



# Libertarian Current

June 2006, Vol. 1, No. 6

*The monthly publication of the Libertarian Party of Illinois*

## — The LPI Lives or Dies With You

by LPI Treasurer Debra Aaron

Now that I have a handle on the financial affairs of the Party and I've finally had a few moments to step away from the bank statements, spreadsheets, bills, Federal Election Commission (FEC) correspondence, conference calls, and meetings, I thought you might want to hear from your recently elected treasurer.

I have to admit I was nervous and somewhat hesitant to take on the challenge and duties required of the Treasurer's position. The history of LPI's finances has been a sore spot for many; in the past you have been let down and disappointed. You can rest assured that the Executive Director, and the entire executive team, are a committed group of men and women dedicated to restoring your faith and trust in the Libertarian Party of Illinois. Your trust, your respect, your confidence is not something we take lightly; we must earn it. Being responsible, being accountable, being committed to you, is serious business; expect nothing less from us. As it is important to lead by example, I want you to know that every officer, committee chair, and the Executive Director are monthly pledgers to the Party.


Many of you have donated generously to come to the aid of the Party. Thank you for answering our pleas to meet our financial obligations. You work hard for your money and we appreciate your response. Thank you for committing to pledge monthly. Through monthly pledges we can consistently manage our finances. You are the reason we have been able to meet our obligations every month this year.

I want to assure you that the Executive Director and I are working to make sure every single dollar from you is used wisely. We have been reviewing expenses, eliminating unnecessary services, and paying bills on time. A recent review of credit card fees revealed an opportunity to save. We will be replacing our credit card service vendor that will result in a 15% or more cost savings. Another opportunity to save on expenses is to ask for what is needed before spending.

Two of our significant monthly expenses will end soon. June 15th is the final payment on an old printing debt. July will be a time for celebration as we make our last FEC payment. Because of you, we are growing stronger and building a solid organization. With the end of two sizeable monthly payments and an increasing number of monthly pledges to replace the Unified Membership Plan (UMP) payments from National, we will be in a good position to prepare for the future.

This is a crucial time for the Illinois Party as we prepare to become totally self-sufficient. With our debts soon out of the way; a 15% increase in membership, the number of chapters growing under the GOAL 102 plan, and more members stepping up to support the state, we will be in a perfect position to begin developing and preparing for the 2008 elections. The only thing that will keep us from speeding towards that direction will be a shortage of funds. Yes, unfortunately it all comes down to money again, doesn't it?

I realize that there has been an all too familiar theme in the newsletters you've been receiving lately - the request for dollars. This request will most likely be ongoing until donations and pledges exceed monthly expenses. Do you know that if every member in our state database pledged a mere \$5 or \$10 per month we could conduct Party business, prepare for the upcoming election, support candidates, assist chapters, address other issues in the newsletter, and oh yes, pay our bills without pleading for money. Monthly pledges are crucial for the survival of the Party. I'm looking forward to the day when we won't have to beg for dollars on a monthly basis and instead have the occasional fund raising letter or event.

So, I'm not going to ask you for money. I'm going to ask you to think about the future of the Libertarian Party of Illinois, your Party, your organization. Where is the money going to come from to conduct business? Your Party lives or dies with you. Do you want it to grow and prosper or will you let it fade and fizzle? It's up to you. You'll know the right thing to do. 

## *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](http://www.lpillinois.org) 800.735.1776 Toll Free  
Libertarian Party of Illinois C/O Jan Stover  
515 W. Main Greenville, IL 62246-1616

## 2006 LPI Convention

A sweet weekend of liberty awaits you at our "Sweet Land of Liberty" Convention. For details, see the comprehensive insert in this newsletter, visit our website or call 800-735-1776. You won't want to miss this exciting event or the Early Bird specials - register today!



# Wanted: 12 (give or take) Angry Men (or women, or a mix)

by State Chair Val Vetter

A couple of weeks ago, all the news programs - 20/20, 60 Minutes, every 10 o'clock news show - "broke" the story of the NSA gathering and keeping phone records on ordinary American citizens - even those who were not suspected of terrorist activities. The news media seemed to have the attitude that this was perfectly fine, they were just waiting to see if there was "outrage" from the citizens of our country.

"Outrage" - that was the word they used. It's a good word. Based on the past reaction of people in this country for the last 200+ years, "outrage" was a reaction that could reasonably be expected.

Sadly, so far, the outrage hasn't occurred in quantities large enough to measure. One has to wonder if this is the same country, if these are the same people who's predecessors boarded a ship and dumped 342 chests of tea into Boston harbor back in 1773.

Yes, the Libertarian Party should be one of the organizations leading the charge at times like this. In fact, all freedom-loving Americans should be calling their Congressmen, writing letters to the editor, and protesting loudly around the water cooler - if not taking to the streets with the modern-day equivalent of torches and pitchforks.

What the rest of the citizens of this country do is their responsibility - though we should be helping to influence and motivate them. It is the job of the Libertarian Party of Illinois to lead the charge and to help our members find effective ways to make their voices heard. That's where the 12 angry men come in.

As I said above - it doesn't have to be 12 - though that's a nice round number. They don't have to be men either. This isn't 1950 after all, but we do need several angry - or at least determined - people to lead that charge and show others the way. We need a Sam Adams or two to smear on some war paint and grab their hatchets - metaphorically, of course - and lead a bunch of angry patriots in a modern-day dumping of tea.

"But what about the LPI officers? Aren't they supposed to be the ones doing all this?"


The elected leaders of the LPI do what they can to inform, protest, speak, plan, and execute outreach events and special meetings to do as the "Sons of Liberty" did 200+ years ago. In addition to this, your elected officers and Executive Director have a more mundane - but vitally important - job to do that consumes much of their time: transact the day-to-day business of the party. Paying bills, planning meetings, filing FEC reports, writing and editing newsletter articles, reading and returning e-mails, managing web sites... all of the things one would expect of managers of any small business. This is in addition to the things they may do for their local chapters, as well as that other little thing they call "Day Job." Luckily, there are several dedi-

cated volunteers who help with these things. We could use a lot more!

Many of you have helped the party financially! We deeply appreciate that. It has enabled our Treasurer and Executive Director to pay off most of our debt, as well as, pay for newsletter mailings and day-to-day business expenses. As much as we need that ongoing financial support, we ALSO need the hands-on, shoes on the sidewalk, pens put to paper kind of activism that gets our message to our elected representatives and the general public. There is no way five or six volunteer officers and one Executive Director can do all of that, in addition to, their business-related duties for the party.

Do you have a pet issue you'd like to beat the drum on? Do you have a special skill that the LPI can put to use? Do you like to meet and talk to people about Libertarianism? Can you compose a letter that convicts and convinces? Is organizing a meeting or event something that is right up your alley? Do you have a couple of hours a month to invest in activities that will pay off in increased liberty?

If any of the above is true, call us today! As much as we need your financial help to do the everyday, routine jobs associated with promoting liberty, we need your volunteer efforts to give our movement life. We need to put a face on our platform and the ideals that we believe in and to touch people in ways that newsletters and web sites alone can't do effectively.

Picture yourself back in 1773. What would you be doing if King George started keeping tabs on your personal communications? Would you be trooping loudly down to the Royal Governor's residence with 500 other patriots, or would you be waiting for someone else to do it? 

## The Pledge Form...

*Thanks in advance!*

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

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

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

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

Credit Card Type: Visa  MC  Discover

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

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.

## DuPage Libertarians

At the next DuPage Libertarians meeting members will discuss the application of Libertarian solutions to current events. The meeting will be Wednesday, June 7th, at the QQ Buffet, 579 W. Roosevelt Road in in the Market Plaza Shopping Center in Glen Ellyn. Socializing and, optionally, dinner begins at 6:30. The meeting will follow from 7- 8:30 p.m.

DuPage Libertarians will be staffing an Operation Politically Homeless Booth at the Downers Grove Heritage Festival the weekend of June 23rd through the 26th. All volunteers are welcome to help staff the booth. If you've never worked a booth before, the Chapter will be happy to pair you with an experienced Libertarian who can show you the ropes and the fun. For more information or to volunteer, contact Crystal Jurczynski at 630.876.1935 or [dpl@DuPageLibertarians.org](mailto:dpl@DuPageLibertarians.org).

## Fox Valley Libertarians

At FVLP's April meeting, members discussed participation in Crystal Lake Independence Day Parade. Those not attending the National LP Convention (July 1-2) will walk along the parade route with T-shirts indicating the parade committee's censorship of free speech, (with duct tape on their mouths) and will hand out literature on the FVLP and the free speech issue relating to the parade. Also discussed was the first Adopt-A-Highway road cleanup May 6, and scheduling a public meeting regarding Eminent Domain in September. A local speaker is being sought for the event.

## LP-Chicago

Summer time is always a busy season for the Libertarian Party of Chicago. The current line up for summer 2006: \* June 5 – Gun range outing specifically geared toward those who always wanted to but don't know where to begin; \* June 13, monthly LPC meeting with guest speaker Debbie Hopper from Mothers Against the Draft; \* June 17 and 18, Operation Politically Homeless Booth at the Custer Street Fair in Evanston; \* July 15 special meeting with guest speaker Judge James P. Gray, author of "Why Our Drug Laws Have Failed and What We Can Do About it." Check LPC's website ([www.lpchicago.org](http://www.lpchicago.org)) for details about these events and meetings or better yet, attend the regular meetings held at Goose Island Brewing Company at 1800 N. Clybourn in Chicago on the second Tuesday of each month (5:30 p.m. gather and socialize/6 p.m. business meeting).

## Metro East Libertarians

At recent Metro East Libertarian Chapter meetings, members and guests have had the opportunity to discuss Libertarian objectives with LP-Missouri State Chair Darla Maloney and learn more about Jury Nullification with FIJA representative, Mark McCoy. At June's meeting, members will plan upcoming events including a possible joint Central/Southern Illinois Libertarian Event in July and participation in County Fairs and Parades the months of July and August. For more information visit: [www.mel-lp.org](http://www.mel-lp.org).

## Capital Area Libertarians

The Capital Area Libertarians are hosting their first organizational meeting on Tuesday, June 13th at 7 p.m. in the Hospitality Room at the Route 66 Hotel and Convention Center. LPI members officers and other chapters are invited to attend. A chapter in the Springfield area is much needed and will go a long way in promoting the cause of liberty in the State of Illinois. If you have any questions call Chris or Evonne Bennett at 217-529-6753 or [blacknight\\_80751@yahoo.com](mailto:blacknight_80751@yahoo.com). Hope to see many of you there!



## *Libertarian Party of Illinois 2006 FATHERS OF FREEDOM*

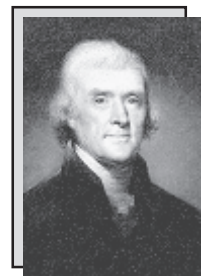
Honoring the men who have led their families by example, promoting Freedom and Independence  
... the values and principles for which our Founding Fathers lived and died.

In Honor of our Fathers of Freedom:

*David Kelley*  
*Kenneth Prazak*  
*Walter Simons*  
*Walt Steele*  
*Don Stover*

In Memory of our Fathers of Freedom:

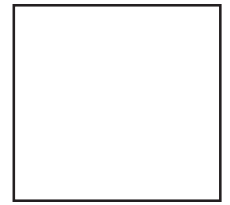
*Gerald I. Brask*  
*Charles L. Crawford*  
*H. Don Jones*  
*Norman F. Jones*  
*Charles E. Pagel*  
*Maurice Welcome Reed*  
*Stephen Vetter*



*"Let the Eye of Vigilance  
never be closed."*

*- Thomas Jefferson*

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LPI MEMBERS: Want to effect change in your community, county and state? The chapters below invite you to check out their websites, attend their meetings, support their efforts and truly feel a part of the Libertarian experience in Illinois! Feel free to call a chapter Chair near you for more information. Don't see a chapter in your area??? ... call our Executive Director at 800-735-1776 for more information on how to start a chapter in your county today! Come see the New Face of The LPI!

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## Where's My Local Chapter?

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### **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)

### **Rockford Area Libertarians**

P.O.Box 4775  
Rockford, IL 61110  
Kathy Kelley, Chair  
(815) 874-6345  
[lprockford.8m.com](http://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/](http://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](http://lake.il.lp.org)

### **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/)

### **DuPage Libertarians**

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

### **Okaw Valley Libertarians (OVL)**

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

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

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

### **Fox Valley Libertarian Party (FVLP)**

Bill Stephens, Chair  
[wstephens@fvlp.org](mailto:wstephens@fvlp.org) 847-551-1930  
[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)