



State Convention Receives Acclaim

Jan Stover, Convention Committee Chair

The 2005 Libertarian Party of Illinois' "Take Action for Freedom" Nominating Convention was held in Springfield on Friday, November 11th through Sunday, November 13th with attendees offering kudos to the Convention Committee, guest speakers and workshop facilitators. One long time Libertarian and regular convention goer had this to say about the event, "This was the best organized and most fun convention I've attended in about 30 years."

Friday night's guest speaker, Heather Talley of Bureaucrash, kicked off the convention with her enthusiastic style, commitment and voice of experience. Heather shared Bureaucrash's edgy and innovative tactics for promoting free thinking capitalist ideas and was the perfect example of "Taking Action for Freedom".

Heather's fresh wit, dedication and ability to have fun shaking things up a bit and fighting for a cause she believes in was the message Friday night's crowd will not soon forget. For more information on Bureaucrash visit: www.bureaucrash.org

To round out Friday night's line up, the popular Illinois band, Swampdaddies, entertained attendees with the legendary sounds of Neil Young, Almond Brothers, Grateful Dead, and even offered a bit of the band's own down home rock-n-roll.

Saturday's full schedule included morning and afternoon workshops featuring six "on target" topics facilitated by knowledgeable volunteers. Workshops offered included: Growing Strong Libertarian Chapters with Crystal Jurczynski, Winning Local Elections with Julie Fox and David and Kathy Kelley, Target Springfield: Make Your Campaign Count with Cal Skinner; Get in the Meeting Game: Robert's Rules of Order with Val Vetter, Filling Libertarian Ranks with Small Business Owners with Darla Maloney and Building Coalitions with Debbie Hopper and Mary Ruwart.

Saturday's program also welcomed luncheon speaker, Debbie Hopper, founder of Mothers Against the Draft. Debbie's emotionally charged presentation riveted convention goers as she vowed never to allow Congress to conscript her children or grandchildren without a serious fight! Her message of impending Mandatory National Service was enough to inform and alarm the most skeptical listener. To learn more about Mothers Against the Draft visit: www.mothersagainsthedraft.org

Saturday afternoon's speaker was registered pharmacist Ray Carr who spoke on "Industrial Hemp and the Hidden Agenda Behind the War on Drugs". Ray's discussion on the political prohibition of cannabis introduced many in the audience to the concept that government's war on marijuana and hemp was actually the calculated destruction of the industrial hemp industry, rather than a war to protect society from the "dangerous" uses of the cannabis plant. Carr suggested that with hemp's natural fibers and seed oils no longer available to compete with the powerful wood pulp, cotton and emerging petroleum industries, the "preferred" giants of business would be allowed to dominate these markets with an unfair advantage. To learn more about this subject visit www.raycarr.net

Rounding out Saturday afternoon was a Candidates' Forum with candidate hopefuls addressing the Libertarian crowd. Anthony Williams, Brian Costin and Jeff Trigg spoke to the group regarding their intentions to run for public office in the 2006 election. Note: On Sunday during LPI's business meeting, it was decided by nearly a three-to-one margin not to run a state slate of candidates this election cycle, but rather to spend the Party's time and energy making the public aware of Illinois' unfair ballot access laws which affect not only the Libertarian Party, but all "third" parties in the state. LPI will, however, be supporting local candidates and other statewide issues.

Saturday evening's keynote speaker was Dr. Mary Ruwart, (below) well-known author of the popular book "Healing our World". Dr. Ruwart's message of a

happy, healthy Libertarian world offered listeners a real hands-on, upbeat approach to discussing and convincing others that a Libertarian life is the best way to achieve health, wealth, a stable economy, a sound environment and personal satisfaction. Her calm and confident delivery of this important message was well received by those attending Saturday's banquet. Ruwart was also available throughout the weekend to meet convention goers and autograph her book for those purchasing copies at the convention.

Following the banquet dinner, three

awards were presented to LPI members whose actions exemplified the convention's "Take Action Freedom" theme. Scott Tillman, who passed away in February of 2005, was honored with a *Lifetime Achievement Award* which will be presented to his family. Metro East Libertarian Secretary Ron Clark (right) received the *Grassroots Activist Award* and MEL Vice Chair, Jan Stover received the *Illinois Liberty Leader Award*.



A lively auction lead by LPI's own "auctioneer", Ken Prazak, followed the awards presentation and not only generated a good deal of fun, but a healthy dose of fundraising. A silent auction offered earlier in the evening also added to the LPI coffers.

Winding up Saturday night's experience was Swampdaddies guitarist and Okaw Valley Libertarian member Dale Hanabarger. Dale's acoustic set offered listeners smooth sounds and a relaxing end to an exciting day.

Sunday's business meeting featured keynote speaker Jim Babka, co-founder of Downsize DC and longtime associate of former Libertarian Presidential Candidate Harry Brown. Babka discussed "The Ten Magic Words that Will Lead to Libertarian Success." Jim explained the ten word concept of "More Libertarians ... Operation Everywhere ... Random Acts of Liberty ... Freedom Train" and how those words represent an effective plan of action for all Libertarians. In a question and answer session with attendees, Babka discussed one of the favorite pieces of legislation Downsize DC is working on titled "Read the Bills Act". If passed, this bill would require that every member of the House and Senate must sign a sworn affidavit, under penalty of perjury, that he or she has attentively either personally read, or heard read, the complete bill to be voted on and that every bill to be voted on must be published on the internet at least 7 days before a vote. Congress must also give public notice of the date when a vote will be held on that bill. To learn more about this effective organization visit www.downsizedc.org

For additional information on Sunday's business meeting and the State Organizing Committee meeting which followed, be sure to read State Chair Val Vetter's article on the next page.

From the Chair

Val Vetter

A History Channel program about the Washington Monument just ended. Though I knew it's construction had been delayed from seeing the different stone used on the top of the obelisk compared to that of the bottom, I never realized the length of the project and the obstacles that almost prevented it's completion several times. Though the cornerstone was laid in 1848, the capstone was not placed until 1884 – 36 years from start to finish! While most will recognize that date range is punctuated by the “Civil War”, most probably don't realize that the construction of Washing DC's most recognizable structure was plagued by many serious setbacks.

I can't help but compare the construction of Washington Monument to that of the LPI, and for that matter, the National LP. Taking longer than expected? Without a doubt. Costing more than planned? No question. Things going less than smoothly? Tell me about it!

Did you know that the Washington Monument we see today is not the design as selected? A large building around the base was never built. Did you know that at least 2 secret societies were fighting for control of the monument's construction? (One of them was called the “Know-Nothings” – but let's not go there.)

How about that at some point in the construction, a few courses of poorly-laid stone had to be removed and replaced? It was even determined that the foundation as originally laid would not be sufficient to support the weight of the completed monument and had to be significantly reinforced.

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“foundation” existed, and that a
change of strategy was needed.

All of this is to illustrate that just as one of the most magnificent structures in our nation's capitol was not quickly or easily built, neither has - or will be, the LPI. We may have hoped that this was an easy task, but most of us know that nothing so important is ever accomplished without a struggle. We've had delays, setbacks, changes of plans, tactics and leadership. Some would even add that we've had squabbling secret societies and even an out and out war in the LPI's history as well.

At our November convention, the delegates detected that a weakness in our “foundation” existed, and that a change of strategy was needed. To continue building a sound party we need to stop trying to build upward until we rebuild and reinforce our foundation. Though some don't agree with this strategy, the vote shows that most do, and realize the need to ensure our foundation is strong enough to support our future building.

Likewise, at the SOC meeting that followed the convention, the majority of your representatives decided that a course of stones – a part of our party's “structure” – needed to be removed and replaced with new stone. Tearing something down is always a hard move to make, but sometime's its necessary to ensure that future building rests upon solid support.

So no, the LPI did not nominate statewide candidates for the 2006 election. It was decided that the foundation of the LPI couldn't take the “weight” of a petition drive. That effort needs the strong foundation of a large enough volunteer base of petitioners, or a large enough base of donors to raise approximately \$60,000 required to pay petitioners to gather the 40,000 raw signatures that we'd need to guarantee that we'd have the 25,000 valid ones needed to get on the ballot. We've managed this in the past – but only at the huge cost of completely emptying our war chest, driving our volunteers into the ground, or depending upon handouts from National LP which are not likely to be coming with the new zero-dues structure.

Likewise, the SOC decided by a large majority to change the structure of the party by dismissing our Executive Director. It was decided that for reasons both monetary and otherwise, our arrangement was less than ideal and needed to be changed to ensure a strong future for the party. The LPI's Executive Board will be deciding exactly how and on what financial basis we permanently replace our ED, but in the meantime, we have appointed Jan Stover of Metro East Libertarians as Interim Director. Jan recently completed her role as Convention Chair. Those of you who attended the convention know that Jan and her crew did a fantastic job of planning and executing a professional, fun, and educational convention. I have complete confidence in Jan's ability to serve the party in this vital role.

Any discussion on this topic would not be complete without mentioning Jeff Trigg's past service to the LPI and thanking him for his efforts. Dismissing Jeff as our ED was an agonizing decision for all involved and not one that was made hastily or lightly. I'd like to personally recognize Jeff for his efforts in past projects like the successful petition drive in

2004, and for keep us clear of the FEC over the past year or so.

Hopefully, I've not only brought you up to speed on the two most important decisions made at this convention, but also helped to reassure you that even the most impressive finished projects – like the Washington Monument – are not completed without a long, difficult struggle. Perhaps even some significant setbacks that make a successful outcome seem unlikely. The one thing that will overcome ALL of these obstacles is refusing to give up, and working together even when you're not 100% happy with the exact direction of the effort. This is best summed up by General Henry M. Robert – the Robert's Rules guy - who said back in 1923: *“The great lesson for democracies to learn is for the majority to give to the minority a full, free opportunity to present their side of the case, and then for the minority, having failed to win a majority to their views, gracefully to submit and to recognize the action as that of the entire organization, and cheerfully to assist in carrying it out, until they can secure its repeal.”*

One last thing – some of you may remember that a few years ago the Washington Monument was closed and completely restored to preserve it for future generations. This was a huge effort that cost millions – more than the monument cost to build in the first place. Even after we have this party built and towering above all other political ideologies, we'll need to continue caring for it and repairing it to keep it standing. It may even take a complete rebuild in 100 years or so.

For more information on the Washington Monument, check <http://www.nps.gov/wamo/history>

Jan Stover Appointed Interim Director

With the Executive Director's position in flux, the day-to-day operations of the party still go on. Jan Stover was appointed by the Executive Board to fulfill that task on a volunteer basis. Jan has “taken the bull by the horns” and has already facilitated a few money-saving changes. More news will follow in later editions of this newsletter. Welcome Jan!

The Libertarian Current

The monthly publication of the Libertarian Party of Illinois
Val Vetter - Chair, Don Stover - VC Campaigns
Ken Prazak - VC Media, Walt Steele - VC Membership
Walter Simons - Secretary, David Lee - Treasurer
Jan Stover - Interim Executive Director
www.lpillinois.org

LPI Vice-Chair Media Ken Prazak Succeeds in Promoting Liberty and Jury Nullification

After two years and five months fighting a seat belt ticket, Ken Prazak, Vice-Chair of Media and Communications for the Libertarian Party of Illinois, finally got his jury trial—sort of. After jurors had been told over and over and over again that they could only rule on the facts of the case and that they had to follow the law as directed by the judge, they found Mr. Prazak guilty of not wearing a seat belt.

“I consider this fight a huge success up to now,” declares Prazak. I was able to get most of my closing argument to the jury that included educating them on their historical right of jury nullification. I was able to get into my philosophical beliefs on choice and freedom and how that relates to the seat belt law. I won the respect, and dare I say admiration of the judge. And I believe I won the hearts and minds of the jury even though they felt compelled to convict me.”

Prazak spent over two thousand dollars defending himself in this matter with the aid of attorney Michael Noland, whom Prazak says, “did an excellent job.” Prazak also had kind words for the judge in the case, Suzanne Mangiomele. “I think she was more than fair given the parameters she works under in our current judicial system.

“The village of Algonquin probably spent more money prosecuting me than they collected in revenue handing out seat-belt violation tickets,” Prazak ponders. “Maybe they will figure it out that it isn’t worth it to spend their scarce resources on such an exercise against the rights of American citizens.”

Prazak has received great publicity for the cause of liberty and the Libertarian Party. *The Chicago Tribune*, the *Daily Herald* and the *Northwest Herald* all carried favorable articles on the trial. This case also made it to the AP wire, the UPI wire, WBBM radio News 78, and internationally in India.

Prazak was a guest on Kankakee’s WKAN the following Friday morning and also on Tucker Carlson’s national news/talk program, MSNBC’s “The Situation Room” the following Wednesday night. The interview is available on the web at: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/10284169/#051215a>

— Ken Prazak’s Closing Argument Ladies and gentlemen of the jury:

Thomas Jefferson said, “I consider trial by jury as the only anchor yet imagined by man by which a government can be held to the principles of its Constitution.” Let me repeat that. I consider trial by jury as the only anchor yet imagined by man by which a government can be held to the principles of its Constitution.”

Our founding fathers understood that the reason we have trial by jury in this country is to allow the people to be the last arbiter of the law as it applies in a specific case. You, here, sitting in the jury box right now have more power than a king or a queen, more power than the president of the United States. You, here, are the law.

We have a great heritage in this regard. Our right to free speech, free assembly, and freedom of religion, and trial by jury dates back to 1670, in a case tried by jury in jolly ole England, the famous and historically pivotal case of William Penn—yes the same William Penn who eventually founded Pennsylvania.

William Penn had been preaching in public, advocating his brand of religion, that of which we commonly refer to as the Quaker religion. There was only one recognized religion in England at the time, that of the Anglican church. To promote or exercise any other religion was against the law.

William Penn was arrested for this and went to trial. The jury, headed by jury foreman Edward Bushel, found William Penn not guilty even though they recognized the fact that Penn had violated the law. The jury considered the law unjust and exercised their power to nullify the law in that particular case. The judge, not liking the verdict, fined the jurors until and unless they reversed their decision. Edward Bushel refused to pay the fine. The judge put him and the rest of the jurors in prison without meat, drink, fire, or tobacco. Two months later on a writ of habeas corpus filed in the Court of Common Pleas, the Lord Chief Justice of London ruled that jurors could not be coerced in rendering a verdict, the jurors were freed, and William Penn was acquitted.

Move forward, 65 years later, in Colonial America, this most cherished right of trial by jury was tested and strengthened once again.

John Peter Zenger was a publisher in colonial New York. Governor Cosby was known as a corrupt and oppressive ruler. Zenger decided to publish articles and parodies to demonstrate the corrupt and oppressive nature of the Governor. He went beyond what any publisher in the past had done criticizing government. He was arrested for seditious libel, a charge of bringing contempt or exciting dissatisfaction against the government—even if the statements were true.

Zenger’s lawyer, Andrew Hamilton, did not dispute the facts of the case. Instead, he appealed to the jury’s sense of right and wrong, referred to freedom of speech being necessary to a free people—the ability to speak out against the government. The jury ignored the law and voted not guilty.

Our founding fathers understood how important was this right and power of jurors, to be the last arbiter of the law in a specific case. And that is why they put in the Sixth and Seventh Amendments to the US Constitution, as a last nonviolent check and balance on the power of government.

We know this to be true because we know that the first Chief Judge of the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice John Jay, who was also one of the authors of the Federalist Papers, charged the jury the following way in the first jury case to go in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in *Georgia vs. Brailsford*. I quote: “It may not be amiss here, gentlemen, to remind you of the good old rule, that on the question of fact, it is the province of the jury, and on the question of law, it is the province of the court to decide . . . it is presumed, that juries are the best judges of facts; it is, on the other hand, presumed that the courts are the best judges of law. But, it must be observed that by the same law which recognizes this reasonable distribution of jurisdiction, you have nevertheless a right to take it upon yourselves to judge of both and to determine the law as well as the fact in controversy . . . both objects are lawfully within your power of decision.”

Fellow free American citizens, this right and power of juries has been used judiciously over the ages, whether it be for acquitting people for harboring runaway slaves in the 1850s, whether it be to acquit those who protested the draft during the Viet Nam War era, whether it be to acquit people who have been brought before the federal government courts by the IRS, juries have stood up and said “No” to government.

So that brings us here today. On what may seem a trivial matter to some of you—a seat belt case. The prosecution would have you believe that this is a simple matter. Did I or did I not wear my seat belt? But that issue begs a far deeper question, a far more important question to every one of us who really believes in liberty.

Do you accept or reject this governmental limitation on our right to make our own decisions about safety? Can the state legitimately seize from us the right to answer for ourselves such a basic personal question concerning our private, peaceful conduct?

Whose life is it anyway? Do we own ourselves, or are we a cog in the machine of government? Is not freedom meaningless if we can’t make our own decision in this regard. Founding father, John Adams thought so. He said, “We hold that each man is the best judge of his own interest.”

For me, not to have this choice to

Prazak Cont.

determine what is safe for myself—or if I so choose, to not be safe—as long as I don't infringe on the equal rights of others to the same—is the opposite of what a meaningful life should be.

To be forced into what amounts for me a spiritual toll, To click-it in coercion, with that routine act, Becomes a certain death of my soul.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I choose life.. Life without responsible freedom—a responsible freedom that includes choice, and yes, a health safety choice, seat belt choice, is no life at all.

Some say seat belts save lives, and maybe in the aggregate they do. But seat belt laws do not save lives, in fact they do the opposite. There is one state in this land of the free, that has no mandatory seat belt law,—the state of New Hampshire. Ever since the other states have passed mandatory seat belt laws, New Hampshire has shown the highest increase in highway safety—from a ranking

of twenty-fifth among the fifty states before all the other states implemented a seat belt law, to now, fifth, after all other states have implemented a seat belt law, but New Hampshire has not. In all the other states, the mandatory seat belt laws have had no effect.

But of course, irrespective of that being true, it really is not the main issue. Certainly not the issue for government to decide. Let insurance companies charge higher rates if they determine that the use of seat belts save lives. Then we will all be free to choose what insurance company to use, and keep our own life safety choices in tact. No, the real issue here is—who owns your life? Is it yours or is it government's? When you decide this issue in the jury room, I am not so much asking you to vote not guilty—for me—for I will remain free whether behind bars or behind the wheel. I have lived a life of freedom and I will continue to do so until my dying days. Because I understand that if government makes my choice for me, I am no longer free. I am just the living dead—an

automaton with no self direction. So I will always choose freedom, regardless of what oppression government has in store for me. No, I ask more of you to vote not guilty for yourselves. Free yourselves of the almost limitless government oppression that invades your daily lives.—free yourself from that tribute you pay to government, the tribute that government continually exacts from us in these petty revenue- producing traffic courts. Municipalities that collect our hard-earned dollars in fines for an offense that hurts no one as the seat belt law does, makes those municipalities just modern highwayman robbers.

Say “yes” to choice. Say “yes” to seat belt choice. Say yes, to freedom. Remember, I wasn't speeding. I wasn't driving recklessly. I wasn't endangering the lives of others. I was just minding my own business driving down the road. Send a message. Say “no” to control. Exercise your historical right and power as a juror. Vote not guilty. Thank You.

Where's My Local Chapter

A fast way to find your local chapter is to visit the State Party website, lpillinois.org. Right on the front page you'll find a link to local chapters. An even faster way, is to pick up the phone and call one of the numbers listed below, or call the Interim Director at 1-800-735-1776.

The Libertarian Party of Chicago (LPC)

P. O. Box 1746
Chicago, IL. 60690
(877) LPC-VOTE
or (312) 409-2223
www.lpchicago.org

Greater Peoria Area Libertarians (GPAL)

Contact: Jeff Trigg
jtrigg@insightbb.com

Rockford Area Libertarians

P.O.Box 4775
Rockford, IL 61110
John Huwe, Chair
(815) 964-4012 or
(815)633-5096
lprockford.8m.com

Libertarian Party of Cook County-Northwest

Contact: Kent McMillen
(312) 701-7491 day
(708) 865-9170 eve
groups.yahoo.com/group/LPI-Cook/

Libertarian Party of Lake County (LPLC)

P.O.Box 703
Lake Zurich, IL 60047
Eric Dubiel, Chair
(847) 438-7776
lake.il.lp.org

Southern Illinois Libertarians (SIL)

Walter Steele
P.O. Box 4
Carbondale, IL 62901-0004
618-231-4600
homepage.mac.com/calion/sil/

Will County Libertarians

Eric Ferguson, President
(815) 838-0772
www.willcountylp.org

DuPage Libertarians

Crystal Jurczynski, President
PO Box 87465
Carol Stream, IL 60188-7465
(630) 876-1935
www.dupagelibertarians.org

Okaw Valley Libertarians (OVL; Vandalia area)

Jeff Jones, Chair
420 W Gallatin St
Vandalia, IL 62471
(618) 283-0888
www.okawvalleylibertarians.org

Metro East Libertarians (MEL; Belleville area)

Don Stover, Chair
(618) 580-8779
www.mel-lp.org

Libertarian Party of McLean County (LPMC)

PO BOX 484
Normal, IL 61761
Contact: David Lee
www.lpmcleancounty.org

Students for Individual Liberty - University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign

Justin Doran, President
www.uiucsil.org/liberty

North Shore Libertarians

Contact: Gitel Sarah Hesselberg
(773) 465-7570
gitelsarah@yahoo.com

Fox Valley Libertarian Party (FVLP)

Bill Stevens, Chair
www.fvlp.org

As space and submissions permit, look to these pages to find out information about what's happening in your area. Just as a bit of inticement, there is talk of regional events being planned, hosted by local affiliates, to familiarize the the public with the libertarian message. Speakers, rallies, community barbeque's - It's all in the planning! Check out the back page for three chapters that submitted information.



The New face of the LPI

Walt Steele, VC Membership

You'll be hearing that phrase a lot from me in the future. What an exciting time to be a member of LPI! I believe the LPI has turned a corner. We're coming to the end of a hard time, it's made us stronger but it's taken its toll as well. We have, as of this writing, 718 members across the state representing 60 of 102 counties. We still have work to do though. As you may have already heard, we've changed our dues structure in response to the ending of the Unified Membership Program by the national party, adopting the same "zero dues" model used by national, at the state level. With the end of UMP, we've lost a source of revenue we had come to rely on as well as services like membership and dues tracking. We have over \$1000 per month to make up. At the recent convention in Springfield over \$3500 was raised and that's a good start but we need more. Now that we no longer can depend on dues or UMP for our funds we must go back to tried and true methods: letters and phone calls.

You'll be receiving a letter soon, and if you're one of those folks whose membership expired after October 1 you'll also be getting a phone call from one of our fundraising committee members asking you to make your best contribution to the cause of Liberty. I hope you'll keep in mind that we no longer ask for annual dues when you receive your letter or phone call, and I hope you'll consider a contribution at least equal to the dues you used to pay. While you're at it maybe you'll consider a monthly contribution. Monthly contributions are the most effective way for our party to budget our income and plan our expenditures. And from now until at least the end of the year anyone that pledges \$20 per month will receive a copy of the Sheriff Bill Masters book "*Drug War Addiction*." Or if you prefer, pledge as little as \$5 per month and find 4 others that will do the same and we'll send you the book.

Over the last year or so LPI has struggled with changes to its database structure, as have most state affiliates, due to the national party's decision to change its database and begin using "Raiser's Edge" a powerful, but complicated, database management tool designed for non-profits and political groups. Through this time our state database coordinator, David Lee, has worked tirelessly to implement and adapt to the changes and curveballs national has thrown. We now have a very good tool at our disposal, Nidus, designed by a Libertarian for use by Libertarian parties nationwide. Our database is now accessible via the web in real-time.

Your affiliate will not have to wait for an e-mail telling you who's joined or made inquiries, you can download this information to your own computer at your convenience. My hat's off to David, it took a tremendous amount of work to make this happen. Thank him for his effort the next chance you get.

Pledge -Pledge !

No newsletter would be complete without (let's just say it) a request for a donation. Better yet, a monthly pledge. We hope you'll notice in upcoming months, the steps the party is taking to insure continued financial responsibility with YOUR money. Take a minute to fill out the form below, and mail it in. If you'd like to call in a pledge, that's OK too! - 1.800.735.1776

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Email: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Employer:* _____ Occupation:* _____
Credit Card Type: Visa MC Discover Amex
Pledge Per Month: _____
One Time Donation: _____ Credit Card #: _____
Expiration Date: Month: _____ Year: _____
Signature: _____

Checks also accepted to LPI or Libertarian Party of Illinois. Please send today!!!
* The FEC requires we collect this information. Not tax deductible Paid for by the Libertarian Party of Illinois, David Lee, Treasurer.
A copy of our report is available from the Illinois State Board of Elections in Springfield and the FEC in Washington, D.C.

New Newsletter Editor Don Stover


At the last SOC meeting, I was nominated and accepted the position of Newsletter Editor. With this first issue please let me give you a little insight into my, and my wife Jan's, background in publishing. Working for the graph arts equipment importer, Heidelberg Eastern, then Heidelberg USA for nine years, planted me firmly into the actual process of printing and binding anything imaginable. Even coupons that don't fly open as high speed machinery stuffs the product into a box. In 1994, Jan and a friend started a tabloid magazine in Vandalia called appropriately *The Fayette Times*, and guess who gets pulled in along with.... yea, that's right.

We had computers, but this was real layout, with beeswax to keep the strips in place for the camera ready artwork. What a hoot. 1996 found Jan and her mom Hazel starting *The Senior Review Magazine*, another tabloid but this time 28 pages and more computerized, but still waxed due to limitations of 8 1/2 x 11 laser printers. I won't boar you with too much about hard work, but those who have done artwork stripping know the drill. It would have been great just to get an hour's sleep the day before press time.

Jan always had space for me in her publications under the guise of "Mr. FixIt". Wanna know how to change your lawnmower oil with a

turkey baster?next article. Just suffice it to say publishing has been in the blood for a while.

Now for the hard stuff. Schedules. Having taken to this position officially, 30 days after the SOC, I am in a rush to get this assembled and mailed as soon as possible. Our friend, Crystal Jurczynski, recommended a submission deadline of the 15th of the month, with a mail date the last few days of the month. I tend to agree. So, here is the schedule I'd like to see happen: GET YOUR SUBMISSIONS, AFFILIATE REPORTS, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER REPORTS, PHOTOS, BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS ANYTHING YOU THINK IS OF INTEREST TO THE MEMBERSHIP, IN TO ME **BY THE 15TH** OF EVERY MONTH. By the time you receive this issue, the February issue will already be in the works. I look forward to your February submissions January 15th.

It's best to email files.....cut and paste from email causes formatting issues that take too much time to manage. If you have something to send, write it in NOTEPAD and email the file as an attachment. Pictures seem to work best when they're .JPG's. That's the way most digital camera files are saved anyway, so just send them along. 

Affiliates On The Move!

DuPage Libertarians

The next meeting of the DuPage Libertarians will be Wednesday, January 4th at its new location: T's Restaurant, 535 Roosevelt Road in Glen Ellyn. Socializing starts at 6:30 and the meeting runs from 7 - 8:30 p.m. DuPage will be jumpstarting the new year with 2006 officer elections and activity planning, followed by "Libertarianism is the Most Caring Choice" by Dr. Mary Ruwart. For those who missed Dr. Ruwart's presentation at the recent Illinois Convention, it's a great opportunity to hear this persuasive Libertarian communicator via tape. The membership year starts in January and costs \$24, but you do not have to be a member to attend—everyone is invited. If you have any questions, please contact Chapter President, Crystal Jurczynski, at 630.876.1935 or crystal@jurczynski.com. Be sure to check out Crystal's recent addition to the state website under "Locate Your Local Chapter" & select "Chapter Leaders Area"! This information is a direct result of the "Growing Strong Libertarian Chapters workshop Crystal facilitated and will aid existing and future chapters with their organizational and promotional skills.

Metro East Libertarians

Metro East Libertarians promoted "Banned Books Week" in September. This is a week devoted to the awareness of how, where, when, why and which books are banned from schools, libraries and communities and what can be done about it! Featured guest speaker at MEL's September meeting was Southwestern Illinois College Librarian Loretta Lipinot.

In October, new MEL officers were elected and include Don Stover/Chair, Jan Stover/Vice Chair, Ron Clark/Secretary and Steve Hellin/Treasurer. The four MEL officers joined forces with OVL to participate in the Annual Lion's Club Halloween Parade in Vandalia.

November was busy with MEL members preparing and participating in the LPI Convention. And Metro East Libertarians' December meeting was the scene for its 2nd Annual Bill of Rights Birthday Party which was open to the public. (The Bill of Rights was ratified on Dec. 15, 1791.) Plans for 2006 include growing the chapter and building strong coalitions.

Okaw Valley Libertarians

The Okaw Valley Libertarians recently got their new website up and running thanks to the volunteer efforts of OVL Vice Chair Nathan Dothager. Even though it is not complete yet, check out the site at: www.okawvalleylibertarians.com.

OVL has participated with the Metro East Libertarians in two parades as well as promoting the Bill of Rights Birthday parties. Thanks to the energy of dual OVL-MEL member Ron Clark, OVL has run OPH booths at gun shows and biker rallies. Ron also received a well deserved award for outstanding service to the libertarian cause at the last convention. Also thanks to OVL member Dale Hanabarger for providing music at the convention.

OVL Chair, Jeff Jones, is getting local media interested in the group and has had several requests to do radio interviews in the near future.