



The Connecticut Libertarian

The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut

June 2004

www.lpct.org



Chairman's Corner

By Lenny Rasch

A Perspective on the 2004 Elections and Beyond

This year's elections provide a unique opportunity for the Libertarian Party, both nationally and locally. Increased media coverage of the Convention included an appearance on Washington Weekly for Badnarik; over a dozen interviews for Badnarik and Campagna in the first day after their nomination; and even a significant, if small, piece in the Washington Post.

Many Republican fiscal conservatives are disappointed in George Bush's expanding deficit. In addition, voters from both of the major parties are disgusted with the constant attacks on individual rights, including the Patriot Act, which are launched from both parties.

The Libertarian Party should be on the ballot in 49 states, and perhaps all 50. Ralph Nader will be fortunate to get to 35. Looking at the 2000 states figures for President, Bush is very vulnerable to a strong Libertarian Party effort. It is very possible (see, e.g., cbsnews.com) that the Libertarian Party can remove Bush from

See Chairman's Corner on page 2

Connecticut Libertarians Help Choose Presidential Candidate

Five Connecticut Libertarians participated in the exciting 2004 Libertarian National Convention, held in Atlanta, Georgia on May 27-31. The cliffhanger vote, televised nationwide by C-Span, provided an unforgettable experience for all of them.

The delegates included Rich Connelly, Walter Gengarely, Evan Guttman, Bill Hamilton, and Lenny Rasch. They sat through an exciting few days of campaigning by the Presidential and other office candidates. All five delegates voted on ballots one and two for Gary Nolan, then voted on ballot three for Michael Badnarik.

Other races were also quite interesting. Richard Campagna won the Vice-Presidential spot. His campaign submitted a speaking schedule which includes an appearance at Connecticut College in New London on October 4th.

Lenny Rasch, State Chairman and Candidate for U.S. Senate,

made a five-minute address on C-Span for his campaign. The emphasis of his speech was on the value of Libertarian solutions as the only truly compassionate and caring solutions in the political arena.



Presidential contenders debate at the 2004 Libertarian Party National Convention

The new "problem and solution" format was adopted for the platform. A copy of this can be found at www.lp.org.

The financial condition of the national party is now quite sound. Most vendor bills are paid within terms, and the balance sheet is well into positive territory. Membership has increased for two consecutive months (and it is expected that May will be a third), finally reversing the post-2002 slide.

Connecticut is now a member of a "super-region", which includes states in the Northeast and Northwest. By agreement, each regional area will have it's own primary and alternate regional representative.



Presidential candidate Michael Badnarik fires up the attendees with his acceptance speech

Chairman's Corner

continued from page 1

office, and return the country to the deadlock of a Republican congress and a Democratic president.

Should the Republican Party lose the presidency this fall, they are certain to shift to the left in order to compete with John Kerry in 2008. As they shift to the left, a large number of Republicans will have no place to go – except to the Libertarian Party. In 2008, the Libertarian Party could make its move into the position of a major party.

This scenario is already unfolding. It is the best opportunity that the Libertarian Party has had since it was founded in 1971.

If you are not already active – and a contributor – become so this year. 2004 promises to lay the base for major gains for the Libertarian Party across the next few years.

Petitioning Efforts

Petitioning efforts are underway in Connecticut. By the time that you receive this newsletter, there will be only about seven weeks left in which to accumulate the 12,500 signature total that is needed for ballot access.

A petitioning web page is setup on the Libertarian Party of Connecticut website, www.lpct.org. Please check this out to get information on how to

petition, the status of current petitioning, and even a petition form that you can print if your printer has 14" paper.

Please contribute all that you can in terms of signatures and funds. Any excess funds will be applied to campaigns in the late summer and fall. It is vital to our party to get on the ballot, and to bring the President and Vice-Presidential candidates to Connecticut this fall.

Campaign Social

We are planning a campaign social near the end of June. At this time we have not selected the location or time, and are open to suggestions. We would like to see as many Connecticut libertarians

as possible attend, so please e-mail any suggestions to vice-chair@lpct.org. Watch the www.lpct.org website for an announcement of location, date, and time for this event!

MEETINGS & NOTICES

State Central Committee Meeting - Tuesday, June 15, 2004

The monthly Libertarian Party of Connecticut State Central Committee meeting will be held at the Town Hall in Wethersfield on Tuesday, June 15th at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting is open to members and to the public.

Agenda:

*Minutes - Secretary
Treasurer's Report
Chairman's Report
Political Director's Report
Membership Report*

*Communications Report
Convention Report
Petitioning Report
Old Business:
Fund-raising Drive
Paid Petitioning*

*Old Business (cont.):
Recruiting Candidates
Cable Access Distributions
New Business:
Fair Arrangements
Other Events*

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.

Persons interested in attending campaign strategy meetings should consult www.lpct.org for locations and times, or subscribe to the activist list. Anyone who is interested in participating actively in the Libertarian Party should subscribe to the activist list. Anyone can subscribe to this list by going to www.lp.org/BeAnActivist.html and follow the directions listed