

Let Freedom Ring!

Volume 8 Number 10

Your Editor on Real Issues
<http://www.LibertyForAmerica.NET>

October 2006

Let Freedom Ring State Convention Meets, Where Your Money Went, Editorial: The Republican War on America.....1 We Seem to have won.....5 Libertarian Events.....6

Libertarian Strategy Gazette: I moved. Your editor is suffering from serious overwork.

Let Freedom Ring! and Libertarian Strategy Gazette are edited and published by George Phillis, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 01602, who is solely responsible for the contents, for the Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association (www.pvla.net) and Liberty for Massachusetts (www.LibertyForMassachusetts.org). Subscriptions are available from the PVLA, c/o Carol McMahon, 221 Bumstead Road, Monson MA for \$15/year to Activists, \$20/year to others. Checks payable "PVLA".

LPMA State Convention New State Committee Elected McMahon is New State Chair

September 23, 2006. At a lightly attended Libertarian Party State Convention, Libertarians nominated and elected a new slate of State Committee members. The new State Committee members are Carol McMahon, Steve Drobnis, Arthur Torrey, Bill Hees, George Phillis, Mary-Anne Wolf, Bob Underwood, Stephanie Woiciechowski, and David Roscoe, who each received more than 2/3 of the possible votes. The State Committee under its By-Laws added Walter Ziobro as an additional member.

The State Committee elects its officers. The new officers are Carol McMahon (Chair), George Phillis (Vice Chair), Walter Ziobro (Treasurer), Mary-Anne Wolf (Recording Secretary), and David Roscoe (Memberships Secretary). The new
[A New State Committee] (Continued on page 2)

Where Your Money Went

News from National Party (LNC) filings with the FEC remain similar to those from this Spring. The LNC took in under \$100,000, and managed to spend all of it, leaving no flexibility or reserves in case there were fluctuations in income.

Month	Income	Net	Cash	Debt
November	76	-35	-17	66
December	81	3	-14	110
January	93	25	11	140
February	97	-3	8	138
March	150	-4	4	128
April	106	0	4	110
May	115	11	15	116
June	103	-7	7	120
July	136	-4	4	110
August	92	-1	0.6	111

On the bright side, we had previously reported on UMP payments from national to the LPMA that were not appearing in LPMA accounts. The new LPMA State Committee tasked your editor with tracking down what was happening, and a bit of

[Where Your Money Went] (Continued on page 4)

Editorial

The Republican War on America

Return to the last week of September, 2006, and the Republican Bills to legalize torture, to end the right of habeas corpus, to imprison persons without trial, and to perform wiretapping without warrants. These Bills were UnAmerican to the core, and go to reveal the truth about Republicanism

Above all, the Republican War on Terror is a war on your freedoms.

The War on Terror started with the search for Mr. Bin Laden. Not only have we not caught Mr. Bin Laden, but we have largely stopped looking for him. Our Army is not in Afghanistan, where he might be hiding, but in Iraq, where he most certainly was not hiding. Indeed, five years after the event, the FBI reports that it still has no direct evidence that Mr. Bin Laden's claims to have led the September 11 attacks are even true.

Instead of carrying out a pursuit of criminal conspirators of Mr. Atta's air pirates, the Republicans have launched another war. A War On America. They legalized torture, suppressed habeas corpus so Americans can be thrown into prison without trial, and tried to legalize warrantless searches.

Let us consider one piece of the Republican War on America after the next.

1. Torture.

The torture in question is water boarding, in which a person is submerged in water, or water soaked fabric, not quite to the point of drowning. That's torture, pure and simple. Of course, occasionally, people actually do die of it, but more often they only think they are going to die of it.

Torture is UnAmerican to the core. Americans of the Nineteenth century knew better. They knew that torture was practiced by European tyrants and the Spanish Inquisition, not by decent human beings. When the Republican Party legalized evidence from torture, as it and its Democratic Party
[The Republican War on America] (Continued on page 3)

Liberty for Massachusetts now live at <http://www.LibertyForMassachusetts.org>

Let Freedom Ring!

(Continued from page 1) [LNC Meeting Notes]

board and officers went into action immediately.

The State Committee immediately appointed a Publications Committee to revive the newsletter. The Committee includes Sue Mosher, George Phillies, Stephanie Woiciechowski, and Mary-Anne Wolf. The first issue of the new State Party newsletter, an 8-pager edited by Phillies, is expected to be printed and mailed at the same time that this issue of Let Freedom Ring is mailed. Future issues will be handled by other members of the Publication Committee.

The State Party has not run socials in some time. George Phillies was appointed as interim Chair of the Socials Committee. He is tasked with relaunching the Socials calendar and also finding new Socials Committee activists to take over from him. He proposed that for the foreseeable future that party newsletter Massachusetts Liberty be collated and prepared for mailing at the socials, so that members would always do good work while attending. This proposal is going into effect.

In addition, Phillies noted that it is impossible for him to contact members to arrange socials unless he has a current list of members, to contact and ask who might want to host an event. The State Committee immediately agreed that he should be given that information by the Membership Secretary.

The next social is scheduled to be on October 29, immediately after the next State Committee meeting, at the home of Steve Drobnis in Stoughton. Commitments for socials have also been arranged for the last Sundays in January (at the home of Steph Woiciechowski in Milford, as a brunch just before the State Committee meeting) and February (at the home of Roy and Kathy Lewis in Townsend). Negotiations are under way for a social in Worcester near the end of November or December.

The State Convention voted that the State Committee should create a Platform Committee, to write a platform to include state as well as national issues, because at the last two National Conventions radical changes were made in the National Platform, and there are reasons to suppose that this pattern will continue in the future. That Committee needs to be established.

Web page control was tasked to Bill Heed, with member Philip

Reed volunteering to help on web page maintenance. The State Committee wants to establish that ownership and control of the web site are properly arranged, and that passwords are not lost or misplaced.

The State Committee agreed with sentiments expressed for a considerable time, notably by new member Steve Drobnis, namely that State Committee meetings should occur at highly regular dates and places that are easily accessed and have good free parking. For the next year, State Committee meetings have been set for the last Sundays of October, January, April, and July at a fixed time of 2PM. The State Social will be set to happen before or after the State Committee meeting.

There was agreement that the State Committee should work as soon as possible to set up working groups to handle candidate recruitment, candidate support, fundraising, and outreach. Local Organization is an implicit but critical part of this structure.

The LPMA newsletter will be publishing contact information for all State Committee members, so that members who wish to reach each person on the state committee will readily be able to do so. This publication represents a radical change from the position of the prior state committee, whose chair vigorously protested when that information was made available to libertarians around the state. In the words of one new member of the state committee "Here comes the new Committee, **NOT** like the old committee."

State Chair McMahon indicated that a critical part of reviving the largely obsolescent state web site was reviving the LPMA Activists and General email lists. The activist list was moderated, and moderation activity had become sporadic. The General list was shut down by a prior State Committee after it was used to broadcast a link to a newspaper article, in one of the more widely read newspapers in the state, discussing how some libertarian political campaigns around the state had spent the money they had raised.

On the bright side, there are more than 20,000 registered Libertarians around the state, a number vastly larger than a decade ago, most of them are not interested in political activity, and many of them when asked do not appear to know which party they belong to. Furthermore, the number of active libertarian local groups, admittedly some quite small, is considerably larger than in many years past. There are monthly meetings in Springfield, Worcester, and Lowell, and occasional meetings in Cambridge. There is also an occasionally-meeting social group, Drinking Freely, that has met in Cambridge. Finally, your editor has announced that he is seeking our Party's Presidential nomination, and thenextprez.blogspot.com identifies him as the leading Libertarian contender.

It appeared to be quite uniformly recognized that the State Party has been in extended period of moribund decay, and that vigorous action was needed to turn things around. A continuation of the politics of the last half-decade would appear likely to lead to the total collapse of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts. Entirely contrary policies may yet revive matters for the future.

Stand Up for Liberty!

Funding Liberty

George Phillies' books on our Party's strategy and history

New! Now in trade paperback format!

Also available in e-book
<http://3mpub.com/phillies>

lickspittle toadies did at the end of September 2006, the Republican Party rejected fundamental American precepts on the nature of justice.

In contrast, the Republican government launched a mass extraordinary rendition campaign. Under this campaign, people were kidnapped by Americans from foreign countries (a Federal felony) and transferred to places where they would be tortured (a Federal felony). We know of extensive lists of cases in which entirely innocent people were kidnapped because they had the wrong name, and tortured to the point of permanent physical or mental disability. In the notorious Abu Graib torture prison, independent observers found that at least 90% of the detainees were clearly innocent; indeed, no charges had been laid against them.

The legalization of torture is UnAmerican, and is the opening stroke in *The Republican War on America*.

However, torture was hardly the worst of the Republican Party's misdeeds.

2. Habeas Corpus

The Republican Party attacked The Great Writ, *habeas corpus*. Habeas corpus is not a new legal idea. Habeas Corpus as a fundamental legal right can be traced back to the 14th century and the *Magna Carta*. Long before Christopher Columbus reached the New World, long before Englishmen reached North America, habeas corpus had appeared as a right.

The opposite of habeas corpus is the *Star Chamber*, an English trial process made infamous by the Stuart kings in the 17th century. The Star Chamber's proceedings were authoritarian, arbitrary, and secret. There was no right of appeal.

The Republicans started with Jose Padilla, claiming he was plotting to release radiological weapons on America. He was seized, detained without trial in a military prison in violation of Federal Law, and held for years without access to attorneys.

As time has gone on, prior charges were disappeared, and new and unrelated charges appeared. In front of a judge, the government's claims seemed to evaporate.

Now the Star Chamber has been brought to the New World by the Republican War on America. Under the cognomen *Military Tribunals*, George Bush Republicans and their Democratic sycophants have brought to America trials without juries, not by judges approved by the Senate but by military officers whose proceedings are at the beck and call of their commander in chief.

Furthermore, under the Republican Star Chamber bill, the Constitutionality of the elimination of habeas corpus has been removed from the jurisdiction of the courts.

The abolition of habeas corpus is Unamerican, and is one

more part of *The Republican War on America*. However, once again the great majority of Republican party Federal officeholders and their cowardly Democratic sycophants, not to mention the two-faced Senator of the Party of Lieberman, have voted to legalize indefinite imprisonment without trial, in direct contradiction to the Bill of Rights.

3. Warrantless Searches

Do you use the telephone or internet? If you do, the Federal government is probably listening. Private telephone companies without being served with a warrant allowed their own employees and Federal agents to install signal splitters so that every telephone call that passed through major offices was divided, one signal being diverted to the Federal government. There is a profession that the contents of messages were not read, only the addresses, but this claim is physically impossible. Each message passes in digital form down a single signal line, the address and speech codes marching along in unified packets. If you grab a packet you have the address and part of the voice communication all at once. Only after the intercept is complete can the phone number and voice contents be separated.

There was no need for these warrantless searches. Under the prevailing FISA statute, in an emergency the government could have made the wiretap first and asked for a judge's permission later. The Federal Court in question was always ready for business.

It is entirely clear why the Bush Administration did not pursue this course of action. They were not interested in searching the records of a particular person. They wanted to do a general search, under the notion of a General Warrant that was effectively one of the justifications for Independence listed in the Declaration of Independence.

It is difficult to imagine a more thoroughly UnAmerican deed than bringing to the United States one of the tyrannical acts of that odious tyrant George III Hanover, King of England.

It becomes clear that while many employees of our national espionage and law enforcement agencies are loyal patriots who love their country, many others have committed gross acts of disloyalty to the Constitution they have sworn to defend. That's an oath to the Constitution, not to the President. It is the task of a future Libertarian administration to rid the Federal government of subversives, and replace them, if they need to be replaced, with patriotic civil servants who love their country and will actually do their duty to defend the Constitution.

4 Where Did Torture Come from? The Sad Truth.

Where did we come to this end? Why do we find Americans torturing their prisoners of war?

Torture is not the traditional American way. During World War Two, my father was a medical officer at a Prisoner of War camp in Georgia. He was charged with safeguarding the prisoners, protecting their health and well-being. When I was a little boy, he described to me the one incident that greatly distressed him. Christmas approached, and the German officers charged with

Let Freedom Ring!

representing their men—mostly captive sailors—approached the American camp officers and proposed to make a non-menu food item, namely traditional German Christmas sausage. They showed that all the ingredients and tools were available, so no burden was placed on the camp command. It was Christmas; we agreed. As it happens, German Christmas sausage is highly spiced, well-ground uncooked pork. In Germany, where swine are fed scientific diets in clean pens, this was apparently perfectly safe. In rural Georgia in 1944, German Christmas sausage was extremely dangerous, but neither side realized the issue at hand. After all, even in the 1950s Americans had drilled into them that pork always had to be cooked very very thoroughly, or it was poisonous. Soon after Christmas, my father had a camp of very sick soldiers, and even a decade later it brought him great pain that men under his protection had come to harm.

No, in World War II we did not routinely torture our prisoners. After all, if we had it would have endangered Americans, not only the Americans in German hands, but also the Americans who had to fight enemy soldiers who otherwise could have been persuaded to surrender. The promise 'you will be well-treated' is a great motivator of surrender, but only if it is believed to be true. A country that treats its prisoners of war well can capture them. A country that tortures its prisoners of war must understand that its opponents will choose the easier path of fighting to the death. When we torture our prisoners, we consign to death American soldiers.

So where did torture come from? Not from the FBI, which routinely condemns evidence from torture as totally worthless, and that raised strenuous objection to treatment of Guantanamo Bay prisoners. No, those torture methods came from training techniques used on our special forces troops.

And where did trainers find waterboarding? Of course, the Republican War on American claims that waterboarding is not torture. So where did we learn it? How did it entire military training? We learned it from *The Khmer Rouge*, who used it extensively. That's right. Our non-torture technique came not from America but from the torturers of the Pol Pot genocide regime.

For many years Libertarians have affected that there was little or no difference between the other two major political parties. This Libertarian characterization of the two parties has long since ceased to agree with reality. It is the Republican Party that just gave us the largest single expansion of welfare programs, the Medicaid Drug Benefit. It is the Republican Party notably under Reagan, Bush, and Bush that has bloated the Federal budget deficit. In contrast, it is the Democratic Party that made the greatest improvement in fifty years in welfare programs, when Bill Clinton capped eligibility for general relief and simplified a rat's warren of other Federal programs. As for expanded spending, the national debt as fraction of GNP has consistently fallen under every Democrat since Truman. Under Reagan, Bush, and Bush, in the same terms the National Debt has risen.

(Continued from page 1) [Where Your Money Went] investigation and the help of an entirely supportive LNC staff showed that those checks were being sent to an invalid address and disappearing without being cashed. The \$2000 that the LNC had sent LPMA is now being recovered, and, thanks to your editor, will finally be reaching the LPMA .

For a discussion of where other people's money may or may not have gone, I call your attention to the pages of Hammer of Truth hammeroftruth.com, Third Party Watch thirdparty-watch.com, and Tom Knapp's Blog knappster.blogspot.com . The significant columns are readily identified by the huge number of comments (well over 100) attached to each of them, and their topic, an argument between Michael Badnarik's campaign chair and various libertarians about how the Badnarik campaign has spent its money.

The Graceful Way Out

...by Sean Haugh

If there's one thing I've learned about arguing, it's that you will never win. No one, in the heat of argument, is ever going to slap his or her forehead and exclaim, "My word! You're right! I was wrong!"

Just give up now, because it will never happen. Believe me, I've tried. The best you can possibly hope for is that one day, many months later, the person you were arguing with will come back and say, "You know, I thought about what you said, and now I agree." What's even more likely to happen, and this is maddening, is that you'll just notice one day that this person is acting like they agreed with you all along. You just have to accept it.

Reporters are like that a lot. For years, I couldn't get the time of day from the staff of a certain large daily newspaper. They completely ignored us. Then, one day, all of a sudden they started covering our party and our candidates as if we had always been there. I knew there would be absolutely zero profit in reminding them of how annoyed I had been up to that point about how they refused to give us any press before. I just had to grin and bear it.

You always need to give people the graceful out. Let it be OK that they now agree with you, even if they were so very wrong so very recently. After all, it's not about me being right, it's about people believing the right things. When a former debate opponent takes my side, I rejoice, no matter the past history.

We're seeing a quickly rising need for graceful outs in the debate among Libertarians about the current war. After September 11th, Libertarians seemed pretty evenly divided between those who saw military action as a justifiable act of self-defense, and those who thought now would be the perfect time to implement a Libertarian non-interventionist foreign policy.

I'll state my bias here. I hate the war. I've always hated war and I hope I always hate it. I mean, we're talking about killing people to advance a political agenda. That's how I view war.

Let Freedom Ring!

Very few of the wars in human history offer any sort of justification on either side. And very few of the wars in US history carried with them any Constitutional justification. This war fails miserably on both counts, in my book. But I'll stop now, because I know I'm not convincing anybody.

The email went fast and furious, I'm sure, on everybody's Libertarian discussion lists. After a month long fit of passion, I pretty much stopped participating in it. Here in NC, we seem to have weathered the storm. Fewer people than I expected quit in a snit because we weren't hawkish or dovish enough for their tastes. Very few, if any, friendships were ended over the debate. Oh sure, it got pretty hot at times, but we managed not to try to run anyone out of the party over it. Both sides seem to agree, at the very least, that the other side is attempting to argue out of straight Libertarian principle.

But, as an antiwar type, I've noticed something very interesting about the pro-war side over time. You see, most of the pro-war Libertarians have always been talking about the kind of war of self-defense that they would fight. It's taken them a bit of time to realize that this is not the war that President Bush intends to conduct. Every time Bush does something that is clearly out of Libertarian bounds, they qualify their statements a bit more. That side of the debate sounds less and less like, "I support the war," and more and more like, "What I meant was...."

Don't think us anti-war types are immune either. Some ridiculous claims of imminent horror were definitely made by my side too. The facts of the war, while horrible enough, do not bear out some of the more dire predictions, which have all been conveniently forgotten by those who made them last fall.

We all need the graceful out on this one. No one ever enjoys saying, "I was wrong." A whole lot of the time, when someone changes their mind, they'll want to act like they always believed what they are saying right now. I say let them.

Most people realize when they are doing this. In the back of their mind, there's a little voice reminding them that they once believed something else. It's natural to not want to admit all the things that you once believed that were wrong. We want to present ourselves as smart people, and after all we are, because we believe all the right things. At least until we learn more.

If you answer that little voice in the back of your now-reformed debate opponent's mind with grace, forgiveness, and discretion, you'll be doing a great kindness. You'll be making it easier for that person to go on believing even more right things. And you'll probably earn that person's great respect.

It's not going to profit anyone if you try to make people live up to what they said in the past. It's not like they're John Ashcroft constantly crying wolf, or anything that heinous. It's just a political point of view, and people's views change over time. People want to be right, so let them enjoy the full benefits of being right, even if they only just arrived there. It's not who was right and who was wrong that's important. What's important is that we work together as much as we can to make things more right in the future. ...reprinted by permission from Liberty-ForAll.NET, America's daily electronic Libertarian Newspaper.

Editorial

We Seem To Have Won

Since 2000, this newspaper has discussed the faults and peculiarities of the policies of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts, policies that did not appear consistent with the expressed desire of all libertarians on all sides of our internal disagreements to advance the LPMA from being a modest third party to being a legitimate major party.

The serious obstacle that stood in the path of doing sound politics has come to an end. That obstacle was a State Committee that failed to do candidate recruitment, failed to do fundraising, failed to do outreach, failed to do candidate support, failed to do local organization, failed to act on detailed reports that funds were absent (not received) from the party treasury, failed to inform the membership when people ceased to belong to the State Committee, viewed membership lists as commercial assets rather than opportunities for party growth, and worst of all blocked the path of those state committee members who wanted to discharge the State Committee's legitimate functions.

That State Committee is no longer in office.

Here Comes the New State Committee Not Like the Old State Committee

(With a tip of the hat to Mary-Anne Wolf for the line.)

Yes, the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts has a new State Committee. You may recognize many of its members: Carol McMahon, George Phillis, Arthur Torrey, Mary-Anne Wolf, David Roscoe, Steve Drobnis, and Bob Underwood are all founders and active members of *Liberty for Massachusetts*. All of these people are active in one or more local Libertarian groups, including LALA, whose post-con meeting attendance doubled.

Walter Ziobro is the long-time LPMA State Treasurer who became increasingly critical of the malaise of the previous State Committee. Despite the great demands of recent parenthood, Walter agreed to become State Treasurer, the necessary prerequisite to Carol McMahon agreeing to run for State Chair. Bill Hees is a Cambridge activist. This Summer he made himself available as a candidate for statewide office. Libertarians can differ as to the wisdom of this political strategy while still respecting his willingness to undergo the ardor of attaining ballot access. Steph Woiciechowski is the long time newsletter editor.

The new State Committee's philosophy was immediately visible: **Do politics. Make it happen!** Regular State Committee meetings? The next year has been scheduled. The missing \$2000 in UMP funds? That's been solved; somehow the updated LPMA mailing address was not forwarded. The absent state party newsletter? An issue is at the printer; it will be mailed at the same time that this issue of *Let Freedom Ring!* is mailed. An editorial committee is all ready to go with regular monthly publication. Socials? Scheduled for October, January, and February. (November or December is probably set. Tell me when my new hardwood flooring is arriving.) Fixing the web pages? Actively being handled. Candidate recruitment? Candidate support? Outreach? Membership recruitment? Fundraising? Top of the Agenda for the October State Committee meeting. That's real change, all for the better.

**Libertarian
Social and Activism Events**

October

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

17 9:30 PM Wilton High School, Wilton CT. Connecticut Party State Central Committee, open meeting following LWV Congressional debate including Libertarian candidate Phil Maymin.

21 6:00 PM WCLA Monthly Meeting, Tweed's Restaurant, Worcester MA 01605 Contact: George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net 508-754-1859

24 8:00 PM Lowell Area Liberty Association, Outback Steakhouse, Reiss Street, Lowell Arthur_torrey@comcast.net<- NB underscore after 'Arthur' 978-663-0241

28 All Day Libertarian Party of New Hampshire State Convention, Red Blazer Inn, Concord NH

29 2PM LPMA State Committee Meeting and (4:30) LPMA Social, at the home of Steve Drobnis, 287 York Street, off Pine Street, off Route 138, Stoughton

November

7 Election Day Show Up. Vote!

And if you are in Western Massachusetts remember that you have an opportunity to help Libertarian Robert Underwood in his campaign for State Representative. Email Bob at rjunderwood2000@yahoo.com .

8 6:30 PM PVLA Monthly Meeting, Hu Ke Lau Restaurant at Mass Pike Exit 5 Contact: Carol McMahon, 413-250-6608 cjmcmahon@verizon.net

18 6:00 PM WCLA Monthly Meeting, Tweed's Restaurant, Grove Street Worcester MA 01605

28 8:00 PM Lowell Area Liberty Association, Outback Steakhouse, Reiss Street, Lowell , Arthur_torrey@comcast.net<- NB underscore after 'Arthur' 978-663-0241

