



LPI Endorses Mark McCoy Libertarian Write-In Candidate for Governor




November 7, 2006, Illinois voters will have a choice. They can choose to continue the existing Springfield culture marked by taxpayer-funded pork, job programs for friends and relatives, and explanations that don't pass the smell test for cash-filled birthday and Christmas cards. Or, they can choose a

different culture, one based on the American values of freedom, fairness, and honesty. They can write in a vote to elect Mark McCoy Illinois Governor.

Executive Director of the Libertarian Party of Illinois, Jan Stover reports, "People from across the state, Libertarians and non-Libertarians alike, have been contacting me to ask who the Libertarian candidate is in the upcoming governor's race. I am thrilled to be able to inform them that LPI member Mark McCoy has stepped up to the plate and announced his candidacy as a Libertarian Write-in Gubernatorial Candidate. He is a man of integrity with firm Libertarian convictions and a champion for the average person - qualities desperately needed in Illinois government today."

As Governor, Mark McCoy will end the sleaze that pervades Illinois politics by exposing corruption, mismanagement, and laws that trample our rights. He will fight to shrink the reach and power of government and free people to live their lives without permission slips from its bureaucrats. As Mark says, "Everyone knows that power corrupts. The only way to remove corruption from government is to return the power to where it rightfully belongs: the people of Illinois."

The Libertarian Party of Illinois has endorsed Mark McCoy's candidacy. Members wishing to volunteer their time, contribute to the campaign, or learn more about Mark's upcoming appearances, may visit the candidate's website at www.markmccoy.com.

Note: On Thursday, October 19th, Mark McCoy participated in an issues-oriented Gubernatorial debate held in Fairview Heights. The debate, sponsored by the Metro East Libertarians, Mothers Against the Draft, Mothers for Liberty, SoIL Greens and FREE, brought Third Party Candidates together in a forum that has been called the "Politics of Civility" by moderator, Terry Martin of the Illinois Channel. McCoy debated Randy Stufflebeam, (Constitution Party Write-in) and Rich Whitney (Green Party). The event was covered by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. 

LPI Convention Recap by Crystal Jurczynski, 2006 Convention Chair


Seventy-five libertarians from across Illinois came together September 15-17 for inspiration, education, participation, and fun at the LPI 2006 "Sweet Land of Liberty" Convention.

But you don't have to take my word for it, here are a few quotes from attendees about our workshops and speakers: Toastmasters Workshop: *"Very useful and entertaining—I think they've made a lot of potential new Toastmasters!"*; Growing Chapter Membership Workshop: *"Don & Jan were informative and motivating! Got great ideas."*; Libertarian Answers to Tough Questions: *"Excellent discussions took place during this workshop; brought up many valid issues."*; Libertarian Activism: *"Very interesting life! Demonstrates a man's dedication—inspiring."*; Wendy McElroy: *"Great! All I can say is have her again!"*; Mark McCoy: *"Fantastic! A practical approach to protecting our rights."*; Tom DiLorenzo: *"Exposed the anti-freedom, big government side of the Lincoln administration. Revealing!"*; Lloyd Sloan: *"Funny, but scary, because he's right. Made me want to read the Constitution again."*; and, about the Convention overall: *"You provided the best quality for a reasonable amount of money!! Great Convention!!"*

One of the most exciting events at the Convention was the Candidates Forum, where future office holders seized the opportunity to share their vision for a more libertarian society. Our thanks to Daniel Robin, Linda Shelton, Chris Bennett, Michael Stopka, and Jaime Escuder for speaking.

Another noteworthy addition to this year's Convention was the student scholarship program. LPI members, Chris and Emily Stoll, along with our LP-Chicago Chapter provided funding for three high school students, Will Coppernolle, Ian Mason and Michael Stopka.

Over 60 items were donated for our auction, from chocolate-chip cookies to solid silver coins to Lynn Tinsley's libertarian button collection. These were divided between our Silent and Live Auctions with friendly, but quite competitive, bidding for the most prized items. We are grateful for every donation as each brought in much-needed funds for the advancement of liberty in Illinois.

The success of this Convention would not have been possible without the dedication of those who joined me on the LPI 2006 Convention Committee: Debra Aaron, Ron Clark, Jeff Jones, Ken Prazak, Walter Simons, Aimee Steele, Don Stover, Jan Stover, and Val Vetter. My deepest thanks to them and all our contributors: Convention Sponsors, Donors, Vendors, Attendees, Purchasers, Speakers, Workshop Facilitators, Entertainers, and Candidates. 

Make a Two-Year Commitment to Liberty

by Val Vetter, State Chair

In an earlier *Libertarian Current* article, I likened the LP-Illinois to the Washington Monument. I made comparisons to the difficulties in its construction, the starts and stops, and the need to remove and re-lay its foundation so that it could support the finished magnificent building.

That foundation has been re-laid.

At the LPI Convention last month, our treasurer announced that the **last** FEC fine payment was about to be made.

Expenses have been slashed. Most debts have been paid off entirely. By the time you read this, all debts will have either been paid off, or significant payments made against them. And our convention attendees commented that this was the best Convention in recent years. I'm happy to announce that **every** goal set by the Convention Committee was met and surpassed.

Now the time has come to resume the building of our State Party.

During the annual business meeting, LPI members gave the Party the tools it asked for to do this building: additional officers to coordinate areas and activities that have been under-emphasized until now. Willing and able members, some new, some veteran, stepped forward to enthusiastically pledge two years of commitment to this building effort.

The building has already begun. During our awards ceremony, I was pleased to be able to present awards to "Chapter Champions" instrumental in the chartering of two new chapters in Champaign and Springfield. Our Executive Director reported we had added over **140** new members since the first of the year. We are getting calls and requests to speak and appear at non-Libertarian events and at schools. Your officers have committed to spend a weekend working on a two-year strategic plan for the party.

But the building needs more workers!

In past articles, I've asked you to pledge your financial support. As "money is the mother's milk of politics," I'm

**(175 at press time. Editor)*

unlikely to stop asking for your financial help – but now I'm asking for something more – your active involvement and work to build this Party.

Will you make a two-year commitment with me and the other officers of the LPI?

Several new and enthusiastic members have stepped forward to make that commitment. Others have shown themselves to be new resources for the Party. I'm asking you to step forward and join us in this effort.

"The LPI" is only as strong as its members. Though it's amazing how much has been accomplished by a handful of dedicated members and faithful donors over the past years, if we are to build this Party to something effective, powerful, and impressive – it will take more people to join the effort.

We have a lot to do, and this is the perfect time to do it. But getting more members involved is critical to our success. The few workers who have brought us this far can't do it all. We need your help.

I'm not an ambitious person when it comes to me. I don't need the biggest and best house on the block. I don't worry if a coworker gets the promotion. My car is 15 years old and has holes in the body you can stick your fist through. I AM ambitious when it comes to the LPI. I want us to be BIG. I want to pass up bigger states like Texas as far as membership goes. I want candidates to brag about how "Illinois has the best State Party". I want the Libertarian Party to be an established Party in Illinois.

I hope you want those things too. I hope you'll call Jan or me today to say: "I'm ready to make a two-year commitment with the officers of the LPI. How can I get involved?"

Will you help? Will you make a two-year commitment? If so, pick up the phone now and call. Be a part of making the LPI something that we can be proud of, and a Party that demands the respect of our opponents and shows "homeless" voters that we are a viable alternative to brand D and R. 🇺🇸

New Illinois Party Officers Elected

The LPI membership elected Party Officers at the Annual Business Meeting held September 17th in Springfield, during the 2006 "Sweet Land of Liberty" Convention weekend. Officers hail from communities throughout Illinois, representing Libertarians from across the state.

*Congratulations and Thanks
to these Leaders of Liberty!*

State Chair, Val Vetter - *Wilmette*
Campaigns Chair, David Kelley - *Rockford*
Membership Chair, Damon Dillon - *Tremont*
Public Relations Chair, Jeff Jones - *Vandalia*
Activism Chair, Kathy Kelley - *Rockford*
Fundraising Chair, Walter Simons - *Barrington*
Legislative Chair, Chris Bennett - *Springfield*
Treasurer, Debra Aaron - *Chicago*
Secretary, Aimee Steele - *Carterville*
Newsletter Editor, Don Stover - *Greenville*
Webmaster, Crystal Jurczynski - *Carol Stream*

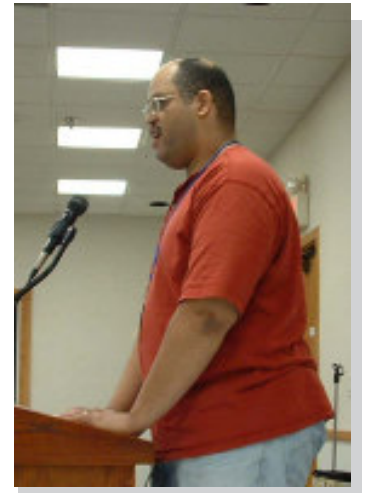
LPI Convention Photos and Kudos



Right: Convention Chair Crystal Jurczynski addresses the crowd. Below L. to R., Executive Director Jan Stover and State Chair Val Vetter honoring the Mothers of Liberty and Fathers of Freedom Recipients. Ken Prazak, Aimee Steele and Kathleen Polizzi ham it up during the live auction, and Chris Bennett speaks at the Candidates Forum.



Keynote Speakers Tom DiLorenzo and Wendy McElroy



Kind Words from the Attendees and Vendors:

"This was my first convention and I found it quite useful. I'm vice chair of our local chapter and got good ideas for speakers, fund-raising and other practical matters. There were talks on topics I'd never thought about. And the used book table had the holy grail: a hardback copy of Harry Browne's "How I Found Freedom in an Unfree World" for only ten dollars!"

Dianna Visek, VC Champaign Co. Libertarians

This was my first state convention and I was quite impressed by the speakers, the enthusiasm and knowledge of the attendees and the tightness of the overall program. Everything seemed to flow flawlessly, and there wasn't a dull moment. If I had a decent hat, I would tip it to the convention committee.

Kent McMillen President, Libertarian Party of Cook County - Northwest

"I had a great time at the Convention and thought the speakers were very good. Attendees seemed to be enjoying themselves and were very devoted to the topics at hand. The Convention was obviously very well organized. I was surprised by the great turn out. People really are devoted to the ideas of liberty!"

Will Compernelle, Student Scholarship Recipient

Thank you for all of your work on the Illinois Convention. I appreciate the amount of time and energy it takes to organize an event of that size. You did a great job. Both Rich and I agree that we have been to a lot of events, many by major political parties, which they were not nearly so well run — or so much fun!

Marilyn Rickert, AmericansFor Fair Taxation

I am writing to congratulate the LPI's new leadership team for putting on a fantastic state convention. The turn-out was great, the speakers were interesting, the logistics were perfectly managed, and the venue was affordable. It was all anyone could ask for.

I would especially like to thank all the people who left money in the "contribution dish" on The Heartland' Institute's literature table. You all gave \$175 ... an amazing amount, more than has been given at far larger events.

I attended my first LPI convention in 1980 and keep coming back because libertarians are just great people to be around. Please keep up your efforts. Our day will come.

Joe Bast, President, The Heartland Institute



From left to right: David Blau (LPC member), Debra Aaron (LPI treasurer), Valiant Vetter (LPI chair), Gayle Dieck (LPC membership chair), and Bill Stephens (Fox Valley treasurer).

Paybacks are SO Sweet!

During the recent Heartland Institute Banquet, LPI Treasurer Debra Aaron and State Chair Val Vetter presented Bill Stephens (Fox Valley) with a check to pay off a long-standing loan; one of the many loans the LPI has paid this fall due to the successful 2006 Convention.

Sleepless In Illinois

Dear Editor,

I couldn't sleep tonight. I have been watching C-SPAN, Fox, NBC and/or CBS and keep hearing some disturbing talk from all the Democratic candidates. If they win control of the House or Senate, they want to raise the minimum wage. Is this how they get their voter base? By conning their constituents into voting for them, not knowing the economic ramifications behind such a move? I am 24 and was just a kid the last time minimum wage was increased. Not too long after, I could no longer buy a soda or a candy bar for \$0.50. For a kid in the midwest that was a big deal. Especially when I had only so many quarters to spend.

Minimum wage is a con toward people who do not understand, do not know, do not care, or do not care to know. I remember an Op-Ed from the Ayn Rand Institute - David Holberg, I believe. It went to say something along the lines that minimum wage should not be set by the government but buy the price an employer is willing to pay and the price an employee is willing to work for.

How do we educate people to the "wool" that is being pulled over their eyes? How do we help people to understand?

Any words of wisdom, advice, or direction you could give me would help tremendously.

Sincerely,

(Concerned LPI Member)

Introduction To The Constitution With Michael Badnarik

Does it surprise you to discover that the United States is NOT a democracy? Have you ever wondered why people have to get a concealed carry permit to exercise their right to "keep and bear arms"? Would you like to know - once and for all - what the "electoral college" is, and why we have it? And, do you understand how all of your rights derive from the right to private property? Learn from the expert, 2004 Libertarian Party Presidential candidate, Michael Badnarik.

Michael will discuss the difference between rights and privileges, and talk about how political power is distributed to create various forms of government (monarchy, oligarchy, democracy, republic). He will discuss each Article and Section of the "supreme law of the land," and well as related subjects such as the United States Code (USC), the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC), and Allodial Title. Even if you think you know the Constitution well, you'll be shocked at how much you were never taught.

In 8 hours, Michael covers far more than you learned in years of high school or college, in a way you'll never forget.

Saturday December 16, 2006

9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Jaks Tap

(The Green Room)

901 W. Jackson

Chicago, IL 60607

Cost: \$100

For more information and to hold your place on the class roster, please call 877.lpc.vote. Sponsored by the Libertarian Party of Chicago.



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Val Vetter - State Chair

Debra Aaron - Treasurer

Jan Stover - Executive Director

Don Stover - Newsletter Editor

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515 W. Main Greenville, IL 62246-1616

32,442 Votes

by Jan Stover, Executive Director

Mark McCoy's Write-In Campaign for Governor has generated much comment from across the state. Emails and phone calls come in daily to the LPI office. Self-professed punk rock teenagers to 75 year old grandmothers have contacted me wanting to learn more about our Libertarian candidates in general and Mark's campaign specifically. Many have joined the Party as a result of these conversations. Many have enthusiastically welcomed the opportunity to spread the word, display a yard sign, wear a campaign button, tell a friend and have asked for details on how to vote for a write-in candidate (see instructions to the right).

Then there are the nay-sayers (most are not members of the LPI and most are not even Illinois residents) who have learned about the campaign through membership in LPI-Announce or other yahoo groups and online forums. But to those nay-sayers, I would like to point out that according to the State Board of Elections, our 2004 Libertarian Presidential candidate, Michael Badnarik received 32,442 votes in Illinois. Just think ... 32,442 people have already voted Libertarian. Think what 32,442 votes could do in a Governor's race ... could it affect the outcome? Will it garner press coverage and set the stage for 2010? I say, "Let's find out!"

Granted, Badnarik's name was on the ballot; granted, his campaign budget was larger and his campaign season longer, but his desire for Liberty and understanding of our constitution is matched in candidate Mark McCoy.

To ardent supporters and nay-sayers alike, I say "Let's get out the vote ... and plan for victory on November 7th". After all, victory comes in many forms... and while I may not get an invitation to this year's Governor's Inaugural Ball, I am expecting one the next time around. ;-)

How to Vote for Libertarian Write-in Candidate Mark McCoy

Instructions:

STEP 1: TALK TO AN ELECTION JUDGE.

Ask to see the write-in list of candidates.

If you don't see the name MARK McCOY on the list, have the election judge contact the County Clerk to verify that Mark is a write in candidate. Otherwise, the election judge may not count the vote.

Second, ask the election judge for write-in instructions.

He/She should explain to you what is expected for a write-in vote, so that you are able to make sure your vote is counted.

STEP 2: LOCATE THE WRITE-IN LINE ON THE BALLOT. In the space provided write:

MARK McCoy

STEP 3: BE SURE TO MAKE THE REQUIRED MARK IN THE SPACE PROVIDED NEXT TO THE NAME YOU WROTE IN.

NOTE: There are different types of ballots and methods of casting your vote in Illinois. Some require an X in a box; some require the filling in of an oval; and voting by touch screen on electronic voting machines will require different approaches.

REMEMBER: If you have any questions or are unsure about any aspect of writing in MARK McCOY on the ballot to make sure it counts, **ASK the Election Judge!**

REMEMBER: You are allowed to take voting instructions and/or other notes with you into the voting booth when you vote!

REMEMBER: By law, the election judge is supposed to make an honest attempt to ascertain the voter's intent. Illinois law says that in order for the election to be able to determine the voter's intent, the write-in must include first and last name.

REMEMBER Please write neatly!

You know your pocketbook...



(Please see what you can do to help with ours...)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Employer:* _____ Occupation:* _____

Credit Card Type: Visa MC Discover Amex

Pledge Per Month: _____ Up My Pledge _____

One Time Donation: _____ Credit Card #: _____

Expiration Date: Month: _____ Year: _____

Signature: _____

Checks also accepted to the Libertarian Party of Illinois. Please send to:

LPI, 515 W. Main Greenville, IL 62246

* The FEC requires we collect this information. Not tax deductible Paid for by the Libertarian Party of Illinois, Debra Aaron, Treasurer. A copy of our report is available from the FEC in Washington, D.C.

Libertarian Party of Illinois
D. Stover, Newsletter Editor
515 W. Main
Greenville, Illinois 62246



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Your Guide to “Where and When” Libertarians meet throughout the State!

DuPage Libertarians are looking for a new meeting place. Be sure and check the website for times and location. For more information, call 630-876-1935 or visit: www.DuPageLibertarians.org.

Fox Valley Libertarian Party (FVLP) meets at Barone’s Pizza & Restaurant (3 Lakewood Plaza) in Carpentersville the last Wednesday of each month. Social hour begins at 7:00pm with optional dinner, followed by the business meeting at 8pm. For more information call 847-551-1930 or visit: www.fvlp.org

Libertarian Party of Chicago (LPC) meets at Goose Island Brewing Co. at 1800 N. Clybourn in Chicago on the second Tuesday of each month (5:30pm socialize and 6pm business meeting). For more information call 877-LPC-VOTE or visit: www.lpchicago.org

Libertarian Party of Cook County-Northwest meets at the Silver Stallion Restaurant at 1275 Lee St. in Des Plaines on the second Sunday of each month (6:30pm/ dinner optional, meeting at 7pm). For more info call 708-865-9170

Libertarian Party of Lake County (LPLC) Meeting Dates and Location TBA For more information call 847-438-7776 or visit lake.il.lp.org

Metro East Libertarians (MEL) meet at Southwestern Illinois College Belleville Campus in Conference Room 2260 located in the Main Complex, upstairs across from the Theater. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. For more information call 618-580-8779 or visit: www.mel-lp.org

Okaw Valley Libertarians (OVL) meet at Jay’s Restaurant Vandalia. (730 W. Gochenour St) the second Thursday of each month at 6:30pm. For more information call 618-283-0888 or visit: www.okawvalleylibertarians.com

Southern Illinois Libertarians (SIL) meet in the Carbondale Civic Center, 200 South Illinois Avenue in Carbondale on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 2pm . For more information, call 618-303-1997 or visit: <http://sil.lpillinois.org>

Rockford Area Libertarians meet at Villa Di Roma Restaurant at Harrison Ave. and 11th Street in Rockford. Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 7th at 7pm. For more information call 815-874-6345 or visit: lprockford.8m.com

NEW Chapters:

Capital Area Libertarians (CAL) meet in the Lincoln Library’s Bicentennial Room in Springfield. Meetings begin at 6pm and are held the second Wednesday of each month. For more information, call 217-529-6753 or email blacknight_80751@yahoo.com

Champaign County Libertarian Party meets at the Urbana Free Library in Urbana. Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month For more information call 217-721-4002 or email warden@nupaper.com.

Another Chapter is forming:

Tazewell County Libertarians meet at the Morton Public Library in Morton (Pekin/ Pekin area) on the third Wednesday of each month from 6pm-9pm. For more information call 309-202-5843 or email dzd_mad1982@hotmail.com