

The Connecticut Libertarian

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The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut

www.lpct.org

Chairman's Corner

by Leonard Rasch

Welcome to 2002! In this new year we are provided with another opportunity for statewide exposure in the fall election. This time the State races will have special significance.

To be placed on the ballot for each of the State offices, we must have at least one percent of the total votes cast for each office. We met this objective for two offices four years ago, but we are still forced to circulate petitions for the other four offices in 2002.

Most of the signatures for ballot access are collected by paid petitioners. Our limited budget is mostly directed to this effort, since we cannot be in the race unless we are on the ballot.

This year we want to make a special effort to achieve the 1% ballot status for each of the six offices. This would enable us, four years from now, to spend all of our budget and energies on the actual campaign. If we can achieve this, we will have a very successful year in 2002, and a really great year in 2006!

Volunteers within the party are taking on responsibilities for creating a campaign infrastructure. This means that the Libertarian Party of Connecticut will be able to provide the services - publicity, scheduling, research, etc - that the State candidates will need. The candidates will then be able to concentrate on campaigning and have a much better impact by doing so.

There are quite a few "positions" that still need to be filled. You became an LP member because you wanted to promote the ideas and policies that the LP represents. You can only do that by participating; by helping, even just an hour or two a week, with the campaign effort and/or financially, we can succeed. Please contact any of the Committee members listed on the lpct.org website and tell us how much time you can commit. You will be amazed at what we can achieve - together - and organized - in 2002!

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Party Ramps Up for 2002 Elections

by James Madison

EAST HAMPTON—At the December strategy session, members of the LPCT had a productive discussion about what it takes to run a solid campaign.

The conclusion? We need three things: a goal, a plan, and the people to turn the plan into action.

We agreed that our primary goal was to gain a high profile during the statewide campaign – focusing particularly on the Gubernatorial race. As it stands, we still don't have a candidate for governor, but several possibilities are being researched.

The second major component was the plan. A great deal of progress was made on this front. The group concluded that specific roles and tasks needed to be defined. Once defined, it would be much easier to encourage volunteers to visualize specifically how they could contribute to our success.

The final component was getting volunteers to take the tasks. This is where you can help. We have several energetic key volunteers, but we need more.

The best way to join in is to come to a meeting, and:

This month you have two opportunities to attend party meetings!

On the back are meeting notices for both an SCC meeting and a special strategy session. Join us!

As for ways you can help that were mentioned above...you may be wondering what they are. Keep an eye out for a future newsletter. We'll let you know.

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Special Interest Groups Bombard Candidates

by James Madison

Everyone knows that special interest groups control the political process, but just how bad is the problem? One way to measure this is by weighing what the average candidate for state office receives in the mail from these groups.

Below are two lists from the 2000 election cycle. The first list is from organizations that want power. The second is from those wanting freedom. Just notice the difference in length!

More Government:

- Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). They just want to be free to do business, right? No, they want corporate welfare.

- National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL). Abortion is a bit tricky from a libertarian perspective, but this is not about choice. NARAL wants you to pay for other people's choices.

- Connecticut Alliance for Arts Education. What kind of education? Why, government-run education, of course.

- AFL-CIO. They ask if you support the right to join a union. Of course we do. But what about the right to not join? Don't go there with these folks.

- UAW. Same as above.

- Filthy Five. Their goal is to clean the five dirtiest power plants. That might be supportable since air crosses borders; but they make no attempt to utilize free-market environmentalism, just government.

See Groups, Page 2

- League of Women Voters. Women... voting... sounds like Mom, baseball, and apple pie. But read their objectives. Karl Marx would have been proud.

- Connecticut Community-Technical Colleges. They claim to train students for the real world. Imagine the training they could have gotten if their parents weren't paying 47% of their income in taxes for the last two decades.

- Connecticut Association of Boards of Education. Mention that children educated in non-governmental systems consistently outperform the government students, and watch the excuses roll.

Less Government:

- Project Vote Smart. Well, they don't exactly advocate smaller government, but they try to advocate democracy in a neutral way. While this does not necessarily promote limited government, at least it isn't blatantly pro-government.

- Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America. Finally! An organization that asks nothing more than to be left alone. Their letter asks that the candidate if elected leave the pharmaceutical industry alone. In making this request, they ask for no money and no special favors. It's almost a miracle.

As a candidate for public office, we can help to open the minds of some of these special interest groups by responding to every survey that we receive – just remember to keep your back straight and lift with your legs if you ever try to lift the pile!

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Doing Something? Write about it!

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The Connecticut Libertarian welcomes submissions from members. Articles of 300 to 500 words with photographs are ideal. Send submissions or inquiries to TCL@lpct.org.

Special Strategy Session Being Held

In keeping with the goal of making the 2002 statewide races a high-profile success, the LPCT will be holding an extra strategy session in January. This will be in addition to the normal SCC meeting.

Normally, the strategy sessions are held in even-numbered months, but more may be held throughout the campaign season as needed.

Meeting Notice: SPECIAL SESSION. A special strategy session will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 12th at the home of SCC member Ken Gordon at 195 Hubbard Ave. in Stamford. Call 203-975-1202 if you get lost on the way. Everyone is welcome. The agenda will focus on the 2002 races, but other topics may be spun in. The session will end at 5:30, and an optional group outing to a local restaurant is planned.

Directions:

Take I-95 or the Merritt Parkway heading toward Stamford, then:

- From I-95, take exit 6.
- Follow blue and white "H" signs for Stamford hospital.
- After "Quiet Hospital Zone" sign, ignore "H" sign with right arrow to emergency room and go straight to light.
- Hospital and parking is on your right, light is at Hubbard Ave. Go left onto Hubbard Ave.
- Go through next light.
- Third (or 4th?) street on right is Pellom Place with yellow "No Outlet" sign on sign post.
- Go right on Pellom Pl., park, and come in from first driveway on left through the back door.

- From Merritt, take exit 34 or 35 (35 from the north), High Ridge Rd.
- Turn right under highway and follow "H" signs for hospital.
- From High Ridge Rd., I believe the "H" signs ultimately bring you onto Bridge St. past Scalzi Park; take a left onto Hubbard Ave.
- Pellom Place is the 2nd left up hill on Hubbard.
- If you find yourself at Stamford Hospital, turn away from hospital on Hubbard Ave. (going north) and follow directions above.

Meeting Notice: The SCC will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15th, at the Wethersfield Town Hall, 505 Silas Deane Highway (Route 99) in Wethersfield. All members welcome. Agenda:

- Minutes of last meeting
- Treasurer's Report
- Chairman's Report
- Current Business
- New Business

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.