



A New Dawn for Freedom

Social and Activism Events

July

11 6:30 PM PVLA Monthly Meeting, Hu Ke Lau Restaurant at Mass Pike Exit 5 Contact: Carol McMahon, 413-250-6608 cjcmahon@verizon.net

15 2:00 PM LPMA Social, at the home of Stephanie Woiciechowski and RJ, 4 Carp Road, Milford, Off Route 495 Exit 19, with barbecue, kiddie pool, and collation of mailing for LPMA State Convention

22 6:00 PM WCLA Monthly Meeting, Tweed's Restaurant, Worcester MA 01605 Contact: George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net 508-754-1859

August

9 6:30 PM PVLA Monthly Meeting, Hu Ke Lau Restaurant at Mass Pike Exit 5 Contact: Carol McMahon, 413-250-6608 cjcmahon@verizon.net

19 6:00 PM WCLA Monthly Meeting, Tweed's Restaurant, Worcester MA 01605 Contact: George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net 508-754-1859

22 8:00 PM Lowell Area Liberty Association, Outback Steakhouse, Reiss Street, Lowell Arthur Torrey, Arthur_torrey@comcast.net 978-663-0241

LPMA Schedules State Convention

At its June 2006 meeting, the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts appointed George Phillies to organize its 2006 State Convention. There was an immediate rush of volunteers to support the effort, including Steve Drobnis, Arthur Torrey, Mary-Anne Wolf, Rob Power, and Stephanie Woiciechowski.

The convention will be held Saturday, September 23, starting at 10:15 AM at Tweed's Restaurant, Grove Street, Worcester. The order of business includes election of a new state committee, by-laws changes that the membership may wish to bring, candidate endorsements, other business, guest speakers, and a fundraiser. Coffee and Tea will be available all day. An Italian buffet lunch will be served. Admission has been set at \$28, well below rates seen in prior years.

Liberty for Massachusetts Elects Officers

Torrey, Drobnis, Phillies elected to State Offices; Underwoods, McMahon, Wolf to Regional Rep By-Laws Amendment passes

Thanks to everyone who voted.

The votes were:

Operations Facilitator	Arthur Torrey	5
Treasurer	Steve Drobnis	5
Membership Secretary	Steve Drobnis	5
Editor	George Phillies	5
Chair	George Phillies	5

Regional Representatives

Region 1	Shirley Underwood	1
	Bob Underwood	1
Region 2	Carol McMahon	1
Region 5	Steve Drobnis	2
Region 6	Art Torrey	2
	Mary-Anne Wolf	1

By-Laws Amendment	Yes	4
-------------------	-----	---

The amendment was "Dual Memberships: In a household in which mail is sent to the same address for several people, if one of the people is a member, a second person may join Liberty for Massachusetts by paying \$5 for the year."

Editorial apologies for the delay in producing this issue.

We have never run an election before, and seem to have uncovered a few minor bugs in the election procedure in the By-laws. Everything worked fine, but it took longer than I expected. We will all try to do better next year.

Note that we have vacancies for Political Facilitator, and for 10 of the 16 regional representatives. On the other hand, we have had our elections, and we are working forward to the Libertarian future.

Liberty for Massachusetts

Published by the Liberty for Massachusetts Outreach Committee, (outreach@libertyformassachusetts.org) Papermail Subscriptions are \$20/year, \$10 if you will take material by email, checks payable Liberty for Massachusetts, sent to Liberty for Massachusetts, 30 East Chestnut Street, Sharon MA 02067.

No Free Lunch at the Ballot Box

Liberty for Massachusetts would be well advised, in places where the battle for ballot access has been won, to work on increasing the number of candidates that it runs for office. A party without candidates is a joke. Particularly promising targets, at the Federal level, are the Congressional Districts in which one of the major parties runs a candidate without significant (or any) opposition. In Massachusetts, this regularly includes the most Congressional Districts. The same targeting works at the state level. In 1996, nearly 120 of the 200 members of the state legislature had no opponents at all in the general election, and the number of unopposed candidates continues to increase.

Why should a pro-liberty party try to run candidates in these districts? Under most conditions, an American politician faced by any opposition at all, however token, cannot hope to gain more than 3/4 or 4/5 of the total vote. If the only opponent is a Libertarian, then that candidate will pick up a fifth or a quarter of the vote and, under some circumstances, may even hope to win. (Does the name Rostenkowski ring a bell? He who the voters decided to send on his way?) Indeed, the LP's most successful Congressional Campaign of 1994 was made against a Democrat who had no other opponents.

The LP's regular theme has been 'a Presidential candidate on the ballot in all 50 states, and DC, too' -- a level that in the last 35 years has been missed at least once by one of the "major" parties. A mark of future growth of a national party will be 'a candidate in every Congressional District' (and with some good fortune victories in a few of them). Correspondingly, at the state level in Massachusetts, the appropriate Libertarian target is to field candidates for all 160 State Representative seats, all 40 State Senate seats, and all 8 Governor's Council seats. Corresponding goals apply at the county (so long as Massachusetts has county officers, some of whom will survive without their attached county) and city/town level: If there is an open post, a Libertarian should be recruited to run for the position.

Too many libertarians believe that a free box lunch exists at the ballot box. They firmly believe that there will be pro-liberty candidates on the ballot without them personally needing to take a step to get those candidates. Most people don't run for office without being asked. Most people don't get on the ballot without a lot of help from friends. Too many libertarians don't run, don't persuade their libertarian friends to run, don't help declared candidates get ballot access --- and then are surprised when no libertarian candidates are on the ballot in November. There's no free box lunch in the ballot box.

The Times-Mirror study that identified libertarian as an identifi-

able, very small political inclination (albeit one that scarcely existed a few years ago) also identified its supporters as white, male, technologically inclined people -- SF fans and computer users, e.g. In contrast, our party registration statistics in Massachusetts has regularly shown a predominance of female over male Libertarian registrants, perhaps because at the state level both of the other major parties tend -- especially in midstate -- to be hostile to women, notably by being anti-choice and by imposing a crushing state tax burden on people of limited means, many of whom are single women with children.

Liberty for Massachusetts would fruitfully pursue private as well as public venues for advertising its existence. There are a wide variety of science fiction conventions from coast to coast and beyond; (the following advice will be marvelously opaque to non-SF fans) there is little to prevent libertarians of various stripes if so inclined from sponsoring a room party. Indeed, Arisia (Massachusetts convention, presently in Framingham) had one a few years ago. There was no active party recruiting, but there was a subtle opportunity to show existence to those who are demographically likely to be interested. Similar approaches are usefully approached (with some variations) at electronics and computer shows, gun and militaria shows,...

What do you say about 'wasted votes'?

We as individuals don't vote to select the winner. As a practical matter, we vote to tell everyone else which choice best represents the direction which we want the country to go. Hence, voting for the lesser evil sends the wrong message. How many people voted for Bob Dole, rather than against Bill Clinton? And vice versa. Yet these votes are interpreted as support for the positions of the candidate who received those votes. Remember, if we keep voting the way we have been voting, we will keep getting what we have been getting.

Even if (through an incredibly improbable election outcome) once in your life you missed the chance to cast that mythical deciding ballot for some politician, because you voted for a smaller party, the harm from selecting the wrong person in one election is more than offset by a lifetime of giving voter support to the lesser of two evils rather than standing up for what you believe.

So rather than waste your vote on Democrats or Republicans, cast a meaningful ballot that clearly says what you believe. *Cast a vote for some serious government downsizing. Cast a vote for freedom! It's time to vote Libertarian!*

Here in Massachusetts, this argument is especially strong. Ten years ago, thousands of Massachusetts voters cast their ballot for Bob Dole, who had absolutely no chance of carrying the state, or for Mike Dukakis, who had absolutely no chance of winning the election. **Did all these people "waste their vote"? Not at all!** They stood up as Americans and were counted for the cause in which they believed. Furthermore, much of the time, politicians keep count of how many votes their opponents received, since that count of votes is an indicator of what the public really thinks of political policies. A vote cast in disagreement with a winner is reminder to the winner that he, too, can be defeated next time.