

Let Freedom Ring!

Volume 4 Number 11

Back Issues at <http://www.cmlc.org/cmlc/pubs.htm>

November

Let Freedom Ring! LNC Financial Crisis Deepens, Election Results, Libertarians in Close Races...1; LP News Uses...2; Local News, Letters...4
Libertarian Strategy Gazette Errors in Direct Mail...1, Editorial: Here We Go Again...1, Useful Graphic...6, An Exemplary Campaign...6, New Federal Campaign Finance Regulations...7

Let Freedom Ring!/Libertarian Strategy Gazette are edited and published by George Phillies, 87-6 Park Avenue, Worcester MA 01605, who is solely responsible for the contents, for the Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association (www.pvla.net) and others. Subscriptions are available from the PVLA, c/o Carol McMahon, 221 Bumstead Road, Monson MA for \$15/year (\$13 for persons attending PVLA meetings regularly). Checks payable

LNC Fiscal Crisis Deepens By-Laws Violated; Convention Loss Unknown; Debt Skyrockets ExComm Does Not Meet

The financial crisis facing the Libertarian National Committee continues to deepen. The Party's FEC filing for the end of September, 2002 shows \$515,857 in income, \$566,800 in disbursements, and a negative cash on hand: -\$6474.87. Projecting to the end of the year, income projects to be a shade over \$2 million, far under the budget adopted in December 2001.

Party By-Laws clearly and specifically forbid the Party National Committee to run up debts, other than "current" debt for pending bills, namely "5. *The Party shall not borrow in excess of \$2,000 total without prior approval by 2/3 vote of the National Committee. This shall not include current operating debt for trade payables.*"

No such vote has happened. In violation of the By-Laws, the Party had at the end of September more than \$6000 negative cash on hand. For the first 16 days of October, Party income was nearly \$92,000, expenditures were nearly \$72,000, cash on hand rose to \$13,486.41--and debts rose to more than \$243,000.

Our sources on the National Committee report that it has still not been possible to determine how much money the 2002 convention lost. The amount is, however, known to be very large. Corresponding to this loss, at the end of September the reported LNC debt had risen to \$229,850.

One might expect that when an organization is in serious financial difficulty that the governing board would take action, and that there would be austerity budgetary actions. Since the 2002 Convention, the Executive Committee has met once, in August. The National Committee has a procedure for acting between meetings via mail ballot; it remains unused.

Cracks began to appear in the LNC's responses to its own members. See the Party's FEC filings for this year. Payments to state parties, the Unified Membership Plan payments that began in

[Fiscal Crisis Deepens](Continued on page 3)

Election Results

PVLA Folks: In the 3-way Easthampton and vicinity State Representative race, libertarian Max Pappas received 4,664 votes or 32%. He finished second. This approximately equals the performance of Nevadan James Dan, 33% in a two-way contest. In the Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire & Franklin State Senate District, running in a 2-person race PVLA member Carolyn J. McMahon received 8,376 votes or 18%. In the overlapping 3rd Hamden State Rep District Alan Wilcox had 581 votes for 4%. Wilcox spent about \$1/vote; McMahon spent under 25 cents per vote.

Libertarians running for US Senate against one minor and one major party candidate did relatively well: Bumper Hornberger (VA) 105,046 7% Steven A. Rosile (KS) 69408 9% Massachusetts results await tabulation of the votes for Randall Forsberg, and will appear next issue.

In races for Governor, Ed Thompson (Wisconsin) 183352 votes or 10.4%. The Wisconsin Green can-

[Election Results](Continued on page 4)

Libertarians in Close Races But South Dakotan Senate Candidate Betrays Party, Defects to Republicans

Polling data from across America speaks of close races with Libertarians as candidates. [For complete reports, www.politics1.com] In the Arizona Governor race, Janet Napolitano (D) - 43%, Matt Salmon (R) - 41%, Dick Mahoney (IND) - 11%, Barry Hess (LIBT) - 3%. In Indiana Congressional District 7 Julia Carson (D) - 43%, Brose McVey (R) - 42%, Andy Horning (LIBT) - 5%. For Governor of Oregon Ted Kulongoski (D) - 46%, Kevin Mannix (R) - 42%, Tom Cox (LIBT) - 3%, with Mannix closing rapidly.

The U.S. Senate race in South Dakota has Tim Johnson (D) - 47%; John Thune (R) - 45%; Undecided - 8%. This continues to be one of the most competitive Senate races in the nation. Alas, the Libertarian Party of South Dakota was betrayed by its nominee, Kurt Evans, who on October 17 announced, "I've suspended my campaign and endorsed John Thune in the race for U.S. Senate."

[Close Races](Continued on page 2)

Support Liberty! Subscribe to Let Freedom Ring!

Whither LP News?

I don't believe that the LP News should be in competition with Reason or Liberty. One problem with hiring a libertarian is that they may well want to do that. I see the primary purpose of the LP News to be describing what our elected public officials are doing. A second important item should be to report on serious races for winnable office. That is, what our likely future public officials are doing. A third item would be to report on what our informational candidates for public office are doing. A fourth item is to report on protest and outreach activities by local groups. A fifth item is to report on LP internal affairs.

Now, there may well be some Libertarians (or libertarians) who are interested in putting together a newsletter made up of that sort of thing. There may be some Libertarians (or libertarians) interested in writing those sorts of stories. I don't think that it requires any special ideological knowledge to write those sorts of stories. Cold calling the list of local public officials and candidates and finding out what they are doing until one gets a list of good ideas is probably not the best approach, but it is one approach. And how do we avoid getting Libertarians whose primary interest is in writing opinion pieces about current events? You see, I don't think we need to know the opinions of our paid staff.

Now, if we want policy ideas, I think the best approach is to get a wide selection of libertarian policy ideas. That is, we put together articles based on what a list of libertarian think tanks say. If we want opinion pieces, get columns by libertarians like Walter Williams. (I don't know what he charges.) And various LP think tanks put out opinion pieces for free. We could just publish a selection of them.

Now, I sometimes think that the best approach would be to have a ghost writer put together ideas from the think tanks and have candidates or public officials sign off on them. Most of our public officials are local and so stuff from the Reason foundation or Heartland would be good as sources (with appropriate citations.) We shouldn't use the same public officials all the time, but rather have a different one or two each month. This wouldn't be a news report about what a local official did, but rather an exposition of some libertarian policy idea by a libertarian public official. (I presume the public official would read the stuff and maybe even learn something.)

For state and national issues, the same procedure could be used, but under the name of candidates for state or national office. Coming up with an approach to state issues that apply to many states would be best.

I actually think that a professional would be more interested in doing such a thing than a libertarian writer. Especially more so than a libertarian writer interested in

promoting his or her own ideas.

A couple of days ago I was looking at the websites of firms that put together newsletters--generally for companies. There were no quoted prices, so I suspect it is expensive. One firm had two options. The 50-50 approach required the client to submit pictures and stories and they did the rest. The other approach (and

other firms) had people that would find out stuff to write about the client. I'm sure that the employees of the newsletter writing firm aren't personally committed to the products that their clients sell. But making a good newsletter for them is their job. Like I said, it is probably too expensive. But, choosing a Libertarian and subsidizing their dream to play at being Bill Bradford or Robert Poole is something we should avoid.

Do I want the LP news written by someone who doesn't like Reason or Liberty and has their own special angle to sell? Would a libertarian editor be willing to ghost write for LP candidates? Could we trust them not to favor their allies?
...Bill Woolsey

(Continued from page 1) [Close Races]

In the New Hampshire Senate race, Jeanne Shaheen (D) - 45%, John Sununu (R) - 40%, Ken Blewens (LIBT) - 2%. In the Texas US Senate Race, John Cornyn (R) - 43%, Ron Kirk (D) - 40%, Others - 2%. In the Wisconsin Governor Race: Jim Doyle (D) - 41%; Governor Scott McCallum (R) - 34%; Tomah Mayor Ed Thompson (LIBT) - 10%; Jim Young (GRN) - 2%. In the California Governor race, Gray Davis (D) - 48%, Bill Simon Jr. (R) - 37%, Peter Camejo (GRN) - 8%, Gary Copeland (LIBT) - 3%, While in the Illinois Governor Race Rod Blagojevich (D) - 52%, Jim Ryan (R) - 40%, Cal Skinner (LIBT) - 4%, Undecided - 4%.

...George Phillies

Show Your Liberty Spirit!

Become

your name@4liberty.net

**Now \$17/month
for Libertarians**

Excell.net

Providers of Internet Services

http://excell.net/excellnet_national-dialups.htm

Dialup in most states and Canada.

**Libertarian Owned
Libertarian Operated**

Supporters of the

Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association

(Continued from page 1) [Fiscal Crisis Deepens]

1996-1997, have regularly been made on the 15th of each month, or perhaps a day or two early. In October 2002 some state parties were indeed paid on the usual schedule, but the state parties of California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Texas, and Washington were not. Their payments, \$1000 or more each, were on the Party's 10/16 FEC filing as debts. They were paid the next week. This was not a bookkeeping error. The Party did not have the money in the bank to write the checks on the usual date.

A letter from National Treasurer Deryl Martin to Tennessee Libertarians, as forwarded to this newspaper, discussed the issue. We quote in part:

“My Dear Tennessee Libertarians:

It is with much regret that I have to write this letter asking for your help. I have quite literally just gotten off the phone with National Chair Geoff Neale who is in DC this week...continuing to ascertain the extent of the financial damage caused by our ongoing findings of inaccurate, amateurish bookkeeping...By now you should have received either Geoff's email or hard-copy appeal in which he told you why we need the funds. In a nutshell, our national convention was a financial disaster.

“Together, we have decided that we need about \$10 per national member immediately to pull us out of this hole. I'm talking (needing it) now....I'm talking about the five minutes it would take you to send the National LP a check for only \$10. Yes, we are in dire financial straits, and I'm personally asking you to take the next five minutes, give up two video rentals, and help save our beloved party....”

What are the National Party's debts? At the start of October, the LNC owed: AccuMail mailing services 20660; Bacon's Information clipping service 2367; B & B Dupli-cators printing 2163; Blue Cross staff health insurance 6941; Capital Improvement Convention Deposit 23084; De Lage copier lease 731; Dialogic Communications 750; Eccountable computer consulting 8606; Georgetown Insurance Service Inc. 882; Global Crossing conference calling 509; Erin Hollinden telemarketing 1513; Marriott Indianapolis lodging catering 52987; MCS Event Convention Staging 7085; Mount Vernon Printing printing 55249; Purchase Power postage 2967; Quill Corporation office supplies 1435;Rubino & McGeehin accounting 16500; TrizecHahn Watergate Office rent 7492; United Parcel Service shipping 1673; Votenet Solutions web services 1495; Walton Press printing 4904; Winstar phone service 2472; Xpeditefax service 5641.

Some debts were paid. For example, the Party reports spending more than \$34,910 on the Rand for Congress campaign. Rand was not even on the ballot. The National Party also gave more than \$8090 in “Travel Reimbursements” to Eric Caron, who at that time was em-

ployed by the LNC as a development director. Now, your humble author has run for National Chair, traveled coast to coast to Party conventions, run hospitality suites more than once...This is a staggering amount of money to spend on travel. One might ask if there were no efficiencies to be had.

There are several challenges to solving party financial problems: 1) There is competition for the income of party members: State parties, unwinnable large campaigns, PACs, Harry Browne's RCR and ALF groups, and this year over 1600 candidates and referenda could use your help.

2) LNC credibility has suffered from a decade of promises: Project Archimedes would boost Party membership to 50,000, 100,000,... all for \$20.00 per member (guaranteed by National Chair candidate David Bergland in 1998) Many members don't distinguish between the LNC and big campaigns: Harry Browne, who campaigned to install David Bergland, Steve Dasbach, Jim Lark, and Eli Israel, claimed he had a \$750,000 reserve fund, a \$1,000,000 cash reserve, 4000+ campaign volunteers. Many members believe that there is extensive evidence that those promises were not what they sounded.

3) Where is the crisis? Political Director Ron Crickenberger is actively soliciting funds for purposes other than to pay the LP's bills. On October 24, a quarter-century life member counted three email appeals in the past eight days, including one to help five LP candidates; one to buy cable TV ads on our medical marijuana stance, and one asking support for the sponsors of the NV marijuana initiative.

Another appeal drew into question the LNC's credibility. The call included “\$5,000 in Pennsylvania to ensure Ken Krawchuk gets on the ballot for governor. If Ken can get 2% of the vote...voters will again be able to register Libertarian in Pennsylvania.” Ken did get on the ballot, and has reportedly done extremely well in his debates. However, the LNC claim about Party registration was false. Regardless of Krawchuk's vote total, you will be able to register Libertarian in PA. Former Party State Chair Lois Kaneshiki notes that the 2% vote, if obtained, only means that County Election Boards report their counts of registered Libertarians to the State Government. County Libertarian committees could still run Libertarian candidates, get 2%, and be recognized political entities locally.

4) The Message of change at National is not going to the members. LP News reported the Dasbach recognition on Page 3, saying it was due to "differences with the Libertarian National Committee over management and strategic issues". This statement a subtext: Most members see Dasbach as a long-time activist. His statement about differences sends a message: He thinks that the new LNC is doing something wrong, so wrong that he felt obliged to resign, with no hint that there were difficulties in Washington. No description was given of the August ExComm meeting, whose minutes paint a very different picture, namely that LNC members had a total loss of confidence in Party Staff reports and dropped transparent hints that resignations were expected.

Let Freedom Ring!

(Continued from page 1) [Election Results]

didate had 43702 or 2.5%, which appears to be the consistent Green base in much of the country. In California, Gary Copeland set a record for Libertarian candidates for Governor, getting 2.18%, enough for California Party status. In NH, John Babiarz had 13,028 votes or 2.96%, missing the 4% needed for Party Status. On the other hand, in Indiana Rebecca Sink-Burris did get the 4% of the vote needed for Party status in that state. In Massachusetts, the campaign of Carla Howell drew 22,898 votes or 1%. Her income tax referendum (for elimination of that tax) gained 852,491 and 1,026,482 votes, losing 45-55%. In other Massachusetts races (number of other candidates are also listed:

Auditor (1 major) Kamal Jain (Lib.) 133,380 -- 7%
State Representatives:

7th Bristol 2 way Raymond P. Leary Jr. (Lib.) 1,109 --15%
14th Essex (3 way) Leavitt (Green) 1,158 -- 10%

4th Middlesex (3 way) Mark Testagrossa (Lib.) 561 -- 4%

6th Middlesex (2 way) James Pillsbury (Lib.) 3,273 -- 25%

7th Middlesex (2 way) Gregory Doherty (Lib.) 2,722 -- 24%

11th Middlesex (2 way) Danny Fain (Lib.) 2,722 -- 18%

17th Middlesex (3 way) Eryk C. Boston (Lib.) 636 -- 7%

21st Middlesex (3 way) Elias Israel (Lib.) 563 -- 4%

6th Norfolk (3 way) Richard Yampell (Lib.) 335 -- 2%

8th Plymouth (2 way) George Berdos Jr. (Lib.) 2,476 -- 21%

12th Worcester (2 way) William Pacheco (Lib.) 2,768--
20%

West Mesa Arizona: our candidate for Justice of the Peace Michael Kielsky got 2384 votes or 30% in a two-way race.

Local News

Michigan Libertarians have formed a new political action committee, The Small Government Alliance, that will work outside the LP. The SGA's goal is to reduce "the size and scope of government in both the personal and financial lives of all peaceful, honest people. Officers include co-founder Tim O'Brien, Communications Director Greg Dirasian, Development Director Bill Shotey, and Treasurer Nancy O'Brien. O'Brien is the former executive director of the Michigan LP. The SGA will support candidates, lobby, engage in public information campaigns, and build alliances with other organizations. It has already sponsored a fundraiser for Republican State Representative Leon Drolet, who is also a dues-paying LP member. For more information, www.smallgov.org.

Real Campaign Reform reports it will be running radio ads "...exposing politicians who voted for the anti-free speech and anti-free press Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA)." The ad series airing 33 times was broadcast on WBET AM 1460, Brockton, Massachusetts honoring Senator Kerrey, who is running against Libertarian Michael Cloud.

Papermail trumps email: Our source reports that there are fewer than 150 Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania people on the palibernet email list, and 1,200 people on the hard-copy newsletter list.

Letters

Richard Winger writes:

You said that my assessment of "success" was based upon the number of gubernatorial and US Senate candidates the party fielded. My charts had nothing to do with how many candidates the parties had run. They were entirely different. I listed, for each state, the minor party candidate who polled the highest percentage of the vote since World War II, for those two offices. And since the Libertarian Party had more "winners" than any other minor party, that was the basis for the national party's claim. Thank you.

Mark Murphy writes:

If a successful person is opening up a new store, it's because they've built up the capital (or enough proper capital) to do so. At this point, their work load would be too heavy trying to operate both stores at the same time, and thus the work load demands hiring.

Here's how the LP would approach the above scenario? The LP would say it is going to open 10 stores over the next year without having the capital, but thinking it will based on future funding. So, the LP goes out to hire 10 managers of these 10 new stores that will be opened in the future. So, there's be 10 managers sitting around.... with the LP promoting "look, we have 10 managers for our 10 new stores that we'll be opening soon.... send in the money!"

Hiring someone to be in charge of a new operation is only sensible if there's enough work to justify the position... and it shouldn't be a "director" or expectations of a "director".

For example, here in the State of CA, if I were Chair, I'd propose to the ExCom that we hire a staff worker to handle the current business of the State Party (communications with the various counties, Sec of State, handling calls, newsletter, research for political action).

STAFF

Not a *manager* or *director*.

Once there was too much work for the one staff member (presumably based on projects and funding), we'd be ready to hire additional staff (perhaps part time depending on the growth).

At the point there's enough staff to manage where it's too much of a burden for a part time State Chair, it would be time to hire a manager. Etc.

This is the normal course of growth. It is the proper way to grow.... no matter if one is a business or a non-profit like group such as org. ...Mark F. Murphy