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The Connecticut Libertarian

The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut

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Chairman's Corner

By Leonard Rasch

In July, as noted in the neighboring article, the State Central Committee decided to forego the statewide petitioning. The focus now is to get Walter Gengarelly on the ballot in the Fifth Congressional District. This decision did not come easily, but all members' comments to-date have supported it.

In past years so much money has been expended in petitioning that nothing was left to wage a campaign. This is not the position that we wanted to be in this year.

The petitioning effort started late, primarily because we wanted the real candidate names on the ballot. The negotiations and interaction with the original gubernatorial candidate cost us valuable time. In the future we must remember to put "place-holder" names on the ballot and start petitioning in early January for all statewide and Congressional candidates.

This means that all of us must give early consideration to political races. Running for office can be an exciting experience. Yes, it will take some time, but it is the best opportunity that you can have for promoting Libertarian solutions.

All things being equal, we should recruit our state rep candidates for 2004 in the fall of 2003. This gives them time to organize their time, money, and support. With proper planning, the actual political campaign can be reasonable in its demands and rewarding in its outcome.

At the Convention in September I am going to propose long-range goals and suggest some parts of an underlying plan to reach them. I fully want and expect to elect a single State Representative within the next four years, and perhaps sooner. That one accomplishment would provide the political impact that we seek. I hope that you will join us, as a volunteer and also as a financial supporter, and help us reach these goals.

Focus On The Fifth

On July 16th the Libertarian Party of Connecticut State Central Committee voted unanimously to refocus funds and volunteer efforts on the Congressional Fifth District. Given limited funds and a shortfall in volunteer signatures, the State Central Committee decided that the Libertarian Party would benefit much more from a focus on the race in the 5th.

Libertarian Party candidates are campaigning for three statewide offices for which we hold Minority Party status. Darlene Nicholas is running for Secretary of State, Ken Mosher for Treasurer, and Lenny Rasch for State Comptroller. It is still very important that at least one of these races achieves one percent or more of the total vote, so the Libertarian Party can maintain its Minority Party status.

The Fifth District has repeatedly received national media attention. The race is contested by two incumbents,

Nancy Johnson (R) and Jim Maloney (D). This unique situation was created by Connecticut's loss of a Congressional seat and subsequent redistricting.

The value of this race is the potential for National media exposure as well as the possibility of being a "spoiler". Both candidates have solid "big government" voting records, so the outcome will have little consequence on public policy. The spoiler impact, however, tells the major parties that libertarian voters are a constituency that can have an impact.

The State Central Committee also decided to dedicate some funding and volunteer assistance to selected State Rep races. The type of support provided will be selected to advance Libertarian Party "branding", which is the first goal listed from the Libertarian Party National Strategy report. Volunteers and funds are both needed and welcomed.

Spreading The Word

Numerous Libertarian volunteers helped advance the cause of Liberty this month through Outreach booths. First, dedicated Libertarians staffed a booth at the North Stonington Fair for a hot and dusty four days. The focus of this booth was to collect signatures for the statewide candidates, and advance Libertarian Party branding. The Libertarian name was seen by thousands of fairgoers and numerous petitions were signed. We had the opportunity to meet many interesting people and had engaging discussions. Our second fair was the Connecticut Agricultural Fair in Goshen. This booth focused more on the Operation Politically Homeless (OPH) outreach. People were invited to take



North Stonington Fair: From left to right: Tony Stelik, Joe Knott, Ken Mosher, Darlene Nicholas, Linda Rasch, Lenny Rasch, Walter Gengarelly

the World's Smallest Political Quiz to see where they fall on the diamond chart. The purpose of this process is to find people who are already Libertarians but didn't know it. We found some and will follow up to invite

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Eminent Domain

On Thursday July 25th, the Stamford Libertarian Town Committee (SLTC) met at Curley's Diner to help celebrate a rare win in the battle against eminent domain seizures. In February 2002, the Connecticut Supreme Court ruled in favor of Curley's owners, Maria Aposporos and her sister Eleni Begetis, in their fight against the Stamford Urban Redevelopment Commission (URC).

The SLTC invited Curley's attorney Rep. John Wayne Fox to speak about this case and the court's view on eminent domain in general. The good news for libertarians is that Mr. Fox feels the courts are moving away from letting towns steal property from individuals and giving it to other individuals even though recent decisions have hinged on other technicalities. The bad news is that he feels there is still support for these seizures in the name of "public" (i.e. government) projects. Maria Aposporos also joined us and provided an eloquent, heartfelt description of her feelings and fears about the case. She compared the URC and the process to some of the

darkest moments in European history explaining that she had moved here to find freedom and opportunity, had prospered and then found it all threatened by URC bureaucrats. Her enthusiasm for freedom has encouraged the SLTC to continue to hold meetings at Curley's Diner.

The meeting included about a dozen people, some of whom missed Mr. Fox's half hour discussion. A photo of the

event appeared in the local daily paper, The Advocate, but typically it featured Mr. Fox, and Maria with no mention of the Stamford Libertarian Town Committee's involvement. Two SLTC members in the background, Courtenay Hough and Carl Lupinacci went unidentified. Those in attendance include some new faces including Christina Matthews a Stamford resident who helped in our petition efforts.

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these like-minded individuals to our future events.

Over the three day event in Goshen, Walter Gengarelly, candidate for 5th Congressional District, was able to obtain signatures on his petition and meet many people from the district in which he is running for election. At one point Jim Maloney, Walter's incumbent Democratic opponent, stopped by the booth and chatted with Walter. Congressman Maloney stated that he favored Walter's inclusion in all debates.

We are planning on continuing OPH booths on a regular basis, as they are an effective way to meet a lot of prospective members and voters. Upcoming events scheduled so far are the Bethlehem Fair and the Norwalk Oyster Festival. In

support of Walter's campaign the Goshen and Terryville Fairs are also under consideration.



Linda Rasch and candidate Walter Gengarelly man the booth at the Connecticut Agricultural Fair in Goshen

It takes a lot of manpower to support a booth across each Fair, but it's also a lot of fun. Please contact Dawn Barry (vicechair@lpct.org) to volunteer for an upcoming fair.

Voter Registration Lists Needed

If you live in or near any of the following towns, we need your help. These are towns that do not participate in the Secretary of State's registered voters list. Someone needs to ask the Town Clerk for the list, preferably on electronic media (CD, diskette, etc). In some cases only printed copies will be available. This information will assist us in locating registered Libertarians who are not LP members currently, as well as helping candidates identify independent voters. The towns are:

Danbury	Norwalk
East Haddam	Shelton
East Hartford	Simsbury
Enfield	Stamford
Fairfield	Wallingford
Greenwich	Warren
Hartford	Washington
Madison	Waterbury
Milford	West Hartford
Monroe	Westport
New Britain	Winchester
North Branford	Windsor

When you get the list, please contact political@lpct.org for a mailing address, or call 1-860-585-5857.

NOTICES

- **August 10** – The August Strategy meeting will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. on Saturday, August 10th at the Russell Library, 123 Broad St. in Middletown. From Route 91 or Route 15: Take the CT-66 E exit - Merge onto CT-66 - Go 5.5 miles - Turn right onto BROAD ST. From Route 9: Take the CT-66 W exit - Go 0.2 miles - Turn left onto BROAD ST. Best parking is in lot immediately on your left. Russell Library is ½ block down on the right side.
- **August 20** – The monthly Libertarian Party of Connecticut State Central Committee meeting will be held at the Town Hall in Wethersfield on Tuesday, August 20th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting is open to members and to the public. The Agenda is: Officer and Director Reports • Convention needs • Legislative Research • Fund-raising • County Coordinators • Support for Fifth Congressional candidate • College Campus Organizing.
- **August 31 - September 2** – Goshen Fair - tentative based on volunteer response
- **September 6-8** – Norwalk Oyster Festival
- **September 13-15** – Terryville Fair
- Additional outreach activities, including these fair booths, are planned. Please help your LPCT and join us for the fun by contacting us at 860-585-5857 to volunteer for one or more of these activities.
- Any LP members who are interested in being members of the 2003 Libertarian Party State Central Committee, please contact Steve Weitzman before August 31st at secretary@lpct.org or call 860-585-5857.
- The Libertarian Party of Connecticut may now be contacted at 860-585-5857. The new line has voice mail as well, so you can leave a message.