a further breakdown of package and event unit sales by month,.
4. Registration Patterns by Amount – a further breakdown of package and event amount sales by month.
5. Actual Expenses – a detail from the GL and from other documents listing where money was spent. In several cases, I've summarized small transaction expenses for clarity. I saw no need to not accumulate total telecommunication costs, as an example.
6. Hotel Room Expenses. Since we received a group of free rooms, and a group of 50% rate rooms, and also received a rebate based upon total paid room nights, I have reported every room charge we paid for, and allocated the rebates across each room in order to determine staff and speaker room costs.
7. Hotel Miscellaneous Charges – these charges were on the master bill from Marriott, and needed to be allocated into different functional areas than was done in the GL.
8. Exhibitors – a list of each exhibitor, what they paid, and why they received a discount (if I could figure it out).
9. Catering – The Marriott provided us with a bill totaling all catering charges, then crediting us with a discount (per our contract). I have applied this rebate proportionally across all catering bills in order to determine costs per event.
10. Comped Packages – This list shows who received comped packages in exchange for services provided to the Convention.
11. Speakers – This shows all speakers, and what they did for us.
12. Speaker Costs – This list shows, by event, what we paid for the speakers, in terms of comped packages (calculated at our cost for catering only), travel, hotel, etc.
13. BEOs – Shows a list of all Banquet Event Orders on the convention.

It was my intention with this report to try to give to future LNC's and Conventions a meaningful summary of the 2002 Convention. I am completely open to suggestions for further additions to this report.

### Conclusions

I want to make the following observations regarding the 2002 Convention.

1. No one on staff had any real idea how much money we made or lost. Dasbach was estimating the numbers, but our accounting methods were totally inadequate for the purpose. This cannot be repeated in the future.
2. We paid a total of \$34,509.05 for outside management of the convention. I'm not sure I can state whether this was of value to us or not. But since this represented a total of 20% of our expenses, and 22.3% of our revenues, it is an obvious item of attention.
3. Although the total convention hall expenses show on the P&L as \$10,423.05, this number belies the fact that the Convention Center received a rebate of \$14,370 from the Marriott

## Let Freedom Ring!

Hotel as a pass-through for room nights purchased at the hotel. Let me put this another way: our room night charges were \$10 higher per night than they could have been otherwise if we had held the convention in the hotel. As a person who paid for 12 regular room nights and 4 hospitality room nights (which counted double on the rebate), I'd of rather have seen the \$200 come off of my bill. This may be standard practice in the convention business, but I'm sure many attendees will not like to hear how they paid for the convention space. One of the obvious facts in this equation is that people who live within driving distance not only save travel time and money, but also did **not** pay a proportional share of the convention expenses, since expenses were **not** paid completely out of LP revenues.

4. I am troubled by the inequities in the compensation for several of our speakers. I'm not troubled by the negotiations necessary to obtain "outsiders" to speak for us – I'm troubled at which party insiders got what in terms of benefits for their services. Examples:

a. Sarah Lawrence gave one breakout session, and received a comped exhibit space.

b. One of the Breakfast of Champions events was a panel of four former National Candidates – Ed Clark, John Hospers, David Bergland and Tonie Nathan. Given the timeframe, each gave us about 15 minutes. The only one of the four to do anything additional was David Bergland, who conducted a one hour breakout. Each of the four received complimentary Gold packages. Between the four, they received seven room nights at our expense (Ed Clark received none). We also paid the travel expenses for all but Ed Clark.

c. Mary Ruwart gave two breakout sessions, moderated a panel on a third, and received nothing. She paid full fare for her convention package. She paid full fare for her exhibit space.

5. We paid close to \$1,000 for software services to give us the delegate system and badge printing we got. What a waste of money.

6. We paid the travel and hotel and some food for 16 staff and volunteers. Our total revenues at the convention were less than \$19,000. I cannot believe that this level of expenditure was necessary. Surely local volunteers could have helped out some. If we were to allocate staff time back to the convention expenses, this number would skyrocket.

7. The Convention programs (that 4 1/4" x 11" booklet) cost more than \$4 each. (WOW!)

I welcome any suggestions from anyone on how to flesh this out further.

*Your Editor adds:*

And from our copy of the spreadsheet, who reportedly got free nights at the hotel? There were speakers. In addition:

Seven nights—Lark, James

Six nights—Caron, Eric; Getz, George; Winter, Bill

Five nights—Creager, Ananda; Damerell, Steve; Pilcher, Dianne; Sandusky, Mark;

Four Nights—Schreiber, Mark; Trager, Jonathan;

Three Nights—David Bergland, Harry Browne

Readers will recall that a year earlier the LNC had had pointed words toward Bergland and Browne relating to their refusal to answer LNC questions about the 1996 Presidential Nomination Scandal. Lark was the only LNC member with free room.

(Continued from page 1) [LNC Meets]

June 30, 2005. The terms will be publicly available once it is complete.

2) Finances

The overall financial picture is reasonably good. We have essentially pulled even. All our debts, including UMP payments, are now current with few exceptions. The latest fundraising letter has brought in over \$150,000, and is still making money. Not only was the text of the letter strong, it has been rolled out to our members and supporters in a way that has maximized its profit. It is the first of what I hope are many examples of Mr. Seehusen's policy of seeking experienced professional advice from outside the party to improve all aspects of our fundraising. The next fundraising letter is scheduled to go out around October 7th.

Since the last meeting, Nick Dunbar left as Operations Director, and was replaced by Rod Severson of South Carolina. Mr. Severson has been quite diligent in straightening out the books and getting us closer to a clear understanding of our finances. This is most welcome, as many members of the LNC, including myself, have been deeply concerned about the accuracy and clarity of these reports since the beginning of the recent financial crisis. As part of the conversion from VAM to QuickBooks, Mr. Severson has been rebooking every single entry since the beginning of 2003. Many errors and unnecessary ongoing payments have been uncovered.

I moved that the LNC declare we are no longer in a state of financial exigency, which resulted in the first role call vote. Declaring we are in a state of financial exigency allows us to take extraordinary measures such as issuing promissory notes. The motion passed 8-5-3.

Those voting yes were: Ken Bisson (Vice Chair - IN), Fred Childress (Region 5 - VA), Joe Dehn (Region 2 - CA), Sean Haugh (Region 4 - NC), Ed Hoch (Region 1 - AK), Bill Redpath (Treasurer - VA), Steve Trinward (Region 7 - TN), and Lee Wrights (At-large - NC). Voting no were: Michael Dixon (At-large - NC), Steve Givot (Secretary - IL), Mark Nelson (Region 6 - IA), Mark Rutherford (Region 3 - IN), and BetteRose Ryan (At-large - SD). Abstaining were: Bonnie Scott (Region 6 - NY), George Squyres (Region 2 - AZ), and Geoff Neale (Chair - TX).

Mark Nelson offered a motion to restrict the Treasurer from developing other financial reports until the reports detailed in the policy manual had been completed for three months running. This lost 5-8-3.

Voting Yes: Dixon, Nelson, Rutherford, Ryan, and Squyres. No: Bisson, Childress, Dehn, Givot, Haugh, Hoch, Scott, and Wrights. Abstain: Redpath, Trinward, and Neale.

I voted no because I never object to receiving extra information. I just want the basic reports done accurately, and do not see the receipt of other information as the obstacle to getting them. The obstacle, in my view, is the volume of incorrect entries, which is being corrected by Mr. Severson.

### 3) Dues Increase is Dead

Between our last meeting in Seattle and this one, it became clear that both the patience and the will for a dues increase had run out. The only question left was whether to change life membership. Mr. Nelson offered a motion to increase it from \$1000 to \$2500, with a proportional increase in the state parties' UMP payments. This motion failed 6-7-1, and resulted in another roll call vote:

Voting Yes: Dehn, Givot, Nelson, Redpath, Rutherford, and Trinward. No: Bisson, Dixon, Haugh, Ryan, Squyres, Wrights, and Neale. Abstain: Hoch and Scott.

Mr. Neale cast the tie-breaker, reasoning that such a major vote should not pass by such a thin margin. I voted no for three reasons. I believe the members overall are opposed to any dues increase at this time. I have found in my own fundraising that life membership is by no means any indication of ongoing giving, which makes me suspect that we should abolish life membership entirely. And, when expressing support for the notion in a straw poll taken before the formal vote, I jokingly interjected "soak the rich!" When I heard those words come out of my mouth, I immediately realized what a ridiculous position that is for a Libertarian to hold, and essentially talked myself out of following through with my initial sentiment.

### 4) Branding

No action was taken on branding at this meeting. Mr. Seehusen has solicited proposals from several firms, but has not taken any action on them yet. Mr. Severson's rebooking project will have to be completed before we will know whether we have the funds to move forward and hire any of the bidders. Until then, the contents of the bids are confidential.

Mr. Redpath moved that no more money be spent on branding or the selection of core constituencies. This failed 3-12-1.

Voting Yes: Dehn, Hoch, and Redpath. No: Bisson, Dixon, Givot, Haugh, Nelson, Rutherford, Ryan, Scott, Squyres, Trinward, Wrights, and Neale. Abstain: Childress.

Former LP Marketing Director Mark Schreiber is not among those bidding on this project. He was offered a consulting role when he ceased to be a permanent employee, and has been offered many opportunities to bid or advise us in writing. Mr. Schreiber has submitted nothing at all in response to these requests. So, in absence of his input, other plans are now being solicited, received, and reviewed. While I cannot comment on the contents of the proposals, I will say that this is another area where Mr. Seehusen has done well to seek knowledgeable professional assistance from outside the party.

### 5) Ballot Access

Like branding, ballot access funding also awaits a budget. Mr. Neale had submitted a plan which prioritizes the states which we expect will need outside assistance to gain ballot access. That plan was approved on a voice vote. The plan emphasizes getting the LNC out of the ballot access business through various means. The main goal is to transmit knowledge to the

states so they will be more able to run their own petitioning drives. Other options include lobbying for changes in ballot access laws, and maximizing opportunities to win ballot access through vote totals or voter registration.

The total estimated cost to the national party for "50 state" ballot access (in quotes because it includes DC and Guam) is currently \$325,171.90. Of that, Oklahoma and West Virginia amount to \$154,533. The other nine states which may need help (Connecticut, DC, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Ohio, Texas, and North and South Dakota) are estimated to cost the remaining \$170,638.90.

Of those, Ohio has the earliest deadline, and has reduced their estimated requirement of outside assistance to only \$8000. A proposal submitted by former LP Political Director Ron Crickenger to run the West Virginia drive as an independent contractor was not acted upon. LNC Treasurer Bill Redpath is actively raising money for ballot access by phone.

### 6) Committee Appointments

The Audit Committee, which was supposed to report about hiring a new outside auditor, was dissolved and a new one was appointed. Jeff Zweber (OH) was named Chair. Also appointed were Mark Nelson (IA) and M Carling (CA). This was also the meeting to appoint members of the committees associated with the upcoming convention. The Credentials Committee includes five members appointed by the LNC. Emily Salvette (MI) and Dena Breudigam (OH) were also selected.

The Bylaws Committee has ten members, all appointed by the LNC. Only four applied, and all were selected. Mark Nelson (IA) was named Chair. Also appointed were M Carling (CA), Ralph Swanson (FL), and Marianne Volpe (VA).

The Platform Committee appointments yielded the most excitement. This committee is composed of ten members appointed by the LNC, and ten more from each of the largest ten states.

We decided to renew our practice of two years ago, which was judged to have worked well. Each board member was given ten votes, which could be cast either positively or negatively. The negative votes were subtracted from the positive to yield the score rating our choices. The vote was as follows:

Robert Murphy (OK) 13-0 David Aitken (CO) 12-0  
 Michael Dixon (NC) 12-0 George Squyres (AZ) 12-0  
 Sam Goldstein (IN) 10-0 Bonnie Scott (NY) 10-0  
 Lorenzo Gaztenaga (MD) 9-0 Trevor Southerland (TN) 7-0  
 Lee Wrights (NC) 8-1 Steve Trinward (TN) 8-2  
 Rich Tomasso (NH) 5-1 Mark Hinkle (CA) 4-0  
 Michael Gilson De Lemos (FL) 4-4  
 Gary Copeland (CA) 0-6 Aaron Biterman (WI) 0-7

Mr. Dixon was named Chair. Mr. Tomasso was named first alternate, and Mr. Hinkle was named second alternate. In Region 4, Georgia and Florida will most likely both be in the top

## Let Freedom Ring!

five at month's end, and will need to make their selections for the Credentials and Platform Committees.

### 7) 2004 Budget

The Executive Committee of the LNC will meet in Baltimore on October 4-5, 2003, to develop the 2004 budget. The board was given the opportunity to establish any guidelines for the creation of next year's budget.

The following guidelines were adopted without objection:

1) the draft budget will be submitted for LNC review no later than two weeks before the December meeting (submitted by Mr. Wrights - Mr. Neale said in response that his target distribution date is November 1st), 2) the draft be distributed in both excel and adobe formats (Ryan), 3) that it maintain fiscally conservative assumptions on revenue and membership numbers, including zero revenue from major donors (Ryan), 4) that it recognize the increased media and inquiry response rates that coincide with a Presidential election year (Nelson), and, 5) that it not neglect funding UMP (Wright). Guidelines that were not unanimous, but which passed by voice vote: 6) that it continue to be based upon the self-funding project model instituted by the 2003 budget (Trinward), and, 7) that the work product of the October meeting be clearly labeled "draft" and be considered not confidential (Haugh).

Three other suggestions failed to be adopted. Mr. Redpath suggested that the budget include funding for a Political Director, to be hired at the beginning of the year, which failed by a voice vote. (I voted against, as I believe the Executive Director is the one who should request such funding if he thinks it is needed.)

Mr. Givot moved that the projected calculated reserve on December 31, 2004, be increased to \$150,000 (which is about three times the amount called for by current policy), which failed on a 5-8 vote. (I voted in favor.) Mr. Redpath moved that ballot access be transferred from a self-funding project expense to a core expense. This failed 4-10-1, and resulted in our record breaking fifth roll call vote. Voting Yes: Dehn, Mike Fellows (Region 1 Alternate - MT), Haugh, and Redpath. No: Bisson, Dixon, Givot, Nelson, Rutherford, Ryan, Squyres, Trinward, Wrights, and Neale. Abstain: Scott. Apparently, some of the "no" voters were concerned that ballot access could achieve greater funding and autonomy by remaining as a self-funded line item.

A motion that we make our best effort to hire a new LP News Editor by January 1, 2004 passed by a voice vote.

### 8) SPT Review

Mr. Givot and I will be working together to develop guidelines for future reviews of the Strategic Planning Team final report. These ground rules will be discussed in the December meeting, for implementation during the next SPT review scheduled for February 2004.

Each year, the LNC is charged with establishing and reviewing metrics to chart our progress towards implementing the Strategic Plan. Next year is a major review, where we will establish metrics for the next four-year election cycle. Dan Karlan (NJ), who was a member of the original Strategic Planning Team, has offered many valuable suggestions which will be the foundation of our recommendations. Other SPT members who do not currently serve on the LNC are also being polled for their feedback.

For a full report, read Sean Haugh's most excellent column in Liberty for All! at <http://www.libertyforall.com>

## How LPMA Resources Are Being Invested

LPMA Activists is a closely held email list of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts. It is targeted at Massachusetts activists. Unsurprisingly, when time for the Annual Freedom Rally on the Boston Common rolled around, the LPMA Activists list was used to call out volunteers for the activism booth. This is a fine thing, even though the LPMA refuses to share its list of contacts in Worcester County with its own Worcester County affiliate. However, buried in the announcement was the statement

*"Gary Nolan, one of our Libertarian Presidential candidates, will be a featured speaker at the event. Let's pitch in to help the Nolan campaign pass out fliers and get their message out to the crowd."*

I asked the fine people—not active in LP politics—running the Freedom Rally why Nolan was invited, and not his chief opponent, Mr. Badnarik. They didn't know Nolan had an opponent. Mr. Nolan was invited because folks in the 'Carla Howell camp' had pushed for him. (By the time the Freedom Rally people invited him, Badnarik had a commitment elsewhere for the day.)

The memo, in part mobilizing LPMA members to support Gary Nolan, was from State Executive Director Kay Pirrello, who we are advised—according to answers from Mr. Nolan—is a Nolan Volunteer Coordinator. The Activists List is a State Party resource, visibly going to help a private political interest opposed by many Massachusetts Libertarians. Pirrello is also on the LNC National Convention Committee, which had not been aware of her tie to Nolan.

And then there is the Howell Small Government Committee, Howell's fundraising tool. It has been billed as an independent political group not associated with the Massachusetts Libertarian Party. Howell's resources, her lists of volunteers, etc., are 'pro-prietary', not available to other Massachusetts Libertarians, as Craig Mathias learned during his State Representative Campaign. Our good friends received electronically Small Government News, the official newsletter of the Committee for Small Government, the Thursday, September 25, 2003 2:03 AM mailing. The Committee reports "...we have paid our debt down to \$72,359...", outlines plans, and asks for funds to be sent electronically to <https://www.lpma.org/ms/sga/sga.php>. As you may readily confirm, lpma.org is the URL tag of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts. Use of lpma.org by Small Government came as a surprise to at least some members of the LPMA Party Executive Committee. In December 2002 the Small Government Committee paid Howell, Small Government Committee Treasurer Michael Cloud, and current State Party Executive Director Kay Pirrello four-digit sums for 'consulting', raising conflict of interest questions on use of the state URL.

If you want the State Party to be improved, you are going to have to take the matter in your own hands and do it. It won't happen by itself. How? Give me a call or write. George Phillies 508 754 1859 [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net)