



National Convention Held in Portland

Small in Attendance, Large in Impact by Julie Fox

The National Libertarian Party Convention took place in Portland, Oregon this year, from June 30th through July 2nd.

The convention was small in terms of attendance, but large in terms of impact, in changes to the membership structure, and, more notably, in changes made to the Party's platform.

The issue of Party dues was brought up by the bylaws committee. Delegates voted to re-establish dues for membership, but only to an extent. A "member" of the Party is defined as anyone who signs the pledge of non-violence, but a member must pay at least \$25 to the National LP in one year in order to be classified as a "sustaining member". Only "sustaining members" can be Libertarian National Committee (LNC) officers, or LP candidates for President and Vice President. The number of sustaining members determines how many delegates a State Party may have at the National LP convention, but does not limit non-dues-paying members in any other respect. Any member of a State Party – regardless of their National LP membership – is allowed to represent their Party as a voting delegate at the National LP convention.

Many of the planks in the Party's platform were deleted at the convention, based on votes by delegates. While some members view this as a positive move, in my assessment (and many other members) this was a negative move on the part of the Party. Those who oppose the change feel that substance has been taken out of the Party, while those who agree with it feel that the new platform will be easier for candidates to work with. There is no doubt that there will be a strong debate at the next national convention where a vote comes up on this.


To see which planks the Party retained, please refer to

www.libertyforamerica.net/node/259.

The non-violence pledge also came up for a vote and in the end was retained by the delegates. A majority of delegates voted to eliminate the pledge, but fell short of the 2/3 vote needed to eliminate it. The "cult of omnipotent state" wording in the Statement of Principles was also up for debate, with proposals on the floor for what was considered to be a more clear definition of the Party's views in this respect. The present wording was retained by a small margin of voting delegates.

Election of officers and representatives to the LNC also took place. Bill Redpath of Virginia won election as National Chair by a wide margin. After two rounds of voting, Chuck Moulton from Pennsylvania won as Vice Chair. Geoff Neale of Texas won election as Treasurer with just under 2/3 of the vote. Secretary Bob Sullentrup, from our neighboring state of Missouri, ran unopposed. In addition, five LNC At-Large members were elected.

Prior to the convention, the Libertarian Party of Illinois was part of Region 5 West which included the states of Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. Due to population requirements, some restructuring was required of regions. Region 5 added Colorado, Wyoming, Alaska, and Montana. Our new region is now designated as Region 1 and has elected Tony Ryan of South Dakota to serve as our LNC representative. I was elected as alternate, and Scott Kohlhaas from Alaska was elected as second alternate.

The LNC is already in the process of selecting a site for the 2008 national convention. Although a site has not yet been selected, the consensus by the LNC is that the convention should be centrally located in the U.S., which will make the next convention easier for Illinois members to attend. 

LPI 2006 Convention Update

by Convention Committee Chair Crystal Jurczynski

There are many ways you can participate in the upcoming State Convention: be inspired by our Speakers, share your experiences in our Workshops, and have some laughs during the Friday night entertainment, just to name a few.

Another way you can take part is by seizing a marketing opportunity for your business or favorite cause. With a \$25 or more contribution to the Convention, you can choose either an Outreach Table or a Convention Program Sponsorship Ad to market your products, services, or organization to your fellow libertarians.


As of this writing, there are only five tables still available, so act fast if you would like one. The business-card-size Sponsorship Ads will be printed in full-color within our multi-page bound Program that our attendees will refer to again and again. In addition, the first organization to contribute \$200 or more

will have the opportunity to post a full-page ad on the prime back cover space. Combination packages are also available.

Low on cash, but still want to contribute? We're also accepting: Gently-used Libertarian Books -- This year we will resell books for \$5 or \$10 to Convention attendees. The book sale will be a great way for us to share the wealth of libertarian thought among ourselves.

Products and Services --We will run our always-entertaining silent and live auctions again this year. Many of us have items around the house or skills we can deliver to support liberty. For example, if you are a baker, contribute your special cakes, cookies or breads and "Bake Back America!"

Every contribution is welcome, appreciated, and will be recognized at the Convention.

All the excitement will occur during the weekend of September 15-17. To make a donation, get more information, or register, call us at (800) 735-1776 or visit our website LPillinois.org. 

Just the Facts Ma'am

Well, maybe with a little commentary thrown in the mix

by Executive Director Jan Stover

The LPI is growing. Since January of this year, over 125 concerned Illinoisans have made the decision to join the Libertarian Party of Illinois. The vast majority of the new members have joined the Party through the online membership registration available on our website.

Ever wonder how this process begins? There's more to it than you might think.


People visit our website wanting to learn more about who we are and what we're doing. Some visit several times before deciding to fill out a "Contact Us" form, seeking answers as to where the LPI stands on issues, how to get involved in the Party, where to begin if they are contemplating a possible Libertarian candidacy in 2008, where the nearest LPI Chapter meets and so on.

The "Contact Us" forms come to me and I respond to their questions accordingly, direct them to appropriate links and, of course, encourage them to join the LPI. Statistics show that most everyone who inquires (sometimes after several email exchanges)

returns to the website, fills out the registration and becomes a member. This interaction has provided me with a wonderful opportunity to get to know many of our new members as they make this very important decision - to move away from their old Party affiliation and thoughtfully towards Liberty.

After joining online, I send each new member a "Welcome to the LPI" email, followed by a New Member Packet containing a welcome letter from our State Chair, Val Vetter, along with LP/LPI literature. In addition, personal communication continues with many of the new members. Since my appointment as Executive Director in January, I have responded to nearly 250 emails and numerous phone calls with respect to new membership alone.

Experience and time are proving this type of communication encourages an engaged membership with interest reflected in a variety of ways. For example, new members currently make up more than 25% of our Convention registrations and will make our "New Member Welcome Reception" planned for Saturday afternoon well worth attending.

Without question, this is an exciting time in the LPI ... and its just the beginning ... and that's just the facts. 

We Can Make A Difference

Volunteering Our Time and Talents


By Damon Dillon

Yes, the LPI is growing and that is fabulous news. But growth also means the need for engaged volunteers is greater than ever before. With the exception of one position, everyone who performs work for the Party is a volunteer. They donate their time and expertise to build a Party we can be proud of. We give our time because we believe by doing so we will make a difference in our lives, our children's lives, and the future of our state. We do so in belief that by building the Party we will provide a choice for the people of Illinois. We believe....

If we truly believe our efforts to build the Party will lead to success, we must get involved to help make that a reality. Everyone has talents that are needed and opportunities abound as we grow. Do you like to convince others of your position?

Would you like to help staff an outreach booth at a fair, become a speaker or candidate? Do you have organizational talents? Want to hold Party office, work on a campaign, serve on a committee or start a local chapter? Do you have experience in advertising, fundraising, databases, or any field a volunteer organization needs?

How do you find these opportunities? Our website has an Events Calendar that lists activities throughout the state. Get in touch with the contact person listed for each activity and ask how you can help. Attend a chapter meeting closest to your home or start one in your county. Chapters will be aware of state and local opportunities. Contact one of the Party officers listed on the website or in the newsletter and tell them you would like to volunteer.

Our Party can not grow without the time, efforts, and commitment of each and every one of us. The Party needs you - Can you help? 

*Become
a \$10 Monthly Pledger,
Increase Your Current Monthly
Pledge by \$10 or make a One Time
Contribution of \$50 or more to the
LPI now through Sept 14, 2006 and
receive a **Purple Liberty Band.***

... Why Purple?

*To represent neither a simplistic Red
nor Blue state mentality, but a
pertinent blend of Libertarian ideas
from each (and we all know when
you mix red and blue together you
get purple.)*

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 the Libertarian Party of Illinois. Please send to: LPI 515 W. Main
Greenville, IL 62246

* 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.

LPI Officers to be Elected at Convention Business Meeting

Currently the Officers of the Libertarian Party of Illinois consist of a State Chair, Vice Chair of Campaigns/Electoral Organizations, Vice-Chair of Membership/Development, Vice-Chair of Media/Communications, Secretary, and Treasurer. These Officers make up the Executive Board and fulfill a term of two years.

As the LPI grows, members are looking into additional Officer positions to meet the challenges of a Party moving in the direction set by Goal 102. New positions have been proposed that will address the issues of Activism, Fundraising and Legislation as well as the importance of such positions as Webmaster and Newsletter Editor.

For these new offices to be successful, the right individuals will need to “step up to the plate” and volunteer their time, energy and expertise. Therefore the newsletter editor invites you to read the proposed bylaw changes and to think seriously about volunteering to run for an Office in the LPI. For the membership’s convenience, both the current AND proposed bylaws are listed on the website in their entirety for a side-by-side review at www.lpillinois.org/bylaws.php.

Proposed bylaw changes for 2006 LPI Convention

Proposed by: R. Clark, D. Dillon, D. Hughes, J. Jones, C. Juczynski, D. Stover, J. Stover, and V.Vetter

1. The word “Article” will replace the word “Bylaw” throughout the document when referring to specific numbered bylaws.

2. Delete- Bylaw III, Section 2.

3. Add- Article III, Section 2.

A member, upon joining the Libertarian Party of Illinois, must sign a statement that says, “I have read and agree with the following statement: We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.”

4. Delete- Bylaw III, Section 3

5. Delete- Bylaw III, Section 4

6. Delete- Bylaw IV, Section 2

7. Add- Article IV, Section 2. Officers

(a) The officers of the Party shall be a State Chair; a Campaign Chair; a Membership Chair; a Public Relations Chair; an Activism Chair; a Fundraising Chair; a Legislative Chair; a Secretary; a Treasurer; a Webmaster; and a Newsletter Editor.

(b) All officers shall be residents of Illinois and Party members. No Party Officer shall be an officer in any other political party.

(c) Party offices may combine as elected by the Convention or State Organizing Committee, however a member holding more than one office shall be counted only once for voting purposes or establishing a quorum.

(d) Terms of offices shall be from the close of the State Convention at which the Officers were elected until the close of the second State Convention following their election.

(e) The name and contact information of Party officers, State Organizing Committee members, and Judicial Committee members shall be made available by print and electronic means within one month of each State Convention. Members shall have access to minutes of the past two years’ State Organizing Committee meetings and State Convention business sessions.

8. Delete- Bylaw IV, Section 3 (b) (c) and (d).

9. Add- Article IV, Section 3

(b) In the event of a vacancy of the State Chair, the State Organizing Committee shall appoint an interim State Chair from among the SOC officers by a majority vote of the State Organizing Committee.

(c) In the event of vacancies in other offices, the State Organizing Committee shall appoint an interim officer from among qualified members.

(d) Interim officers appointed by the State Organizing Committee shall serve until the next annual State Convention, at which time they may be elected or replaced by majority vote

of the convention. Mid-term replacement officers elected by the Convention shall serve only the remainder of the original officer’s term.

(e) Any LPI State Organizing Committee officer may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the State Organizing Committee. Chapter representatives to the State Organizing Committee may only be removed by their respective Chapters according to the Chapters’ bylaws.

10. Delete- Bylaw IV, Section 4 (a)

11. Add- Article IV, Section 4. Duties

(a) The State Organizing Committee shall:

(1) Authorize and manage all activities undertaken in the name of or representing the Party

(2) Hold meetings at least quarterly.

(3) On written request of any Party member, consider convening the Judicial Committee.

(4) Determine the date, location, and agenda of the State Convention.

(5) Determine membership dues and period of membership.

(6) Elect a Chair pro tem to preside over any single meeting in the event that the State Chair is unable to do so.

(7) The Quorum shall be five, at least three of whom shall be State Party Officers; the others shall be local chapter representatives.

(8) The State Organizing Committee may meet by any means that allow simultaneous aural communication among all participants.

12. Delete- Bylaw IV, Section 4 (b) (3) and (b) (4)

13. Add- Article IV, Section 4 (b)

(3) Perform duties as authorized by these bylaws, delegated to it by the State Organizing Committee, and such other duties as may from time to time be necessary between State Organizing Committee meetings.

(4) The Executive Board shall meet at the call of the State Chair or at the request of any two members of the Executive Board.

(5) The Executive Board may meet by any means that allow simultaneous aural communication among all participants.

14. Change Bylaw IV, Section 4 (c) (1) to read “State Chair”

15. Change Bylaw IV, Section 4 (c) (2) to read “Campaign Chair”

16. Delete Bylaw IV, Section 4 (c) (2) item (i)

17. Renumber Bylaw IV, Section 4 (c) (2) items (ii), (iii) and (iv) as Article IV, Section 4 (c) (2) items (i), (ii) and (iii)

18. Change Bylaw IV, Section 4 (c) (3) to read “Membership Chair”

19. Delete- Bylaw IV, Section 4 (c) (3) items (i) through (vi)

20. Add- Article IV, Section 4 (c) (3)

(i) Oversee the maintenance of the membership database.

(ii) Coordinate the development and maintenance of all membership and recruiting literature.

(iii) Develop and manage programs to recruit new and retain current members.

(iv) Develop and manage programs to establish new Local Chapters.

21. Change Bylaw IV, Section 4 (c) (4) to read “Public Relations Chair”.

22. Delete- Bylaw IV, Section 4 (c) (4) items (i) through (v).

23. Add- Article IV, Section 4 (c) (4)

(i) Coordinate all communication to promote the Party and it’s activities to the general public and like-minded organizations.

(ii) Oversee the maintenance of the media database.

(iii) Issue official Party press releases.

24. Renumber Bylaw IV, Section 4 (c) (5) as Article IV, Section 4 (c) (8).

25. Add to the newly numbered Article IV, Section 4 (c) (8)

(iv) Conduct all official correspondence between the Party and other bodies and individuals.

26. Renumber Bylaw IV, Section 4 (c) (6) as Article IV, Section 4 (c) (9).

27. Delete- Bylaw IV, Section 4 (c) (5)

28. Add- Article IV, Section 4 (c) (5)

Activism Chair

(i) Identify and coordinate Party involvement and activity in statewide and regional events

(ii) Assist affiliates to identify and participate in local activism and outreach events

29. Delete- Bylaw IV, Section 4 (c) (6)

30. Add- Article IV, Section 4 (c) (6)

Fundraising Chair

(i) Coordinate the preparation and mailing of fund-raising letters.

(ii) Coordinate all other fund-raising activities for the party.

31. Add- Article IV, Section 4 (c) (7)

Legislative Chair

(i) Plan and coordinate party activities to bring about changes to state election law that allows fair and equitable ballot access for all political party candidates.

(ii) Monitor state legislative activity to identify opportunities to use party activity to encourage legislative action that moves Illinois closer to libertarian principles.

(iii) Participate in no activity that will encumber the Party, State Organizing Committee, or any affiliated chapter in state lobbying regulation.

32. Add Article IV, Section 4 (c) (10)

Webmaster

(i) Develop and maintain online resources to support Party activities, including Domains, Websites, Email Addresses, and Databases

(ii) Solicit Website content from Officers, Members and appropriate outside sources

33. Add Article IV, Section 4 (c) (11)

Newsletter Editor

(i) Manage the publishing and distribution of the Party’s newsletter

(ii) Establish and promulgate the Newsletter publication schedule and content submission deadlines

(iii) Solicit Newsletter content from Officers, Members and appropriate outside sources

34. Add- Article VI, Section 2

(c) Date, time and location of regular scheduled meetings, which are to be held at least quarterly.

35. Change Bylaw VI, Section 3 to read:

Any changes in or additions to a local chapter’s bylaws, officers, State Organizing Committee Representative, or regular scheduled meeting information shall be communicated to the Secretary within 30 days.

36. Change Bylaw VI, Section 4 to read:

Geographically defined local chapters that are located where the Party is an established political party under the laws of Illinois shall function as an authorized political committee. These local chapters, when affiliated with the Party, shall have all the rights and privileges in all functions that are generally permitted to local political organizations by the state of Illinois.

37. Change Bylaw VIII, Section 2 to read “...at the discretion of the Membership Chair.

38. Change Bylaw XI to read: The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the conduct of State Organizing Committee and Executive Board meetings unless inconsistent with these Bylaws.

39. Delete- Bylaw XII

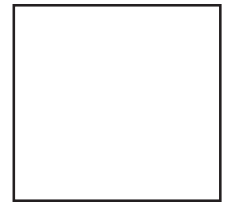
40. Add- Article XII

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of a State Convention. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Secretary no fewer than forty five (45) days before the State Convention business session, and the proposed amendments shall be published and made available to the Party membership no fewer than thirty (30) days before the business session.

(a) During debate of a proposed amendment a member may offer an amendment to the proposed amendment that has the effect of correcting conflicts with existing bylaws.

Section 2. When the Party becomes an established political party, as determined by the State Board of Elections under the laws of Illinois, the Judicial Committee, with the approval of the State Organizing Committee, shall amend these Bylaws only in order to conform to law. In addition to the changes included in the above, an additional amendment is proposed: The Party Secretary be authorized to correct format, numbering, spelling and grammar that preserves the intent of the bylaws.

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Where Does My Local Chapter Meet?

Your Guide to "Where and When" Libertarians meet throughout the State!

DuPage Libertarians meet at Alberto's in the Holiday Inn on the SW corner of North and Gary Avenues in Carol Stream. Socializing starts at 6:30 and the meeting runs from 7 - 8:30pm. For more information, call 630-876-1935 or visit: www.DuPageLibertarians.org.

Fox Valley Libertarian Party (FVLP) meets at Barone's Pizza & Restaurant (3 Lakewood Plaza) in Carpentersville the last Wednesday of each month. Social hour begins at 7:00pm with optional dinner, followed by the business meeting at 8pm. For more information call 847-551-1930 or visit: www.fvlp.org

Libertarian Party of Chicago (LPC) meets at Goose Island Brewing Co. at 1800 N. Clybourn in Chicago on the second Tuesday of each month (5:30pm socialize and 6pm business meeting). For more information call 877-LPC-VOTE or 312-409-2223 or visit: www.lpchicago.org

Libertarian Party of Cook County-Northwest meets at the Silver Stallion Restaurant at 1275 Lee St. in Des Plaines on the second Sunday of each month (6:30pm/dinner optional, meeting at 7pm). For more info call 708-865-9170

Libertarian Party of Lake County

(LPLC) Meeting Dates and Location TBA
For more information call 847-438-7776 or visit lake.il.lp.org

Metro East Libertarians (MEL) meet at Southwestern Illinois College Belleville Campus in Conference Room 2260 located in the Main Complex, upstairs across from the Theater. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. For more information call 618-580-8779 or visit: www.mel-lp.org

Okaw Valley Libertarians (OVL) meet at Jay's Restaurant Vandalia. (730 W. Gochenour St) the second Thursday of each month at 6:30pm. For more information call 618-283-0888 or visit: www.okawvalleylibertarians.com

Southern Illinois Libertarians (SIL) meet in the Carbondale Civic Center, 200 South Illinois Avenue in Carbondale on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 2pm. For more information, call 618-303-1997 or visit: <http://sil.lpillinois.org>

Rockford Area Libertarians meet at Villa Di Roma Restaurant at Harrison Ave. and 11th Street in Rockford. Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 7th at 7pm. For more information call 815-874-6345 or visit: lprockford.8m.com

NEW Chapters to be Affiliated Pending SOC Confirmation:

Capital Area Libertarians (CAL) meet in the Lincoln Library's Bicentennial Room in Springfield. Meetings begin at 6pm and are held the second Wednesday of each month. For more information, call 217-529-6753.

Champaign County Libertarian

Party: For more information call 217-721-4002.

Wanting to start a Chapter in your area?
Call the LPI office for more information!

The Libertarian Current

The publication of the Libertarian Party of Illinois
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