

# Let Freedom Ring!

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April 2006

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## Missouri Libertarian Party Reaffirms Opposition to the Oath

from Darla Maloney  
Chair, Missouri Libertarian Party

At the Missouri Libertarian Party State Convention, held March 4th, 2006, the MoLP State Committee adopted a resolution reaffirming its opposition to the "oath" that is required for membership in the National Libertarian Party. The oath in question is specified in the National LP bylaws, section 7: "Members of the Party shall be those persons who have certified in writing that they oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals."

Members of the MoLP noted that although we all might agree with the sentiment expressed in the oath, making it a requirement of membership can cause confusion and apprehension among potential new members; and therefore, that it stands as an impediment to recruitment and growth for the Libertarian Party.

[MOLP Opposes Oath] (Continued on page 2)

## LPMA State Convention Forthcoming?

[For current news check [ma-liberty@yahoo.com](mailto:ma-liberty@yahoo.com)]  
As of April 3, 2006, there has been no announcement of an LPMA State Convention for the year, though this situation may change. Indeed, there has been no meeting of the LPMA State Committee since last October. Under current Party By-Laws a State Convention is needed by late May to elect delegates to the National Convention. LPMA Board Member George Phillies wrote the State Board, offering to run a state convention. State Chair Tom LaRoche was investigating a possibility on an event. LPMA Board Member Peter Kuntz proposed to the LPMA Board a pair of motions to avoid the need for a state convention.

Phillies' Message to the State Board read:  
"The National Convention is at the start of July. National requires a list of delegates by the start of June. We must elect our delegates by late May, or there will be no Massachusetts delegation to the National Convention.

[LPMA State Convention] (Continued on page 3)

## Epstein Runs for Selectman

Georgetown, MA Attorney and Liberty for Massachusetts member Steve Epstein has filed nomination papers with Georgetown's Registrars of Voters for the office of Selectman. He filed over 90 signatures with 32 required. Steve, a registered Libertarian since one could adopt that designation in Massachusetts, ran in 1992 for state representative as a Libertarian.

He enters the non-partisan race for Selectman against a member of the School Committee. He had served on Georgetown's Government Review Committee, the Cable Advisory Committee where he helped negotiate the Comcast contract that secured the town a new state of the art studio, and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Steve asks individuals to send contributions of no more than \$50 to the Committee to Elect Steven Epstein, 55 West Street, Georgetown, MA 01833. Massachusetts law requires you provide your name and address, and requires that he request your occupation and employer when making any solicitation. Phone Steve: office 978-352-3300 or home 978-352-7958.

## Torrey, Wolf Elected

Libertarians Art Torrey and Mary-Anne Wolf were re-elected to the Billerica Town Meeting. Torrey also ran for Town Planning Board, originally in a two-candidate race for two seats, but in the end there were five candidates. Torrey despite a good race did not win.

## New Mexico Board of Elections Re-Certifies Minor-Party Status for LPNM

On March 24<sup>th</sup> the Director of the New Mexico Bureau of Elections told Richard Winger that the Libertarian Party of New Mexico had sufficient validated petition signatures and is certified as a minor party in New Mexico.

The certification as a minor party is a major hurdle the LPNM had to obtain, as it enables the LPNM to nominate candidates to run for office under the Libertarian name on the ballot. Otherwise, if Libertarians had to run as Independents, they would have to collect three times the number of petition signatures to get on the ballot.

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

## Let Freedom Ring!

(Continued from page 1) [MoLP on the Party Oath]

The Missouri Libertarian Party removed the oath as a membership requirement in 1985, welcoming new members in spite of their reticence or unwillingness to agree to the required certification by the National LP. Since that time, the MoLP has experienced growth beyond that recorded in the national membership roster.

Although it has required the maintenance of a separate database from that of the National LP, the oath-free status of the MoLP has not been a hindrance to success: Having consistently achieved the necessary 2% voting percentages statewide since 1992, the MoLP has maintained as an official status of being an "established" political party under Missouri election laws, granting the MoLP ballot access without petitioning and state primary elections for the selection of candidates. As a consequence of this official status, the MoLP organizational structure is governed in accordance with state election laws.

With the elimination of the Unified Membership Program governing the sharing of dues and membership data between the National LP and its state affiliates, the "oath" stands as an even more irrelevant and unnecessary obstacle to broadening our political base. Members of the MoLP call upon fellow Libertarians around the country to join us in calling for the elimination of this exclusionary condition of membership in the National LP.

The resolution adopted by the MoLP State Committee is as follows:

**Resolved**, by the State Committee of the Missouri Libertarian Party, assembled for the 2006 State Convention in Springfield, Missouri, on 4th March 2006:

1. It is the sense of the Missouri Libertarian Party that the "oath" required for membership in the National Libertarian Party should be abolished.
2. This resolution shall be freely distributed and published to our fellow Libertarians, including the state chairs of every affiliated state party, in hopes that our example may encourage others to do likewise.

## Stand Up for Liberty!

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## Scientific Presidential Poll

For the first time, scientific polling has been used to evaluate possible Libertarian Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees. The polling was undertaken by a volunteer effort interested in determining how Libertarians felt about the 2008 race. I have been supplied with the information, which I did not help generate. Mary Ruwart was not listed as a candidate because she was already known to have declined interest.

The results for President and Vice President were:

President

...Phillies	60%
...Gorman	30%
...Badnarik	5%
...Gray	5%

Pollees were also asked who they would want as Phillies' Vice Presidential candidate:

Vice President

...Kwiatkowski	45%
...Hornberger	30%
...Hess	20%
...Gorman	5%

**Methodology:** A series of libertarian Yahoogroups were identified. Randomly chosen members of each group were sent the polling questions. There were 100 responses; the response rate was 80%. This was the second of two polls. In the first poll, Kwiatkowski was not listed, and received a large write-in response.

In a separate poll, randomly chosen members of 20 right- and left-wing yahoo groups were contacted. There were 200 participants, 100 each from the left and from the right, for an 80% response rate. They were asked:

"What issue(s) would you like to see the Presidential candidates focus on in 2008 (answer on subject line, explanation in body of e-mail)?"

- 1) Immigration
- 2) Defense/National Security
- 3) Economy
- 4) Education
- 5) Healthcare"

45%- Immigration
25%- Economy
20%- Defense/National Security
5%- Education
5%- Healthcare

From the written responses, both left and right wing respondents want immigration to be very substantially restricted, and tie immigration to economic and defense issues.

Your editor was somewhat surprised at the result. I'd never said anything about running for President before. To demonstrate issues—it's a different path to issue outreach to nonlibertarians—I've put a web site up: <http://phillies2008.org>.

## Where Your Money Went Badnarik for Congress

Through March 13, 2006, the Badnarik for Congress campaign has raised \$136 353, spent \$132 852, and has \$3912 cash on hand and \$5011 in debts. Of this amount, \$25 000 or so went to Allan Hacker's Articulate Campaign Management, about \$12 500 went for office rental and approximately \$12 000 for consulting went to Susan Rarick. Loyal supporter Jon Airheart received a far more modest sum.

The people at Third Party Watch [thirdpartywatch.com/2006/03/16/the-badnarik-cafe-check-please/](http://thirdpartywatch.com/2006/03/16/the-badnarik-cafe-check-please/) [thirdpartywatch.com/2006/03/19/is-badnarik-unelectable/](http://thirdpartywatch.com/2006/03/19/is-badnarik-unelectable/) [thirdpartywatch.com/2006/03/19/badnarik-campaign-manager-responds/](http://thirdpartywatch.com/2006/03/19/badnarik-campaign-manager-responds/) noted that the Badnarik Campaign was going through its money rather quickly, with the money largely going to office expenses and staff, and received an emphatic response from the Badnarik campaign chair. A somewhat different version of the debate appears at <http://hammeroftruth.com/category/people/michael-badnarik/> The sniping about meals at inexpensive restaurants seems to be a bit misplaced to my eye. The consulting expenses and lack of accumulated cash looks somewhat more interesting.

### The Libertarian National Committee

Once again, LNC UMP payments are not being made on time. The January payments, due mid-month, were not made until February 2, while the February payments were not made in February. A continuation from the last issue of the month by month financials shows (all numbers in thousands)

Month	Income	Net	Cash	Debt
July	103	-5	3	105
August	99	-10	-7	92
September	83	-7	-14	99
October	159	+31	17	88
November	76	-35	-17	66
December	81	3	-14	110
January	93	25	11	140
February	97	100	8	138

So that in February the National Party once again took in less than \$100,000, leaving under \$8000 cash on hand and \$138 000 in debt. There was a mailing of the annual report, which was predicted to bring in under \$70,000 in income, though there is always an opportunity for positive outcomes. However, several years ago the annual report brought in \$264,000.

(Continued from page 1) [State Convention]

Election appears to require a state convention. We must give adequate notice of the state convention, so we must call the state convention very very soon. Also, we need a state convention this year (admittedly only by 12/31) to elect a new State Committee. Do we prefer one state convention or two?

I gather that we do not at the moment have anyone ready to organize a convention.

I propose that we run a Saturday morning business-only convention, backed by a solid breakfast, but with some extra food items. The meeting would be called to order, the elections procedure for the new state committee and the delegates would be executed, other matters would be handled while ballots were being counted, and we would be on our way.

Having done some searches, I propose a possible location: Holiday Inn in Newton. This is approximately one exit south of the Mass Pike-Route 128 intersection, a couple of blocks toward Boston from 128. The location is convenient for people coming by car, and is convenient to the MTA for Boston people.

They can accommodate 40-50 people, which based on last year's convention attendance, and changes in membership since, should be enough.

We would need to (1) mail a postcard announcement to members whose dues are current, (2) send announcement to elists around the state and LP News (3) agree to run the convention

The costs I identify are under \$150 for the mailing, and under \$500 for the hall. Part of the costs are variable based on pre-registration. Requesting a \$20 donation to the Federal or state PAC from each attendee seems likely to cover our costs.

I can handle most of these things, including reserving the hall and shipping postcards, stamps attached, to Dave Roscoe to attach the mailing labels. Is there any reaction here? George Phillies"

Peter Kuntz's motions read:

"MOTION REQUIRING A 2/3 VOTE TO PASS:

"I move that By-Laws Article IX, Section 1, be amended by adding the words "During years in which electors for President and Vice President of the United States are to be chosen" and a comma, to the beginning of the single sentence comprising that

[LPMA State Convention] (Continued on page 4)

## Liberty for Massachusetts

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## Let Freedom Ring!

(Continued from page 3) [LPMA State Convention?]

section, so that the section shall read:

‘During years in which electors for President and Vice President of the United States are to be chosen, delegates to the national Libertarian party convention shall be chosen at the state convention held immediately prior to the national convention.’

“

### MOTION REQUIRING A SIMPLE MAJORITY TO PASS:

“I move that the Massachusetts delegates and alternates to the national convention to be held in Portland, Oregon in 2006 shall be those members of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts who, having paid their state party membership dues by May 20, 2006, and having by that date stated in writing to the State Chair their intention to be delegates to the national convention, attend the national convention. If the number of members, so having paid their dues, and so having stated their intentions, exceeds the number of allowable delegates, the State Chair shall submit all names of those so qualifying to the Representatives on the State Committee for a vote to determine which shall be delegates. Each representative in that case shall cast no more than one vote for each member, and no more total votes than the number of delegates allowed. Those members receiving the most votes -- up to the number of allowed delegates -- shall be deemed delegates, and those others shall be deemed alternates, up to the allowed number of alternates. The State Chair is delegated the power of breaking all ties.

“The State Chair shall notify the national party and the State Committee of the names of all delegates and alternates so chosen, in a manner which is deemed timely under the rules of the national party.”

### Massachusetts Liberty Events

#### April

11 7-9PM Is This Your America? Emergency Town Meeting. Clark University, Sackler Science Center, 950 Main Street Worcester. Congressman Jim McGovern and ACLU representatives. Sponsored by the ACLU. <http://www.aclum.org>

13 6:30 PM PVLA Monthly Meeting, Hu Ke Lau Restaurant at Mass Pike Exit 5 Contact: Carol McMahon, 413-250-6608 [cjmcmahon@verizon.net](mailto:cjmcmahon@verizon.net)

16 6:00 PM WCLA Monthly Meeting, Tweed's Restaurant, Worcester MA 01605 Contact: George Phillies, [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net) 508-754-1859

22 noon-6PM Extravaganja, Re-legalization Rally on the Amherst Common, Amherst MA. LfM/PVLA Booth, help needed. Contact: George Phillies, [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net) 508-754-1859

26 8:00 PM Lowell Area Liberty Association, Outback Steakhouse, Reiss Street, Lowell Arthur Torrey, arthur [torrey@comcast.net](mailto:torrey@comcast.net) 978-663-0241

#### May

7 Liberty For Massachusetts State Convention. Contact: [Outreach@LibertyForMassachusetts.Org](mailto:Outreach@LibertyForMassachusetts.Org)

## HARRY BROWNE 1933-2006

Harry Browne, two-time Presidential candidate of the Libertarian Party, died on March 1, 2006 after a prolonged illness. At the time of his death, he was working on a new book *The War Racket*, which was not yet complete.

Browne was born in New York City to Bradford and Cecil Margaret Browne; he resided to the end of his days in Franklin Tennessee. He spent 30 years as a financial advisor. His 1973 book *How I Found Freedom In An Unfree World* discussed personal options for securing liberty.

Browne's two Presidential campaigns were marked by spectacular fund-raising successes, with vast sums raised towards the nominating and election efforts. Harry Browne and his campaign advisors were among the first Libertarians to recognize the importance and effectiveness of a systematic enduring direct mail campaign. Through well written letters and judicious exploitation of available mailing lists, the Browne campaigns convinced thousands of Libertarians to contribute millions of dollars to his effort. The fundraising campaigns were so successful that no consequent libertarian effort has matched Browne's achievements in this quarter.

After two Presidential campaigns, Browne founded a series of libertarian activist groups, most recently the Downsize DC Foundation, for which he served as Director of Public Policy. He also served as a radio host..

Rather than cards or flowers, Browne's widow requests that donations be made in Harry's memory to DownsizeDC at [downsizedc.com/contribute.shtml](http://downsizedc.com/contribute.shtml) or to the family foundation: Kerner's Folly Foundation, 413 South Main Street, Kernersville, NC 27284.