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The Illinois Libertarian

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COME TO THE 2005 LPI CONVENTION

For the first time in LPI history, our annual convention will be held outside of the Chicago area and we look forward to seeing all the new faces. Join us Saturday, February 19th and Sunday February 20th at the Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center in Springfield, IL.

A registration card is included or you can take advantage of the convenience of registering online at www.lpillinois.org, where you can also find more details about the convention. Holding the convention downstate has greatly reduced the costs making this convention our most affordable in years.

2004 LP Presidential candidate, Michael Badnarik, headlines LPI Convention.



LPI is proud to welcome Michael Badnarik as our Keynote Speaker for the Saturday Evening Banquet starting at 6:00 PM. You won't want to miss hearing Michael speak about his campaign for President in 2004 and his hopes for the future of freedom and the Libertarian Party.

Details are almost finalized for Michael Badnarik offering his now famous "Introduction to the Constitution" class on Monday, February 21st, which happens to also be President's Day. To learn more about the chance to attend Michael's class, please check the back page of this newsletter.

The Featured Speaker for our Sunday Brunch will be Pete Guither, author of 'Drug WarRant' found on the internet at www.DrugWarRant.com. Pete will be talking about the drug policy reform movement.

Pete is a faculty member at Illinois State University where he is the faculty advisor for Mobilizing Students and Activists for Hemp (M.A.S.H.) and Theatre of Ted, an underground weekly theatre event, where he has presented rants on the drug war for many years.

Starting off the weekend activities will be a debate event on Friday evening hosted by "Freedom Rings" radio and the Libertarian Party of Chicago. See separate promotion article on back page for more information.

For any and all interested in seeing where all the bad government decisions are made, tours of the State Capitol and Old State Capitol will begin Saturday morning at 10:00 AM. These will be guided tours and should be rather interesting and perhaps a bit motivational as this is where we want to be to start giving back freedom to all.

We will break for lunch following the morning tours and you can select from a number of downtown Springfield restaurants. After lunch, guided tours have been arranged with the Illinois State Museum and Lincoln's Home. The Illinois State Museum has just gone through a major renovation (at taxpayer's expense) to better depict the history of our state. Lincoln's Home is a tourist highlight of Springfield. The spin of greatness they cast on Lincoln will be lost on us, but this should be an informative tour nonetheless.

We'll have plenty of time to get back to the hotel for an afternoon seminar and discussion on Precincts. Precincts are the grass roots starting point for playing the political game and we have a lot to learn about them. That takes us into the Banquet on Saturday night followed by our own private nightclub until 1:00 AM and a great time to reflect, discuss, debate, meet, and just have fun. We look forward to having you join us.



Message From The LPI State Chair

A few weeks ago I had it decided what I was going to write in this, my last message from the Chair to the members of the Libertarian Party of Illinois. But, news I received changed all that and I decided to alter my message from the thoughtful recollections that I had planned.

When I was appointed Chair I stepped forward to do so because I didn't see a mob of people running to grab the job, and now I know why. I won't bore you with how hard a job it is – let's just say that individuals who value freedom as much as we do tend to be very independent minded, suspicious of leadership, and quite difficult to lead. I decided that my first priority was to make sure there was still a Libertarian Party of Illinois when I ended the term because we were very close to going out of existence.

I don't know if members of the State Organizing Committee, let alone the general membership, thought about just how close we were. We were within inches of being dealt a financial knockout by the Federal Election Commission (FEC) and it was only the hard work of other individuals who rarely crave any limelight that prevented that from happening.

The organization I took over was, for all intents and purposes, in chaos. There were a number of basic issues that needed to be addressed and I have spent the vast amounts of my time addressing them. Like any leader I reflect back and think I could have done more and I wish I could have. However, I'm proud of what we have done since I assumed the Chair – we stopped the bleeding, restored financial accountability, cut back on frivolous expenses, ran a successful petitioning drive, added a new affiliate and so much more.

Now, I have spent the time to get the old jalopy that was LPI running again. It goes down the road reasonably straight, it's not very fast and it definitely still needs a lot of work. However, there are many who ask why it doesn't go as fast as a Ferrari and I have a lot of trouble fielding criticism from such people. Their attacks have been very personal, openly seditious, and utterly without merit. These are people who care more about what I did before I was Chair than what I did as Chair and that is ludicrous.

We lost one of the standard bearers for our party this past weekend, a person who was tireless in his activism and ran one of the best organized and most high profile campaigns I have ever seen from a Libertarian let alone an Illinois Libertarian. He quit the party this weekend and I can't help but think that nonsense like what has gone on is the reason why. I consider his departure a personal failure on my part in that I didn't better foster an environment where he felt welcome and valued. I fully realize my patience has long since been exceeded by these matters and I'm certain that had something to do with it too.

The “progressives” have hijacked the term “move on” but I think it fits perfectly here. This party is divided over things that happened years ago, were settled, only to be brought

back up again. This party is divided over where our priorities lie with one side urging financial restraint while the other insists unless we have a regular newsletter, or an 800 number, or an office, we are not a political party.

I challenge each of you to think about what you want from the Libertarian Party of Illinois before you read a shred of material from those who wish to replace me. Write down what your priorities are, what you can do to help accomplish them and what you would like to see from your next State Chair.

Personally, I have tried to do that many times. Despite the obvious fact there was financial mismanagement that was quite clearly someone's responsibility, I didn't want to start a witch hunt to find out who's fault it was. I made sure it wouldn't happen again.

When we cleaned out the office was filled with mountains of unsent and unused newsletters and other literature that was of little use to anyone not wrapping fish. There were expensive software packages not being used and several computers despite the fact we've never had more than one paid employee. I didn't concern myself with how it happened but to make sure it didn't happen again.

Finally, despite the fact there were persons who made a decent livelihood rendering “services” to LPI, misappropriated LPI funds and more or less created an LPI welfare program I didn't trouble myself with it. I made damn sure it didn't happen again.

However, at this upcoming convention some of those who are responsible may be running for positions, or speaking on the floor, or trying to get your vote with many promises perhaps with some delusions of grandeur laced in. I simply ask that you reflect on that list I asked you to make about what LPI's priorities should be before making your decision. Do the priorities of that candidate approximate yours? If dollars are tight which are more appropriate? Finally, what did that person do when we were short of funds, mispending money, and engaging in a petition drive?

Theodore Roosevelt spoke of the “man in the arena” who “strives valiantly....because there is no effort without error or shortcoming.” I leave as Chair knowing those words well and bear the scars from the scathing attacks but leave knowing I dared greatly and did my best to ignore the critics who seldom offer anything but words. I hope you will find fighters to lead LPI because we have had our fill of people who have complained loudly, done little, and risked nothing to move LPI forward .

Thank you for your support of LPI and I look forward to serving the party in whatever capacity it sees fit (just not as State Chair!).

W. Guy Finley
State Chair - Libertarian Party of Illinois

The Treasury - 2004 In Review

The light at the end of our financial tunnel has gotten much brighter over the course of 2004. Since taking on the role of Treasurer in April 2004, I've included our Executive Director in the day-to-day management of our cash flow and we've worked very well together at improving our financial position.

First, I'll report and comment on the revenue side. Our total revenues in 2004 were \$81,555. General fundraising provided \$34,672, LP National's help with the petition drive was \$27,500, and proceeds from the UMP membership program added \$12,796. Miscellaneous revenues included \$5,615 from convention registration, \$621 from refunds of overpayments and balances, and \$350 in memberships.

General fundraising in 2003 was \$22,541 so we improved the most important revenue category by \$12,131 this year. UMP membership deposits in 2003 were \$10,627 and 2004 showed an increase of \$2,269. These are the two revenue categories that most accurately reflect our cash flow. The other revenue categories typically are already accounted for or spent when they come in, like funds for the petition drive, memberships, and convention registration. Fundraising and UMP membership brought in \$47,468 in 2004 compared to \$33,168 in 2003, a \$14,300 improvement.

Projecting ahead to 2005, LPI should be in a much better cash flow situation. We will not receive the help from National in 2005 that we did in 2004, so we can eliminate the \$27,500 when thinking of 2005. Convention registration and membership revenues go right back out and do not positively impact cash flow. We should also have no refund revenues in 2005 and can't count on that \$621. From a cash flow stand point; if we match our 2004 fundraising and UMP membership revenues in 2005 we will be well out of our previous financial tunnel. This will make more sense after we look at the expenditures.

Our biggest expense in 2004 was the petition drive to put our President, Vice President, and US Senate candidates on the ballot. The total spent was \$36,292 plus \$600 still owed to one patient petitioner. With National contributing \$27,500 towards this, our part of the cost came to \$9,392. Consulting costs, mostly to our Executive Director, were \$20,793. Our last convention cost \$7,265. FEC fines payments were \$4,125. Office rent, utilities, and the office phone came in at \$2,970. All other phone costs combined to \$2,393.

Those make up most of the major expenses in 2004. Many of the other expenses were actually paying off bills from 2002 and 2003. Expenses in 2004 came in at \$81,426. How much we spent doesn't tell us much about our cash flow in 2004 or the ability to keep to with basic costs and isn't a good predictor for 2005.

Of the \$81,426 spent in 2004, we can subtract these costs we will not have in 2005; \$36,292 for the petition drive (including our \$9,392), \$2,970 for the office, and \$1,000 for one of the FEC fines that was paid off. Spending on basics and debt reduction were \$41,164 in 2004. When you compare that to the \$47,468 in revenue from fundraising and UMP membership,

you can see that we are going to be in pretty good shape for 2005 if we only match 2004 revenue levels. It has taken hard work, sacrifices and fiscal discipline to get us out of our financial difficulties, but I believe we have done it.

Our biggest challenge in 2004 was our strained cash flow, which resulted in not being able to pay for all the essentials on time like phone and Internet access, and also limited our ability to mail regular newsletters. The culprits behind the cash flow problem are mainly two items. The office cost an average of \$495 a month from January through June 2004. Then in July we started paying a new FEC fine at \$250 per month through October. Those two items were a huge burden in 2004 that were finally lifted just a couple months ago in November 2004. In spite of our challenges we were still able to successfully finish a petition drive while having to contribute \$9,392 of our own towards it. That achievement was practically a miracle.

Now we get to our debt – accounts payable – but they actually look a lot worse than they are. We did not keep track of accounts payable in our accounting program, QuickBooks, until April 2004 when I took over. On April 1, 2004 our debt was \$24,517. As of January 18, 2005 our accounts payable are at \$20,704 and will be even less by the time you read this. Despite cash flow difficulties, helping pay for a petition drive, still paying for an unused office, and a new FEC fine, we were still able to reduce our debt by \$3,813 since I became Treasurer.

Our biggest payable is to Jeff Trigg, our Executive Director. He has been very patient and has stuck with us through the worst of times and worked tirelessly to get us back on financial track. Without him I highly doubt there would have been a petition drive or the financing to pay for it. We currently owe Jeff \$8,123 in back pay, mostly from 2003, and we owe the Peoria affiliate \$566 (money out of Jeff's pocket mostly) for paying for our website hosting and services. He knows it is up to him to raise the money and to keep our expenses down in order for him to get paid, and I don't know a better motivation for fiscal discipline than that. We are not paying any interest on this debt and as long as we keep up with current payments and retain his services, Jeff is in no hurry to be paid back quickly and will accept a little at a time when it doesn't hold us back from other important expenses. He has also said he will consider forgiving part of this debt in the future depending on the situation. I think this is an incredible bargain.

The next biggest debt is the FEC at \$6,505. These are actually two separate payment plans, one totaling \$1,322 and the other for \$5,183, which we now pay \$300 per month each towards. All interest and fees are added up front for these FEC fines, so it is not in our interest to pay the federal government any sooner than we are required to since we don't save a penny. The \$1,322 fine will be paid off in mid-2005, and that will again improve our cash flow. It would make sense for us to set aside money to cover these FEC fines in case of another financial emergency if we can afford it, but otherwise our best option is just to remain on our current payment plan.

(continued on Page 4)

The Treasury - Continued from Page 3

We are in debt to Andy Spiegel, our general counsel, for \$4,000. Currently, we are in talks with Andy to see about him forgiving all or part of this debt and we are hopeful he will help us out. Andy has also not been in any hurry to be paid and is also not charging any interest.

Accurate Press is our next largest payable at \$588. This should be paid off by the convention. They have been very patient with us for this expense related to Sheriff Bill Masters' appearance at our 2002 convention and them fronting a box of his books for us to sell. They have voluntarily remained on our AP list and have not been in a hurry to receive payment.

The Fox Valley LP group is our next payable for \$522. In 2002 a "contest" was offered that we would pay half of our UMP membership payment to the affiliate with the highest vote percentage in the 2002 election. Since this wasn't money out of anyone's pockets, Fox Valley has not demanded payment yet.

The final payable is to Richard Reeves, one of our star petitioners in 2004, for \$400. Richard voluntarily has

AP list and this should also be paid off before our convention. We have reduced the amount owed to Richard by \$300 the last two months.

While \$20,000 does seem like a lot of debt, it is not hindering our ability to get back to our basic level of services. If we bring in the same amount of revenues in 2004 that we did in 2005, we will eliminate all of our debt in 2005 except for the one FEC fine that we are in no hurry to pay. And we will be able to again afford all of our basic expenses, newsletters, fundraising letters, and set aside a fund to help pay for the 2006 petition drive.

I can't thank our donors enough for sticking with us in these troubled times. You are responsible for allowing us to get turned around and I believe I have done my best to eliminate wasteful spending, avoid any more FEC fines, and get our debt to a manageable position. I really look forward to a much, much better 2005.

David Lee - LPI Treasurer

P.S. A detailed report about how we spent our way into debt and a further review of past year's accounting will be presented at the convention. It's always good to learn from past mistakes.

2004 Revenues and Expenses

<u>Revenues</u>	
General Fundraising	\$28,648
Monthly Pledge	\$6,025
UMP membership	\$12,796
Convention Registration	\$5,615
Other	\$971
National/ Petitioning	\$27,500

Total Revenues \$81,555

<u>Expenses</u>	
Petitioning	\$36,292
Consulting	\$20,793
Convention	\$7,265
FEC Fines	\$4,125
Phone & Communication	\$3,505
Mailings/Newsletters	\$3,097
Office	\$2,970
Credit Card Services	\$1,665
Travel	\$575
Insurance	\$509
Other	\$630

Total Expenses \$81,426

2003 Revenues and Expenses

<u>Revenues</u>	
General Fundraising	\$17,631
Monthly Pledge	\$4,910
UMP membership	\$14,067
Convention Registration	\$9,933
Other	\$504

Total Revenues \$47,045

<u>Expenses</u>	
Consulting	\$14,755
Convention	\$16,261
FEC Fines	\$585
Phone & Communication	\$1,362
Mailings/Newsletters	\$1,430
Office	\$5,746
Credit Card Services	\$1,380
LP News extras	\$3,404
Insurance	\$552
Advertising	\$350
Other	\$729

Total Expenses \$46,554

Note: \$123,000 of 2002 Revenue (Right) came from 2 donors.

2002 Revenues and Expenses

<u>Revenues</u>	
General Fundraising	\$129,646
Monthly Pledge	\$6,250
UMP membership	\$14,420
Convention Income	\$25,594
Other	\$1,761
Special Donation	\$30,000

Total Revenues \$207,671

<u>Expenses</u>	
Petitioning	\$69,901
Consulting	\$30,270
Convention	\$23,924
FEC Fines	\$6,912
Phone & Communication	\$7,349
Mailings/Newsletters	\$14,900
Office	\$5,045
Credit Card Services	\$2,472
Travel	\$2,373
Insurance	\$1,123
Advertising	\$5,910
Literature	\$2,460
Legal Fees	\$6,050
Special Donation	\$30,000
Other	\$2,822

Total Expenses \$211,511

Illinois Political News Bits

LaHood for Governor?

Congressman Ray LaHood (R-Peoria) has announced the creation of an exploratory committee for a run for Governor in 2006. In a June 9, 2001 article by Jennifer Davis for the Peoria Journal Star, Ray LaHood shared his support of then Republican Governor George Ryan in the midst of the license for bribes scandal and Ryan using his campaign funds to pay the defense attorneys of his associates.

"There are many people in my party who would rather see the governor not run because of all the negative publicity that's been generated as a result of the (licenses-for-bribes) scandal when he was Secretary of State," LaHood said. "But I support Gov. Ryan and if he decides to run for re-election, he'll have my support."

LaHood will not and can't be an outsider, reform candidate, but he'll have a shot against Blagojevich as the lesser of evils even though we'll still be on the business as usual road of privileged, corrupt Illinois politics. Once again it looks like we'll have an election for Governor that is more about which party controls the government jobs and lucrative contracts than it is about running an efficient, minimal government in the best interests of the taxpayers.

McKenna new ILGOP Chair

Illinois Republicans pick Andy McKenna Jr. as their new state Chair after Andy finished fourth in the Republican primary for US Senate last year. Andy's father is a well-known politically connected Chicagoan who has served on the board of the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago White Sox and has been an owner of the Chicago Cubs and Chicago Bears. Soldier Field (Chicago Bears), Comiskey Park (Chicago White Sox), and the United Center (Chicago Bulls) have all received large taxpayer subsidies for their professional sports entertainment operations.

Now we know whose name to put on

the lawsuit the next time they file a frivolous petition challenge and use state employees on the clock to try to snub democracy by removing Libertarian candidates from the ballot. Andy McKenna Jr. replaces outgoing Chair and current Illinois Treasurer, Judy Baar Topinka. Topinka's office is being investigated for sending state employees to work on the petition challenge in 2002 that attempted to kick Libertarian candidates off the ballot.

Political appointments for campaign donations

An investigation into whether Governor Blagojevich and his staff were "selling" political appointments to boards and commissions for campaign contributions is under way by Attorney General Lisa Madigan. This comes after the Governor's father-in-law, powerful Chicago Ward boss Dick Mell, made public accusations that political appointments were for sale by Blagojevich and his staff.

This practice has been going on for years and years and years and years from both the Republicans and Democrats in Illinois. It is business as usual. The Illinois Arts Council is headed up by Attorney General Lisa Madigan's mother and Speaker of the House Michael Madigan's wife, Shirley Madigan. We'd like to hear Lisa explain how that happened without favoritism being involved.

Also on the Illinois Arts Council board is Dick Mell's wife, Margeret Mell, who is also Blagojevich's mother-in-law. Maybe Dick Mell does know what he's talking about when making allegations of unethical appointments by Blagojevich seeing as Dick's wife was most likely one of them.

The Illinois Arts Council is one of the least essential state government agencies but somehow seems to avoid having to hold the line on spending in the midst of statewide spending problems. You don't think a conflict of interest arises when the husband controls the

purse strings of a wife's budget and the wife's budget just never seems to be halted from increasing? How about investigating that?



How Daley runs Chicago

The Chicago Sun-Times ran a great article "Sister of Daley insider gets sweet deal" about how minority government contracts work in Mayor Daley's Chicago.

The government needs to buy some plumbing supplies, but they also have to give a quota of business to minorities. So the sister of a Mayor Daley friend hears about the need for plumbing supplies and starts a "business".

She doesn't start a plumbing supply business; she starts a minority quota filling business and just buys the plumbing supplies from a plumbing supply company and marks up the prices to the government while walking away with her cut. She gets rich and taxpayers get screwed. The government could have bought those supplies from the exact same place she did at the exact same price she paid and saved money from the mark up she put on it.

Are minority owned businesses being helped? NO. Are Mayor Daley's friends and their families getting rich off the taxpayers? YES. Does anyone in Chicago care when example after example like this is reported week after week? Apparently not since they keep voting for crooks. Does Attorney General Lisa Madigan or her father Speaker Madigan care enough about these scams to start an investigation? NO. They don't care about honest government; they care about keeping power and getting campaign donations from people who get rich off the taxpayers.

- by Jeff Trigg

Message From Jerry Kohn, 2004 Senate Candidate



Dear Supporters:

I write to you today from Oak Forest, Illinois rather than Washington D.C. I expected this would be the case when the campaign began. Though winning would have been a great achievement (a miracle really), the campaign was not about gaining power but promoting an ideal. While much of the mainstream media ignored us, and we were excluded from the major televised debates, we were successful in getting significant newspaper coverage and getting on numerous radio talk shows around the state. We also got the libertarian message on television with appearances on WGN News (Chicago), WTTW Candidate Free Time (Chicago), WLS News Views (Chicago), WHOI Candidate Free Time (Peoria) and WEEK News (Peoria). And finally, we had the opportunity to debate twice in Champaign and once in Chicago. We took what opportunities there were to connect with the general public and promote an uncompromising vision of liberty. I spoke out against our illegal and immoral occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan, called for abolishing (not replacing) the federal income tax, and challenged people to imagine their lives

without self-serving politicians and government bureaucrats riding their backs.

In the four-way race, we garnered 69,276 votes or 1.4% of the total. Since there was an "Independent" candidate in the race taking up most of the protest vote against the establishment parties, our 69,276 votes were likely true libertarian votes. We also finished second (ahead of Republican Alan Keyes) with over 24% of the 98,000 votes cast in the statewide student mock elections. The mock election results as well as my own experiences as a teacher indicate that young people are responding to our message (when they are exposed to it), and that should give every libertarian hope for the future.

As with teaching, we may never really know the full long-term results of the effort. Perhaps we planted some seeds that will bear fruit years or even decades from now. We'll see. There is still much work to be done, but I am optimistic about long-run success. As events in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union in the late 80's and early 90's revealed, the world can change its mind and it can do so with surprising rapidity. It is important for all of us who believe in liberty to 1) not lose faith or 2) back away from our principles. Movement may be incremental, but it must always be forward. Through a con-

certed effort on the political, educational, media and popular culture fronts, we can change the world.

Finally, before I shut down my campaign website, I wanted to take one last opportunity to thank all those who helped with the campaign and who donated funds. I would particularly like to thank my campaign manager Jeff Trigg whose media contacts and level-headed advice were vital to our success, and I would like to thank Aaron Cunningham, my webmaster, who designed the website and continually improved and updated it with the information I provided. (Two reporters told me it was one of the best ones they encountered.) Finally, I thank my wife Tina for her patience and support through a difficult and often frustrating campaign. We were married in May, and Tina had to share my time and attention with the state and the party both in the hectic weeks before our wedding and during the first few months of our life together. Thanks once again to all who contributed.

I would also urge all reading this to consider attending the Illinois State Convention to be held in Springfield, IL on Saturday and Sunday, February 19th and 20th.

For a freer, more prosperous and peaceful America,
Jerry Kohn

New Metro-East Libertarian Affiliate Strong Out Of The Gates

With the formation of the Metro East Libertarian (MEL) affiliate in September of 2004, the Libertarian Party of Illinois has another growing presence downstate. The chapter has been an active one to date, holding regularly scheduled monthly business meetings as well as being out in the field "spreading the Libertarian message".

Outreach activities have included setting up booths at two area gun shows, participating in the Walt Steele campaign, writing Letters to the Editors of several local newspapers and hosting

two social gatherings. One uniquely appropriate gathering was a "Bill of Rights Birthday Party" held on December 15th, the same date the Bill of Rights was ratified in 1791. Free U.S. Constitution Booklets and Bill of Rights book marks were handed out at the event and the public was invited to attend.

In addition to outreach activities, all four MEL officers which included Don Stover, Chair, of Greenville, Vice Chair James Aleman of Fairmont City, Secretary Jan Stover of Greenville and

Treasurer Mark McCoy of Collinsville were able to attend the dinner in Carbondale sponsored by the SIU Students for a Libertarian Society and the Southern Illinois Libertarians, featuring Michael Badnarik as keynote speaker.

The Metro East Libertarians meet at 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month in the Garden Room on the campus of Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) in Belleville. For more information visit the Metro East Libertarian website at www.mel-llp.org, or call Don Stover at 618-580-8779.

Proposed By-Law Amendments

Replace Bylaw IV, section 2 (a) with the following:

The officers of the Party shall be a Chair; a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Northern and Southern Vice Chair.

Replace Bylaw IV, section 3, (a) with the following:

Each Party officers except the two Vice Chairs shall be elected by a majority vote at the State Convention. The two Vice Chairs shall be voted on by their respective regions at the State Convention. The regions will be split geographically into north and south, by Congressional District as determined by the SOC.

Eliminate Bylaw IV, section 4, c (2) (3) and (4).

Add new Bylaw IV, section 4, c (2) Northern Vice Chair

(i) Chair State Organizing Committee meetings in the absence of the Chair if appointed by the State Organizing Committee.

(ii) Coordinate the development of affiliates in the Northern region as define by the SOC.

Add new Bylaw IV, section 4, c (3) Southern Vice Chair

(i) Chair State Organizing Committee meetings in the absence of the Chair if appointed by the State Organizing Committee.

(ii) Coordinate the development of affiliates in the Southern region as define by the SOC.

It is the intent of all these Bylaw changes to take effect at the next applicable convention. e.g, the three vice chairs would run their full terms out.

Eliminate Bylaw IV, section 4, (c) (2), (3) And (4)

Bylaw VIII Section 2 Add the following sentence to section 2: Official Party business includes the use of mailing lists to develop local affiliates. (If passed), this Bylaw amendment would go into effect immediately

Bylaw IV, section 2 (d) and the following after the last sentence replacing the period with a comma, , whichever comes first. (If passed), this Bylaw amendment would go into effect immediately.

Bylaw IV, section 4, c (1) (iv), replace with:

Supervise the activities of all paid employees and independent contractors of the Party. (If passed), this Bylaw amendment would go into effect immediately

Submitted by Kan Prazak

2005 LPI Convention Schedule

Friday Night Itinerary is on the back page.

Saturday Itinerary

10:00 am – Tour of State Capitol and Old State Capitol

11:30 am – “Dutch” Lunch Break, many downtown restaurants to choose from.

1:00 pm – Tour of Illinois State Museum and Lincoln’s Home

4:00 pm – Forum, Precincts: What and Why

6:00 pm – Banquet Buffet Dinner

(Buffet includes Roast Beef, Pork Chops, Grilled Chicken, pasta with alfredo or marinara, green beans, veggie medley, mashed potatoes and gravy, salad, rolls and butter, deserts.)

7:00 pm – Awards

7:30 pm – Keynote Speaker, Michael Badnarik

Following the Banquet we will have the room, bartender and music until 1:00 am for our own “private nightclub”.

Sunday Itinerary – Subject to adjustments

8:30 am – Business Meeting / Officer Elections

11:30 am – Buffet Brunch

(Buffet includes, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, biscuits and gravy, fruit platter, bagels, muffins, dan-ish, juices, fried chicken, corn, mashed potatoes & gravy.)

12:15 pm – Featured Speaker, Pete Guither

1:00 pm – Business Meeting / Officer Elections

Call Hotel Directly For Room Reservations - \$49 plus tax
(888) 707-8366 or (217) 529-6626

If you can’t join us for the convention, please consider making a contribution today. We started out 2005 on a very positive note and it would be great to keep the momentum going. Use the enclosed card and envelop or contribute online at:

<http://www.lpillinois.org/contribute>

Special Announcement

Any members wishing to announce their candidacies for one of the Officer positions being elected at this convention, may submit their name, address, phone number, email, and the position they are seeking to Jeff Trigg by phone at (800) 735-1776, fax to (800) 213-7314 or email to director@lpillinois.org. This information will be sent to our email list and posted on our website on Monday, February 7th.

Debate Set For Friday Night Of Convention

"Freedom Rings" radio in conjunction with the Libertarian Party of Chicago is hosting a debate on Friday night. The topic will be, "Resolved: George W. Bush is a Legacy of Lincoln." Taking the affirmative side will be "Freedom Rings" talk show host, Kenneth John (Prazak), the opposing side will be argued by Eric Dondero, a member of the Republican Liberty Caucus.

Festivities will begin at 7:00 PM. There will be a night-club style seating with a cash bar and free appetizers. There will be vending tables from a variety of organizations. Friday night traditionally is an informal event designed for people to renew acquaintances and friendships and for new people to have the opportunity to meet members of the Libertarian Party of Illinois and get acquainted with the Party.

At 9:00 PM, a short auction will take place to help defray the costs of the evening. Then at 9:15 the debate will begin and last until 10:30 PM. Food and drink will continue to be available until 11:00 PM.

Eric has become rather renowned for taking Libertarians on in various chat

rooms and internet list-serves, supporting many of President Bush's policies, especially concerning the war in the Middle East. Ken Prazak sees parallels between the actions of Lincoln during the War Between the States and the actions of Bush vis-a-vis the war on terror. This led to the idea of Ken debating Eric on Lincoln being the worst president in US history. To Ken's surprise, Eric also disliked Lincoln even though he supports George W. Bush in many ways. Thus the topic of the evening was born.



Eric Dondero was a senior aide to Congressman Ron Paul from 1996 to 2003. He is a member of the Republican Liberty Caucus. Eric is a veteran who served in the Navy for four years. After being honorably discharged at the age of 23, Eric decided that there was no reason for him to still sign up for the Selective Service system. The federal govern-

ment went after him. So Eric went public with his case and the Feds backed down. Eric now serves on the Selective Service Board. He is fluent in four foreign languages and has a basic knowledge in over twenty languages. He is the author of *Multilingual Phrase Book* and *Vacation Spanish*.



Kenneth John (Prazak) has been a radio talk show host for "Freedom Rings" for six years. He is a 24-year activist with the Libertarian Party of Illinois. He has ran for political office twice, campaign managed three times, and has been newsletter editor and development director for the LPI. He founded or co-founded two LPI affiliates and has been Chair of both. He served on the Libertarian National Committee for two years. He is the author of numerous essays and poems available at his website, www.freedomrings.net.

Michael Badnarik presents an "Introduction to the Constitution"

This is the same class that has been "Lighting the fires of Liberty" and earning enthusiastic support across the country. Every student receives a copy of *Good to be King*, which can be purchased separately in "fine bookstores everywhere".



This class will "rattle your cage" and challenge what you *think* you know about the Constitution and the founding of our republic.

To view the schedule or register for a class

visit www.ConstitutionPreservation.org
eMail Class@ConstitutionPreservation.org

Monday, February 21, 2005
9:00am to 6:00pm

Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center
625 E. St. Joseph Street
Springfield, Illinois