

The Connecticut Libertarian

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The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut

www.lpct.org

The LPCT floods the ranks of the Justices of the Peace

by James Madison

The number of Libertarian office holders in Connecticut will jump sharply as of Jan. 1, 2001 thanks to the creative thinking of John Joy of Oxford and the fast action of the LPCT's political machine.

In September, John informed the party through e-mail that applications were being accepted for the next 4-year term for Justices of the Peace (JP). He encouraged the party to get as many members to apply as possible.



John Joy

Several members then worked together to get the needed form, draft instructions on exactly how to apply, and mail the documentation to all party members. The plan succeeded and, well in advance of the Nov. 1 deadline, every party member had what they needed to capitalize on John's idea.

Judging from the conversations taking place at LPCT events over the past few months, it appears that a number of members took advantage of this opportunity. The State Central Committee is now looking to compile a formal list.

Rumor has it that such a list will eventually be available through the Secretary of the State, but rather than wait for the government, we would like to hear from the party members themselves. Thus:

If you are a Justice of the Peace, please contact James Madison:

- Phone: 860-635-8334
- E-mail: JAMadison@lpct.org
- Mail: 6234 Town Brooke, Middletown, CT 06457

Please include your name, phone number, and address. We will publish the list in an upcoming newsletter and on the LPCT web site. The JP's names will also be provided to National to be listed on their web site.

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County Coordinator system established

by James Madison

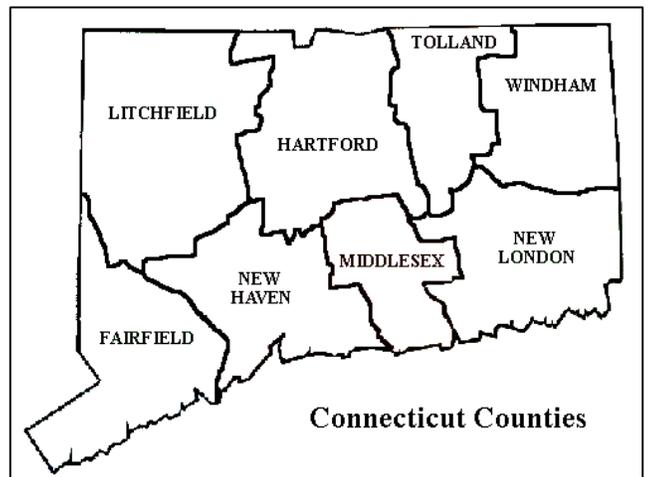
To help maximize party membership in Connecticut by adding a human touch to the membership process, the LPCT has established a county-based system of contacting members and leads throughout the state.

Each of Connecticut's eight counties now has a County Coordinator who will receive a weekly list of new members, members whose membership has expired, and people who have contacted the LP asking for information but have not joined.

For new members, the coordinators will offer a "welcome aboard," answer any questions they might have about the LP, and make themselves available to the new member in the future.

For expired members, the goal will be to encourage renewal of membership ASAP. Studies have shown that many members (of any organization, not just the LP) either simply fail to renew in a timely manner, or were not planning to renew but will do so with only a small amount of encouragement.

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County Coordinators

For those seeking information, the coordinator will provide information to the prospect. Those who contact the LP and do not join, generally have an interest but are in doubt. The coordinator's job will be to find points of agreement and discuss how the LP can address the prospect's concerns.

Volunteers for six of the eight counties are in place:

Fairfield: Dan Gislao
Hartford: Al Neves
Litchfield: TBD
Middlesex: Vinnie Marotta
New Haven: Mary Iorio
New London: Darlene Nicholas
Tolland: TBD
Windham: Sandi Cote

For the two TBDs, members of the State Central Committee have kindly volunteered to fill the gap, but a permanent volunteer is still needed. This means YOU! If you live in or near Litchfield or Tolland counties and would like to help the party grow by contacting your like-minded neighbors, please contact Darlene Nicholas at 860-444-6359 or by e-mail at darnich@yahoo.com.

Also, in several counties more than one coordinator may be needed, so if you would like to be a part of this process in a county that already has a coordinator, please volunteer. Splitting the load makes for lighter work, and everyone needs a vacation now and then.

Although the numbers will vary, the total number of contacts per month is expected to range from a few to several dozen, so this is a great way to get involved without getting overwhelmed.

Special thanks goes to Ken Mosher, membership director, for the tremendous job he did in making the system operational. The key to the process is taking the membership and prospect data received from National each week, grouping it into the three categories, then into the eight counties, and getting the lists to the coordinators by e-mail.



Ken Mosher

Ken created a computer system to crunch the raw data and disseminate it in a timely fashion so that within days of joining, expiring, or inquiring, a person will receive a live contact.

Party membership is currently just under 400, and the number of members that have expired within the last year is just under 150. The objective is to drive the membership over 500 by the end of the year as well as keep the expiration count well under 100. The hope is that by welcoming new members and prodding old members, we can reach these goals.

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Justices of the Peace

Confirmations so far show that at least 10 members were appointed as JPs. We hope the final number is at least double that. Given that roughly 330 Libertarians hold office nationwide, picking up one or two dozen more in Connecticut should provide a solid increase.

If you know of any other appointed offices available throughout the state at either the state or town level, please let the SCC know so that we can seize similar opportunities.

The JP term runs from Jan. 1, 2001 until Jan. 5, 2005. JP's are appointed by municipalities, but their authority is statewide. The number appointed by a municipality varies according to its population and is evenly divided among three groups: Republicans, Democrats, and a third group which includes those registered with a minor party or registered as unaffiliated.

Meeting Notice: The SCC will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 16, 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
 - Town Committees
 - County Coordinators
 - Registration Drive
- New Business
 - Planning for 2002 Gov. Race

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 Hgwy) South. At the 4th traffic light, turn right onto Church St. Turn into first driveway on left.