



Libertarian Lines

The Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire

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2006 CONVENTION RECAP



Representative Neal Kurk



Senator Peter Burling



Chuck Douglas

We had a great day at the Red Blazer in Concord on Saturday, October 28th. Lots of new faces were there, which we always like to see. Plus quite a few non-members showed up to hear the various speakers. Believing that voluntary action is best for charity, we also collected a large box of non-perishable food items to donate to a local food pantry to help needy families during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Luncheon

Representative Neal Kurk (R-Weare) remarked that there is a small libertarian streak in the population and the legislature, and that big-L Libertarians can take advantage of it to protect and promote freedom.

He outlined the problems with Real ID and the latest he's been hearing across the country. How it is eerily similar to other efforts that claimed not to be for broad identification such as Social Security. The defeat of HB1582 in the senate was political, not philosophical. It was to avoid embarrassing Gregg, Bass and Bradley who all support Real ID. And to keep the \$3M earmark. And then there were the games played with the bill afterwards.

So, after the vote, the grant was still hanging out there, waiting for final approval of the fiscal committee and the Executive Council. In August, 3 Republicans reneged and the committee voted 8-2 to take the money. Governor Lynch so far has refused to put in on the agenda, but hasn't said he's outright opposed, he's waiting for the final regulations.

Most of the official opposition is over money and policy, not because it is wrong. The chair of Transportation

has said he'd be the lead sponsor on the bill next year. Kurk encouraged everyone to call all the candidates for rep and senator and ask them where they stand on this issue and then hold them accountable next year.

If New Hampshire is the first, others will follow.

Senator Peter Burling (D-Cornish) started with a bit of personal history. His dad was on the Enemy Alien Review Board in WWII and fought the Army and Navy on putting Americans into camps. He was hearing very similar themes during testimony this year.

Until the hearings in New Hampshire, no one had debated Real ID in public. He knew there were at least 5 votes in favor of the bill after the hearing. The full senate vote was a game of cards. Senator Sensenbrenner (WI) sent his chief of staff to muscle the GOP. The whole floor debate is on record. It became very clear that many good GOP senators had been browbeaten to vote against it.

Out of the blue senator Clegg formed an ad-hoc committee to study Real ID. It was made up of people in favor of Real ID. Burling was very pleased to see that 8 citizens also found out about the hearing and were there ahead of him. Clegg wants a record for the political process. We can't let them get away with this on the sly.

He said he'd co-sponsor the bill next session. He also shared that he got an amendment through on another bill so now a driver's license is an indication of a permit to drive a motor vehicle on the highways of New Hampshire, and nothing else.

The future of the party will be in good hands.

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Homeschooling

First up in the afternoon was a forum on homeschooling. The presenters were Domi O'Brien and Micheal Faiella.

Domi was partially homeschooled herself and homeschooled all 3 of her children in NH, PA and WA. She has a Masters in Education, which "only confirmed what I thought of the public school system." She's also a former board member of the NHCLU and has been an LP member since 1972.

Michael has been a public school teacher in Merrimack for 32 years. He's a homeschooling parent of 3, and as a teacher has insight into the advantages of homeschooling. He's also on the Home Education Advisory Council.

Domi reminded everyone that homeschooling is legal in every state and is the traditional method of education in this country. Private schooling is the 2nd tradition. In 1852 MA was the first state with mandatory public education and the last was MI in 1962. After WWI a move led by Protestants and Americanists against Catholics, which had lots of private schools, to mandate schooling started.

NH had a law that the state preferred you sent children to school unless it was an educational hardship. Homeschoolers used it, saying a 1:1 teacher-student was a better ratio than the public schools.

In 1973 was the original Claremont education case, when the district denied the right of parents to homeschool, insisting you had to be a certified teacher to homeschool. This is even beyond the requirement to teach at a private school.

The ACLU took up the case, battering the district. The state board ruled and took the parents' side. Domi remarked that afterwards one superintendent actually borrowed her materials for classes.

Michael said that by 1989 there were lots of problems and a great variety of ease and frustration for homeschooling families. In 1995 a Litchfield parent and local school board head had conflicting opinions. The court case led to very restrictive legislation introduced by a Claremont senator. So homeschoolers met and got a greatly revised bill through, which became 193A, set a uniform standard across the state, and was the policy until this year. The Advisory Council could address concerns of parents. HB406 repealed the scope and sequence requirement this year. There is still a tug of war with the Dept of Ed over this.

Michael thinks that homeschoolers are libertarian on many issues. Now the governor wants to extend the mandatory school age to 18. Homeschoolers fought against that.

There were many questions which followed.

So why homeschool? M i c h a e l sees it as a matter of individual liberty

and how you raise your children: by parents or by a government committee. For Domi, it was a lifelong choice, having experienced public and private education here and abroad. She saw great inconsistencies and bending to local political whims. Plus it is keeping with family and spiritual traditions.

Domi also noted that once the kids learned to read and write, they largely educated themselves with some direction. The bureaucracy cares about the age rather than a means test.

NH is the #1 per capita of adults with a high school education, yet the government wants to make it more compulsory.

What are top homeschooling goals? Smart kinds, happy kids and safe kids. Main goal has been to keep government away, no regulations. Homeschoolers are worried about doing something they don't have to do. The direct contact with reps helped to defeat SB268. A minority want more government services. There is a danger in asking for service, because then the camel's nose is under the tent, which could lead to more regulation.

"Just repeal more laws." Domi said many would prefer the old law for homeschooling and a return to the old compulsory laws of ages 7-14.

How to get involved as an educator/teacher? There is the North Atlantic Regional HS in Maine, but nothing like that in NH. Set up a program for homeschoolers like tutoring because parents teach their strengths so possible gaps may really need filling, especially for single parents who homeschool. Homeschooling families tend to be "poor", usually having just one income.

Homeschoolers can participate in after-school activities like band or sports, and also at local private schools. The Union Leader spelling bee is friendly to homeschoolers. There are spiritually affiliated homeschooling groups.

Until 1993 there were about 400 homeschoolers, and with 193A, the number keeps growing. It has leveled off recently, now at about 4200 with 50-100 added each year. Lots of people wish they could do it and want to, usually economic reasons are what stop them.



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For a free information package or to join call
800-559-5764 or 603-431-1618.
Visit our Web site: <http://www.LPNH.org>

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From The Editor

If you'd like a print copy of the newsletter, please send me your street address.

I'm always looking for stories, photos, news, events, etc that would be of interest to libertarians. Please send them in.

If you move, please send in your new address to ensure uninterrupted service.

Check your mailing label to see if your subscription is expiring and renew right away.

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Send your emails to LibLines@lpmh.org
or write to us at: PO Box 5293, Manchester, NH 03108

News from the Executive Board

- We've set a goal of 350 new members for the year.
- County affiliates are being organized, help take the lead on local organization.
- The newsletter is going electronic, please let us know if you want a print subscription.
- We have bought insurance required to run outreach booths for 2007, so sign up if you would like to get the word out.
- We will be making a decision to either stick with candidate petitioning or go for party-wide petitioning at the January board meeting.

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May I have your attention please!

In a move that surprised everyone, Sam Cohen got up and said he had an announcement to make. He got down on one knee and proposed to Annie Leger, who accepted after the shock wore off. Far as we can tell, this was the first marriage proposal made at a state LP convention.



Party Business

At the party's business meeting, we elected new officers, passed resolutions

and made a big change to the newsletter. If you like or dislike any of these ideas, come to the next business meeting and push for a change.

John Babiarz gave a rundown on the proceeding year. Good was success in our party order lawsuit (the ballot access suit was still pending). We got tired of complying with an unjust system that is designed to keep us out. Bad was not getting enough petitions for Rich Kahn, despite a solid last week of effort by a small group of activists. We are *still* having problems with towns not following the law on certification.

The future of the party will be in good hands. New ideas are coming and we'll see how the new board tackles the challenges of the coming year. "I look forward to growing the party membership and influence and working for positive change," he said in closing.

Candidates

It seems every month a new Libertarian throws his hat into the ring to be the LP's presidential nominee. This is a good thing, as it forces candidates to have some endurance and build up a base of support 2 years before the general election, which will be needed for our

party's candidate to gain some real traction with voters.

So far, declared candidates are: George Phillies, Doug Stanhope, Steve Kubby, Alden Link, Mike Gravel, and Christine Smith.

We had a very lively discussion with George Phillies and Mike Gravel who are both seeking the LP presidential nomination. Each candidate spoke and answered questions for 20 minutes. The issues ranged from the war in Iraq to education policy to the war on drugs. The members voted, and our second delegate vote will be pledged to George Phillies at the next national convention.

Who will get our next vote pledge? Find out at the next state convention!

New Officers

We had contested races for most of the executive board positions, something that hasn't happened in a while, and a sign of a healthy party. Starting at the top, Brendan Kelly beat Robert Kingsbury for Chair. Avens O'Brien ran uncontested for 1st district. Howard Wilson beat Chet Lapointe for 2nd district. Jim Perry beat Rich Kahn for Secretary. Sandy Pierre

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NH Libertarians Mailing List

A list for NH Libertarians to discuss news, issues, politics and ideas. It's already the second largest NH political yahoo group! <nhibertarians@yahoo.com>

Free State New Hampshire

Share your insights, news, events. Meet the porcupines and let out-of-state friends know about it. <freedom_in_new_hampshire@yahoo.com>

Northeast LP Discussion

A discussion list for LP Region 7 (New England, NY, NJ). Voice your concerns and opinions at LP_7@yahoogroups.com

Campus Libertarians, Advisors & Supporters

The new (and vastly improved) www.CampusLP.org is taking shape in a big way! The site includes discussion forums, events calendar, chat rooms, a downloads area with ready-to-print posters, and more!

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING



Recent developments which affect your life:

- The Fed will stop publishing how much money they're printing. The M3 report will cease to be released this month. Also reported, they ordered enough paper to print up two trillion federal reserve notes this year. Um, hello, can anyone say runaway inflation?
- The NH House/Senate Fiscal Committee voted to accept the Federal grant for the pilot program to bring NH into the RealID Act.
- Because some terrorists allegedly planned on hiding volatile explosives in sports drink bottles, you can now only carry small travel shampoos, drinks, contact lens solution or other common liquid items onto a plane within the US. Sadly, the airline industry won't object to treating air travelers like criminal suspects. Also, no one has been able to identify room-temperature stable liquids or gels that can be combined with no special equipment into a stable explosive, but let's not let that get in the way of new policies.
- Passports are now getting RFID chips.

LITIGATION UPDATE

On July 21st the LPNH finally had the Supreme Court hearings for the two cases we are involved in. The two cases involved ballot ordering and ballot access.

Ballot Order

On August 17, the court agreed with our case and declared the current law (RSA 656:5) unconstitutional. In various go-rounds with the Secretary of State and the Legislature, a randomization of parties by state senate district was agreed upon. And a method for picking a letter at random for the candidate ordering was also agreed to. There is a potential problem with the candidate sorting if there are multiple candidates with last names starting with the same letter, but that should be a simple improvement.

Ballot Access

The court waited until Thanksgiving to issue a decision on this case. They ruled that the current access statutes were constitutional. Just goes to show that no matter how the questions look in the courtroom, anything can happen behind the bench.

We're still looking through the decision to look for holes in the ruling. This was a surprise to us since federal courts have recently struck down ballot access thresholds as low as 2% as unconstitutional.

We will not rest, we will still work for reform in the legislature.



Just as our forefathers created a new nation out of the old, so must we create a new party...

The same old methods will not get us the results we want. It is time for a change, a time for something new.... We are asking you now to join the new "1776 Club" To join the club, just pledge at least \$17.76 per month to the LPNH. If you like, we'll even recognize you on our website and in the newsletter.

Club members will get a special event at our conventions. And all club members pledging for a full year will be granted a free ticket to our state convention. You may also become a life member of the "1776 Club" for a one time contribution of \$1776 or more, and get a 50% discount on all LPNH events and merchandise.



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beat Rhonda Keiper for Treasurer. And, of course, John Babiarz sailed to an easy win for Past Chair.

Resolutions

We passed resolutions in support of Questions 1 and 2 on the November ballot.

We also passed a motion to change the newsletter to a digital format, with the option for members to opt-in to getting a printed copy. There was a great deal of discussion over this, with arguments of cost, actual readership, marketing and more coming up. In the end, the members voted over 3-1 in favor of publishing the newsletter online and limiting the print run to those who specifically ask for a printed copy.

So, the long and short of it is, starting in January, if you want a printed copy of the newsletter, you'll need to send in a request, either to liblines@lphn.org, the main mailing address or leave a message at 397-3930.

Libertarian of the Year

This year the party named two libertarians of the year. The first, for his heroic efforts to get the good word about freedom out on the airwaves is Gardner

Goldsmith. The second, for doing an outstanding job petitioning, is Tim Harrigan of Merrimack. Congratulations to both of them, and to all the hard-working volunteers for liberty across the Granite State.

Dinner

Our dinner keynote speaker, former state supreme court justice and congressman Chuck Douglas, has been spearheading the effort to pass the constitutional amendment to limit eminent domain.

He led off his talk with the 1985 case of Merrill vs Manchester, which was a unanimous decision prohibiting the taking of property for private use. Fast forward to 2005 and the Kelo case. Souter votes just the opposite. In the intervening time in government circles public use has come to mean public benefit (kinda like how cherish has come to mean pay for).

On a Thanksgiving eve, Miss Kelo got a notice from the New London Development Authority stating her house had been taken. The decision set off a firestorm.

Mr Douglas said he was particularly offended since nothing had changed as far as the law was concerned. He wrote a Union Leader piece last summer "Not the Souter I knew" on this flip-flop. He co-

founded the Property Protection Alliance and pushed for an amendment. Since you can't trust government, he wanted simple clear language that wouldn't be misinterpreted. Once the government starts picking winners and losers there is no end to it.

The argument against the amendment is "can't tie the hands of government" or that current law and constitution covers this. For the latter, that is true in a limited sense, but statutes can be changed by a simple majority. The Amendment will prevent backsliding by the next legislature. Better safe than sorry. And it does not affect the federal government directly.

The case law is not as friendly on regulatory takings, so efforts to fix losses or provide exemption may not fare as well due to complexity. He thinks if Question 2 passes, it will be a good time to push for reforming regulatory takings. A lot of eminent domain is driven by federal funding, usually through HUD, which is a dirty little secret in government.

In other remarks, he reminded us that the Jury system exists to protect the rights of citizens. It is a daily check on government power. Two major efforts to limit the use of juries have been stopped, do not fall for any such argument in the future.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you can help with anything, please let us know. As we stated before, we're a volunteer organization and things only happen when people roll up their sleeves and get busy. Contact Jim Perry (jcperry@lpmh.org) for the latest list of projects and to share your expertise. Remember, this Party is as effective as *you* make it.

Membership Growth

The membership committee needs help with contacting prospects and lapsed members. Plus we are also searching for premiums to offer all our members. If you think growing membership is a good idea for the Party, please volunteer or send in a donation. Or better yet, sign up some friends. We've set a goal of 350 new members for the year.

FEBRUARY 23-25, 2007
**New Hampshire
 Liberty Forum**
 Attaining Personal and Economic
 Freedom in America's Freest State



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER
 John Stossel**

Register Now at:
freestateproject.org/libertyforum

FUNDRAISING

We have some good ideas for fundraisers, but not enough people to act on them. We need one or two members to spearhead fundraising efforts so we can have the resources we need to be more effective.

Membership Committee Reformed

After a lull in activity, the executive board has reformed the membership committee with the charge of bringing back old members and recruiting new members. The next effort will be more direct contact with current and soon-to-expire members.

The current membership committee is: Cathleen Converse, Don Converse, Philip Hodson, Bob Hull, Rhonda Keiper, and Rich Tomasso.

Platform Committee Formed

Partly in response to events at the national convention and partly because it kept coming up as a question, we have formed a committee, chaired by Ron Helwig, to look at writing an official platform for the LPNH. Initial plans are to make it a very simple document in line with our principles to be ratified at the next state convention. If you would like to help write this important document please contact Brendan Kelly.

LPNH Membership Options

As a reminder, your LPNH and LP-US memberships are separate. We left the Unified Membership Plan last year. This is a return to separate state and national memberships. Renewing your membership with national does not renew your state membership, and vis versa.

You can update your contact information and renew online at <www.lpmh.org/join.htm> or by calling 431-1618, or return the form on the back page of the newsletter.

In addition to the **family membership** option (\$40 per year for you, your spouse and/or children), and the **monthly pledger** program, (\$10/month or more, never have to worry about expiring), we have created a new **student membership** level for the LPNH.

Full-time students may join the party for only \$10 per year. That includes an electronic version of the newsletter and all the privileges that come with being a card-carrying Libertarian (students may get the print version of the newsletter by joining at the full \$25/year level).

We are working on creating membership premiums. If your business or organization would like to participate in this program, please contact the executive board.

Your membership dollars will be going to affect positive change in NH. We'll be using our resources to lobby for legislation, elect our candidates, grow the Party and for other political causes.

Form Your County Affiliate

To build a more effective organization, we want to form county affiliates within the LPNH. It will facilitate more local contact and political activity.

Organizing a county is easier than a state. It's easier to reach everyone and find a suitable meeting place and probably most people are in the local calling area. The LPNH already has provisions for recognizing Affiliates, you just need a group of 5 members in a county to form the organization and present your bylaws to the Exec Board. Jim Perry will personally help any group wanting to organize their county.

Local Groups

*Join a group today. Start one yourself!
Organizational help and speakers are available.*

Hillsborough Libertarians

Our first county affiliate! A discussion list has been set up to bring the local members together, Hillsborough-LPNH@yahoogroups.com

Merrimack Libertarians

Chet Lapointe invites folks in Concord and the rest of Merrimack County to form our second affiliate.

Monadnock Libertarians

James Maynard invites libertarians in Keene and the rest of Cheshire county to work for Liberty. They are presently working on organizing a county affiliate. For more information, please visit <www.monadnocklibs.org>, or e-mail monadnocklibs@keenenh.us

Seacoast Libertarians

Brendan Kelly of Seabrook has started a group for libertarians in the Seacoast area. Contact him at 474-8283 or bkelly@lpmh.org to join in.

Candidate CD Available

By George Phillies

George Phillies and Bonnie Scott have prepared a candidate support CD-ROM. This disk contains almost 20 Megs of material, including sets of web pages, video clips, handouts, and advice articles. No matter whether you are running for local office, trying to set up a county or town organization, raising money, or petitioning, the CD has information you can use.

The disk is available to all libertarian candidates by request to George Phillies, 508-754-1859 or phillies@4liberty.net (your papermail address is needed). The disk is free, but donations to support distribution costs will be appreciated.

Please make checks payable to the Liberty Congressional PAC, and include your name, address, occupation and employer. Donations are not tax deductible.

Upcoming Events

Every Wednesday

Freedom Forum discussion group at Borders in Nashua, 7pm to 9pm. <ff.ijaq.net>

Every Friday

Left, Right & Correct with Dan Belforti, 106.1FM at 11am and Noon.

January 8

LPNH presents Gardner Goldsmith: "Promoting Freedom in the Live Free or Die State" at Manchester Library, 7:00pm.

January 14

LPNH monthly board meeting. 6PM in Manchester. RSVP to aobrien@lpmh.org

January 19

Education Funding and the NH Constitution. 8:30-11:30am at Capitol Center for the Arts, \$10. www.jbartlett.org to register

February 11

LPNH monthly board meeting. 6PM in Manchester. RSVP to aobrien@lpmh.org

February 22-25

NH Liberty Forum, at Holiday Inn, Concord. www.freestateproject.com for details. LPNH will have outreach table and hospitality suite.





Libertarian Party

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**2006
Convention
Recap** see page 1

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