

Let Freedom Ring!

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RIP—general@lpma.org

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Our eList is Dead!

Long Live Our eLists!

Following promptly on the induced demise of the general@lpma.org eList, Massachusetts libertarians from east to west rallied to the cause of free speech and expression. Where before one eList was apparent, now there are two:

ma-liberty@yahoogroups.com

masslp@yahoogroups.com

Both lists are run by prominent Massachusetts libertarian activists. Both activists are independent of the people currently running the Massachusetts Libertarian Party. Neither listowner is there to protect libertarian readers from honest news as to what is really happening in scenic Massachusetts.

Where Your Money Went

Our Favorite Column Continues

It's the end of the year. The Howell for Governor committee filed its year-end report, showing that in 2001 it raised \$82,036 and paid out \$58,594, so it ended with \$23,441 cash on hand. Alas, it also ended the year with \$22,227 in debts, so at year end the Howell for Governor campaign was little ahead of where it started.

The debts? \$10,095 to Time Printing. \$2,036 to Mail-for-Less. Two debts of \$782 to the Libertarian National Committee for advertising, the debts being dated 11/1 and 12/1. \$794 to Corrigan Consulting. \$140 to Web Commanders for web hosting. Last, but not least, \$6,685 for fundraising to Michael Cloud.

According to the end-of January filing from the Committee's bank, some of these debts have since been paid. For January the Committee received \$18,572 and spend \$23,181, including paying debts to Time Printing, Mail for Less, Corrigan Consulting, and \$3131 to the Libertarian National Committee for advertising. The Committee also spent \$659 to advertise in The Message, \$5000 for postage, and modest amounts in bank and related charges.

(Where Your Money Went Continued on Page Four)

Massachusetts General eMail List Silenced by LPMA

The email list general@lpma.org has passed away, a victim of its own excess. Excess drinking? Excess eating? Overfondness for insufficiently fleet horseflesh? No, the late and lamented general@lpma.org expired of an excess of candor.

What happened? In the weeks before the list's demise, questions had been raised about LPMA (Libertarian Party of Massachusetts) candidates for high office. Those questions were not first broached on the soon-to-be-silenced list. Instead, they originally appeared as articles in a major state newspaper and a prominent internet column.

Apparently, in the moment of excess candor, internet web links to the offending articles were published on the late and lamented general@lpma.org. Readers of general@lpma.org were granted access to the very same information already available to every reader of MetroWest Daily, which is one of the more-widely-circulated newspapers in Massachusetts. Soon thereafter, general@lpma.org breathed its last.

The deceased was not given a public obituary by its executioners, an honor accorded to the Julius Caesar by his assassins. The deceased instead faded into fog and shadow, leaving subscribers to wonder why there was silence.

Fortunately, our friends across Massachusetts have forwarded to Let Freedom Ring! a more complete explanation of the tragedy. After questions were raised within the LPMA State Board as to the list's fate, State Vice Chair Kamal Jain explained in a message sent to the LPMA State Board as forwarded to this newspaper by our friends:

"From: Kamal Jain <kamal@marathon1.com

To: <statecomm@lpma.org>

Subject: General List

Date: Tue, 12 Feb 2002 12:26:08 -0500

RIP LPMA eLIST (Continued on Page Two)

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RIP LPMA eLIST (Continued from Page One)

Fellow State Committee Members:

The General list has been officially shut down at my request and under my authority. For years there has been an ongoing debate over keeping the list around. The decision to shut it down was made for business reasons, among them:

1. Numerous activists and donors have been chased away by some of the content that has been posted to that list over the years, hence harming the party. This is not theoretical. Specific damage to candidates and the party has taken place because of slander and misbehavior on the General list.

2. The list generated nothing positive or of value to the party.

Furthermore, the list was de-facto sanctioned by the state party since it was "@lpma.org" -- and we cannot be a party to the lies, misrepresentations, and slander that appeared on the General list.

- kamal

Kamal Jain

Executive Director & Vice Chairman

Libertarian Party of Massachusetts"

Your Editor found this pronouncement confusing. After all, when in earlier months LPMA lists (notably activists@lpma.org) failed to forward announcements on Pioneer Valley events starring LPMA candidates, we were told that the lists were private, and that the owner was simply exercising his personal private property rights to keep PVLA announcements out of his lists. The above statement from the State Vice Chair to the LP State Board seems to tell a different tale, namely that the State Vice Chair shut it down 'under (his) authority'. Are the lpma.org lists private, or are they the LPMA's?

Your Editor has since attended the California LP State Convention, a truly excellent 4-day event. At one of the three banquets, LPMA State Chair Eli Israel was working the tables for votes for his National Chair Campaign. According to my eyewitness, Israel was asked about the list shutdown, and answered politely that he approved of the decision.

A further explanation for the list shutdown was proposed by long-time LP activist Howard Pearce. Writing on ma-liberty@yahoo.com, he asserted: "The **general** e-list of the MA LP has been shut down due to financial concerns for the Howell Campaign. Apparently the campaign lost contributors/supporters shortly after an **e-zine** article by Steve Trinward at www.rationalreview.com and a negative piece appearing in the Metro West of the Herald a couple of days later. In order to help suppress a possible discussion of these issues, the **general** list was closed."

Steve Trinward's e-zine article was the second of his series of articles on Libertarian flagship campaigns. In Part 2 of his series, Trinward discussed what in his opinion were errors

of the Howell-Cloud campaign machine.

Proper respect for copyright laws precludes us from reprinting the entirety of John Gregg's article in the Sunday, February 3 issue of MetroWest Daily, but the link at last report was http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/news/local_regional/waylhowell02032002.htm.

Among the high points, Gregg reported that Carla Howell and Michael Cloud each received \$12,000 in consulting and other fees in 2001 from their referendum Committee for Small Government, out of Committee income of over \$233, 000. Detailed information on campaign spending and income by Howell's Committee will likely be reported in our next issue.

There are no legal issues, but it did not escape the reporter's attention that Howell and Cloud are both planning on running for high political office in 2002. It also did not escape the reporter's attention that "*Libertarian supporters confirm they are dating*". According to MetroWest Daily, Howell was sensitive to questions about her personal life and her committee's finances. With respect to future payments, Cloud reportedly said "*he will continue to collect commissions this year for raising money for both Howell's gubernatorial campaign and the Small Government drive...*".

As previously reported in Let Freedom Ring!, former Ashland Selectman Craig Mathias quit the Libertarian Party and its state board. Mathias's clashes with Howell were described here by David Euchner. MetroWest Daily securing from Mathias a statement ' "*I think the party is dominated by Carla Howell, and I don't think that's healthy. I think it should be more broadly based than 'all or nothing'. Compromise is essential to the functioning of any democracy.*" '

We summarize Steve Trinward's response to his article:

"I honestly have to say, I'm not sure whether to cheer or cry
1. My writing was:

a) based on the hard facts I was able to glean, plus my own interpretations and extrapolations;

b) written about a series of campaigns whose conduct has been at best questionable;

c) appeared in the **third** issue of a very specialized, web-only ezine, which is only beginning to hit its stride; and

d) the **second** in a 3-part series, whose overall intention was to explore and analyze what does and does not work in a campaign whose purpose is (a) to get elected, (b) to pass or repeal a law, or (c) to make **serious** inroads in changing the system toward Liberty.

If my opinion-piece is capable of shutting down open discussion among the members of a state affiliate of the Libertarian Party, and costing said campaign(s) enough major supporters to deem such a 'blackout' to be necessary (from some 1200 miles away, as I sit here in my Nashville, TN kitchen/office)

I sure feel like a **very** powerful and influential person in this little world we call the movement for Liberty!

On the other hand,

2.) If such campaigns are so fragile that they cannot withstand my scrutiny and a couple of stories in local newspapers (only one of whom as much as questioned some peculiar financial considerations that reporter had unearthed, with not a whole lot of digging?) ...

It's a damn good thing it happened this soon, since the **next** barrage would come from all the **big** media, who have mostly **ignored** the Howell campaign(s) so far. Given the 'glass house' in which these efforts seemingly live, and the vehemence with which the Globe, Herald and TV network affiliates can blast away at anyone or anything which truly challenges the orthodoxy, there won't be much left standing after they "analyze" these campaign(s). The best advice is to clean house in a hurry, folks, because if you start to have **any** success, they'll burn you to the ground!

Meanwhile, shutting down internal discussion of this issue, on an internal LPM(A) list, is about the least effective way I can think of to "plug the leaks". Airing problems among people who are at least marginally sympathetic and on the same team is the only way to heal damage already done.

The effects of my work make me feel more justified than ever. If there had been nothing to my questions, we would have seen **open doors** and **honest rebuttal**... not **locked doors** and defensiveness.'

Long-time LP activist David Euchner, whose quotes enlivened Trinward's article, wrote in part:

"Because my comments were among those that led to the shut-down of general@lpma.or, I think I should weigh in on a Massachusetts public list. And Lo! we have one available to us." Noting that Jain wrote "For years there has been an ongoing debate over keeping the list around.", Euchner answered: "I don't doubt that there has in fact been a debate. One behind closed doors."

Euchner also answered Jain's remarks that: '1. Numerous activists and donors have been chased away by some of the content that has been posted to that list over the years, hence harming the party. This is not theoretical. Specific damage to candidates and the party has taken place because of slander and misbehavior on the General list.'

Euchner asked if he was I being accused of slander. 'I wasn't a poster to General (or even subscribed to it), but they were my comments that were extremely critical of the Howell-Cloud machine.

'Steve Trinward took his quotes attributed to me from my post two months ago to the Arizona list. In that two months, only one LPMA member contacted me to demand an explanation or retraction. I explained; that individual was satisfied that I was not speaking untruthfully, though there remained disagreement over my opinions. If anyone has any accusations, bring 'em on. John Gregg's article in

the MetroWest Daily News on Feb 3 proved that I was very close to predicting the percentage that Carla & Michael would take as salaries and commissions for their work on the "Committee for Small Government".

Euchner also noted Jain's statement that "... (the state party) cannot be a party to the lies, misrepresentations, and slander that appeared on the General list." and asked:

"Am I being accused me of lying? Jain has never contacted me concerning my comments. We exchanged e-mails on the PVLA list concerning PVLA/LPMA matters, but he never raised this issue.

I have been a regular critic of the LP, particularly national, for operating as a "top-down" structure where we pay all our dues to national and then get only half of it back. We criticize our federal government for taking half our money but we can't even keep our own private organization from doing the same.

But now it's reached an all-time low. The General list was LPMA's Pravda, and when it gets infected with the truth it had to be shut down immediately."

National controversy about the LPMA's actions arose immediately. LPNC list operator Lee Wrights wrote: "I can only answer for the LP North Carolina list, and as list owner I can say with the utmost certainty that the situation that now exists in your fair state, i.e., one person closing down a state list for any reason, would not happen here. If I see a thread I don't care for, I delete. I would never attempt to rob my fellow activists of their voice on a state list because I didn't like the conversation..."

Writing on the masslp list, long time Massachusetts activist Jim Sullivan wrote:

"My opinion, as a former chair of LPMA and multi-term member of the state committee, is that a free exchange of ideas will help the person or people who can most eloquently present the case, and shutting down any avenue of free speech is a bad thing.

I fear no slander. I fear no lie. I fear nothing that another person might write, truthful or otherwise. I can always answer the questions and address the arguments, in an open forum, so long as that forum remains truly open - not coerced or limited, whether by those on the side of the supposed truth or on the side of the supposed lie.

We are, in the majority, reasonably intelligent individuals. We may differ in our opinions, but we rarely resort to outright fabrications. I think the shutting down of a means of communication, whatever the supposed good reasons for doing so, smacks of the same sort of control wished for by the anti-tobacco, anti-firearm, anti-free speech crowds. I'm sure that the intention isn't as vicious (I think Kamal is a good man, and an honest man), but the end result is just as bad.

Having said that... Who owns the server? LPMA, as an entity? Or an individual? The final answer on whether or not to shut down belongs to the owner, not the users."

We pose a terminal Editorial riddle: The LP has independent State Parties, so the acts of LPMA remains confined to Massachusetts. The LPMA Chair is now running for National Chair. Would we improve our National Party by bringing this policy to LPUS, for example if the LNC tried to silence the lpus...@dehnbases lists? (Note 'tried'.)

Where Your Money Went *(Continued from Page One)*

The Libertarian Party of Massachusetts filed its "quarterly" FEC report on its Federal expenditures. Under FEC rules, this Quarterly Report covers expenses for the second half of 2001. LPMA state expenditures are separately covered in an OCPF filing eventually to be seen here. For the half-year it raised \$21,908, spent \$30,329, and ended the year with \$3356 cash on hand. Leading the list of expenditures was candidate support...\$1000 to the Freedman campaign.

Other LPMA expenses included \$725 to C&Z for accounting and report preparation, \$2960 to hotels for meetings and an event, \$1622 for travel and fee for an event speaker for the event, \$435 in postage for mailing announcements of the event, \$974 to Info USA for demographic data, \$810 for software for PC and newsletter, \$1131 to Elaine Laffin as fees and expenses as an administrative assistant, \$700 to the LNC to advertise the State Convention in their newsletter, \$753 to the Message (Goal Newsletter) for the same purpose, \$639 to various parties for telecomm expenses, \$4361 to Marie's Direct Mail for printing and mailing the newsletter, \$4200 in fees to business manager Kay Pirrello and \$644 for her expenses, \$1750 to Solstice Sun Designs for Web Site Maintenance and Web Design for Convention Promotion, and \$4580 to the LNC for National Memberships.

Howell's running mate Rich Aucoin reported receipts of \$3113 and expenses of \$12 for bank charges.

And now we come to the Michael Cloud for US Senate Campaign, the report for 2001. The Campaign took in \$58,579, received candidate loans of \$10,800, and spent \$53,404 (plus loan repayments of \$3,750, ending with cash on hand of \$12,225 and debts of \$23,578. Even ignoring the candidate loans, in net the campaign has thusfar raised essentially no money. Notable expenses include USPS (postage) \$15,285, Time Printing \$14,853, Mail-for-Less (mailing) \$5973, Libertarian National Committee (advertising) \$3631, Walter Karl (list rental) \$3039, Kay Pirrello (consulting) \$2625, Celeste Parente (consulting) \$2250, Harry Brown (consulting) \$2000, Dennis Corrigan/Corrigan Consulting (consulting, travel, software) \$1731, Liberty Publishing (ads) \$1570, Kinko's (printing) \$548, Darryl Bonner of Philadelphia (travel) \$485, and E-Z Oil (utilities) \$259. Debts at the end of the year included \$150 to Corrigan Consulting, \$2454 to the Libertarian National Committee, and \$14124 to Time Printing.

Letter

Editor:

In your discussion concerning the difficulty of gaining ballot access in a major party, you use the 2001 campaign of Jim Frederickson as the paradigm for Congressional races. My 2000 campaign for the 4th Congressional seat is a much better example, because I succeeded in getting on the ballot.

When Frederickson sent out an e-mail announcing his desire to run, I met with him and informed him not only of the difficulties he would face but the best strategies to use. In addition to myself, every other experienced petitioner working with Jim's campaign gave him the same advice I did. "Stay out of Boston."

Jim's district covered a piece of Boston (where only 30% of registered voters were eligible to sign his nomination papers) and many suburbs south and west of Boston (where the eligibility was between 45-60%, depending on the town). But Jim lived in Boston, and he didn't listen to the advice.

My 4th Congressional district covered 36 towns and cities, including Fall River and New Bedford. Both of these cities were abysmal for Libertarian petitioning (about 30% eligibility), so I stayed out of those cities. I concentrated on towns like Middleboro, which had 67% eligibility.

Consequently, I collected 4,500 raw signatures, of which 2,498 were certified by the Secretary of Commonwealth. That is better than 55%. Therefore, the Frederickson campaign is not ideal for measuring the difficulties in gaining ballot access with major party status in Massachusetts.

It was certainly extremely difficult for me to get all those signatures, and unfortunately I had to spend a considerable amount of my campaign finances only on ballot access. But it was not nearly as impossible to accomplish as the Frederickson numbers might lead readers to believe.

David Euchner

A Libertarian City Council

The four-person Libertarian majority on the Leadville, Colorado city council has been sworn into office -- creating the first LP-controlled city council since the 1980s.

On January 7, Libertarians Carol Hill and Ken Cary took the oath of office in the historic mining town, which is located in the rugged mountains just west of Denver.

They joined incumbent Libertarian city councilors Joe Swyers and Lisa Dowdney on the seven-member body.

The four Libertarians make up the first Libertarian-majority city council in Colorado and only the second in the party's history. In 1987, Libertarians held every city council seat in the small hamlet of Big Water, Utah.