

# Let Freedom Ring

## CMLC Liberator

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### Norton Wins Primary – He Advances to the General Election

Libertarian Paul Norton of the Pioneer Valley won the Libertarian Primary, and is advancing to his race for State Representative. The general election, which also includes an independent, a Republican, and a Democratic candidate, will be held August 31.

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### PVLA Endorses the Clean Slate Action Program

At its regular August meeting, the Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association, the oldest regularly-meeting local Libertarian group in Massachusetts, voted without opposition to endorse the Clean Slate Action Program (distributed with the previous issue of **Let Freedom Ring**) as the basis for advancing the Libertarian program.

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### An Important Letter from a Recent Convert to the Libertarian Party: Using Petitioning to Mobilize Voters:

Bob O'Keefe writes:

I recently joined the LP after wasting time in the Republican Party. I was a Republican activist from 1988-1998. Over the years I have served on many GOP committees and campaigns, notably the Republican State Committee, where I served from 1992 - Jan 1998 as its Deputy Director and in 1998 as Joe Malone's Operations Manager.

I mention this to point out that I have been involved in signature collecting for many years. The difference between collecting signatures for the GOP and the LP are just the 13% that are registered as Republicans. While that 13% causes us to have to collect more signatures, it is a small step.

Major Party status is important to me because this March when the Unenrolled all go to vote in the Presidential Primaries they will be asked if they want a Democrat, Republican or Libertarian Ballot. Hundreds of thousands of people are going to be personally told that there is a Libertarian Party and that it is not just a philosophy.

Back when I was the Deputy Director of the GOP I told all legislative candidates that if they were serious they should collect 5,000 raw signatures. Yes, I said 5000 for state rep. All a candidate should be doing during the collection period is collecting signatures. The candidate can go door-to-door or work the shopping centers. In addition volunteers can also work the shopping centers.

I have only had one GOP candidate follow that advise and he did win and beat an incumbent. Granted there were also other issues involved; my point is: it is possible to beat incumbents and should be done.

Your point [Ed: referring to George Phillies' discussion of running people as independents who self-identify as Libertarian] that it is tough on collecting for a US Congress race vs. State Senate (or rep) is quite true and collecting the 8000 raw signatures is a daunting task indeed. Which is why it should be done with the assistance of the state or national party. Even the Republican National Committee comes into MA to help get candidates on the Congressional ballot.

...Bob O'Keefe

### **Editorial**

This is George Phillies, your chair and temporary Editor.

First, on behalf of the entire PVLA I would like to thank Rick Visneau for his hard work on behalf of the PVLA for editing and producing Let Freedom Ring. I hope his contributions can be an inspiration to the rest of us to do more to **Stand Up for Liberty!** and work to advance the Libertarian cause across Massachusetts. It is through local organization and hard local work that we will advance to the Libertarian freedom of peace, freedom and prosperity.

Second, as your temporary editor, I intend to focus the newsletter on news of Libertarian activities and Libertarian politics. I will focus on the demanding task of encouraging the readers to speak up, stand up, get on the ballot, and run for local, statewide, and Federal office. It is through the hard work we saw with the Norton Campaign – ballot access, fundraising, campaigning, and finally the election – that we will do better in the future than we have in the past.

I view Let Freedom Ring as an outreach instrument, letting us encourage activists in central and western Massachusetts by giving them news of their fellows. Libertarians in Springfield and Worcester and North Adams and Lunenburg and Dartmouth have a common objective: electoral victory. By reporting what your fellow Libertarians are doing elsewhere in Western and Central Massachusetts, I hope to inspire you to advance the flag of freedom. By reporting political action techniques that have actually worked, and why

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### **Previous Editor Resigns**

Following a frank but cordial discussion of the relative importance of Libertarian and CMLC/PVLA news, and of rumors of conspiracies, Mr. Rick Visneau has resigned as LFR/CMLCL Editor.

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other techniques did not work, I hope to supply you and your fellow activists with the tools that will let you run successful campaigns for office. By discussing Libertarian policies and ideas for civic action, I hope to give you the arguments that reach your neighbors' hearts and souls, so that they too will elect to join the Libertarian movement.

.....George Phillies, Chair, PVLA

**Important Reminder**

**Petitioning for Libertarian Party City and State Committees is happening now!**

Libertarian Town and Ward Committees can perform many useful services for Massachusetts Libertarians. They will never be a substitute for local groups like the Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association and the Central Massachusetts Liberty Coalition, but they have certain legal opportunities that other groups do not.

Massachusetts Libertarians must act **now** to create ward and town committees. **Go to your city or town hall. Get a petition for Town or Ward Committee, and for State Committee.** (The State Committee is one man and one woman for each State Senate District.) Fill them out, collect signatures, and run. You will need 5 signatures to run for Town or Ward Committee, and 50 signatures to run for State Committee. Libertarians and Unenrolled voters can sign your petitions. Fill out the

forms, get the signatures, and take them to your town clerk.

We need town and Ward committees because these groups, unlike PACS, can provide unlimited support in kind (if they can raise the money) for campaigns of Libertarian candidates. We need those committees now, because either we elect them now or we wait until 2003. That's state law. Even if you won't be doing anything, run! One elected town committeeman can be turned into a committee; zero elected town committeemen mean no town committee before 2003.

We need State Committee people from Western Mass, so that we get a Libertarian state committee with representation from across the state. We need that state committee to get support for Libertarians across our state, so Libertarians like Paul Norton are supported by the state party, instead of being ignored in favor of candidates largely from eastern Massachusetts.

The Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association is Massachusetts' oldest local Libertarian organization, with regular meetings since 1995. The PVLA and its sister Central Massachusetts Liberty Coalition work to advance freedom across Massachusetts' 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Congressional Districts, stretching from Williamstown to Dartmouth. Read more about the PVLA and CMLC on their web sites, <http://www.wmlp.org> and <http://www.cmlc.org>. The PVLA and CMLC web sites are hosted by Excell.net (<http://www.excell.net>) a locally-owned, locally operated internet service provider offering solutions to people and businesses in the Pioneer Valley. Why not patronize a fellow



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