

Let Freedom Ring!

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December 2005

Let Freedom Ring: National Committee Rejects Return to Dues; Libertarians Do Better in Local Elections; Why LNC Financials Suffer; LNC Financials Improve....1
Massachusetts Libertarian News....2 LNC National Convention and Committees; Liberty for Massachusetts Has Successful Year.....6

Libertarian Strategy Gazette Distributing Press Releases, Writing Effective Press Releases...1 Tim Crowley's Raising Money....3 Letters on Libertarian Strategy: Strategic Objectives for All Party Groups....5

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National Committee Rejects Return to Dues

California Dues are \$50; Indiana Dues are \$0
Sean Haugh, reporting on the November LNC Meeting, writes: There were two proposals to revisit the dues debate, both brought by regional representatives on behalf of members. Region 1E Representative Dan Karlan (New Jersey) offered a motion submitted by the Massachusetts LP to set dues at \$30, while Region 4 Alternate Trevor Southerland (Tennessee) put forward the plan of Jack Tanner of Florida to set dues at \$0.0001 (one mil) along with a pledge to donate \$100 to cover the fees for the first million members.

Sqyres objected to consideration of both proposals, which very swiftly passed by a show of hands, 10-5 (two thirds required). Thus the LNC affirmed its will to have zero dues starting January 1, 2006.

At the beginning of the meeting, Dixon cited California and Indiana as positive examples of

[National Rejects Return to Dues] (Continued on page 4)

Why LNC Financials Suffer

Sean Haugh Reports; LNC Fails to Develop Budget

Sean Haugh Writes: LNC Meeting Report - Budget and Finances The rumors of dire financial straits at national were pretty much confirmed at this meeting, although staff and the newly created LNC Finance Committee have offered some hopeful signs for the future. On top of this, the LNC Executive Committee completely ignored its responsibility to have a 2006 budget prepared in advance of this meeting.

Treasurer Mark Nelson reported that he has not even seen September financial statements, and distributed what he had just received for October. That report shows we had about \$14,000 in the bank available to pay bills as of 10/31/05, with over \$90,000 in bills due. Chair Michael Dixon said that the stoppage of reports was due to staff turnover, and it took a great deal of effort to get the reporting system restarted.

Nelson ascribed some of the shortfall to our
[LNC Financials] (Continued on page 4)

Libertarians Do Better in Local Elections

Massachusetts libertarians did well in elections across the Commonwealth. In Cambridge, Bill Hees set a new record, finishing 13th in a race for 9 seats. He also received more first place votes for City Council than any Libertarian before him. Hees finished ahead of Libertarian Jim Condit. Hees also beat the only Republican candidate—the Republican Party machine was not able to field as many candidates as our Libertarians did. Cambridge libertarians are now discussing school committee races.

In Springfield, running in an 18 candidate race for 9 City Council seats, Bob Underwood received 3943 votes. 9201 votes would have sufficed for his election.

In Holyoke in a 14 candidate race for 8 seats, Bruce Gibson received 1883 votes. 3977 votes would have sufficed for his election. Underwood and Gibson, running in heavily contested races, each got over 40% of the vote needed to win.

LNC Financials Improve

Income Passes \$150,000 for October

FEC filings for the Libertarian National Committee show that its October 2005 income was \$152085, as part of a yearly total of \$1407268, well above its September and August totals of \$82 504 and \$98 956. This is an annual rate of 1.8 million dollars, which matches the party's yearly budget.

For the month, there were extensive expenditures. The follow lists those amounts and their purposes. When multiple disbursements were made to a single place, those displacements are listed separately after the recipient.

Advanced Mailing Services LLC Party Printing and Mailing Non Candidate 1739.41 4169.32 2691.33 4540.99 American Express Merch Servc Fees 32.50 American Express Card 1776.86 Video Monitoring Services (VMS) 466.59 Luna Grill Meals 32.99 Amazon.com Software Purchases 81.98 Chumpsoft Software Purchases 199.00 Everyones Internet Website Server Maintenance 299.00 Corporate & Leisure Travel Services 288.30 Political Sticker Party Printing - 409.00 ; Anthem Blue Cross Blue

[Ballot Access Audit] (Continued on page 4)

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

Let Freedom Ring!

Corrections, Clarifications and Confidentiality

First, a correction. I reported that North Carolina had not yet received its Unified Membership payment (UMP) in October. That was incorrect. I checked and we had actually received it before I wrote that article. I humbly apologize, especially to headquarters staff, for the error. They have enough troubles these days without false reports of not meeting obligations.

It turns out some other items of fact are also in question. For a few examples, I reported last time that according to Treasurer Mark Nelson a forgotten check for \$8,000 was discovered in a desk drawer of a former employee. I've since heard the check was in the amount of \$4,925. Nelson also had reported that a significant number of materials had to be trashed because they bore our former Executive Director Joe Seehusen's signature, and since then I've been told they were made outdated by the abolition of membership dues.

The LNC almost passed a motion (it failed 7-7-2) by Region 2 Representative Aaron Starr (California) that we pay undisputed past due accounts payable before paying UMP, citing that our printer has still not been paid for the annual report from the beginning of 2005. However I have since been told that this invoice was indeed in dispute. I have not been told why the LNC was apparently unaware of this fact.

There are other examples of variations between different sets of factual reports, even more picayune than the first two I cited. On the surface it may not seem a big deal whether a check is reported to be for one amount or another. But the inability for everyone to agree on the most insignificant facts leads to a very significant problem. The LNC cannot make sound decisions if they don't have accurate information.

I am not blaming or accusing anyone. Indeed, there is no evidence whatsoever of anyone involved trying to falsify anything, and ample evidence that they are all decent people just trying to do right. This dynamic has been going on for years, long predating all current personnel. Before Nelson, former Treasurers Mark Tuniewicz and Deryl Martin complained of their inability to receive all the information they needed from staff. We've been through two Executive Directors and a full turnover of headquarters staff, and yet staff still complains of the LNC's troubles in requesting what information they need.

That the problems stay constant while the people involved keep changing indicates this is a systems problem, not a personnel problem. I remain somewhat mystified as to why this continues. While serving on the LNC last term, we paid a lot of attention to streamlining the reporting we wanted from staff and took great pains to keep these reports as simple and germane as possible. It just doesn't seem like it would have to be so difficult.

The theme continues with some clarity on the improvements in running monthly pledge credit cards. It turns out there was a user error with test batches. If a card number was in an existing test batch, it wouldn't be included in the real batch. This was

[Corrections] (Continued on page 3)

Massachusetts Libertarian News

Social and Activism Events

December

6 8:00 PM Lowell Area Liberty Association, November/December Meeting *note unusual date for this group* Outback Steakhouse, Reiss Avenue off Lowell Connector, Lowell Arthur Torrey, arthur_torrey @comcast.net 978-663-0241

14 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, Worcester MA 01605 Contact: George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net 508-754-1859

January

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

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

To Be Announced—

Rob Power is organizing a new Cambridge libertarian group, Drinking Freely, modeled after the highly successful Democratic Party group Drinking Liberally. Contact: drinking-freely.org

Web Sites Covering Massachusetts Libertarians

Liberty for Massachusetts: LibertyForMassachusetts.org
Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association pvla.net wmlp.org
Central Massachusetts Liberty Coalition cmlc.org
Citizens for Limited Taxation and Government cltg.org
Libertarian Party of Massachusetts lpma.org
American Civil Liberties Union aclu-mass.org
Gay Officers Action League goalne.org
Gun Owners Action League goal.org
Outright Libertarians outrightusa.org

Elists of Interest to Massachusetts Libertarians

Liberty for Eastern Massachusetts Liberty-eMass@yahoo groups.com
Mass Liberty ma-liberty@yahoogroups.com
MassLP masslp@yahoogroups.com

Now Available in Paperback

George Phillies' books *Stand Up for Liberty!* on the Local Organization Strategy for the Libertarian Party, and *Funding Liberty* on the 1996-2000 Presidential campaign anomalies, are now available in paperback and ebook format.

For more information <http://www.3mpub.com/phillies>

(Continued from page 2) [Corrections and Blogging]

going on for months and was uncovered while training new people to run these batches. The test batches were deleted, and presto! Another dramatic improvement in this system.

Yes, this is another level of detail that hardly amounts to a hill of beans in the grand scheme of the Liberty movement. But again, it is a sign of a deeper issue with how we run this party. Every time a high level employee leaves, we discover problems like this.

The reasons for this are becoming a little clearer. We are always going into a crisis mode whenever a director level employee leaves. Instead of simply filling the position again, we distribute the duties to other staff who were not hired to do them and may or may not have any qualifications or experience with them. These are good resourceful people for the most part, eager to help any way they can and excited about learning while doing. But expecting them to keep operating in this crisis mode doesn't work for anybody.

Not only does it lead to these basic errors that are always in need of fixing, it's grossly unfair to our staff. Being in constant crisis leads to lack of morale. Being pulled apart in several competing directions generally contributes to job dissatisfaction. Being criticized for trying your best at some job you never asked for is never any fun.

We could solve a lot of these endemic annoyances if we hire qualified people for well defined positions and then just let them concentrate on doing their jobs. That way we can keep good people longer, instead of always replacing people whose dedication has finally been overwhelmed by their frustration.

On the confidentiality issue, I heard from Region 5E Alternate Chuck Moulton (Pennsylvania) who wanted to make sure his concerns about the confidentiality of reports raised at the last meeting were clear. He has always been an advocate of openness and wasn't arguing in favor of excessive confidentiality, and I trust that was clear in my report.

The problem is that without constant reminder of the very narrow grounds of what should be confidential, it seems to be human nature to blur the lines and want to keep information closer than is often necessary or required. The poorly defined desire to keep information close leads to sloppiness in both directions. Moulton cited a database report he passed along, just meaning to keep his constituency informed, that he later was told was confidential even though it wasn't marked as such. At the same time, the LNC seems quite freaked out over the speed at which the Treasurer's Report, a completely non-confidential document, made it into the blogosphere.

Being directly involved in the process, I won't pretend to be objective here. My gut reaction is that folks should just get used to living in this glorious Internet Age when all information is immediately available. That Treasurer's Report was sent by several LNC members to several different people, including myself, and I in turn forwarded it to others. That anyone finds anything wrong with this is rather strange to me.

But in thinking about it, I can understand why the members of

the LNC might place some value on wanting to have the time to digest complicated financial information before having to answer questions or make decisions based on it. Some members also expressed concern that the process becomes a game of telephone where important pieces of information become lost or garbled with each transmission.

One of the main reasons why I took this job is to make sure accurate information is available to people who want it. Our members deserve to know everything they want to know about how their party is being run, but that's not the only benefit. Placing the facts on record also puts an end to speculation. It used to be that people could offer conjecture as fact and it would take a life of its own without the truth to counter it. I'd like to think that my LNC Meeting Reports have gone a long way to make sure that everybody knows what they are talking about.

After two years of this gig, this problem is starting to crop up again. It's hard to report the facts when different authoritative sources disagree on them. And now some LNC members say they feel inhibited from committing anything to print because of how quickly and chaotically that information might get out.

Some people think blogging has changed the nature of reporting. The truth is the opposite. Blogging has returned journalism to its roots, before misplaced notions of objectivity were foisted upon it. Good reporters always have an interest in their subjects and make their biases a part of the story. Yes, sometimes it is messy, but overall more facts and more perspectives on them help people acquire the true picture.

Free flowing correct information is what makes this process work. When the flow of correct information is restricted in any way, we quickly return to the environment where speculation is just as powerful as truth, where unjust criticisms cannot be easily dispelled. But with all of the facts easily available to anyone, we can replace mistrust with confidence in any organization.

...Sean Haugh

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Let Freedom Ring!

(Continued from page 1) [National Rejects Return to Dues]

forward thinking in their response to zero dues, and asked both those state chairs to tell the committee their stories.

Starr explained that California had implemented pretty much what he had proposed to the LNC at the beginning of the year, \$25 for a new state membership and \$50 to renew. He said it is important to recognize that the transfer of our members' relationships from national to state is not automatic, so attention to building new relationships is required to generate dues. Their goals are to convert 50% of national members to state membership and develop their own membership database program.

Rutherford spoke for Indiana. They are going the opposite direction, choosing not to charge dues in favor of other fundraising. They have contracted with a development specialist for their fundraising program. This change will require revisions of their bylaws. Rutherford cited one great advantage, relieving their county affiliates from the task of member recruitment.

In October, the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts noted that dues and UMP payments were about to end, and agreed that if the National did not return to orthodox dues levels that the LPMA would institute \$15 per month dues, because dues let you identify your committed members.

...Sean Haugh, George Phillies

(Continued from page 1) [LNC Financials]

Shield Employee Health Insurance 558 ; Aristotle International Inc. Voter Data Lists 1115.00; Atlantic Mailing Systems Inc Anual Maint Agreement Mailing System 365.00 ; B & B Dupli-cators Party Printing and Mailing 237.94 756.11 Employee B Net Pay 117.48 179.79 D and O Insurance 758.36; CareFirst BlueChoice Employee Health Insurance 166.00; Jerry D Cloud LP News Writing Editing Services 1750.00 2050.00; Jerry D Cloud Employee Net Pay 1050.47 242.69; Gen Liab Insurance 239.20; Commonwealth Digital Office Sol Equipment Lease 124.66 124.66; Shane Cory Employee Net Pay 2084.82 2084.81 Cory Consulting Inc Internet-List Services and Server Maint. 930.00; Matthew T Dailey Employee Net Pay 678.58 622.24; Dataprise (IBT) Network Services 990.00; DC Office of Tax & Revenue Withholding 268.00 35.21 231.00; De Lage Landen Financial Copier Lease 517.12 Employee D Net Pay 845.08; Susan M Dickson Net Pay 806.05; Dixon See Memo 822.18; Marriott KC Airport Meeting Expense 822.18; Employee Q Net Pay 700.74 688.34; Federal Express 118.55 106.19; Federal Withholding and Unemployment 15.00 1135.00 192.86 824.65 849.00 161.78 161.78 691.72 691.72; Gillis Data & Information Services Party Printing and Mailing Non Candidate 1500.00; Gillis Data & Information Ser-vices LLC 8990 Westchester Dr, 1000.00; Great American Leasing Postage Meter Lease 231.31 134.56; J&N Printing Party Printing and Mailing 3120.14 4172.008287.00; Office Supplies 605.01; Koch & Hoos LLC FEC Consulting 3547.95; Employee J Net Pay 311.09 185.48; Robert S Kraus 1259.51 1259.53; John V LaBeaume Editing Services 1500.00; Lewis Dan Editing Services Non Candidate 3150.00; MAMSI LNC Mamsi Employee Health 241.76 180.00 MAS1 - MassMutual Life Insurance Adjustment Servc Charge and Contribu 1172.40; Merchant Services Merch Serv CC Fees 458.79; Net-fire.com Internet Services 280.37; Employee S Net Pay 214.49

112.97 Samuel P New Net Pay 962.32 962.31 Riggs Bank Bank Service Charges 372.33
12.00 Postmaster BRE/BRM Postage Acct # BR 1383-002
1000.00 475.00 Postmaster - Walton Press LP - Postage
3331.00 Print Connection 1404.00 4955.00 Quill Corporation Office Supplies 176.44 QuickBooks Payroll Service Payroll Processing Fees 4.99 7.75 10.00 17.50 1.37 17.50 RMV Global Comm Phone System Repair 126.00 Rubino & McGeehin Accounting Services 2500.00 Safeway Supplies 200.00 Employee K Net Pay 215.57 196.33 Telecompute Corporation 1-800 Phone Service 70.13 Employee T Em-ployee Net Pay 791.01 Employee net pay 791.02 Ticketmas-ter EOM Credit Card Processing Fees 1000.71 Tri-State Party Printing/Mailing 1543.08 750.75 US LEC Telephone and Data Services 530.38VA Dept. of Taxation 339.00 270.00 Walton Press LP News Printing 2305.53 30.00 Legal Services 2.85 2531.35

(Continued from page 1) [Why LNC Financials Are Challenging]

struggle to change operations in response to staff turnover and the LNC's decision to set dues at zero. For example, there was some significant cost to replacing materials that refer to dues levels. One change Nelson is pushing for is to institute a pur-chase order system, which is still in negotiation with staff. Purchase orders would allow us to better know about obliga-tions for which we have not yet been invoiced. Nelson re-ported that debts that have not shown up yet in the reports currently total at least another \$10,000.

Another large potential cost on the horizon is potential fines by the Federal Election Commission (FEC) stemming from our many problems with filing accurate campaign finance reports over the last two years. We are currently engaged in the Alternative Dispute Resolution program of the FEC, which allows for negotiation and working out problems in a more informal setting instead of simply facing a quasi-judicial hearing resulting in penalties. Nelson estimated this may re-sult in fines between \$20,000-50,000, and that long term com-pliance issues are still ongoing. In his report, LNC Counsel Bill Hall suggested the likely amount could be as much as \$28,000 yet held out some small hope that fines might be avoided.

Nelson renewed several concerns of his which have been con-stant throughout his tenure. For example, he cited how some revenue lines have always been improperly posted. Dixon explained that contributions which combined a membership with an extra donation are still not split properly to account for the cost of servicing the membership. Nelson cited further examples where both staff and the LNC have failed to follow our own policies and standards. The most famous of this is our historic inability to maintain reserves as demanded by our policy manual.

Region 2 Representative Aaron Starr (California) moved that no Unified Membership payments (UMP) be made while there exist undisputed accounts payable over 30 days past due. Vice Chair Lee Wrights spoke against the motion, saying that our UMP obligations are equal to those made to our vendors. At Large Representative Bill Redpath offered that such a firm

rule may not fit a fluid situation. At Large Representative Michael Colley noted that one payday he was in the office two employees did not receive their paychecks, choosing to defer them until money was available. This he said was an untenable situation, adding that some states are moving on in the wake of zero dues and the abolition of UMP, and all states should do so. Region 6 Representative George Squyres (Arizona) added that our first financial obligation must be to our staff. Nelson reported that he instructed staff to hold vendor payments until we can cover UMP and payroll. Starr's motion failed 7-7-2.

Acting LP Chief of Staff Shane Cory reported that we brought in over \$124,000 in October, a sharp increase due to a number of factors. One major change is the segmenting of our fundraising letters. Instead of our former practice of sending all our fundraising letters to everybody on our list, we are finally taking advantage of our new database software to identify more likely donors to each appeal and send it only to them. This has greatly reduced the cost of each letter, allowing to send more frequent mailings which have a much lower threshold to reach profitability. He said the focus has shifted from chasing former donors to generating new ones, which yields superior results. We have also hired a new direct mail consultant, who has more experience and offers us a lower rate.

The Advertising and Publications Review Committee (APRC) has been involved in review of fundraising letters although that technically falls outside their purview. Nelson, a member of the APRC, had raised concerns about what he termed several misstatements of fact in the zero dues letter, which he ascribed to a lack of institutional knowledge resulting from staff turnover. Nelson and Cory attempted to hold that letter after Nelson expressed his concerns, but it had already gone out. Wrights, Chair of the APRC, stressed that the only role of that committee is to ensure that our materials conform with our platform, and it is not to be seen as an editorial board. Region 5E Representative Jim Lark (Virginia), the third member of the APRC, drew out Cory's response so the LNC would be fully informed of these issues.

Starr asked about the how the chain of command is currently maintained. Cory replied that he speaks to Nelson daily to clear expenses and keep him informed, while Dixon noted elsewhere that he speaks to staff at least once a week. Cory spoke of the need for the LNC to resolve remaining communication issues with the Treasurer, and said he was quite open to greater communication from individual LNC members.

Cory also spoke of discovering and correcting a new level of errors in the pledge program which has cut the credit card failure rate in half. Personally I am disturbed by the constant pattern of always uncovering major flaws in our operations whenever a director-level employee leaves, most recently our development coordinator Jessica Wilson. The fact that Wilson remains very highly regarded, and rightly so considering how she instituted many corrections and improvements to our procedures after previous employees departed, lends credence to the view that this pattern is due to far more to flaws in our systems more than in our personnel. One obvious factor is our habit of promoting or shifting employees into responsibilities for which they were not originally hired and have no prior

experience. These folks may well be resourceful and eager to help, yet this practice forces them to develop solutions on the fly with limited or no training, as well as ensuring a loss of institutional knowledge when we experience staff turnover.

Dixon cited At Large Representative Mark Rutherford's work with major donor development in his role as Chair of the new Finance Committee. Nelson cautioned not to get too excited about the increase in major donor revenue in October as it is not necessarily repeatable. While major donor income, at least at our current level, will yield disparate results from month to month, I still find it a very hopeful sign that Rutherford, his committee and staff are laying the groundwork for soliciting large donations on an ongoing basis.

Nelson distributed a rough draft budget, which was based on adjustments he made to an initial document developed by staff. Our policies state that the Executive Committee (EC), composed of the four officers of the party and four other LNC members, is to develop and distribute the proposed budget well in advance of the November meeting so it may be amended and approved by the LNC. No reason was given for the EC's failure to do this work.

The budget is still about \$96,000 short of balancing, with projected revenues of \$1,090,760 and expenses of \$1,187,377 for the next calendar year. This is significantly below the expectations of running a \$1.7 million enterprise as reflected in the two most recent budgets. Nelson said there was no consideration yet in the draft budget for the project line items such as the convention, ballot access, branding or training. (The budget separates activities between program items, which are paid from the general fund, and project items which are supposed to be segregated and self-funding.) He renewed his concerns over the difficulty of the convention breaking even, and how we are unprepared if it results in a serious shortfall. He also pointed out that outsourcing LP News would add more significant costs for which there is no room in the budget.

The discussion of the budget was reserved for the last major agenda item on Sunday. Some adjustments were suggested or approved at the table. Nelson said training was being moved from program to project status, since in theory it is supposed to be self-funding. Squyres asked for a separate program line item for affiliate support and development. This was agreed to, but no information was offered to determine how much to fund it. Starr suggested separating outreach between those activities designed to generate donors and those meant purely for marketing.

The budget now goes to EC to do the work they were supposed to complete before the end of October. Once they have refined the draft budget, it will be submitted to the LNC for a week of email debate and amendment and returned to the EC for approval, all to conclude before 12/31/05.

Wright closed the meeting by saying how ridiculous it is to be voting to do what we should have already done. He noted that he has been sitting on the board for four years now and is still waiting for us to get the budget process done right.

...Sean Haugh

Let Freedom Ring!

LNC Meeting Report - Convention

The LNC received a presentation from Terry Quick, our convention consultant hired by Dixon. Quick has already completed a site inspection, a working budget, a marketing analysis, draft vendor agreements and the business meeting arrangements. Our cost for Quick's services will total \$36,000 plus expenses and outside labor. Work still left to be done includes the convention website, mailing and marketing, and setting prices.

Dixon distributed initial convention budget projections. The working agenda has committee meetings scheduled for Wednesday through Friday, June 28-30. The business meeting would be on Saturday and Sunday, July 1-2. The new LNC would meet Monday. Dixon also distributed a sheet of revenue projections. The estimated total revenue from registrations is \$117,790, based on 514 total packages sold.

The Convention Committee is Dixon, Lark, and Region 2 Alternate Richard Burke (Oregon). Lark hopes to have a greater emphasis on training and workshops for activists, and far less emphasis on speakers. Dixon said currently they are planning on only two speaker slots.

Convention expenses are currently being paid out of general funds, since nothing was budgeted for the convention in 2005. Originally the revenue was supposed to go into a separate bank account. The cost for setting up this separate account was estimated to be \$1,200, which was deemed too high. Carling moved an authorization of \$15,000 in convention expenses for 2005, which passed by a voice vote. Dixon promised to send the LNC a monthly report on convention finances.

Secretary Bob Sullentrop submitted extensive documentation of several delegate and affiliate convention resources. These include a Delegation Chair's Manual, a Convention FAQ for delegates, and development of various software to assist the Credentials Committee, the amendment process and vote tabulation. The documents are meticulous in detail while being very clearly organized. Dixon said he is extremely grateful knowing that our Secretary is on the case and that his extensive convention responsibilities will be discharged properly.

The LNC appointed members of the Platform and Credentials Committees at this meeting. Each LNC member had ten votes each which they could use positively or negatively. The first round of Platform voting determined the first nine members with a four way tie for the tenth spot. Numbers: Total Yes-No

Lorenzo Gaztenaga (MD) 13 13-0
David Aiken (CO) 12 12-0
George Squyres (AZ) 12 14-2
Adam Mayer (OR) 11 11-0
Robert Murphy (OK) 11 11-0
Trevor Southerland (TN) 11 11-0
David Owens (PA) 11 13-2
Tim West (WV) 9 10-1
Donny Ferguson (VA) 8 8-0

Four way tie: Lee Wrights (NC) Chuck Williams (SC) 7 7-0
Jim Duensing (NV) 7 7-0 Greg Clark (WA) 7 7-0 (Wright's won in run-off)
Bea Jones (SC) 3 7-4
Bill van Allen (FL) 1 1-0
Michael Gilson De Lemos (FL) -8 0-8

...Sean Haugh

Liberty for Massachusetts Has Successful Year

(From the annual report of the LfM Political Facilitator).
From its inception last Winter, Liberty for Massachusetts has had a successful first year.

Campaigns: Members and friends of Liberty for Massachusetts ran for office, and supported the campaigns of other libertarians. Arthur Torrey is an elected town meeting member. Bob Underwood ran for Springfield Council. Jim Condit and Bill Hees ran for Cambridge City Council with LfM members in support. Bruce Gibson, running for Holyoke City Council, had significant PVLA advice.

Local Organization: Liberty for Massachusetts has worked vigorously to support local and special interest groups in Massachusetts. Every known active Libertarian local group in Massachusetts has now affiliated with LfM, including the Lowell Area Liberty Association, the Cambridge City Libertarian Club/ Liberty for Eastern Massachusetts, Worcester County Liberty Association, and Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association, which is the oldest continuously-existing libertarian group in the Commonwealth. We are negotiating with Outright Libertarians, the libertarian GLBT group, which is trying to line up enough officers in the Commonwealth to form a state chapter, about becoming an affiliated affinity group.

Publications: Liberty for Massachusetts and its affiliate organizations publish not one but three monthly newsletters, namely *Liberty for Massachusetts*, *Let Freedom Ring!*, and *Libertarian Strategy Gazette*. All three newsletters are available on the web at LibertyForMassachusetts.Org and CMLC.org, where they are downloaded hundreds of times per month.

Outreach Events: Liberty for Massachusetts was the primary libertarian political presence at outreach events across Massachusetts, including the Amherst MA *Extravaganja*, and the Boston Common *Pride Festival* and *Boston Freedom Rally* events. In September, we organized a *Rally to End the War* that we staged on the Amherst Common. At the Pride Festival, we were fortunate enough as to be able to share booth space with Outright Libertarians and the Free State Project. At the Freedom Rally, we had the Free State Project as next door neighbors, allowing us to help each other to set up and take down booths. This cooperation (under which we also distribute ACLU and Gun Owners Action League literature) shows how pro-liberty groups that work together to help each other can have more positive results than groups that turn their backs on each other.

Social Events: Liberty for Massachusetts has run a monthly social event at points ranging from Monson to Worcester to Cambridge to Stoughton. For the Holiday season, the November and December events were combined.

Fundraising: Liberty for Massachusetts and the Liberty Tree PAC are now launching a joint fundraising campaign. Liberty Tree can give money directly to political candidates—it aided the Hees/Condit campaigns. Liberty for Massachusetts does not support candidates, so it raises money for its broader purposes.