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# The Connecticut Libertarian

The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut

August 2003

## 2003 Convention Hosts Great Speakers

Attendees at the Libertarian Party of Connecticut 2003 Convention enjoyed four engaging speakers and a forum on "Civil Liberties in the Post-911 Era." An outstanding buffet was served at mid-afternoon and again in the evening.

The keynote speaker, Gary Nolan, stressed the importance of reaching out to constituencies who have shared interests in one or more major LP issue. He discussed in particular the adverse impact of regulations on small businesses, and the appeal that the Libertarian Party can make to the owners of these businesses. His speech was filmed and some Libertarian Party members were interviewed by an independent producer who is documenting Mr. Nolan's race.

Mr. Nolan also participated on the forum with Mr. Richard Kosinski (former head of Solidarity International), and the other three speakers from the Convention. The

forum created a lively exchange between members of the audience and the panelists.

Teresa Younger, director of the Connecticut ACLU, spoke on the impact of the Patriot Act. As a result of



*Amanda Philips and Gary Nolan*

her speech and the forum, the Convention passed a resolution, included as a separate article in this newsletter, calling for repeal of the Act.

Amanda Philips, the regional representative for the Free State Project,

told the audience about the project and its status. The project seeks to build a "critical mass" of Libertarians who will move to a single, chosen state and influence politics within that state to further Libertarian Party goals. More detail is available at [www.freestateproject.org](http://www.freestateproject.org).

Libertarian Party of Connecticut member and law student Abe Arias described the lessons that he had learned from his 2002 "grassroots" campaign for State Representative. His stress was on door-to-door and event campaigning and on repeated campaigns to create a brand image for your candidacy.

This year's Convention, held at the Colony in New Haven, was an exceptional event. Many attendees commented on how much they enjoyed the forum and general program. Planning is already underway for Convention 2004, which will possibly be held as early as April.

## 2003 Convention Passes a Resolution TO REPEAL the PATRIOT ACT

On August 4th the State Chair of the Libertarian Party released the following resolution, adopted by the party membership at the 2003 Libertarian Party Convention held on July 12th, 2003:

*The Libertarian Party of Connecticut condemns the "USA Patriot Act" as a violation of fundamental rights. This Act substantially erodes the traditional American rights to privacy from government, protection from unreasonable searches and seizures, and due process of law.*

*We call for repeal of the "Patriot Act" and we oppose any further expansion of it.*

*We further hold that security does NOT require giving up rights. Indeed, true security depends on freedom, on self-responsibility, on self-defense.*

*The best way to stop terrorism is for the United States Government to stop interfering in the affairs of other nations, and to re-adopt the words of our first President, George Washington, who stated that the United States should pursue "peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations entangling alliances with none."*

See "Patriot Act" on page 2



## Chairman's Corner

by Lenny Rasch

This year, in conjunction with other independent parties, the Libertarian Party attempted to have legislation passed to create more reasonable ballot access in Connecticut. That effort was buried by the legislature.

As a result, we once again face a significant ballot obstacle for statewide offices. If we are to run a candidate for Senator and the chosen candidate for President, we will need to circulate petitions. We must have 7,500 valid signatures, or approximately 11,000 signatures in total.

These names can be collected anywhere in the state, starting January 1st. We can pay petitioners and/or get the signatures ourselves. We cannot, within reason, expect help from National.

We can also decide to "opt out" of these highly visible races. I don't believe that most members would prefer to skip these races, but it is an option.

Whatever decision we make, we need to start working on this issue now. In addition to the petitioning efforts, we must find a candidate who is willing to spend the time working statewide on the Senate race. He or she will need at least a small support staff.

Our position would be extremely enhanced by fielding two or more Congressional candidates each (figure about 2,200 additional signatures for each district). The Senate and Congressional candidates could campaign with one another, and with local State Representative candidates.

We need to line up the candidates and the volunteers NOW! Long-term planning is vital to this kind of an effort. Start now, by attending SCC and strategy meetings. Give us your input. And plan ahead now, to help with your time, money, or both in the 2004 elections. Let's make a real impact in these crucial times.

# Summary of the Convention Minutes

LPCT balance on hand was \$2,150.00, before completion of convention receipts and payments. Convention advertising drive raised \$520.00, which was not utilized. Checks are being held and donors will be contacted with options, including return of checks if desired.

The State Central Committee size was set to ten members. Seven members were accepted to the SCC: Dawn Lincoln, Richard Lion, Ken Mosher,

Lenny Rasch, Linda Rasch, Andrew Rule, and Tony Stelik.

Richard Connelly and Al Neves filled the expiring positions on the Judicial Committee.

There were no by-laws changes.

At the LPSCC meeting that followed, Carl Richardson was appointed to the SCC and all four of the 2002-3 officers were re-elected for 2003-4. All other business was tabled until the August 19th meeting.

## Patriot Act

*Continued from page 1*

The resolution was sparked by the appearance of the American Civil Liberties Union's Connecticut Director, Teresa Younger. Ms. Younger spoke to the assembly about violations of Constitutional guarantees under the Fourteenth and other Amendments arising from the passage of the Patriot Act. The ACLU has a number of legal challenges nationwide to the Act.

Ms. Younger noted that any communication, any home, any business can be searched by Federal agents, without a court order. Under the Act, the property owner does not have to be notified of the search. Property may be seized and persons may be incarcerated without due process, legal representation, or habeas corpus. The definition of terrorist activities is so broad as to invite abuse toward anyone who opposes any government policy.

## MEETINGS & NOTICES

### State Central Committee Meeting - Tuesday, August 19, 2003

The monthly Libertarian Party of Connecticut State Central Committee meeting will be held at the Town Hall in Wethersfield on Tuesday, August 19th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting is open to members and to the public.

#### Agenda:

*Minutes*

*Treasurer's Report*

*Political Director's Report*

*Membership Report*

*Communications Report*

*Old Business:*

*Outreach Activities*

*Advertising in College Papers*

*Strategy Session Scheduling*

*New Business:*

*Support Activities for Municipal Races*

*Races*

*Convention Video*

*Convention 2004*

*Outreach Events*

*Ballot Access Drive 2004*

#### Directions:

From North: I-91 South to Exit 28 (See Rt. 5 & 15 South).

From South: I-91 North to Exit 28 (See Rt. 5 & 15 South).

From East: I-84 West to Exit 57 (See Rt. 5 & 15 South).

From West: I-84 East to I-91 South, to Exit 28

(See Rt. 5 & 15 South).

Route 5 & 15 South: Take Exit 85 (Route 99/Silas Deane Hwy) South.

At the 4th traffic light, turn right onto Church St. Turn into first driveway on left.

**August 17th, 2pm - 6pm, Masonic Temple, Main St., Meriden** - Arline Dunlop will kickoff her mayoral campaign with a party (it's also her birthday). Other LP candidates are invited to speak, and all Libertarian Party supporters are encouraged to come. Food will be provided.