The Libertarian Party of New Hampshire added to their impressive list of political achievements during the last month. Some highlights:

- **Miriam Luce**, the LPNH candidate for governor in 1990 and '92, officially won confirmation to the State Liquor Commission on September 17th. The vote by the state Executive Council was 4-0, with one abstention.

  Luce had been nominated by Republican Governor Steve Merrill, who was prohibited by law from selecting another Republican for the committee. It was widely assumed he would nominate a Democrat, and his choice of Luce shocked the state's political establishment.

  Luce had blasted the State Liquor Commission during her gubernatorial campaigns, calling it the “biggest drug dealer in the state.” Rumors are flying that her appointment may lead to serious study of the merits of privatizing the Commission.

- **NH Libertarian State Representatives** are hard at work preparing bills for the next legislative session.

  House Libertarian Leader Don Gorman (L-Deerfield) is drafting a bill to repeal the Republican-backed Business Enterprise Tax, which had widened the state’s corporate tax. “It should be repealed because it is nothing but a broad-based income tax under a different name,” charged Gorman.

  Meanwhile, Andy Borsa (L-Pelham) is proposing a new law to make it tougher for the state to seize property from suspected drug dealers. “Revenue from forfeitures can be as addictive as the drugs themselves,” warned Borsa. Newspaper reports noted that Borsa asked: “How much freedom should we give up in the interests of security?”

- **The LPNH was the focus of a nationally distributed Associated Press story** about the growth of the Libertarian Party. The article noted that the LP has “slowly gained ground,” and has “become more than an anomaly” in the “Live Free Or Die” state. [See clipping on page four.]

- **The LPNH is actively contesting four races** in this off-election year. Erich Zimmerman is running for Alderman in Manchester; Gary Flanders has mounted a challenge for City Council in Somersworth; Paul Siegler has announced his campaign for City Council in Concord; and Eric Postpischil will be competing in a special House election in Nashua. “The successes of the LPNH prove we can win,” said Postpischil.

- **Steve Merrill became the first seated governor in the USA to address an LP gathering** on September 8th, when he spoke before a packed crowd of more than 150 people. Merrill’s appearance was described as a “love fest” by a local newspaper, which also wrote that the GOP leader “flattered the Libertarians, painting them as dogged idealists unswayed by political rhetoric.”

  When asked by one man if he’d consider switching to the Libertarian Party, Merrill said, “I’d be delighted to think about it,” according to the Concord Monitor.

**Two more Libertarians get into public office**

- **LPers appointed in Nevada & Minnesota**

  Two more Libertarians joined the ranks of LP members serving in public office in September, when Sandy Harmon was appointed to the Tonopah Town Board in Nevada, and Francis Bauer was selected to sit on a Curriculum Advisory Committee in Minnesota.

  Harmon, the state chair of the Libertarian Party of Nevada, was tagged by Governor Bob Miller to fill a vacancy on the Tonopah Town Board. “This is a partisan elected office,” said Harmon. “I was appointed once before, but lost my re-election bid by a lousy 19 votes.”

  Harmon admitted he is delighted to be back in office, and said his appointment should serve as a lesson for other Libertarians. “I must admit there is an element of pride having beaten out three other community leaders — [even] for a position of questionable distinction,” he said. “I wish that more LPers would realize it takes community involvement and honest name recognition to get the ‘L’ label to become one of respect and accomplishment.”

  In Minnesota, Francis Bauer was appointed on September 27th to a three-year term on the Curriculum Advisory Committee of School District 196, which includes her hometown of Eagan.

  In her new non-partisan office, Bauer will review and recommend student performance level goals.
Libertarians seek to boost image by electing unionist as chairman

Indianapolis teacher says he'll work to dispel the party's anti-union perception.

Libertarian leader eyes wider impact

By Phil Brinkman

The Libertarian Party has elected an Indianapolis teacher union member as the new national chairman in a move members hope will boost the party's image with organized labor.

Steve Dasbach, a high school chemistry teacher from Indiana, said Sunday he will work to dispel the nagging perception that Libertarians are anti-union.

“There are anti-union, but we’re misunderstood,” said the 40-year-old member of the National Education Association and former president of the Fort Wayne, Ind., chapter. “It’s government interference we don’t like. We’re all for working men and women.”

The party’s third-largest political party ended its six-day national convention in Salt Lake City on Sunday. Some 800 delegates attended.

Dasbach said he was reared in a pro-labor family and his father still works as a plumber. The new chairman says he joined the union shortly after taking a job at the rural school where he has taught for 14 years.

“I basically told them there was an anti-union, said Bill Ervin, a Stanford University professor and veteran of the party’s platform committee. “But there’s much more diversity here than that. Officially, we’ve adopted a live-and-let-live attitude with labor.”

The party, established in 1971, supports the rights of individuals and wants to abolish virtually all forms of government authority.

“We’re pro-choice on everything, as long as you don’t hurt or defraud anyone else,” Gene Cisewski

Cisewski said most Libertarians believe drugs should be legal and dependency treated as a disease rather than a crime. Members favor planning and government spending guided by local charities supported by tax-deductible contributions.

Other priorities for the national party include reducing federal spending, lowering taxes, freeing up gun-packing groups, and lessening economic and social controls, Cisewski said. The party advocates because it receives fewer government subsidies in the form of Medicaid and Medicare but has managed to keep costs down through managed competitions.

Nationally, Libertarian candidates garnered 5 million votes in elections last year, Cisewski said. The party counts 3,000 dues-paying members, including 1,100 in Wisconsin.

Of the nine special elections held in Wisconsin since last November, Libertarians have won all but one.

While the party has seen success in the legislature, Cisewski said, “I think we’ve shown there’s a market out there for a third party.”
Her victory for the books

Candidate hopes to be first elected Libertarian

By KEN CHERVEN

Woodstock — Rebecca Wilber, who is running for Town Board in the November election on both the Republican and Libertarian lines, has a chance to make political history.

If Wilber wins a seat on the board, she would become the first Libertarian elected in the state of New York, which does not recognize the Libertarian Party, according to Dottie Lou Brokaw, Wilber’s campaign manager, who often has run as a Libertarian candidate for state and federal offices.

Wilber said at a recent news conference that government officials must be more responsive to the people who elected them. Wilber’s views on government parallel those of her husband, Daniel, a candidate for the Ulster County Legislature with Republican and Libertarian backing.

Wilber said she is running a bare-bones campaign, accepting no donations to her cause and asking would-be backers to give to the Alien Gold Memorial Fund, the Libertarian Party or their favorite charity.

Gold was an Onteora High School senior from Woodstock who died in an auto accident four months ago.

On the subject of school taxes, Wilber said she is alarmed at the growing school budgets in the face of a shrinking tax base.

With IBM scaling back and employees leaving the area, we are already seeing people losing their homes due to taxes,” she said.

Wilber wants county residents to pressure state Sen. Charles Cook, R-Ithaca, to introduce home-rule legislation allowing town governments a stronger voice in the county landfill problem.

Town budgets should be determined at least two years ahead, Wilber said, not just for the forthcoming fiscal year.

“Advanced budgeting gives more latitude in adjustments in spending,” she said.

U.S. Libertarian Party Slowly Gaining Ground

Granite State Is Home to Most Officeholders

By FRANK BAKER

CONCORD — The Libertarian Party has become more than an anomaly in New Hampshire, where the state motto of “Live Free or Die” fits well with the party’s credo of less government and more individual freedoms.

But can it grow enough in other states to win elections?

National party Chairman Steve Dasbach said Ross Perot has made voters look beyond Republicans and Democrats.

“I think discontent puts people in the frame of mind to look for alternatives,” he said. Time will tell whether Libertarians will benefit, “but I think we’re seeing the beginning of the process.”

Libertarians believe government’s role should be strictly limited to protecting citizens’ lives, constitutional rights and property. Among other things, the party advocates legalizing drugs and abolishing income taxes.

The party was formed in 1971, but members consider Thomas Jefferson the first Libertarian because he championed personal freedom.

Today’s Libertarians say the federal government has forgotten the ideals in the Bill of Rights and those Jefferson outlined in the Declaration of Independence. They have slowly gained ground in New Hampshire, home of the nation’s earliest presidential primary and often a bellwether for national politics.

Among their accomplishments:

- New Hampshire has the only four Libertarian state legislators in the nation, all in the 400-member House.
- In Manchester, the number of registered Libertarians has grown from 21 in October 1991 to 164 for this month’s primary. The party also is fielding its first aldermanic candidate in the November election.
- Last fall, gubernatorial candidate Miriam Luce received more than 20,000 votes, 4 percent of those cast, ensuring her party a spot on the 1994 ballot.
- This month, the Libertarian Party is fielding its first candidate for the New Hampshire State Senate.
- This month’s primary is the first Libertarian candidate to win a seat on the 1994 ballot.
- Libertarian petitions were certified this month, ensuring her party a spot on the 1994 ballot.
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But Luce said it’s not hard for people to accept Libertarian ideas like small government and more individual freedoms.

“We know big government doesn’t work and can never be made to work,” she said. “Libertarians are more centrist than Democrats and Republicans. We’re where most Americans are.”

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