

Let Freedom Ring!

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Freedman LNC Statement

My name is Richard Freedman. I am running for an At Large seat on the Libertarian National Committee. My primary interest in this position results from my belief that the Libertarian Party has suffered a crisis of integrity. I think the actions taken in the Willis affair were insufficient to address the infractions, and certainly were insufficient to restore confidence in the integrity of the national leadership. I pledge to assist the LNC in carrying out its policies openly, fairly, and impartially.

For the last two years I have been a member of the State Committee of the Massachusetts Libertarian Party, which has had its own controversies regarding openness, fairness, and impartiality. I will continue to work to advance those qualities on the state level as well.

In addition, I think the state level and, even more the local level, are the best places to advance libertarianism and the places where our efforts should be focused. I will work to urge the Libertarian Party at all levels to increase its attention to and focus on grass roots efforts.

My wife, Ilana Freedman, is currently running for US Congress on the Libertarian ticket. I am heavily involved in her race, and have seen the advantages that a strong local infrastructure and grass roots support can provide for the higher level races. I will urge the Libertarian Party to focus on building that infrastructure. Any success at the municipal level produces not only a track record, but also the organization that is essential for higher level races. I think the right strategy for the party is to focus on building the grass roots, to help people to gain experience in public office, to win more races, to get the public more and more used to seeing libertarians in public office, and seeing them succeed.

In this way, we can advance toward the dream of a much smaller government, a government that stays within its constitutional limits, and respects human rights and human dignity. I ask those of you who are attending the National Convention: Vote for Richard Freedman for an At Large seat on the Libertarian National Committee.

Richard E. Pearl, Sr.

...from Ray Ledford

I have the sad, terrible duty to inform you that the Libertarian Party of Tennessee State Chair, Richard E. Pearl, Sr., Ed.D., passed away this afternoon after a brief, yet brave, fight with a rare cancer.

He was 54.

Originally from California, Pearl moved to Tennessee in 1975, earning a B.A., M.A., and an Ed.D. in psychology while raising his son and daughter as a single dad.

Richard joined the LP in '94, but didn't get active until 1999 when the Libertarian Party of Rutherford County was organized and he was elected as their first Chair. He was elected State Chair in April, 2000, and again to a two year term in

(Continued on page 2)

Got Candidates?

Generally reliable sources report Libertarians and libertarians on the Fall ballots:

State Senate: Carol McMahon, Monson [PVL A]

State House of Representatives:

Alan Wilcox, Monson [PVL A]

John Alan Roderick, Somerville

George Berdos, Easton

Eryk Boston, Marlborough

Greg Doherty, Framingham

Danny Fain, Newton

Eli Israel, Burlington

Raymond Leary, Bristol

Steven Olson, Abington

Skip Pacheco, Clinton

Tom Pappas, Easthampton

Jim Pillsbury, Framingham

Mark Testagrossa, Marlborough

Rich Yampell, Stoughton

Federal Office: Ilana Freedman, Michael Cloud

State Office: Carla Howell—*Governor*; Rich Aucoin—*Lt. Governor*; Kamal Jain—*State Auditor*

In 2000 libertarians ran 4 State Senators and 15 State Rep candidates; this time we are running 1 state senator and 14 State Rep candidates. Party funds were apparently used to put Israel and Yampell on the ballot.

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March, 2001.

Richard's term as State Chair saw the LPTN grow in activity and influence, particularly the state party's opposition to a proposed state income tax. His successful rallying of LPTN members in and around Nashville for the anti-tax demonstrations of the past three years has garnered praise from various anti-tax foes, including Nashville talk show host, Steve Gill of WWTN, who has repeatedly stated that if it were not for the Libertarian Party of Tennessee, there would be a state income tax in Tennessee today. Richard's involvement in the anti-tax fight even earned him the "Ax the Tax" award by the Tennessee Conservative Union, making him the first non-Republican recipient of the award in their 20-year history.

Dear friends, please keep Richard's daughter, TJ, his son, Richard, Jr., his friend, Desiree, and Richard's grandchildren in your thoughts and prayers, as they cope with the loss of this wonderful man.

Amherst Police Close Rally

Being an election year, marijuana legalization activists will be heavily engaged in the political process, from gathering signatures on referenda petitions, to working on the campaigns of Libertarian candidates. This past Saturday's annual spring rally was a vital component in the organizing effort. Town officials however, would not let it be.

I have always thought it a truism, that when dealing with unrelentingly hostile opponents, one should stand firm and never give an inch—especially on First Amendment issues. There are factions in the Movement though, with a Neville Chamberlain-like belief in accommodation. A belief, that by acquiescing, without complaint, to an "acceptable" level of harassment, things will be mellow. (For instance, to the Town's use of police resources, to infiltrate the audience with undercover officers.)

Town officials may have succeeded, where I failed, in convincing my colleagues of the long-term futility of the mellow" approach. Uniformed police shut down the rally, a full two hours early, on the pretext that the music was annoying."

I understand that people have differing musical tastes. But musical tastes are hardly the issue here. Town officials just *don't like* this political Movement. The moralists in Amherst's government, like those in certain Islamic regimes, wish to stamp out, with force, what they view as sin.

...Terry Franklin
Amherst, MA

Terry Franklin is a long-time pro-legalization activist whose group successfully passed a pro-legalization referendum in Amherst, Massachusetts.

The Incrementalator Two Models of Growth

by Carl Milsted, Jr.

[Reprinted from www.libertyforall.net]

The Libertarian Party (or any new political party) faces a catch-22 situation. In order to win campaigns and implement its program it needs a very large base of supporters - members, donors, activists, and regular voters. However, to attract this base of supporters, the case needs to be made that the LP can in fact win elections or by some other means be an effective force for liberty. Otherwise, most libertarians will work within the legacy parties or simply be apolitical, and the LP is left with a small die-hard group of people with long time horizons.

One way to achieve credibility as an effective force for liberty before achieving electoral victory is to demonstrate that electoral victory is just on the horizon. In the 1970s the LP could sell itself on its exponential growth. As long as the LP followed an exponential growth curve, the LP could state to potential supporters and the press with some credibility that it was a force to be reckoned with.

Alas, once the initial growth stalled, this story inverted, and many people jumped off of the bandwagon, including much of the leadership [see the Ed Crane interview in the November 1990 issue of Liberty]. Attempts to revive the excitement by hyping new growth plans have been tried since with varying degrees of success. The most notable was Project Archimedes, which promised restoring exponential growth by more effective direct mail recruiting. This did prove to be an efficient method of recruiting new members, but nowhere near as effective as it was hyped. This over hyping left a bitter taste in the mouths of many core activists. Unfortunately, hype is a necessary part of this strategy, at least as long as the LP is to be sold to potential members as an organization that fields better presidential candidates than the RP or DP.

The approach of achieving growth by hyping growth is analogous to a pyramid scheme. It can produce spectacular results in the beginning but is subject to collapse. Another analog is the stock price of a startup company with a great blue-sky story behind it but no product and insufficient capital to actually produce and market the product.

Following the business analogy further, there is another way to achieve growth - run a profit using existing resources. For a startup company whose stock price has collapsed, this is the only avenue available. This may mean shutting down some divisions and focusing on some sideline products. These side products may be less sexy than the main product in the original business plan, but require less capital to produce and market at a profit.

I believe the LP is in the position of a speculative startup company whose initial hype has run out. We have failed to raise the speculative support necessary to run presidential campaigns above the joke level. However, we have already achieved the re-

source base necessary to win at a few steps lower down the ticket - less sexy, but a boon for liberty nonetheless. I personally think that demonstrations of success in winnable races, and providing other services of value to freedom lovers is the key to bringing in small-l libertarians.

To summarize, we have two strategies before us:

* To achieve success, we must focus existing resources on growth.

* To achieve growth, we must achieve success with existing resources.

If you believe in Strategy 1, vote for Eli Israel for national chair, and send your dollars to the Watergate. Eli made it abundantly clear while on the Strategic Planning Team that membership recruitment is the key to achieving all other goals, and I believe he would bring a great deal of energy, dedication and professionalism toward implementing this strategy.

However, I also believe that this strategy will fail, no matter how well carried out. If you believe in Strategy 2, vote for one of the other national chair candidates (I will vote for Geoffrey Neale) and write your biggest checks to bottom of the ticket campaigns and to county affiliates.

While I am a sour pessimist on Strategy 1, I am a bubbly optimist on Strategy 2. When I look at the current operations of the Libertarian Party, I see aspects whose effectiveness could be increased by factors of 2 to 5 using current levels of effort and money. There are other

operations that are ineffective or even counter-productive to the cause of liberty whose resources could be redirected to productive efforts. There are underfunded overhead efforts that should be postponed until after we achieve growth through our more "profitable" operations.

In future columns I will document:

* How a single Libertarian within a county can not only get press coverage, but actually increase liberty, without spending any money.

* Multiple ways to avoid the "lesser of two evils" dilemma.

* How to dramatically improve the Libertarian brand building potential of cardboard campaigns.

* Overlooked ways to increase the number of activists.

* Communications techniques that work even for nerdy physicists.

And more, all using existing resources.

The Libertarian Party can be a useful tool for increasing liberty right now - as opposed to some blue-sky future that never seems to arrive. And once we make it into such a tool, small-l libertarians will jump on the bandwagon.

Carl Milsted, Jr. is currently the advertising director of the Libertarian Party of Buncombe County NC. He has previously been the Region 5 Alternate on the Libertarian National Committee and a member of the LNC's Strategic Planning Team. Carl likes to experiment with political strategies and tactics to see what actually works. Experiments have included Quiz2d, a computerized Nolan Chart program to take to outreach booths, and the Economy of Scale Project, combining issue signs with campaign name signs. Current experiments include developing humorous radio commercials, and starting Tools for World Liberation, a mail-order store to apply the Economy of Scale idea nationwide, as well as provide better bumper stickers and the like than what the national headquarters currently provides.

By day, Dr. Milsted is a physicist who writes software for national defense related applications. He hopes to eventually move on to the more interesting and lucrative field of Mad Science.

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Where Your Money Went

Where would *Let Freedom Ring!* be without the favorite column of our readers, as so many of you so regularly tell us?

For March 2002 the Howell campaign had income of 29603 and expenditures of \$33,784. Expenditures included \$24,174 to Freedom Petition Management of Worcester, individual payments of other petitioners of \$1102, \$936, \$515, \$344, \$207, \$44. While peasants like your humble editor paid for their own admission to the LPMA State Convention (which did not let people attend the business meeting for free), the Howell campaign picked up the tab for someone's convention registration, an expense of \$69. Advertising included \$619 to the Message, the GOAL newsletter, and \$343 to Mr. D Enterprises for Convention signs. Postage for the month came to \$5000. There is no cost for printing or list rental to correspond with the direct mail expense.

For April 2002, the Howell campaign had income of \$15,640 and expenditures of \$35,561, leaving her campaign with \$8742 cash on hand.

Freedom Petition Management received \$9842 for petitioning. Karen Fincher received \$6805 for petitioning. Larry Collins received \$702 for petitioning. Michael Cloud received \$2500 for "services". Celeste Parent received \$3000 for contracted services, apparently for March and April. Kay Pirello received \$3500 for the same period and purpose. Denis Corrigan as Treasurer received \$146.

Mail for Less received \$3442 for mailing. Campaign Consulting received \$1421. Various financial operations received \$656. Telecommunications charges approached \$550. OfficeMax supplies cost \$420. Kinkos received \$414 for printing. Custom Signs and Lettering received \$252. Advertising included \$1565 to the Libertarian National Committee, \$765 to Liberty Publishing, and \$636 to the Gun Owners Action League Newsletter.

LNC Financials Poor

LNC Financial reports note a year budget of 3.4 million dollars in income and 3.3 million dollars in expenditure. For the first third of the year, the Party took in \$581 thousand, and spent \$551,000. The national convention and its convention are a unique Summer event, but even so a reasonable projection for the year predicts \$2.2 million in income. Campaign Training and Support is set at \$27,000, but so far under \$2,000 has been spent. Fundraising from LP Members (other than the annual report), whether by mail or phone, major donor fundraising, and email fundraising have thusfar brought in under 10% of budget, while costing 25% of expectation. (In addition, the Drug War Ad Event did bring in \$75,000.) By report the recent bi-monthly letter did poorly, bringing in less than \$20,000 over expenses. There appears to be no alarm on the LNC. Indeed, the LNC Executive Committee seems not to have met in some months, say my sources.

Activist News

John Turnbow, M. D., finished 2nd of 4 candidates in Saturday, May 4th's city council race in Lubbock, Texas. He attracted 27%; the winner drew 61%.

Since there had been legitimate hope that Dr. Turnbow might win, this showing may seem disheartening. However, there are several points to remember:

(1) It wasn't too long ago that 27% in a *two-way* race would have been considered impressive. And the fact that Dr. Turnbow left two opponents sinking in his wake (9% and 3%, respectively) shows that voters unhappy with the statist quo sided with a libertarian to a most impressive degree.

(2) Had the "non-Turnbow" votes been more evenly distributed, 27% would have been enough to put our man in a run-off (for anyone not familiar with the term: in many constituencies, if no candidate draws over 50% of the vote, the top two finishers compete again; this second joust is called a "run-off"). In fact, had the other three candidates split those votes *extremely* evenly, 27% would have been enough to win a four-way contest.

(3) Dr. Turnbow's personal credentials are impressive enough that having voters associate him with the LP can only enhance our chances of convincing some of them to support at least some LPers this November.

Hats off to Dr. T -- and to the Lubbock County LPers who helped make this showing possible!

Jeff Daiell Libertarian For Texas Governor

A NOTE FROM DON GORMAN:

Congratulations go to all Libertarians who won their race at any level. Equally, thanks go to all who ran serious races and bit off chunks of the percentages but not quite enough to win - **This Time!** Hang in there, baby -- your time is coming!

Last but not least, a salute to all the grunts who slogged through the snow and mud, rain and dust, heat and cold, to fill out petitions, file papers, research election laws, man the polls, make and hold signs, put up web pages, clean out the mail box, stuff envelopes, answer the phones, ask for money (that's the hardest one), drive the cars, pick up the absentee ballots -- do all the thousands of little jobs that go into a political campaign. You won't see your name in the papers or on the ballot, but without you there are no Libertarian winners.

And remember this as you lay down your weary head tonight - Politics is just like duck-hunting; every year they give you a license to go out and shoot down a few of them. Keep slogging; keep the faith; get your limit!

-- Don Gorman, School Board Member, Deerfield, NH

Don Gorman's Message is from the Libertarian Victory Fund Newsletter-- Chris Azzaro, Editor.

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