

Liberty for America

Journal of the
Libertarian Political Movement

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New Hampshire Chooses First Delegate

...George Phillies

The Libertarian Party of New Hampshire had its State Convention on October 3. Your Editor drove up to watch and say hello to friends. Rich Tomasso was elected as their new State Chair. For more news, see their web pages LPNH.org soon.

The Libertarian Party of New Hampshire uses its state convention to bind some of their delegates for the first convention vote for President and National Chair. At the LPNH State Convention October 3, Brendan Kelly nominated Wayne Root to receive this year's (one) bound delegate for President. No one else at the convention was willing to second the nomination. The nomination died, and no delegate was bound.

Mark Hinkle of California appeared and spoke on behalf of his campaign for National Chair. Former NJ State Chair Lou Jasikoff appeared and had by report been intended to nominate Wayne Root for National Chair. However, that did not happen, I am told because Root has not yet announced that he is running. I was asked if I would have my name put into nomination, though it is not yet that widely known that I am being asked to run. However, someone released the kitten from the yarn. Howard Wilson agreed to nominate me. I won the convention vote for one delegate.

Massachusetts State Organization Changes Name

Massachusetts Libertarians held their State Convention on October 10. They debated amendments to their State Constitution, a State Platform, elected a State Committee and convention delegates, and heard from U.S. Senate candidate Joe Kennedy, Jain for Auditor campaign chair Brendon DeMeo, and Worcester-area freedom activist Brad Wyatt extolling the Campaign 4 Liberty. The new Committee is David Blau, Alwin Hopfman, Joe Kennedy, Richard Martin, George Phillies, and Bob Underwood.

Last year, LPMass ceased to use the National Party platform, because the National Party keeps changing its platform. The State Committee was ordered by the last State Convention to offer a new State Platform: Peace-Freedom-Prosperity-End Regressive Taxes-Halve License Fees-Eliminate Turnpike tolls.

A great deal of pointless verbiage was eliminated from the LPMass Constitution.

And the big change: The state organization changed its name: The dues-paying Libertarian group in Massachusetts is now the *Libertarian Association of Massachusetts*. Speaking in support of its amendments, the State Committee said "We are a private organization belonging to our dues-paying members, who are variously registered Libertarian, Democratic, Unenrolled.. Our organization belongs to its dues-paying members. The Commonwealth recognizes a political party (Libertarian) that belongs to the registered Libertarian voters."

A Monthly Step Toward Victory – Understanding a Public Hearing

By now, we hope that you have made your way to your Town or City Hall and attended one or more meetings (Liberty for America, April 2009, page 2.) You may have seen a "Public Hearing" at one of these meetings.

A public hearing is a forum to provide an organized method to present information to the public and to receive from the public. There are likely several boards or commissions in your town or city that are chartered to hold public hearings. Topics may include a developer applying to build a shopping center, a restaurant applying for a license to serve alcoholic beverages, a homeowner who wants to put an addition on his house that leaves less than the mini-

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mum setback from the lot line, or a state highway department with plans to replace an old bridge.

Public hearings may be a meeting in and of itself or just one item on the agenda of a regularly scheduled meeting of a board or commission.

Public notice of a public hearing is required some minimum number of days in advance. A notice in the "Legal Notices" section of the classifieds in a local newspaper may be what your town uses. Check with your Town Hall for the normal procedure. Note that county and state government departments may have different methods. If you don't live in a county seat or state capital city, you may not see such notices unless you go out of your way to find the notices. Smaller towns have fewer public hearings. A down economy also reduces the number of development projects, and hence hearings, everywhere.

Here is a general format for a public hearing. Expect variations with different boards and commissions and in different cities and states.

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Liberty for America will be performing political acts, like supporting voter registration, lining up volunteers, and other activities that the Federal government calls "Federal Election Activity" and hence FEC-reportable. We must therefore funnel dues to our PAC, "Liberty for America". Dues will not be used to support candidates.

Required Federal Notices: Your Donations are not tax deductible. Federal law requires us to request the occupation and employer of donors of \$200 or more in a year. Federal law requires us to state 'your money may be used to support Federal candidates', but we promise that we won't do that with your dues.

- At the scheduled time, the hearing is declared to be open. Usually, the notice that was published in advance of the hearing is read by the chairperson.
- The petitioner is then called to present his project to the board.
- The board members may ask questions after the petitioner makes his presentation.
- After board members finish their questions, the meeting is opened to the public for "questions of fact." This is not for stating opinions of the project but to get clarification details of the project that may not have been clearly stated earlier or maybe details that were not mentioned at all.
- Then the meeting is open to the public to state whether they are in favor or opposed to the project. You may also give the board your suggestions, opinions or reasons for the board to consider when they decide the fate of the project. You may be limited to three minutes or so and asked not to restate something that someone else may have said although you may elaborate on a previous statement.
- The hearing may now be closed or continued. Once the hearing is closed, no further input may be considered by the board. If the petitioner is asked to get more information, alter a plan or if the board wants to consult another department, the meeting will be "continued" to a specific date and time (this is your notice of when to return.)
- The board will have a time limit to act on the proposal but may act on it right away. If approved, the board may add a list of conditions that the petitioner must comply with when proceeding with their project. Occasionally, the list of conditions may increase the cost of the project such that the petitioner decides not to even start the project (or they may sell the project along with the board's approval and list of conditions.)

For your monthly step, attend a public hearing and observe the format that is used, how well the chairperson conducts the hearing and whether everyone attending had a reasonable opportunity to bring up issues or state their opinions. For meetings that are continued, attend the next part of the hearing. If you can, stay for or come back at the time designated for the board to act on the matter.

Knowing how a public hearing works will be helpful in the event that some project that affects you, your home or in some other way comes up in your future.

Party Finances — the Massachusetts Plan

For the past year, Massachusetts libertarians have worked with a new method of organizing their organization's finances. Our objective was simple: Make sure that money is spent where it should be spent, on doing real politics.

Our approach to managing spending put the controls where they belong: at the front end.

Massachusetts Libertarians have two major sources of money: dues and donations. We also have two sorts of campaign accounts: State and Federal. Only state money raised under state funding restrictions can be spent on state campaign activities. Only Federal money can be spent on supporting Federal candidates or on Federal Election Activity. For example, registering someone to vote within several months of a Federal election is Federal Election Activity, even if no libertarian is in the race.

To control spending, we have a budget.

However, we have no idea in advance how many members will pay dues. We have no idea in advance how many members will give us donations. Those numbers have fluctuated wildly in recent years. If looking at the past is a reasonable answer, the reasonable answer is: Your guess is as good as ours.

We inverted the budgeting schemes used by other groups. We said: We know the missions we want to accomplish. We know we have certain fixed expenses. We will do is to split each dues payment and donation, as it comes in, across the missions. Then we will see what we can do with the money we actually have. We also agreed that we will revisit our allocations to see if they work.

To make life more interesting, we finally brought the state organization into the 21st century. We now offer electronic memberships, in which your newsletter is sent as a PDF file. We now offer family member-

ships, so if several people living under one roof are all members who agree to share their newsletter, extra family memberships are charged a minimum rate. We ask \$25 for paper memberships, \$15 for electronic memberships, and \$5 for family memberships.

In allocating dues payments, we first said that \$10 of each paper membership goes to a distinct financial account to be used only for printing and publishing the paper newsletter. That decision guarantees there will always be enough money to print and publish a newsletter every month. We then asked what are other costs were.

We have certain fixed administrative costs. We rent a post office box. We own URLs that must be renewed. We have a website; we pay for hosting. The web site offers e-mail forwarding, which could have come as an extra expense. We subsidize Meetup groups. These facilities are used for Federal Election Activity and must be paid for with Federal hard money.

We also have a range of objectives:

- Membership renewal
- Volunteer incitement and support
- Fund raising and membership recruitment
- Candidate recruitment and outreach
- Candidate and issue support
- Administrative costs and reserve funds

For normal memberships, supported by donations to the Federal PAC, we made an allocation of remaining funds:

- Membership renewal 20%
- Volunteer support 20%
- Fund raising and membership recruitment 30%
- Candidate recruitment and outreach 20%
- Administrative and reserve funds 10%

For donations other than membership renewals, the allocations are

- Candidates and issues 50%
- Administration and reserve funds 10%
- Fund raising 40%

Our fundraising documents give members the choice of giving money for renewals or giving money as donations. However, if a member gives more than

\$100 in the calendar year, we give the member a one year extension on membership for each hundred dollars, up to a five year limit. The expense to us is \$10, and that only if the member receives the newsletter in paper rather than electronic form. We also passed a rule that monthly donors of \$5 a month or more are placed in a special membership category in which their membership does not expire so long as they're a monthly donor. If they stop giving, they still have whatever months are remaining on their original membership.

We are allotting \$3 per member for a renewal effort. That means that we can do five distinct mailings to each member. We're currently up to three new mailings, and I expect we'll do the fourth and fifth after our forthcoming state convention. Fortunately, one of our members owns a Xerox Phaser, and is willing to print the newsletter so long as he is reimbursed his costs. Those costs, with substantial use of color, are lower than the costs for commercial printer giving us black and white prints. The Phaser has also given us brochures for candidates in neighboring states and colorful recruitment flyers.

I am quoting the above numbers after we adjusted them a bit. At first we had allocated 30% to fundraising, and 20% to administrative and reserve expenses. A 30% allotment to fundraising requires that for each dollar you spend on raising money, you bring in \$3.40. That number turned out to be unrealistically high. We raised the fund raising percentage to 40%, meaning that for each dollar spent on fundraising we have to bring in \$2.50. That number seems to be working.

On the other hand, a vigorous program of contacting former members and others, urging them to renew and join, has meant that our membership decline has reversed; membership is now growing. Our program is sustainable because we have a budget for membership recruitment. With an increasing membership, our fixed costs are spread over more people, and therefore we will be able to reduce the administrative cost allotment.

At some point you actually have to spend the money you have raised. Very recently, our State Committee agreed to spend a thousand dollars from the financial

reserve to support the Joe Kennedy for Senate campaign. That's close to half our reserve funds. Joe Kennedy is a member of our national party, who volunteered and is running for the U.S. Senate seat vacated by the death of Senator Edward Kennedy. Joe is not except very distantly related to the Senator. Joe needs 17,000 raw signatures to get on the ballot, meaning that he needs about \$17,000 or he will fail to achieve ballot access. If Joe does not raise the money needed to get on the ballot, his campaign is for naught.

The decision to help support the Kennedy campaign was not without risks. If Kennedy fails to get ballot access, our members will justly complain that we threw their money away. On the other hand, if we had not supported Kennedy, our members would justly complain that we are failing to support the campaigns of our party members when they run for office. Fortunately, our fund allocation scheme both assured that we had some money available to help support Kennedy, and assured that some of our money was locked away where we could legitimately explain why we did not spend it on his campaign.

The larger part of our money for Kennedy went to petitioning. A segment of our money went to sending a full color three page fund raising letter to all of our current members, all of our current national members, and a select list of strong-propensity-to-give past libertarian donors, urging them to support Kennedy. We also sent a nominating paper for signatures to each member of the state organization who receives the newsletter in paper form. The nominating papers must be printed on 60lb. canary yellow 8.5x14 inch stock, so there was no utility to sending people electronic files of the nominating papers that they could print.

That's the Massachusetts scheme for ensuring that dues money and donations actually gets spent on politics. The money is allocated to legitimate political purposes, and to administrative costs, when it comes through the door. Once allocated, it stays where it belongs. When it comes time to do real politics, we know how much money we have for that purpose. On the other hand, because the money is pre-allocated particular accounts, there is no possibility that a huge administrative overhead will eat up all

of our income, so that we are reduced to the point where we would have no ability to support candidates, do outreach, recruit members, or do any of the other political things that justify the existence of our organization.

As someone has let the kitten out of the yarn, it is no longer a secret that there is a strong effort to draft me to run for National Chair again. I agreed that I would run if there were a legitimate draft. When I explained to the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire State Convention on Saturday, a majority of the delegates present voted that I should be the National Chair candidate to receive one pre-pledged delegate vote.

An important part of the leadership role of the National Chair is to ensure that our party actually spends money on doing politics, rather than on non-political tasks that do nothing to advance us toward a Libertarian future. If elected, I will strongly urge the National Committee to go over to some suitable variation on the Massachusetts scheme for budget allocation.

Obviously, there will need to be some variations.

For example, a reasonably run a national committee will set aside \$100,000 a year or a bit more for presidential ballot access. 50 state ballot access is a reasonable objective, but you can't get there if you can't pay for it. A reasonable budgeting scheme will help ensure that money is available when we need it for each of our purposes.

For example, a reasonable National Committee will need space for back office operations. That space should be pleasant, so that the staff is happy about coming to work, and does not have to work against its space and facilities. However, there is no need to put back office operations in Class A office space in one of the most expensive cities in the United States. All that money spent on a luxury address — Watergate — could have instead be spent on actual party functions, such as publishing a monthly newsletter.

Earlier versions of this article appeared on Gold America Group <http://GoldAmericaGroup.com> and on Lee Wrights' superb electronic newspaper Liberty for All: <http://LibertyForAll.Net>

LNC Finances Continue Weak

The Libertarian National Committee began August 2009 with \$23,672 cash on hand. Its income for August was \$92,477, to be matched against total disbursements of \$118,850, for a cash on hand of \$14,538 at the end of the month. Debts and obligations of the committee are now down to \$10,690.

As in prior months, the opening lines of the downloadable FEC report <http://query.nictusa.com/cgi-bin/dcdev/forms/C00255695/434404/> make the specification that no money was used to support identifiable Federal candidates.

Total receipts for the first 8 months of the year came to \$724,797, implying a projected income for the year of 1.08 million, which is the lowest in many years, even before taking into account changes in the cost of living.

Disbursements and charged expenses for the month of August included:

Paying the staff came to almost \$30,000 once all costs are taken into account:

- \$20,540 to individuals and their companies
- \$3210 for Social Security contributions
- \$2804 for Federal unemployment and withholding
- \$1450 to American National Insurance for the LNC
- 401K Annual Maint Fee
- \$816 to Broadway Premium Funding for D&O Insurance.
- \$802 to Virginia for employee taxes
- \$751 for Medicare, company and employee charges
- \$188 to the CD Office of Tax and Revenue.
- \$125 to Quickbooks for payroll processing.

We also spent \$3071 for Staff Travel to the Renaissance Grand in St. Louis, which appears to be the LNC meeting costs,

Outside consultants and contractors cost eleven and a half thousand dollars:

- \$6220 to Frye & Wolcott, CPAs for Accounting Services

\$3000 to Gary Sinawski for Legal Services
\$1250 to Paula Edwards for FEC filing and amendments
\$500 to Warner, Norcross, and Judd for legal services

\$10,929 for Office rent, paid at the start and end of the month. Note that the payment dates increase the expenditures this month and reduce them in some other month, but we are still spending over \$130,000 a year for the D.C. Office.

\$924 for office supplies
\$892 for copier leasing, maintenance, and supplies

Printing and mailing for a variety of efforts was run up to nearly \$23,000 in various costs:

\$17,477 to Advanced Mailing Services and Direct-Mail.com for non-candidate party mailing
\$4078 to Arcade Press, B&B Duplicators, National Electronic Type, and Star Envelope for Non-Candidate Party Printing
\$1232 for postage and shipping
\$30 for UPS shipping

Fundraising included \$2250 as described here:
\$2000 to Target America for the LNC Party Donor Prospect Program
\$250 to OnTimeTelecom for telemarketing

\$2500 to Meltwater News for media clipping services.

Almost \$12,000 was spent on a range of internet activities:

\$5300 to Terra Eclipse for Website management
\$3000 to Lyris Tech - Sparklist for email marketing
\$1298 to PAETEC and Telecompute for phone and data services
\$1148 to ThePlanet.com for Email Server Hosting
\$649 for Website Hosting
\$330 to Washington Cable for cable services
\$81 to Accurint to Address/Phone Verification
\$45 to GoToMyPC for PC Remote Viewing.

And processing donations cost over \$7000.
\$6911 to a half-dozen suppliers for credit card proc-

essing.
\$141 to Riggs Bank for bank service charges.

So if you are our National Committee, that's how you spent almost \$119,000 without managing to spend money for candidate support or public media outreach/advertising.

LNC Redefines Membership Benefits

In reasonable membership organizations, if you pay your yearly dues early you are credited with having extended your membership for a full year. The LNC under new rules just passed has a different take of things. They invented out of whole cloth the notion of a 'future benefits lapse date' — the date on which the LNC stops sending you the newsletter, assuming that they print a newsletter. That date is no longer the date on which your sustaining membership expires, if you are a sustaining member.

In particular "Contributions in response to other than a membership renewal appeal shall not as a policy extend the benefits lapse date." That is, under newly established LNC rules, if you send in money before you get a renewal notice, you have made a contribution that does not increase the length of your membership.

For those of you who are curious, the LNC passed — barely — the motion to reduce member access to the newsletter by choosing not to send it to all sustaining members all the time. The vote was :

For: Michael Jingoian, Bob Sullentrup, Aaron Starr, Michael Colley, Alicia Mattson, Mark Hinkle, Rebecca Sink-Burris, Stewart Flood, Dan Karlan

Against: Pat Dixon, Lee Wrights, Mary Ruwart, Tony Ryan, James Lark, Jake Porter, Rachel Hawkrige
Abstain — Bill Redpath

LNC Membership Keeps Dropping

LNC Sustaining membership continues to fall. Our sources supplied us with the report on the next page, which tells the story.

Libertarian National Committee - Membership Report

"Donor" Totals - Sep-09

18 Month Comparison

	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09
Active w-MEM	13579	13820	14121	14581	14970	15378	16099	16079	15358	15178	15004	14892	15059	15068	14566	14303	14094	13787
Active w/out MEM	1025	1057	1087	1102	1082	1082	1092	1089	991	968	888	867	873	691	693	674	691	628
Total	14604	14877	15208	15683	16052	16460	17191	17168	16349	16146	15892	15759	15932	15759	15259	14977	14785	14415
Percent Change	-1.60%	1.87%	2.22%	3.12%	2.35%	2.54%	4.44%	-0.13%	-4.77%	-1.24%	-1.57%	-0.84%	1.10%	-1.09%	-3.17%	-1.85%	-1.28%	-2.50%

Lapsed MEM	959	1137	1052	759	786	613	1022	881	1285	1031	997	1291	946	1036	1443	1151	1129	1072
Lapes w/out MEM	76	94	29	55	42	18	48	31	133	67	119	107	52	188	35	54	42	72
Lapsed Total	1035	1231	1081	814	828	631	1070	912	1418	1098	1116	1398	998	1224	1478	1205	1171	1144
Percent Change	-13.03%	18.94%	-12.19%	-24.70%	1.72%	-23.79%	69.57%	-14.77%	55.48%	-22.57%	1.64%	25.27%	-28.61%	22.65%	20.75%	-18.47%	-2.82%	-2.31%

New Donors w-MEM	291	955	591	521	588	615	970	613	152	224	307	462	460	363	319	364	412	367
New w/out MEM	35	75	15	16	13	4	5	7	3	4	1	19	15	1	4	3	3	3
New Total	326	1030	606	537	601	619	975	620	155	228	308	481	475	364	323	367	415	370
Percent Change	33.61%	215.95%	-41.17%	-11.39%	11.92%	3.00%	57.51%	-36.41%	-75.00%	47.10%	35.09%	56.17%	-1.25%	-23.37%	-11.26%	13.62%	13.08%	-10.84%

Renewed w-MEM	438	423	762	698	587	406	773	248	412	627	516	717	653	682	622	524	508	398
Renewed w/out MEM	34	51	44	54	9	14	53	21	32	40	38	67	43	5	33	32	56	6
Total Renewals	472	474	806	752	596	420	826	269	444	667	554	784	696	687	655	556	564	404
Percent Change	-45.62%	0.42%	70.04%	-6.70%	-20.74%	-29.53%	96.67%	-67.43%	65.06%	50.23%	-16.94%	41.52%	-11.22%	-1.29%	-4.66%	-15.11%	1.44%	-28.37%

Active MEM	13579	13820	14121	14581	14970	15378	16099	16079	15358	15178	15004	14892	15059	15068	14566	14303	14094	13787
Zero Dues MEM	95183	95510	95783	95899	96023	96161	96481	96841	97666	98069	98615	99176	99402	99941	100697	101390	102010	102737
Total "MEM"	108762	109330	109904	110480	110993	111539	112580	112920	113024	113247	113619	114068	114461	115009	115263	115693	116104	116524
Percent Change	0.29%	0.52%	0.53%	0.52%	0.46%	0.49%	0.93%	0.30%	0.09%	0.20%	0.33%	0.40%	0.34%	0.48%	0.22%	0.37%	0.36%	0.36%

Total "LIFETIME"	1937	1941	1947	1952	1955	1974	1985	1990	1993	1995	1997	1998	2005	2005	2006	2013	2020	2024
Total "BSM"																		13725

Last Year vs. This Year

	Sep-08	Sep-09	Change	18 Mo Ave
Active w-MEM	15378	13787	-10.35%	14774
Active w/out MEM	1082	628	-41.96%	921
Total Active	16460	14415	-12.42%	15695
Lapsed	631	1144	81.30%	1103
New Donors	619	370	-40.23%	489
Renewals	420	404	-3.81%	590

Active Donors w-MEM = 13787

Lapsed & Zero Dues MEM = 102737

Total "MEM" w-Signed Certificate = 116524

Member Signed Certificate = "MEM"

Total "BSM" = 13725

Bylaws defined Sustaining Member = "BSM"

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP STATE RANKINGS - "BSM" - TOP TEN

Rank	State	BSM Count
1	CA Count	1704
2	TX Count	907
3	FL Count	848
4	OH Count	637
5	NY Count	621
6	VA Count	589
7	PA Count	536
8	IL Count	526
9	GA Count	503
10	MI Count	482

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Donate!

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Your donation:

\$200	\$100	\$50
\$2300	\$1000	\$500
Other _____		

Monthly Pledge Request

We will soon be implementing a monthly pledge program through DonorTown Square. Please indicate how much you would be willing to give as a monthly pledge: \$ _____

Donations are not tax deductible. In accord with Federal law, we are required to state that your donations may be used in regards to a Federal election.

Political Action Committee

The Liberty for America is open to support candidates. See page 3 for details.

Volunteer!

Because Volunteerism is the backbone of political action
I Want to Volunteer to Help the
Libertarian Political Movement

I am prepared to (circle all that apply) :

Help organize state
or regional groups

Make public statements; internet, newspapers, talk radio

Become a political
activist volunteer

Run for office

I have special skills or suggestions, namely:

To Send Money:

Liberty for America
c/o George Phillies
48 Hancock Hill Drive
Worcester MA 01609

Payment may be made by check payable "Liberty for America". Expect credit card donation arrangements soon.

Our Web Pages

Liberty for America <http://www.LibertyForAmerica.com>
complete with Liberty for America back issues, policy
statements, press releases, and draft state by-laws.
Libertarian Strategy Monthly Herding cats since 2009.
<http://www.jakeporter.org/lsm>

Liberty for America

Liberty for America is
not currently a political party.

But you can join — \$15 per year.

<http://LibertyForAmerica.com>

Liberty for America has a Federal PAC —we actually support
real Libertarians when they run for Federal office.

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First Class Mail

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