



The Connecticut Libertarian

The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut

December 2003

www.lpct.org



Chairman's Corner

By Lenny Rasch

We face awesome challenges and awesome opportunities in 2004. Political analysts expect that only the Green party and the Libertarian party will have a significant national presence in the coming year.

Do you know what this means? It means that independent voters have narrowed their focus down to two parties.

What about the Greens? They are strong here in Connecticut, Ralph Nader's home state, but they are not as well established nationally. They are not likely to have fifty-state ballot status for President.

Will we? In part that depends on you and I – all of us – in Connecticut. We have to gather 7500 valid signatures (translation: about 12,000 total) on petitions across approximately seven months. That's a big job – a lot of volunteer effort and/or money. (Quite a few other states have a much bigger task)

But here's the really neat part of this – let's gather Congressional signatures at the same time. If we are able to organize enough strength in each of the five Connecticut districts, we could run

See Chairman's Corner on page 2

ELECTION 2003

By Linda Rasch

Three Libertarian Party of Connecticut members ran campaigns in Connecticut cities for municipal office this year. Their campaigns provided opportunities for each of them to share Libertarian ideas in their area. All three candidates are to be congratulated. Not only did they publicize the LP message, but also they garnered percentages well above the 1.5% that LP candidates received statewide in 2002.

Arline Dunlop – ran against a tough Democratic mayor in Meriden. The incumbent was supported by all of the municipal unions, and received over 11,000 votes. The Republican received over 3,000 votes, and Arline received 418 (approx. 3.5%).



Dawn Lincoln – ran for Newington Town Council. She states, "I ran a relatively low key campaign and received about 6% of the votes". Her campaign enabled her to speak at a Meet the Candidates forum, make a ten-minute video, and get interviewed by The Herald. She used a number of colorful yard signs ("Vote Lincoln [for] Town Council").

Richard Lion – ran for mayor of Hartford. Rich says, "Knowing I would not win, I was free to pound on issues that other candidates would not touch". Rich appeared on Face the State, speaking out primarily against the War on Drugs. Having picked up 6% of the vote, Rich has an interesting spin on the race:

"I spent about \$900.00 on my campaign, Eddie (Democrat Incumbent) spent about \$180,000.00 on his. I got 564 votes, he got 7,590. I paid about \$1.59 per vote, Eddie paid about \$23.71 per vote... Mayor Mike Peters voted for me for the second time, and his son, Chris Peters offered to pole stand for me. That's my spin and I'm sticking to it."

Chairman's Corner

continued from page 1

five candidates for Congress. I don't think that's ever been done before. And if we do it, we will definitely improve our media coverage – we can't be ignored with a candidate for Senate and FIVE congressmen.

What are the details, how do we get there from here? The answer is, mainly through ACTIVISM — Collecting signatures, organizing a significant Convention, getting news coverage on days like April 15th, manning fair booths and talking with fairgoers, writing articles, and more. This requires people who are willing to devote at least a couple of hours each week to Liberty.

Campaign 2004 has already started for us. Please contact me directly at chairman@lpct.org so you can help in Campaign 2004. The fate of our liberties is in your hands.

SHOULD WE USE FUSION?

Libertarian activist Abe Arias points out that another independent party, Working Families, has an interesting strategy. He quotes from their website:

“...Connecticut is different. Connecticut is one of the few states in the country where a minor party can have a major impact. This is because our state election law allows for party cross-nomination, or “fusion.” This means that a minor party can put candidates from other parties on its own ballot line. The votes from the different parties are tallied separately, but then combined for that candidate's total.

“By using the tactic of fusion, the Working Families Party creates leverage on politicians for our issues. The ballot line is both the “carrot” and the “stick” that grassroots groups can use to

pressure politicians. For those candidates who support and fight for our issues, they get the reward of getting an extra ballot line (and the additional votes it provides). But those who waffle on our issues could get the “stick” – we could run our own candidate on our line or even support a candidate from the opposing party.”

Of course, this strategy does not mean that the major party candidate will run as a true Libertarian. It is a means of influencing the choice between the “lessor of two evils”, as many voters describe it. We will be discussing this possibility, and the potential need to change Libertarian Party National By-Laws to accommodate, at upcoming Strategy Meetings and Libertarian Party State Central Committee meetings.

MEETINGS & NOTICES

State Central Committee Meeting - Tuesday, December 16, 2003

The monthly Libertarian Party of Connecticut State Central Committee meeting will be held at the Town Hall in Wethersfield on Tuesday, December 16th 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
By-Laws Report
Old Business:
Cato Handbook for Congress
Petitioning Plan
New Business:
Need By-Laws and Petitioning
Chairpersons*

*New Business (continued):
Convention Budget
Post Office Box Change
Voice Mail Retrieval
Fusion
Chairmen's Meeting (January)
Recruiting Members/Volunteers
Fundraising Letter*

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 there.