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► NEWSLETTER

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LPNH adds to gains with Luce confirmation, campaigns, and a visit from the governor

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 "It should be repealed because it is nothing but a broad-based income tax under a different name," charged Gorman.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 home town of Eagan.

In her new non-partisan office, Bauer will review and recommend student performance level goals.

Libertarians pick leader

Cisewski to re-energize party

By Phil Brinkman
Wisconsin State Journal

Gene Cisewski of Madison has been named the new national director for the Libertarian Party. Cisewski (pronounced "sha SEV ski"), a direct marketing specialist with CUNA Mutual Insurance Group, will move to Washington, D.C., next month to take over supervision of the party's national staff. Cisewski currently serves as vice chairman of the state Libertarian Party.

As national director, Cisewski will be paid \$65,000 a year and work under party Chairman Steve Dasbach of Fort Wayne, Ind.

Cisewski's appointment by the Libertarian National Committee last week was one result of a conference aimed at re-energizing the party, which may be small but ranks third behind the Democrats and Republicans.

Another result will be to correct what Cisewski called a "fundamental flaw" of the party, which was to concentrate on fielding candidates for president and other high-level races.

"What we're doing is turning it around and re-engineering it from a grass-roots level," he said.

Cisewski, 36, said one of his top priorities will be establishing better media relations and getting the party's message out. That message: "We're pro-choice on everything, as long as you don't hurt or defraud anyone else. The government should be out of the way."

How that policy plays out can be confusing for some who are comfortable with the standard positions staked out by the two dominant parties, Cisewski said.

Libertarians are staunchly opposed to gun control legislation, for example, but are equally in favor of gay and lesbian rights. Cisewski said party members found "abhorrent" last week's ruling by a Richmond, Va., judge who denied child custody to a mother because she is a lesbian.

"You have government trying to do the job of the churches instead of the churches doing it from their pulpits," Cisewski said.

While the party is divided on abortion, a majority supports abortion rights, feeling "the jurisdiction of one's body should be one's own choice," Cisewski said.



'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 legalized and dependency treated as a social problem instead of a crime. Members also favor phasing out government welfare and replacing it with local charities supported by tax-deductible contributions.

Other priorities for the national party include recruiting new members, especially from the ranks of pro-gun groups, gays and lesbians, economists and dentists. Cisewski said the party admires dentists because they receive few government subsidies in the form of Medicaid and Medicare but have managed to keep costs down through managed competition.

Nationwide, Libertarian candidates garnered 2.5 million votes in elections last year, Cisewski said. The party counts 15,000 dues-paying members, including 1,100 in Wisconsin.

Of the nine special elections held in Wisconsin since last November, Libertarians have fielded candidates in seven of those races, Cisewski said.

"I think we've shown that we can break away from the 'Republicans'."

CONVENTION

Libertarians seek to boost image by electing unionist as chairman

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

Associated Press

The Libertarian Party has elected an Indiana teachers union member as its 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 Liber-

tarians are anti-union.

"We're misunderstood," said the 40-year-old member of the National Education Association and former president of the NEA's Fort Wayne, Ind., chapter. "It's government intervention we don't like. We're all for working men and women."

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

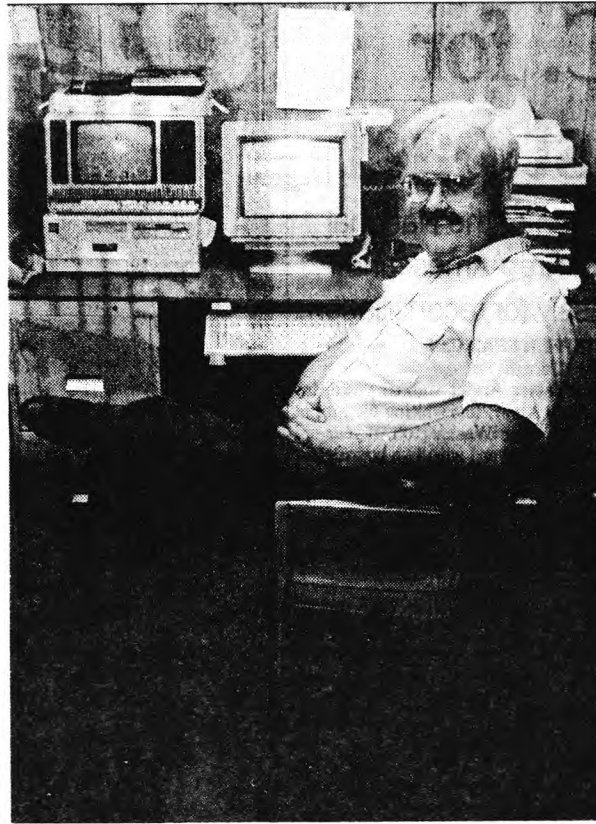
Dasbach said he was reared in a pro-labor family and his father still works as a plumber. The new

chairman says he joined the union shortly after taking a job at the rural high school where he has taught for 14 years.

"People just assume we're anti-union," said Bill Evers, 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.

Libertarian leader eyes wider impact



► Steve Dasbach hopes to transform his party into a political force.

By BOB CAYLOR
of The News-Sentinel

By day, he teaches physics and chemistry at Whitko High School. After school, while other teachers are coaching football and cross country, Steve Dasbach does his best to coach a revolution.

If he succeeds, governments in the United States would be stripped down to something neither New Democrats nor old-fashioned Republicans ever dreamed of. There would be no taxes, no laws against drug possession or porno perusal, no U.S. soldiers stationed on foreign soil, no banking regulations, no Federal Reserve System and no U.S. Postal Service.

No kidding. Dasbach, 40, who lives in Aboite Township, was elected national chairman of the Libertarian Party last weekend. He's been a member since the late 1970s, and in 1980, '82, '84 and '86, he ran unsuccessfully for state representative, Indiana secretary of state, superintendent of public instruction and the U.S. House of Representatives, respectively.

Now, from a cubbyhole of an office in the basement of his home, he's trying to transform his party from a social theorists' debating society into a political force.

When Dasbach first heard about the Libertarian Party, not long after its founding 22 years ago, he recognized it was the label he'd never been able to find for his own political beliefs.

"I knew enough to know that I didn't fit the definition of a conservative," he said.

He marched against the Vietnam War, opposed conservatives' attempts to regulate personal behavior and campaigned for Democrat George McGovern during the 1972 presidential election. But he was never comfortable with liberals' tendency to redistribute wealth.

"When Republicans are in power, there's more emphasis on attacks on consensual crimes," he said, referring to "victimless" crimes such as prostitution, pornography and certain illegal sexual acts.

"If the Democrats are in power, there's more emphasis on attacks on the family budget."

Stripped to its bones, Libertarian doctrine isn't too complex: Government shouldn't do any more than it absolutely has to. Libertarian purists think government doesn't need to do much more than guard the borders against foreign invasion and operate courts.

Since the '70s, spreading that message and small variations on it has been the notable achievement of Libertarian candidates. Libertarians running for the presidency and congressional seats have become staples of election-year talk shows, magazines and newspapers, where their provocative and often witty arguments can offer a breather from weeks of two-party debate.

Libertarians support a person's right to join unions but believe an employer also should have the right to recognize or refuse to recognize unions as collective bargaining agents.

The party believes governments should stay out of labor relations. For instance, it criticizes the use of police during the Great Depression to break strikes and disperse boycotting workers. Nowadays, it opposes state mandates requiring school districts to bargain with teachers' union representatives.

The party also urges the repeal of the National Labor Relations Act and state right-to-work laws, including Utah's, which prohibit employers from making voluntary contracts with unions.

"Utah's right-to-work law is really a right-to-fire law," said Bob Waldrop, Salt Lake County party chairman. "We're the only major political party working to repeal it."

They've been dynamic talkers, but when it comes to winning, they don't have much to show for 20 years of campaigning. About 50 Libertarians nationwide hold elected or appointed offices, Dasbach said. The highest Libertarian-held offices are four seats in the New Hampshire House of Representatives.

In the past, Libertarians haven't won offices because they're Libertarians. They've won on the strength of their reputations in the communities where they live, Dasbach said. Now the party needs to concentrate on finding well-known and respected people to run for office as Libertarians, and to prove they can govern effectively after they're elected.

He knows he faces a tough course in trying to convince a party that wants to change the world to work on changing zoning ordinances first, but he's convinced that Libertarianism's best opportunities are local.

"It's at the federal level where the abuses are the greatest, but as someone once said, you've got to build your army before you go to war," he said.

The chameleons of politics

□ Libertarian leader says his group can lean left and lean right at the same time

Editor's note: "In the Heartland" is a weekly feature profiling folks who do their living, working and dreaming in central Illinois without a lot of fanfare. These are neighbors and co-workers all with a unique story to tell.

By DAVID MOLL
of the Journal Star

PEKIN — Born and raised in Pekin, Scott Tillman absorbed right-wing conservatism at the dinner table.

"My first vote, shamefully, was for George Wallace," he says.

Then he went to college. The day his father dropped him off at Illinois State University, two students walked by, sporting long hair and pants designed like the American flag.

"If you want to look like that," his father told him, "don't come home."

"I didn't come home for six months," says Tillman, 41. Expose populist conservatism to early '70s campus radicalism, and you might end up with a Libertarian. At least, that's what happened to Tillman, an electronics technician, the father of three and current chairman of the Illinois Valley Libertarian Association.

Tillman read Ayn Rand, the patron saint of Libertarians, in high school. But it wasn't until 1976 that he became acquainted with the party and realized there was an organization that reflected his beliefs.

Libertarians believe the government's reach has grown far longer than the Founding Fathers ever intended.

"They don't think government should be interfering in the marketplace — whether in the form of the Federal Reserve, minimum wage laws or any of the agencies designed to regulate business. Most government services can and should be privatized, they think."

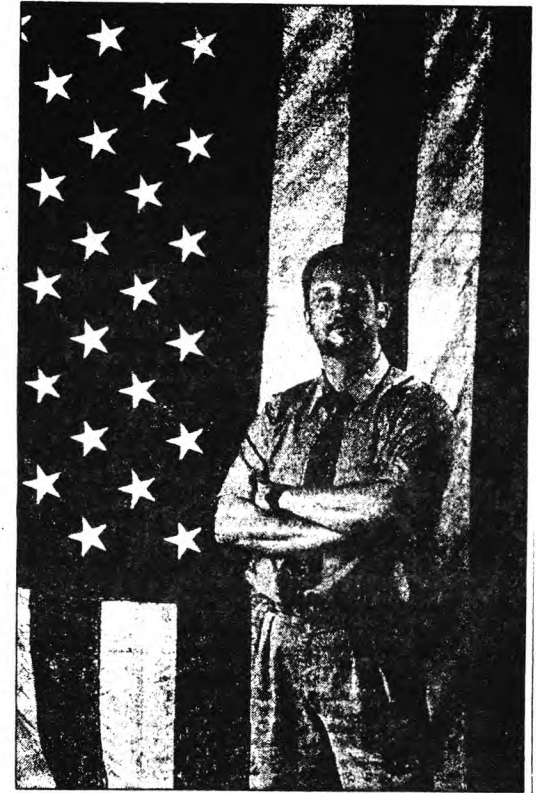
Nor should there be laws governing questions of individual choice — such as drug use, sex between consenting adults, or whether to wear a seat belt.

Thus, Tillman can resemble a New Hampshire conservative one minute — equating taxation with theft — and a leftist the next, calling the drug wars an exercise in fascism.

But if that seems inconsistent to you, he suggests, maybe you're the one with the perception problem.

"Politics is not a linear function," he says. "It's not either left or right."

No one can accuse the Libertarians of sacrificing principle for political expediency. Since its inception in the early '70s, the party has seldom been seen in the halls of government, ex-



Scott Tillman stands in front of an American flag for a portrait. Tillman of Pekin chairs the Illinois Valley Libertarian Association.



cept for a few seats in a few state legislatures.

Plus — for four years during the 1980s — a seat on the Marquette Heights Village Board, occupied by Tillman himself.

He ran unopposed for the seat. The night he was sworn in, he says, there was a public hearing on a proposed increase in the tax levy.

"I basically told them there was no reason (for the levy) to go up," he says. "If people recognized the need (for more

services), they'd probably get the job done with their own resources, as well as the city's."

Tillman spent much of his term trying to get volunteer groups to take on services normally paid for with tax dollars. He says he did get a user fee instituted at a park pavilion — which, being a voluntary fee, is something of which a Libertarian would approve.

After four years, though, he decided village government wasn't where he wanted to be.

"Most of the people went around looking for reasons to spend money, basically to justify their existence," he says.

The IVLA, at this point, is as much a social group as anything else, Tillman says. But its members are starting to talk about running a candidate for county or city office.

"It's all to be hammered out and discussed," he says. "Somebody's got to actually stand up there and do it, which is the toughest part."

Her victory would be one for the books

Candidate hopes to be first elected Libertarian

By **KEN CHERVEN**
Correspondent

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.

Woodstock

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 Alison 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-Ielhi, 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.

Daily Freeman (Kingston, New York)
September 19, 1993

U.S. Libertarian Party Slowly Gaining Ground

Granite State Is Home to Most Officeholders

By **FRANK BAKER**
Associated Press Writer

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 credo of less government and more individual freedom.

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 the voter 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.
- Earlier this month, Republican Gov. Steve Merrill became the first sitting governor of any state to address a Libertarian gathering.

But the party's biggest recent accomplishment was Merrill's selection of Luce, 44, as one of the three commissioners who run the state liquor monopoly, one of the state's largest revenue sources. Confirmed this month, Luce is the first Libertarian in the country to hold a statewide office.

"This is an excellent opportunity for me personally and the party to gain credibility," Luce said.

Critics said Luce sold out on her Libertarian ideals by taking the job. Dasbach isn't one of them.

He said the appointment — and the decision by U.S. Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, to address the party's national convention in Salt Lake City earlier this month — shows Libertarians are being taken more seriously.

There are about 150,000 registered Libertarians. The number would be higher, but voters are able to register as Libertarians in only 20 states.

The party ran its first Presidential candidate in 1972, and elected its first state representative in 1978 when Dick Randolph won a seat in Alaska.

In 1980, Presidential candidate Ed Clark received nearly 1 million votes, thanks in large part to Vice Presidential candidate David Koch's willingness to spend his own money on advertising.

In the last Presidential election, Libertarian Andre Marrou received just under 300,000 votes. But Libertarian candidates for statewide offices and Congress received a total of 3.7 million votes, a record for the party.

In every election since 1972, the number of votes



AP Photo
LIBERTARIAN Miriam Luce poses at a state liquor store in Concord.

cast for Libertarian U.S. House and Senate candidates has increased, Dasbach said.

"I think the willingness to consider alternatives won't change," he said. "People used to vote straight tickets, but few do any more. Once people recognize there's an alternative, they will continue to do it."

Nationwide, Libertarians hold about 100 political offices, ranging from voter registration clerk to city council to state representative. New Hampshire has the most officeholders, 16, followed by California with 12.

Despite the party's gains and the Perot phenomenon, some political analysts don't see a bright future for the party. Richard Winters, a professor of government at Dartmouth College, said it is no more likely to flourish than a number of other third parties active in various states.

He said the main reason for the Libertarians' emergence in New Hampshire is its reputation as an anti-tax state. New Hampshire and Alaska are the only states without general sales or personal income taxes, and that appeals to Libertarians, he said.

New Hampshire also is predominantly white, and Libertarians are predominantly white, well-educated and middle- or upper-middle-class.

"I think for the next 10 years there will be a slow, almost imperceptible, growth in the Libertarian Party," Winters said. "But there won't be any boom. It's not in any citizen's rational interest to devote as much thought as it requires to be a Libertarian."

But Luce said it's not hard for people to accept Libertarian ideas like small government and more individual freedom.

"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."