



## Why GOAL 102?

Walt Steele, VC Membership

We've started to grow again, over a dozen new members in the last month alone. With new members throughout the state we'll need an initiative like Goal 102 just to ensure these new members don't fall through the cracks. Goal 102 (organizing chapters in all 102 counties in Illinois) will not be an overnight accomplishment, but it will need to be accomplished in some form before we begin to experience the kind of electoral success we know we deserve. At its root, it's really the kind of grassroots organization we've been lacking. It's the focus on local politics we need to grow electable leaders from within. It's the support structure that those leaders need to become effective, winning candidates prepared to govern. But what it's not is the end-all and be-all of our party. It's not the reason we exist, it's a vehicle we can use to focus ourselves on what's important. Our Vice-Chair of Campaigns and Electoral Organizations, Don Stover, asked you for your input, your ideas and your help to lay the plans we'll need to realize this important goal over the next several years. What I'm going to ask you for is your financial support. What we really need is a dedicated group of 20 Libertarians to pledge \$50 a month, 40 Libertarians to pledge \$25 a month and 100 Libertarians to pledge \$10 a month to support this cause. If \$50 is beyond your means, \$25, \$10 or even \$5 a month will help us to budget more accurately which will allow us to take advantage of opportunities that present themselves.

To be sure, we need to start growing our own affiliates, in our own backyards if you will. But even growing new county organizations close to home will require money for advertising, printing, meeting rooms, speakers, literature for door-to-door campaigns and the mundane things like phone bills. For those new affiliates not near one of our older, more established groups, it will be your state party's responsibility to support this effort until each organization can carry its own weight.

I've got to be honest with you, even though a major debt was retired after the November convention another looms large over us. Like it or not we're a political party and until we can change the rules we need to play by them. We still have a significant FEC debt to retire; that's the bad news. The good news is that we're on a plan to retire that debt within the next six months. We are focused on learning how to avoid these situations in the future and everything we learn can be used to further show our potential voters how crazy this system is. Your executive board is committed to preventing the waste of our precious resources to the leviathan in the future.

Is there any other reason why Goal 102 is so important? We need to grow, but why focus on forming groups in each county? Why not just encourage participation at the state level or support of existing affiliates? Good questions. My answer is going to irritate you beyond belief; it did me when I realized what could happen if we don't.

Imagine for a moment that we have incredible success in 4 years and our candidate for Governor gets the magic 5% we've been trying to reach for so long. What happens next? Well, some very good things, but some very dangerous things. First, our statewide candidates in the next election will need very few signatures to get on the ballot. The same is true of our legislative and county candidates. Which means that anyone that wants to run, no matter what they believe or what they advocate can get a few signatures and be on the ballot. Talk about the opportunity for a black-eye! But that's not the best part.

To understand the rest of what I'm going to say you'll need to know a little about my background. Before returning to Illinois I lived in Phoenix,

Arizona and the surrounding towns for 15 years. From around 1998 'til I left in 2001, I was active/interested in the Arizona and Maricopa County LP. During that time, the AZLP had major party ballot status. This meant that not only did we have a much lower signature requirement, but since you declared your party affiliation when you registered to vote, the "official" state party received two things from the state: the list of voters registered as Libertarian and the funds collected from the voluntary contributions made by way of the state income tax form. You could choose to give part of your refund of state taxes directly to various charities or to your political party. Well, the money was okay but not really significant. The list of registered voters was a gold mine.

A splinter group formed in Tucson and it seemed their sole aim was to hijack the party to have access to that list. They even took the existing group to court to "prove" they should be the official party because they were the ones following Arizona election law. One of the provisions said that the annual convention had to be held on one particular weekend in Phoenix, and that only elected precinct committeemen could vote at the convention. In true Libertarian fashion, the existing group never worried about that requirement. Well, the court eventually sided with the existing group (after much litigation) but the splinter group asked the national party to recognize them as the official LP in Arizona. After a (bogus) straw poll of members the national party recognized the new group as the official LP in AZ. Except the State of Arizona could care less what National LP said, so the original group retained the ballot access which created the interesting situation. In 2000 there was a Libertarian candidate on the ballot in every state. It just wasn't the same candidate. The original AZ group nominated L. Neil Smith as their candidate, much to the annoyance of both National LP and the Harry Browne campaign.

Interesting story... why do you care, right? Here's why: The situation is similar in Illinois. The law specifies how an "Established Political Party" (that's a party that gets 5%) may govern its internal affairs. We either have to choose the Democrat's way and elect precinct committeemen who will represent us at state conventions or we'll need to go the Republican route and have county chairman elect representatives by congressional district. Of course, the third route, the libertarian route, doing it our own way is an option, but it opens us up to take over by either splinter groups, or outside forces that want the easy ballot access established party status offers, think "Reform Party" here.

Well, if we form affiliates in each county now, not only will our chances of electoral success be much greater but we'll have the means to defend ourselves from any such legal challenge based on Illinois election law. We have a rare opportunity to prepare ourselves in advance if we act now. But we all must take part. If you can help form a new affiliate in your area please contact me. We're targeting Champaign, Kankakee and Sangamon counties right now, but I'll be glad to work with anyone in the state that's willing to put in the time.

If you are already a member of an affiliate, please consider supporting the organizing activities of our new groups, maybe you can speak at an event or write a press release or just be there for the folks working to form a new group. And even if you can't help directly we need financial support. "Money is the mother's milk of politics" so I've been told, and if we're going to grow about 90 new affiliates from infancy we're going to need a lot of milk! Please consider a monthly pledge or make your best donation today. With your help we can be ready for the challenges and responsibilities of being an established party.

By now you're getting pretty familiar with "GOAL 102"? Then how about "GET 67"? Yes, sometimes things can be easily distilled down to numbers.

At the State Organizing Committee (SOC) meeting in January, the Vice Chairs of Campaigns and Membership rolled out "Goal 102" – a plan to get an affiliate in every one of Illinois' 102 counties. Not only will this swell our ranks dramatically, it will also lay the required groundwork for **when** the LP becomes an established political party in Illinois and is required to have a structure with county, precinct, and ward leadership.

"GET 67" is MY ambitious goal to have a full 67-Member Illinois Delegation attend the 2006 Libertarian Party National Convention. By virtue of membership in the LP credited to Illinois and the high vote totals Michael Badnarik received in the 2004 election, Illinois is entitled to have 67 delegates at the 2006 National Convention. This is a higher number than you might expect. (We get 34 delegates based on our membership – a little over 3% of the total members in the country. We get a hefty 33 more delegates due to Badnarik getting over 8% of his total votes in Illinois.)

Even though there are 10 states with more members than Illinois, we are tied with Pennsylvania for having the 4<sup>th</sup> highest number of delegates at the convention. Only California, Texas, and Florida have more delegates than Illinois.

This means that Illinois has the potential to influence the platform, bylaws, and leadership of the LNC more than the 45 states not mentioned above. But **ONLY** if we have all 67 allotted delegates at the convention!

The Platform Committee is already hard at work suggesting

revisions to the LP Platform. You **can** have a voice in this process by visiting <http://LPConvention.org/Platform> once you register (only Members may enter the site) you can read and comment on proposed changes in a forum-like environment.


However – if you want to have the ultimate input into the platform, bylaws and elected officers for the 2006-2008 LNC term, you **MUST** attend the convention to **VOTE** for the changes you want made. No proxies are allowed.

The SOC is authorized to select delegates to the convention – here are the qualifications: 1) You must be a member of the LP (State, National or both) 2) **YOU MUST ATTEND THE CONVENTION!**

It would be great to have a full complement of 67 delegates at the convention. It would show that the LPI is serious about furthering the cause of Liberty, making its opinion on how the LNC runs the National party known, and that it is willing to do what it takes to get the job done.

If you're planning to attend the June 30<sup>th</sup>-July 2<sup>nd</sup> National LP Convention in Portland, Oregon and would like to be a delegate, please contact me at [chair@LPillinois.org](mailto:chair@LPillinois.org), Jan Stover at [Director@LPillinois.org](mailto:Director@LPillinois.org), or any of our other officers.

This could be your chance to shape the future of the Libertarian Party. Will you join the Illinois Delegation and be one of 67 leaders from Illinois, or will there be an empty chair and a lost vote in the Illinois delegation?

Find out more about the 2006 National Convention by visiting <http://www.lpconvention.org/> 

---

## From The Executive Director

Jan Stover

In the February issue of the *Libertarian Current*, our State Chair, Val Vetter, began his article acknowledging that the leaders of the Libertarian Party of Illinois found themselves living in "interesting" times. His assessment was both accurate *and* gracious. As the article continued, the membership learned that "interesting" was, perhaps, the most gracious way to comment on the many problems which had all but consumed the leadership's time, energy and enthusiasm as well as the Party's finances and stability. And "interesting" was sometimes the only way to view the transition period we were going through if, in fact, we intended to hang on to any glimmer of that proverbial "light at the end of the tunnel". Perhaps of even more interest, was Val's assurance that in spite of all the difficulties, **THINGS ARE IMPROVING**, that appropriate repairs are being made and that **NOW** is a great time to invest in the Party!

Just one month after that article was written, I am pleased to say that we are continuing to find new ways to address old concerns, new people to fill important roles and new members to join our ranks. The productivity of the Executive Board, State Organizing Committee and other dependable volunteers are producing exciting results.

Our new webmaster, Crystal Jurczynski, has been revamping and updating our LPI website. With her eye for detail and her no-nonsense approach to efficiency, she has made the website easier to read, navigate, and it's a far better tool for the Party's growth that it has ever been. Crystal is also serving as Convention Committee Chair and it is clear she will bring the same thorough, effective approach to that position as well.


Our Vice Chair of Membership, Walt Steele, has created a membership packet which will be sent out to all new LPI members welcoming them to the Party, introducing them to our services and educating them on the benefits of our Libertarian ideals. This will serve as another valuable tool for membership and affiliate building. Walt also brings his talents to the appointment of LPI's database coordinator. This position is vital as a current database is the Party's lifeline to its membership.

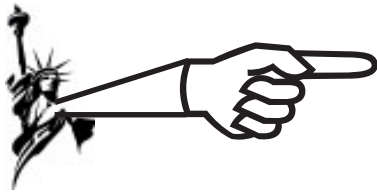
Our Vice Chair of Campaigns, Don Stover, continues to offer

new ways for the membership's voice to be heard regarding Goal 102. He has set up a Goal 102 yahoo group and invites those interested in adding their 2 cents and committing their time to join at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/goal102/>. As Newsletter Editor, Don's efforts have allowed the Libertarian message to reach the membership on a monthly basis which is another valuable tool for informing, uniting and solidifying the LPI membership base. Don has received a good deal of positive feedback from the newsletter and its Donation Card continues to be a successful reminder that pledgers and contributors are always needed and appreciated! He has also been an invaluable source of information, determination and dedication as he has waded through many of the past problematic Executive Director's issues with me.

Most recently, the SOC has appointed Debra Aaron as the new LPI Treasurer. Debra is no stranger to the duties and responsibilities of the position as she is currently serving her third term as LP-Chicago's Treasurer. Having been pro-active in returning the affiliate to a positive cash flow situation, her track record of fiscal responsibility makes her an excellent choice for LPI Treasurer. Also being recognized as the organizational backbone of the LPC, the Party will no doubt benefit from this experienced woman joining the Executive Board.

Last but not least, I wish to recognize our State Chair, Val Vetter, for his wise counsel, his "johnny on the spot" approach to the task at hand, his humor in the face of friction and his respect for a job well done. The membership can be assured that they are well served and well represented with Val at the Party's helm.

So as I embark on my second month as Executive Director, I wish to thank the LPI leadership for their hard work, continued support and outstanding ideas. I also wish to thank the membership for the thoughtful letters, emails, and phone calls offering their support and suggestions. Now it's on to growth and prosperity as we continue to put forth the "New Face of the Libertarian Party of Illinois." 



**OK, it's not like our new Treasurer can't take a break from her day job... Let's see if we can over-welcome her to the job! Sit down, look at *your* budget too and consider a \$5, \$10, \$25 monthly pledge. 'Nuff Said!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer:\* \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation:\* \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Type: Visa  MC  Discover  Amex

Pledge Per Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Up My Pledge \_\_\_\_\_

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, Debra Aaron, Treasurer.  
A copy of our report is available from the Illinois State Board of Elections in Springfield and the FEC in Washington, D.C.

## Free LP Membership!

We all need to remember that the national LP has also gone to a zero dues model, but as your membership with that body "expires", our delegate count to the National Convention wanes as well. Please consider visiting the following site: <http://www.lp.org/action/join.shtml>, fill out the form and join even if you are not yet "expired". You can also get to the site by visiting [www.lp.org](http://www.lp.org) and locating the "Join Us" button on the upper right side of the main page. Look for the blue "clicking here" text in the contribution pitch.

## A Special Word of Thanks!

The Newsletter Editor wishes to offer a special word of thanks to Ron Clark, Kathy Stark and Debra Aaron for their help in getting last month's *Libertarian Current* out to the membership in a timely fashion. Thanks much!

## New LPI Membership Card Available

See your local Chapter Chair for your LPI membership cards. It's a quick way to join the LPI - ON THE SPOT! Use it at your next OPH, outreach event, or affiliate meeting to help welcome new members.

*The Libertarian Current*

The monthly publication of the Libertarian Party of Illinois  
Val Vetter - State Chair

Don Stover - VC Campaigns, Ken Prazak - VC Media  
Walt Steele - VC Membership, Walter Simons - Secretary  
Debra Aaron - Treasurer, Jan Stover - Executive Director

**www.lpillinois.org** 800.753.1776 Toll Free  
Libertarian Party of Illinois C/O Jan Stover  
515 W. Main Greenville, IL 62246-1616

## Where's My Local Chapter?

A fast way to find your local chapter is to visit the State Party website, [www.lpillinois.org](http://www.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 Executive 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](http://www.lpchicago.org)

### Libertarian Party of Lake County (LPLC)

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

### Okaw Valley Libertarians (OVL; Vandalia area)

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

### Rockford Area Libertarians

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

### Southern Illinois Libertarians (SIL)

Walter Steele, Chair  
P.O. Box 4  
Carbondale, IL 62901-0004  
618-231-4600  
[homepage.mac.com/calion/sil/](http://homepage.mac.com/calion/sil/)

### Metro East Libertarians (MEL; Belleville area)

Don Stover, Chair  
(618) 580-8779  
[www.mel-lp.org](http://www.mel-lp.org)

### Libertarian Party of Cook County- Northwest

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

### DuPage Libertarians

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

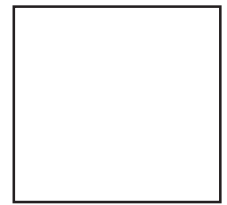
### Fox Valley Libertarian Party (FVLP)

Bill Stevens, Chair  
[wstephen@fvlp.org](mailto:wstephen@fvlp.org)  
[www.fvlp.org](http://www.fvlp.org)

### Students for Individual Liberty - U of I Champaign/Urbana

Justin Doran, President  
[www.uiucsil.org/liberty](http://www.uiucsil.org/liberty)

Libertarian Party of Illinois  
D. Stover, Newsletter Editor  
515 W. Main  
Greenville, Illinois 62246



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

---

## Affiliates On The Move!

**DuPage Libertarians** will be meeting Wednesday, March 1st. The featured topic will be "Educating the Community on Home Rule" with Bill Wrobel, a member of the Downers Grove Watch organization. The organization has successfully placed a petition to put an end to home rule in Downers Grove on the March 21st ballot. If you would like to learn more about how towns use home rule powers, visit their website: [www.DownersGroveWatch.org](http://www.DownersGroveWatch.org) or just join the DuPage Libertarians on March 1st. The meeting is held at T's Pasta, Beef 'n More, 535 Roosevelt Road in Glen Ellyn. The chapter starts gathering at 6:30 for dinner (optional) and socializing. The meeting runs from 7 - 8:30 p.m. For more information, contact Crystal Jurczynski at 630.876.1935 or [Crystal@Jurczynski.com](mailto:Crystal@Jurczynski.com).

**The Fox Valley Libertarian Party** is planning a number of events in the next few months including an OPH booth at the Crystal Lake Expo Saturday, March 25 - Sunday, March 26, an outreach meeting (tentatively scheduled for late April/early May in either Elgin or Crystal Lake), in which the issue of eminent domain will be related to other general libertarian issues. The Institute for Justice will be contacted for a possible speaker at this event. In addition, the FVLP is also planning to make the LPI-Kane Yahoo group a more interactive group, rather than only using it for meeting announcements, in an effort to increase interest and involvement locally. Dates were also set for the Chapter's 2006 Adopt-A-Highway road cleanups at the last meeting, held on January 25.

**Metro East Libertarians** have invited Debbie Hopper, founder of "Mothers Against the Draft", to speak at their March 15th meeting. The public, all affiliates and friends are invited to attend! MEL meets the third Wednesday of each month at Southwestern Illinois College in Belleville. For more information contact MEL Chair Don Stover at 618-580-8779.

**Okaw Valley Libertarians** enjoyed hearing Dr Tom Blackburn's presentation on the history of the dollar, the Federal Reserve and the implications of a government having the power to issue fiat currency. Also discussed were additions to the website and possible OPH locations. OVL meets the second Thursday of each month at Jay's Restaurant in Vandalia, IL. For more info, contact Jeff Jones 618-283-0888.

---

## Mark Your Calendar Now!



**The 2006 Libertarian Party of Illinois Convention** is scheduled for September 15-17th in Springfield! September might seem like a long way away, but it'll be here before we know it. This is the best time to send in your ideas: • Who would be a fantastic speaker? • What are the best workshop topics? • Where should we advertise? • How can we make the Convention most valuable to you? Provide your response to any or all of these questions to our 2006 Convention Chair at [Chair@LPillinois.org](mailto:Chair@LPillinois.org) or call 630.876.1935.