

Let Freedom Ring!

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If This is Saturday AM, I'm a Massachusetts Delegate

Vignettes of the Party National Convention

But first, the significant public service note: If you are the person who left the valuable object in the Phillies Hospitality Suite, please contact George Phillies at 508-754-1859.

Indiana is a fine place. I loved my visits, and hope to return. I have many friends there, even friends who supported someone else for National Chair. I was delighted to leave the surplus of my hospitality suite with the LPIN. I am even happy to specify that that it was very generous of LPIN chair (and LNC member) Mark Rutherford to supply the LPMA delegation with a list of Hoosiers who wanted to be seated as Massachusetts delegates 'so they could attend National' because 'their state delegation was full'. Returning the courtesy, the LPMA delegation narrowly voted

[National Convention](Continued on page 2)

McMahon, Wilcox, Pappas Launch Their Campaigns

Long-time PVLA members Carol McMahon and Al Wilcox and western Massachusetts libertarian Max Pappas have launched their state legislative campaigns. At last report McMahon is in a two-person race against tax-raising Senator Brewer. Her district covers the Worcester Hills, extending from Connecticut to New Hampshire, and most of the way from Amherst to Worcester. The district has no simple media coverage, so a major emphasis will go to lawn signs, bumper stickers, and personal contact. In 2000, Wilcox ran against Republican Mary Rogeness. In 2002, it appears that there will also be a Democrat and a Green in the Monson-to-Longmeadow district. Max Pappas is a long-time small-"I" libertarian, running as an independent. He has a degree from the London School of Economics, worked at CATO and as a free-lance writer, and is the acknowledged researcher for P.J.O'Rourke's book *CEO of the Sofa*.

Watras Resigns

Richard Watras, Jr., who George Phillies nominated for Regional Representative to the Libertarian National Committee from New England and New York, has announced that he is resigning from his positions within the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts. Watras is the third MA County official to leave the party in the past few months. Watras explained:

1) The Massachusetts delegation to the LP National Convention packed the LPMA delegation with Indianans who would vote for Eli Israel. "This is wrong," Watras maintained.

2) Watras asked LPMA Chair Eli Israel and LPMA Executive Director Kamal Jain for a list of activists (LPUS members) in his district, so he could contact them. Israel and Jain refused. He then asked if they would mail to these people, so that he would not see the list, asking people to contact him. Israel and Jain refused again.

This is not the first time activist lists were closely held. Last year, Worcester County Chair Kevin Haskell asked for a list of LPUS members in

[Watras Resigns](Continued on page 3)

A New Step for Purism?

The Citizens for Limited Taxation is Massachusetts' oldest and largest anti-tax group. Massachusetts Libertarians were surprised to see their June 3 *CLT Update*, which quoted the State House News Service: "Informed of Anderson's pledge of support from 8,000 CLT members, Howell said she doesn't want CLT's support unless it's based solely upon the question's merits. 'A protest vote is a confession of weakness. If you don't want to give back \$3,000 each to 3,000,000 workers in Massachusetts by ending the income tax, you shouldn't vote for our ballot initiative,' "

CLT leader Barbara Anderson wrote '... In all our years of initiative petitioning, it never occurred to us to tell voters to vote for our ballot question only if you do it for the reasons we have decided are the politically correct ones...We would have just ignored this, except that the story will be picked up by other newspapers...I had initially called Carla with the offer to ask CLT activists if they wanted to help with signatures...I was genuinely astonished by her response. Then she told [CLT's other senior stabber] not to talk to the press about her ballot question even if they called! I thought that this was hilarious...' Your Editor says 'odd, not funny.'

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Massachusetts Political Numbers

Candidates for Higher Office

(The Parties are **D**emocratic, **R**epublican, **L**ibertarian, **G**reen:

U. S. Senate: D, L (A Republican is running a write-in campaign in the primary, which would put him on the ballot in November. There may be an independent.)

Governor/Lt. Governor D, R, L, G [D have a primary for Governor. R have a primary for Lt. Governor.]

D: Attorney General, Treasurer, Auditor, State Secretary

R: Treasurer (there is a contested primary), State Secretary
L: Auditor

G: Treasurer

Congress: 10D, 4R, 1 L

Governor's Council: 8D, uncontested.

State Senate: 36D, 10R, 1L for 40 seats.

State House: 145 D, 58R, 13L, 5G for 160 seats. At least one libertarian is running as an independent.

Massachusetts Libertarian Voters, by date of birth

Before 1930 and Other: 328

1930-1934: 175

1935-1939: 229

1940-1944: 400

1945-1949: 640

1950-1954: 1043

1955-1959: 1667

1960-1964: 2261

1965-1969: 2546

1970-1974: 2860

1975-1979: 3148

1980-1983: 1298

News Notes

The Libertarian Victory Fund reports that Bea Jones was elected to the Hardeeville, SC city council. She finished second in a four-way race. (LibertarianVictoryFund.com).

Professor Julian Hecklen of State College, Pennsylvania has announced his candidacy of the LPUS Presidential nomination. Hecklen, a senior LPPA official, has been elected to a long series of public offices. He can be reached at 814-238-8054; lppawest@yahoo.com www.personal.psu.edu/jph13

The Next War? U.S. News reports overseas deployment of 2000 people of the 28th Infantry Division, Pennsylvania National Guard, to Europe for a six-month tour of duty, the division's first deployment since Korea. The Division is replacing the previously mobilized 35th Infantry Division, whose redeployment was unspecified.

The LPNC is running 150 candidates this year, including candidates for a majority of each house of the state legislature and all of the state's Federal races. LPNC candidate counts are three times their number only a few years ago, a result obtained on the basis of vigorous candidate recruitment by state and local party officials and volunteers.

(Continued from page 1) [National Convention]

(2-vote margin) to seat the 15. Admittedly, I was busy with my own campaign, but I recall seeing only two Hoosiers at the delegation vote to admit them. I first saw the rest of them Saturday morning at the National Chair vote, and by Saturday afternoon (and the potential second round vote) they were gone, one with the passenger pigeons, never again to be seen. Several sharp-sighted observers noted that if Israel had not conceded, his Massachusetts vote total would have fallen dramatically; his Hoosier friends had flown the coop. They did get the joke: "Indiana Carpetbagger for Israel" worn by at least some of the 15 Indianans added to the Massachusetts delegation.

Many convention delegates were dismayed. Once they learned about the delegation packing, the first supplemental credentials committee report was rejected by the convention. Future reports proposed separately 'Delegates Seated With Their State' and 'Delegates Seated with Another State', the former being approved readily.

The 2-vote margin in the Massachusetts delegation to seat the Indianans with Massachusetts appeared to have been supplied by three Massachusetts delegates who have regularly been paid by the Howell Campaign, the Cloud Campaign and Howell's Small Government campaign. The LPMA delegation also seated Presidential candidate Harry Browne as a member of the Massachusetts delegation. Browne, a Tennessee resident, reportedly could not readily have gained admission to the TN delegation.

The Convention floor would have held the ca. 1500 allotted delegates. 600+ were registered, but even for the National Chair race under 600 were on the floor. Most of the time under 400 delegates were present, giving a substantially empty look to the hall. The new LNC might consider emulating the English House of Parliament (which cannot seat all its members; in a crisis Parliament is Standing Room Only) and arranging seating for under 1000 at the next National Convention.

In 2000, Liberty magazine sent its Editor, Bill Bradford, to the Libertarian National Convention. Bradford was denied press credentials by the LNC Washington Staff as a reporter for Liberty. In 2002, Liberty sent an intern freshly moved to Liberty from Cato. He assured me that he had also been denied press credentials by the LNC Washington Staff. Liberty remains the only large-circulation newsmagazine to cover the LP regularly. Kudos to the Virginia delegation for letting him sit as a Virginia delegate so that he could move around on the convention floor.

Friends with booths report that booth prices went up yet again. The quoted increase was 50% over 2000. Absent from the vendor region were groups such as Laissez Fair Press and Reason. In addition, the vendors were in the badge-only restricted convention area. For most of the convention, a uniformed convention center employee kept people from the 16,000-attendee AIM convention—the rest of the building—from passing near our vendor area. For 2004, one might consider reorganizing our next event as the "2004 Libertarian National Convention and Exposition", low table prices, and using the vendors and their products to sell our ideas to the public.

(Continued from page 1) [Watras Resigns]

Worcester County so that they could be contacted. He was told he could only have it if he specifically promised that your Editor did not get access to it. Haskell apologetically asked me what he should do: I urged him to agree, take the list, and try to build the Party.

3) "This is no way to run an organization." Watras found LPUS members in his own town by driving down the street and seeing bumper stickers. He reports finding that "the voter lists are worthless as a source of activists. And the only information that would help is restricted by the powers to be. I wish the State Committee and the LPMA officers would ask members to contact the nearest local group in the effort to grow but each time I have asked for this I was told that the membership list is privileged information and I should just move on to other issues. The more local groups that get started the better prepared we are for future gains but it seems that we are in the belief of trickle down politics with out having anything to trickle down." Watras also cited issues with the state newsletter—which only sometimes covers PVLA meetings—and the state email lists, notably the abolition of the general@LPMA list.

Massachusetts is not the only state with resignations and other terminations. In Pennsylvania, John Haley was elected State Chair this Spring and resigned; his resignation excludes Lois Kaneshiki from the "Immediate Past Chair" seat on the LPPA Board. The state newsletter has not appeared since elections. County Representatives to the State Board Della Croft and Ken Sturzenacker and Eastern PA Chair David Brady have resigned. The State Chair was replaced by the former State Secretary. Former State Executive Director John Famularo did not resign; the new State Chair terminated the post of State Director without consulting Famularo. Famularo was the former state Treasurer. We understand that he has been forwarding checks and bills to the new State Treasurer, but has yet to be able to arrange to transfer the State Party's checking account to the new Treasurer. Concern is voiced that state party funds will go to support the Krawchuk for Governor campaign.

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Is Someone in Charge Here?

Those of you who were not present at the recent National Convention and LNC meetings missed interesting items.

For some months, LNC members have been asking for a report on Accounts Receivable. The question seems unnecessary. The LNC filed its quarterly financial report with the FEC -- where every LP member could read it -- for the period ending March 31 2002. You can read it yourself at www.fec.gov. On that date, we had no Accounts Receivable in our Federal Account, says the report sworn under penalty of perjury. On July 7, at the LNC Meeting, a contrary assertion was made by the LNC Treasurer: We appear to have \$22,000 in accounts receivable more than 120 days past due.

Someone could claim that the Accounts Receivable were to the non-Federal Account of the LNC. However, LP News publishes advertisements promoting the campaigns of Federal candidates. I have confirmed from other FEC reports filed under penalty of perjury that these debts included money owed by Federal candidates in support of their campaigns. Until paid, those debts are reportable gifts in kind from the LNC to those Federal campaigns. The details will appear in the next issue. (And, indeed, the campaigns I have checked acknowledged the debts in their FEC reports.)

According to what was announced at the LNC meeting, many of the Accounts Receivable were for LP News. At the meeting, it was stated that these were not visible because the LP News Editor was keeping his own records. Some apparent receivables may be accounting issues, for example cancelled ads. Why didn't the Staff have the data? During the LNC meeting, I heard one member observe that it had been difficult to determine where lines of authority ran in the national office.

I asked a Federal Campaign Treasurer about the Accounts Receivable. Candidates are responsible to their campaigns. Early Money Is Like Yeast. Delaying payments to a less demanding vendor can strengthen a campaign. I was given an interesting answer. The campaign had yet to receive a dunning notice.

At least one LNC member has been requesting the information since the March LNC meeting. As of 7/7, it was still not available. Some LP members recall the unfortunate events of 1996 when the Browne campaign used the LNC mailing list in January and paid in July. They also recall clues that similar things happened in 1999.

It is a serious management failure for the Libertarian Party to go for at least a season, knowing that there are Accounts receivable, but being unable to itemize them when asked by a National Committee members. How can we convince Americans that we are fit to manage the country's finances, when we cannot administer our own million-fold smaller finances?

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 May 2002, the Howell campaign had income of \$4588 and expenditures of \$9726. Expenditures included \$140 to the Gun Owners Action League, \$783 to the LNC apparently for an ad, \$5000 for postage charges, \$600 to Dennis Corrigan for expense reimbursement, \$2500 to Time Printing, \$210 for a fax service, bank and miscellaneous charges and a \$300 refund.

For June 2002 the Howell Campaign had income of \$16,384 and Expenditures of \$6879. Expenditures included \$150 to the Boston Pride Parade, \$185 to Corrigan consulting, \$693 to Freedom Petition Management for petitioning, \$1118 for fliers, \$1264 for 10000 bumper stickers, \$1279 to the message for advertising, \$559 to Web Commanders, \$1700 to William Pacheco as a staffer, \$196 for postage stamps, and back charges.

LNC Financials Challenging

For the first quarter of the year, the LNC took in \$553942. For the second quarter, despite the National Convention increasing revenues the LNC took in \$478,070. Project income for the year looks to be 2.1 million dollars, about the same as last year.

Early last year, the LNC went over from "monthly" to "quarterly" reporting, which in 2001 meant that the National Committee only had to file twice with the Federal Election Commission. This change saved work for the National Staff, but also hid party spending for a while from the members. This year, the piper comes for his fee. Quarterly filers must file a complete financial report 12 days before each Federal Primary in which the Federal Party spent money to influence the outcome. Given our ballot access spending, there are potentially a lot of these. In contrast, "monthly" filers file more-or-less but not exactly monthly, with no special filings for primaries.

Lawn Signs

Your humble correspondent had the charge of buying lawn signs for the campaign of Carol McMahon for State Senate. Fortunately, the candidate knew exactly what she wanted on her signs. She also had a color scheme: black ink on yellow background. So I did a search: Available materials are plastic coated cardboard (short lifetime), plastic film that stretches over a steel grid, and coroplast, a 4mm thick corrugated double layer. Coroplast is the most durable and is available in colors, perhaps for less than paying for a second color of ink. Signs are available printed 1 and 2 sided; be sure you order 2 if you want 2. Steel stakes are in the range 25-75 cents or are provided for free. For coroplast, H-frames give you are higher elevation and are free from some vendors. Wooden stakes are an alternative, hard to drive into rocky soil. Art work may be free, billed, or 'to be supplied by customer'. Shipping was close to 1/4 the cost of the signs; coroplast is **heavy**.

Letters

Above everything, the mission of the **Libertarian** Party should be to elect Libertarian candidates who will actually work to decrease the size, power and intrusiveness of government once in office. Carl Milsted, Jr. failed to consider two vital factors when he writes about the future of the LP and weighs in on the race for LNC Chair.

One factor relates to ethics. The future of the LNC must be one without insider venter deals, secret "Friends & Family" plans, endless empty hype and false promises in the name of finding new sheep, and fleecing the ever consenting old-timers. We **need** a National Chair who will lead with integrity. We need an energetic communicator who will run our national affairs with openness and transparency.

Regarding transparency, Eli argues that open debate is harmful to Party leadership -- be it the state Party or National Party leadership. His energy is focused on keeping he and his fellow Party officers from joining open discussions as he feels it lowers the status of the leadership, elevates that status of a rank & file questioner, and shines an uncontrolled spotlight of attention on uncomfortable issues. Disagree? Please send your complaints to the MA LP general discussion list general@lpma.org.

George Phillies is completing a book on ethical issues concerning the recent history of the Party. No LNC chair candidate has argued better for the need for openness, transparency and integrity.

The other vital factor of concern is about philosophy. For the reasons stated above, philosophy is important. Our National Chair must champion **Libertarian** philosophy. Period.

In separate writings I have commented in detail on Eli's leadership as Chair of the Mass LP in joining with a Democrat and Republican lawmakers in working to amend the Massachusetts Constitution to create a new state-level prohibition on voting by prisoners that was received with profound shock with hardcore LP members as well as with leaders and members of single-issue pro-freedom organizations in Massachusetts.

George Phillies has energetically shared his beliefs on various email lists. George is **not** willing to trash a philosophical belief in order to receive a pat on the back from Democrat and Republican lawmakers. George is **not** philosophically tone deaf. George is the candidate I personally trust most.

Geoff Neale has not visited this neck of the woods. I have not heard how he stands with these issues.

Jeff Chase
Former MA State Committee member