

# Let Freedom Ring!

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## Russo Enters Presidential Race

Successful businessman Aaron Russo has entered the race for the LP Presidential nomination. His announced campaign message runs:

"America's in crisis and we're facing great danger from our own government. I've identified twelve points every American should be alarmed about. Let's examine what they are, and see what our government is doing:

1. Both political parties lie to us, and neither can be trusted.
2. Our economy is a disaster.
3. We're losing our right to free speech.
4. Both parties passed the Patriot Act, a crime against all Americans.
5. Both wage war against medical marijuana and alternative medicine.
6. Both attack our right to bear arms.
7. Both parties overtax, overspend, and over-regulate.
8. Where is the gold owned by the American people? Neither party will address this issue and we need answers.
9. Both parties station our troops around the world rather than protecting our borders from terrorism and illegal immigration.
10. Both parties are guilty of starting the war in Iraq.

[Russo Enters Race] (Continued on page 3)

## Jain Resigns As State Chair State Party Finances Challenging State Committee Meets, Gives \$4750 to Cloud's Senate Campaign on 6-3 vote

Your humble correspondent attended the LP State Committee meeting held Sunday, 1/18 in Waltham.

For clarity my report does not follow the agenda order.

State Chair Kamal Jain announced that he resigned as Chair effective the end of the meeting. He remains on the State Committee. State Political Director Dennis Corrigan has resigned.

David Roscoe presented his report as Membership Secretary. On 1/25/2002, we had 890 members, and 64 people who had paid money but not taken the oath. On 1/1/2004, we had 488 members, and 30 people who paid money but had not taken the oath, a decline of almost half. Inquiries in the past 12 months were 471, while in the prior year they had been 876.

Walter Ziobro presented a Treasurer's report. The

[Out of Cash?](Continued on page 2)

## Statements from Gary Nolan and Michael Badnarik

To balance the Russo Statement, above, we present the matching statements (edited to the same length) from the front pages of the Gary Nolan ([garynolan.com](http://garynolan.com)) and Michael Badnarik ([badnarik.com](http://badnarik.com)) web sites.

### Gary Nolan in his Own Words

I want to see the Libertarian Party grow and succeed. I want to see libertarian ideas debated and adopted by our fellow citizens. That's why I'm running for President.

We have the best political ideas -- real solutions for the problems faced by ordinary Americans. However, we need to do a much better job communicating those ideas to the public.

I've built a successful career as a nationally-syndicated talk-radio host on my communication skills -- my ability to relate to listeners and present libertarian ideas in ways that are interesting and entertaining.

[Nolan, Badnarik] (Continued on page 3)

## Where Your Money Went

For the final quarter of 2003, the Russo campaign brought in \$15787 and spent \$13442, including \$5000 for public relations, \$5500 for web site issues, \$600 for video editing, and \$300 for voter list research.

For the same quarter, the Badnarik campaign reports total receipts of \$2646 and total disbursements of \$2572, leaving a closing cash on hand of \$1067. For the year 2003, total operating expenditures were \$23861. Principal expenditures were \$628 for fliers, \$1236 to Lorrie Kopp for contract services, and just under \$700 for telephone services.

For the last month of 2003, the LNC brought in just under \$140,000, for a total income for the year of 1.76 million dollars, and spent \$128,000, for a total spending for the year of 1.725 million, including \$1000 in ballot access support to the Ohio LP.

## Let Freedom Ring!

(Continued from page 1) [Out of Cash!]

State Party Federal Account brought in \$41 472 in 2003, and spent \$40 627, for a net of \$845. The State Party State Account brought in \$1117, but spent \$724 on credit card and related fees, so it netted only \$392. There is \$7555 on hand in the FEC account, and \$493 in the State Account.

The State Party owes Kamal Jain \$1890 for newsletter printing, and owes Edward McCormick (Party's Attorney) \$2620.

The next agenda item was a request from the Cloud Senate Campaign. Last Summer, Michael Cloud and associates ran a fundraising event for the State Party, to raise money for ballot access. Through hard work, they raised \$6300 or so. A small amount of this has been spent. There are no current plans to spend the rest on ballot access. Mr. Cloud, whose 2002 Senate Campaign campaign is severely in debt, proposed that the money that his hard work had raised should be given instead to his campaign to pay off part of his debt. There was debate. Treasurer Ziobro noted that the legal limit on support to the Cloud campaign was \$4750, because we had previously given \$250 against a legal maximum of \$5000. Does the LPMA spend its money as it promises? It was noted that at last year's convention we raised money at the banquet, but only the part of that money that was net of convention costs went to the promised purposes. If I heard correctly, last year rather little of the money generated at the fundraiser was sent on anything except convention expenses.

There was a discussion between Pirrello, Howell, and Jain. Let me emphasize that there was a lot of subtext in the discussion, and I do not know to what each of them was referring. They differed as to whether we had previously spent money improperly (this adverb was not defined further), whether propriety was ignored unless it was money for the Howell and Cloud campaigns who were uniquely penalized, or whether the LPMA had not done improper things.

It was asserted that the LPMA has no legal obligation to honor promises made to donors. It was felt that as an ethical matter that donors should be asked if they objected to having spent their money differently than promised, before the money was spent that way. Carla Howell volunteered and was appointed as the State Committee's agent, to contact the donors who gave as a result of Cloud's event, and ask if they objected to the money being spent supporting Cloud rather than as had originally been promised. The motion to give Mr. Cloud the money passed 6-3, Ziobro, Pirrello, and McMahon voting against. The check was written and transmitted at the end of the meeting.

Discussion then turned to the State Convention. Last year the State Party contracted with a major hotel for the April

state convention. We paid a \$1000 deposit. If the convention is cancelled, we owe the hotel another \$7500, unless they can find a replacement event in which case our debt may be reduced or eliminated. They will try. If the convention takes place, we owe them a much larger amount, some part of which may be covered by convention income. Kay Pirrello, who has run fine events in the past, is working three jobs and has no time to run a convention. So far, almost no work has been done on the 2004 State Convention. There are no speakers arranged, but the three Presidential candidates are invited. There has been almost no publicity.

The State Committee agreed that the major hotel event should be cancelled, and the LPMA should instead run an event at an affordable venue. There are two people checking more modest sites. We must hope that a replacement event can be found for the major hotel, so that our cancellation fee is modest. A writeup for the web page and state newsletter will be prepared this week. Phillis volunteered to circulate the announcement through his magazine (circulation 500) and through his campaign mailing for his State Committee race.

The budget committee has not yet prepared a budget for this year. Treasurer Ziobro urged that the budget be much more modest than last year's.

The rules committee will meet. A major consideration will be what rules to adopt if we lose major party status. The Party's counsel was authorized two or three billable hours to review the situation.

Phillis announced that the Worcester ACLU is running a Presidential debate in Worcester on February 22, and in addition to the 9 Democrats all 5 Libertarian candidates have been invited, all to sit on one stage.

Carol McMahon made an impassioned presentation for the need to run more candidates for office this year, and to raise volunteers and money to support them. We have two paths to keeping major party status, namely getting another 20,000 or so registrations or having our Presidential candidate get 3% of the vote in November. These possibilities look difficult to achieve without a maximum effort, and perhaps not then. Walter Ziobro noted that he will no longer be Treasurer in a few months, and might therefore be willing to become political director at that time.

For those of you who like financial tables:

Cash on hand:	\$ 8050
Debts (Jain, McCormick) -	\$ 4511

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Net	\$ 3540
Given to Cloud	\$ 4750

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Net	-\$ 1210
Potential Convention Loss	-\$ 7500

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Potential Net Debt	-\$ 8710
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## Web Pages:

Worcester [wcla.tripod.com](http://wcla.tripod.com)

Western Massachusetts [pvla.NET](http://pvla.NET)

America and the World [www.cmlc.org](http://www.cmlc.org) (Now in Spanish)

(Continued from page 1) [Russo Enters Race]

11. Both parties want to keep our troops there indefinitely.

12. Both parties are equally guilty for America's youth dying there for no reason.

If you continue to vote for one of the two major parties, nothing will change, and you're wasting your vote. Voting for the lesser of two evils is still voting for evil and not an answer. Don't waste your vote! It is time for the American people to rise up and put an end to our corrupt government, and I will be proud to lead the way.

I will bring our troops home from every corner of the globe. I'll revoke the Patriot Act, I'll cut taxes, cut spending. I'll cut the size of government. I'll stop corporate welfare. I'll engage all nations in trade and commerce. I'll protect our air and water, and I'll protect our borders, but most importantly I will protect our Constitution and Bill of Rights.

My campaign is not about any single issue, it's about government's proper role in your life. Do you want to live in an America where government is your master, or your servant?

The choice is yours. The decision is momentous.

We can clean up this government right now, but I need your help! I'm Aaron Russo, and I'm running for President. Thank you and please join me. Aaron Russo <http://russoforpresident.com>

(Continued from page 1) [Nolan and Badnarik on their Campaigns]

I believe I can reach even more people as a Libertarian candidate for President.

As a small businessman in Cleveland, Ohio, I was initially attracted to the Republican Party. However, over time, I became increasingly frustrated with their bloated budgets and continuing failure to cut spending. Finally, during a live nationwide radio broadcast in January 1999, I publicly resigned from the Republican Party and became a proud card-carrying member of the Libertarian Party.

It was a Libertarian Presidential candidate -- Harry Browne -- who first introduced me to the Libertarian Party back in 1996 and who started me on the road to leaving the Republican Party for good. I want to return the favor by helping more Americans discover that the Libertarian Party is their true political home. I believe that the massive increases in federal spending under a Republican administration and Congress, coupled with unprecedented losses of civil liberties virtually unopposed by Democrats, have created an ideal political environment for the Libertarian Party, and for a Presidential campaign built around restoring small, constitutionally-limited government across the board.

Our message must be one of optimism and hope for the future. We must do more than complain about the failed policies of Democrats and Republicans -- we must present positive, libertarian solutions to the problems that concern average Americans.

That's the kind of campaign I want to see a Libertarian Presidential candidate run -- that's the kind of positive campaign I am committed to running.

I am at a point in my life where I can put my career on hold for two years and campaign for President full-time. I intend to use my background and experience in media and communications to present a positive Libertarian message to all Americans, build grassroots support for the Libertarian Party, and advance the cause of liberty.

However, I can't do it alone. I actively seek your support and involvement in this campaign.

For Liberty, Gary Nolan <http://garynolan.com>

## Michael Badnarik In His Own Words

Michael Badnarik has studied the Constitution for twenty years, and has been teaching an eight-hour class on the subject for the last three years. All of his political positions are derived from the principle of individual rights, and are consistent with the Constitution. He would like to see strict enforcement of the Bill of Rights, and would establish a "zero tolerance policy" for all elected officials who violate the supreme law of the land.

Michael is most passionate about defending the Second Amendment, and holds that 20,000+ gun laws in the United States unconstitutionally infringe on our right to keep and bear arms. Americans are not required to fill out government forms in order to practice their religion, and they cannot be required to obtain government permits before they carry a gun for self-defense.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare was instituted in 1953 at a time when American students ranked number one in math and science worldwide. In 2003, after fifty years of government control of our schools, we spend ten times as much per student on education, and American students now rank twenty-first in math and science. Even if the Department of Education was constitutional - which it isn't - we should eliminate that agency simply because they are doing such a terrible job. Michael's plan would be to eliminate government control of schools, making each one a private business that is required to compete with others in the area. Parents would naturally send their children to the best schools in the area, which would make a significant profit for successful schools. Other schools would either improve their ability to impart knowledge, or they would be forced out of business altogether.

The government's war on drugs violates the rights of Americans so egregiously that it is a bigger threat than the drugs themselves. Libertarians do not want our children taking drugs either, but we recognize that the several decades of drug interdiction haven't slowed the flow of narcotics into this country. Children take drugs because criminals actively sell them. Criminals sell drugs because they are astronomically profitable. Drugs are highly profitable only because they are illegal. The Libertarian solution is to decriminalize drugs, which will make drugs extremely cheap, which will remove the profit motivation for selling drugs, which will result in fewer children taking drugs.

The IRS is despised by every American old enough to work for a living. This agency is notorious for confiscating property from citizens without proper due process of law. Michael would eliminate this agency completely, without instituting a flat tax to take its place. Michael would also eliminate the NEED for an income tax by abolishing hundreds of unconstitutional offices and government programs. Americans will experience a sudden increase in their take-home pay when they no longer have money withheld from their paychecks. This will trigger rapid economic growth which means that all of the newly unemployed government workers would be able to find "real" jobs in the private sector.

Michael would immediately eliminate the Federal Reserve Bank because Congress never had the authority to delegate the responsibility to "coin money and regulate the value thereof". Our current economic crisis has not been caused by the collapse of companies like Enron and WorldCom. Our crisis has been caused by ninety years of inflation that has resulted from the Federal Reserve Bank printing money out of thin air. It is quite possible that this is the most misleading title for any law passed in the history of America. Michael adamantly believes that the Patriot Act is a blatant violation of our rights, given that it ignores the basic concept of a "limited" federal(national) government. For all practical purposes, the Patriot Act repeals the Fourth and Sixth Amendments, and allows the government to assume powers that are not delegated to them by Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution. Michael Badnarik [badnarik.org](http://badnarik.org)

## Membership Reconsidered

In Massachusetts, a Libertarian Party Member is someone whose has adhered to the Party statement of principles. Then there is the smaller and shrinking group of 'members whose dues are current', the people who have given at least \$25 for the year. That number is now down to 500. Under the UMP Plan, of that \$25, the National Party keeps half and the state party gets half.

The \$12 we get for a member roughly covers the expense of mailing out our most excellent newsletter. What is our objective here? Is our objective to have more paying subscribers? No. Our objective is to build support for Party activities, as by motivating volunteers, telling people about opportunities for Libertarian action, showing fellow Libertarians doing political deeds, giving honest, thorough news about the Libertarian Party across the United States, or even telling people about possible projects and what they would cost. The more Libertarians who hear our message, the more effective we will be at building a strong Party. Conversely, the more Libertarians who are left ignorant of what is happening in our party, the weaker our party will be, and the less able it will be to respond to unsuspected surprises.

Ten years ago, there was no real choice. If you wanted to put out a newsletter, it had to be printed and mailed. If you went over length, the postage charges rose swiftly. *Let Freedom Ring!* gets 12 pages—6 sheets—in one ounce of mail, but we get that by printing on light paper. If we printed on the heavier paper that is used by Massachusetts Liberty, we would be

limited to ten pages, not the twelve that you see before you. Under modern conditions, life is different. 80% of American households have a computer. Most other Americans who want internet access need only go to their public library. Under modern conditions, there is no fundamental reason especially in high-tech Massachusetts why we should not offer Libertarians a minimum- or no-cost electronic membership, in which they contact us every year or so, asking that their subscription be renewed, and they get sent Mass Liberty by e-mail. It might be reasonable to charge some modest fee for this two or three dollars, to cover all our costs. The large number of Libertarians who are not sure that \$25 is a good deal for a newsletter subscription, as witness the decline in our membership from 895 two years ago to 500 today, may be willing to make a smaller investment than the \$25 that they have regularly spurned.

An electronic-optional newsletter has other advantages. In particular, because there are no printing or mailing costs, the electronic newsletter could perfectly well have an electronic supplement, with articles or reports too long to fit in the regular paper-mailed monthly. State Committee minutes, 'print this page' Voter Registration when allowed, forms for public policy questions, and the like could be circulated to many members for no cost. Our companion magazine *Libertarian Strategy Gazette* already does this. For example, last month *Libertarian Strategy Gazette* printed the complete draft new Bylaws for the State party, to replace the current Bylaws.

Alas, free electronic membership is inconsistent with the Unified Membership Plan. However, UMP membership is optional to state parties.

When last we debated the UMP, the UMP was presented as free money. It was also free expenses, and the two nearly cancel. This should not have been a surprise to any real libertarian, because as we all know free lunches are not common. Besides, the cost of the newsletter is calculable, as are our dues income from National.

While the plan brings in some money, it also costs us money, because donations to the party made at the same time as the membership renewal go almost completely to the National Party. We do get a tiny cut of donations to National; this amount is about \$200 per month to the state party. If the LPMA administered its own memberships, as it did until recently, all those donations would potentially come to us. Also, as we found last Winter, whenever the National Party runs its affairs poorly, the state parties to the damage, with UMP payments being made up to months late. More important, without UMP, we could offer state party members very cheap electronic newsletters. Experimentally, members are a major source of activists; more members might get us more activists..

Withdrawing from the UMP gives the LPMA a great opportunity to increase its activist contacts and focus its income on political activity. It might even get us more money, which we desperately need. ...George Phillies **PVLA Member**

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