



LPI State Organizing Committee

Enhances Leadership Team

Approves a Galvanizing New State Initiative

The Libertarian Party of Illinois State Organizing Committee (SOC) met in Moline, on Sunday, January 8th and a number of significant decisions were made:

JAN STOVER was appointed to the position of Executive Director after serving as Interim Director in a volunteer capacity since mid-November, 2005. Jan's arrangement with the LPI is that of an individual contractor with pay tied to performance. As David Lee has resigned as LPI Treasurer, Jan will also be assisting the Party by serving as Acting Treasurer until such time as a new Treasurer can be appointed. This is an opportunity for LPI membership to take stock of its talents and nominate a member not only qualified to fill the role of Treasurer, but to be a valuable member of the Executive Board as well.

DON STOVER, VC Campaigns, presented his "Goal 102" initiative. Goal 102 is a plan to organize local chapters in ALL 102 counties in Illinois. Achieving this goal will lay the foundation for precinct organization, running candidates, and ultimately, getting more Libertarians elected in Illinois.

WALT STEELE, VC Membership, presented a detailed analysis, by county, of state and national party membership per capita and the number of Libertarian base voters in relation to the number of active Chapters in a region. All this with an eye to areas ripe for new affiliate organization in support of the development and implementation of the Goal 102 initiative. He has also volunteered to serve as LPI's new Database Coordinator.

AIMEE STEELE will Chair a four member Internal Audit Team. The Audit Team will review all party income and expenditures over the last two years under the direction of the Executive Board.

CRYSTAL JURCZYNSKI has been appointed the LPI's new Webmaster and has also agreed to serve as the 2006 Convention Committee Chair.

The next SOC meeting will be held on Sunday, February 19th in Bloomington. All members of the Libertarian Party of Illinois are welcome to attend. Please remember, if your affiliate has not been re-certified and would like to have a vote at the February SOC meeting, send all necessary documentation to LPI Secretary WALTER SIMONS at secretary@lpillinois.org before the 19th.



Say it with me now... Convention?



Planning for the next great LPI Convention is getting underway. Crystal Jurczynski will chair the Convention Committee and is looking for your input on what would bring you to the Convention:

- What activities or speakers should we have?
- Is there a price range or location that would be best?
- What else would you like the Convention Committee to know?

Please send your feedback to crystal@jurczynski.com and stay tuned for all the details.

From The Executive Director

Jan Stover

Being appointed to the position of Executive Director by the State Organizing Committee can, perhaps, best be described as exciting, challenging and a bit daunting. However having first been appointed Interim Director by the Executive Board, has given me a chance to develop a working relationship with this team of gentlemen as well as a hint of what to expect in the months ahead. Our Executive Board (EB), led by our State Chair Val Vetter, brings a combination of long time experience and new enthusiasm to the table which can only help make my job and, thus, the many tasks at hand easier.

I suppose every new Executive Director also comes to the job with an idea of what he or she would like to offer the Party - a goal, a direction or emphasis on a special subject - and in that case I would be no different. While trimming the budget, "cleaning house" and familiarizing myself with Party details are (and have been for the last couple of months) top priorities, my personal goal is service to our membership. Of course I want to see our membership numbers grow, but first I hope to build a renewed sense of trust and an open dialogue with the members we currently have. There is no doubt that we owe a debt of gratitude to the loyal LPIers who have stuck by the Party through thick and thin - whether in an activist capacity, an enthusiastic donor, or a member who promotes the Libertarian philosophy simply in his or her own quiet way. I hope to show that gratitude and, yes, respect for the membership in even the smallest of daily tasks to the largest of Party decisions. Being responsible with the membership's money, keeping members informed on a regular basis, helping affiliates grow or simply answering the LPI phone and returning emails all fall into that important category.

I remember back in high school serving as a student council representative, standing in front of my homeroom class reporting on student council events and decisions. But more importantly, I remember standing in front of that same group of classmates BEFORE such decisions were made by the student council, asking the class for THEIR opinions and input in an effort to properly represent them. I didn't take that responsibility lightly then nor do I now and I hope the membership will offer that same type of input I ask of my classmates nearly 35 years ago.

Hearing the opinions of the membership, the SOC and the Executive Board and being responsible to those individuals and governing bodies will help guide my appointment and make my efforts responsible and productive.

And last, but not least, I would be remiss without mentioning candidates. What about running candidates for office some may ask? Isn't that why the Libertarian Party exists? In one word, YES, and if I do my job correctly, passionately and with the emphasis on membership which I have just expressed, I see a Party of informed, educated, respected members reaching out and convincing others, naturally bringing enthusiasm and more members into the fold. More members mean more affiliates. More affiliates mean a stronger infrastructure which sets the stage for precinct organization and Libertarian candidates and elected Libertarian office holders ... and Liberty in our lifetime!

I look forward to your questions and comments. Feel free to contact me at director@lpillinois.org or 1-800-735-1776.



From The Chair

Val Vetter

Though the true origin of “May you live in interesting times” (which is often attributed to a Chinese curse credited to Confucius) is doubtful at best – the intended meaning of that phrase and it’s ironic truth are clear. One could say that the leaders of LP-Illinois live in a very “interesting” time.

It’s not yet been a full year since the current administration took office – and we’ve already seen four out of our six officers resign and be replaced. Initially, I saw this as a bad thing, but now I realize that this is just a limitation of my conventional thinking. Certainly finding willing and qualified replacements is no picnic – especially when most people are busy with their lives and careers – but find them we did. As a result, our LPI Executive Board is stronger, sharper and more dedicated than it was last February.

(Before I forget, we ARE looking for a permanent replacement for our recently resigned Treasurer. If you are interested and have the time and talent to lend to the position, please contact the Executive Director right away.)

In the good news/bad news category, at the January 8th meeting in Moline, the State Organizing Committee (SOC) appointed our Interim Director, Jan Stover, as our permanent Executive Director (ED). Jan replaces Jeff Trigg who was dismissed at the SOC meeting immediately following our convention in November. Jan’s appointment is the good news, BTW. The bad news is that though Jan has managed to sort out a lot of things in just 2 months, the degree of disarray of the records handed over to her, and a near-complete lack of cooperation from our previous ED has made every step of the transition a struggle. Until we can find a replacement Treasurer, Jan is also covering those duties as she transitions the records and accounts from that office as well as the ED’s.

With all the difficulty being experienced during the less-than-smooth transition, it’s vital to keep in mind that THINGS ARE IMPROVING. This is a time of repair and healing from which the party WILL recover – and be stronger when we have completed this period. It could easily be compared to finding out that a person is ill, that an operation and trying period of recuperation will need to be endured, but that a complete recovery and healthier life will be the result. This is a time when hard work, patience, innovation, and YOUR support are most needed.

I think what makes working for the LP-Illinois so worthwhile, in spite of some of the difficulties, is the sense that we, the officers of the LPI, and our new Executive Director, are not so much “spending” our time and resources on this party as we are *investing* it. I’m sure this is the same feeling of investing that many of our LPI members have as they faithfully pledge and contribute to help fund the day-to-day operation of the party.

Though our Interim Treasurer and Audit Team will be able to present a clearer picture by our next newsletter, I think it’s fair to say that though the LPI has paid off one major debt (thanks to the monetary contribution of a long-time and perpetually faithful member of LPI) we still have a long way to go before we’re “in the black”. I hope that those LPI members who are not yet monthly donors will see that this is the time when we need your financial help the most.

Maybe you’ve looked at the LPI in the past and thought it wasn’t a good investment. I couldn’t blame you if you did. I might have done the same myself if I’d followed my initial impression. In fact, remembering an icy morning back in late 2003 at my first SOC meeting, I can’t remember WHY I thought getting involved with the LPI was a good idea. Though I won’t go into the gory details of that “meeting”, I can say with certainty that things have come a long way since then.

With any investment opportunity, you have to check out what you’re investing in. One way to do that is to pick up the phone. Yes, that goes for the LP-Illinois as well. Pick up your phone and give us a call. See if you don’t think we’re more responsive, more professional, and more helpful than you remember.

Another exciting reason why the LPI is a good investment has to do with our leadership team being busy and organized. While the Executive Director and Audit Team are working to decipher inherited records and put them in order, the Vice Chairs of Membership and Campaigns have teamed up to roll out “Goal 102” which will bolster and organize membership in Illinois into affiliated chapters for each county. Our 2006 Convention Chair is also putting together a crack team of volunteers to try and top the November convention – and that will be no easy task as our last convention was the best in years!

I’ll be investing a vacation day and a weekend at the end of this month to attend the State Chair’s Leadership Conference in Phoenix. (Unlike the R’s and D’s enjoying a junket at taxpayer’s expense, I will be investing my *personal* time and money – not the party’s or your tax dollars!)

With all this productive activity, you can rest assured that now IS a great time to invest in the LPI. Your contributions are truly needed, appreciated, and will go directly to the strengthening and promotion of the Libertarian Party of Illinois. Will you help financially? One way to do just that, is through our website. (www.lpillinois.org) Click on “contribute” in the upper right hand corner of the homepage. Another is to clip out the Donation Card in this newsletter and send it in with your check or credit card information for whatever amount fits your budget. I’ve already invited you to call our Executive Director to say hi and ask questions. While doing that, why not discuss becoming a monthly pledger with Jan today?!

Goal 102

Don Stover - VC Campaigns

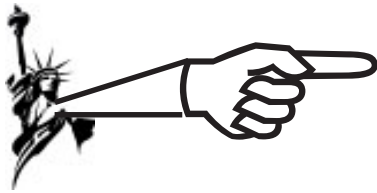
You may have heard some buzz. You may have heard some bull. So...let’s cut to the chase. Goal 102. I have heard that the only way to a successful party is through activism. I have heard the only way to a successful party is through increased membership. I have heard contributions ... signatures ... ballots. I think you get the point. Each of these individual slices of reality need to come together to make a complete pie, but at present are just the pieces - scattered ideas and “Random Acts of Liberty” that by themselves have become over the last thirty years a little flat nosed and coming up short.

Goal 102 (the goal of organizing all 102 counties in Illinois) is in it’s infancy. It will require activism, contributions, membership, signatures - all the pieces will need to come together to make it to the goal. YOUR input is required. Our former Secretary, current VC-Membership, and several others including myself began thinking about the concept backwards from The Goal. We tried to identify all the steps along the way and were making good progress. We realized we needed time and greater input ... another part of the Goal.

Start by thinking about your friends. Folks like you around the state. Folks that can be counted on as organization progresses. A Libertarian friend of mine, a gulf war veteran, seriously considered a run at the Governor’s office this term and said, “You know Don, I’d love to do this thing, but there is little support. Few footsoldiers. What’s missing is the infrastructure, and I’d be going at it alone. No soldier puts himself in that position.” This must be fixed!

Take the up the challenge once again. I would like to assemble a team - set “goals” for the Goal, and take a real bigtime-management-type stab at organization. 2008 will be here like it’s tomorrow. If you’re interested, please contact me at vccampaigns@lpillinois.org.





Tremendous strides are being made toward debt reduction and simple financial responsibility. Still that's not enough. Sit down, look at *your* budget too and consider a \$5, \$10, \$25 monthly pledge. 'Nuff Said!

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 LPI or Libertarian Party of Illinois. Please send today!!!

* The FEC requires we collect this information. Not tax deductible Paid for by the Libertarian Party of Illinois, Jan Stover, Interim Treasurer.

A copy of our report is available from the Illinois State Board of Elections in Springfield and the FEC in Washington, D.C.

Where's My Local Chapter

A fast way to find your local chapter is to visit the State Party website, lpillinois.org. Right on the front page you'll find a link to local chapters. An even faster way, is to pick up the phone and call one of the numbers listed below, or call the Executive Director at 1-800-735-1776.

The Libertarian Party of Chicago (LPC)

P. O. Box 1746
Chicago, IL. 60690
(877) LPC-VOTE
or (312) 409-2223
www.lpchicago.org

Libertarian Party of Lake County (LPLC)

P.O.Box 703
Lake Zurich, IL 60047
Eric Dubiel, Chair
(847) 438-7776
lake.il.lp.org

Okaw Valley Libertarians (OVL; Vandalia area)

Jeff Jones, Chair
420 W Gallatin St, Vandalia, IL 62471
(618) 283-0888
www.okawvalleylibertarians.org

Rockford Area Libertarians

P.O.Box 4775
Rockford, IL 61110
John Huwe, Chair
(815) 964-4012 or (815)633-5096
lprockford.8m.com

Southern Illinois Libertarians (SIL)

Walter Steele, Chair
P.O. Box 4
Carbondale, IL 62901-0004
618-231-4600
homepage.mac.com/calion/sil/

Metro East Libertarians (MEL; Belleville area)

Don Stover, Chair
(618) 580-8779
www.mel-lp.org

Libertarian Party of Cook County-Northwest

Contact: Kent McMillen
(312) 701-7491 day
(708) 865-9170 eve
groups.yahoo.com/group/LPI-Cook/

DuPage Libertarians

Crystal Jurczynski, President
PO Box 87465
Carol Stream, IL 60188-7465
(630) 876-1935
www.dupagelibertarians.org

Fox Valley Libertarian Party (FVLP)

Bill Stevens, Chair
wstephen@fvlp.org
www.fvlp.org

Students for Individual Liberty - U of I Champaign/Urbana

Justin Doran, President
www.uiucsil.org/liberty

LPI TREASURER NEEDED

VOLUNTEER your efforts as Treasurer of the LPI. If you have a moderate experience with QuickBooks, love Liberty, and are willing to lend a hand ...

an arm ... a leg ...

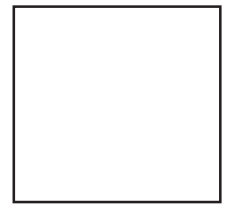
Contact Jan Stover, ED at 1-800-735-1776



Are you Award Winning Material?

The Advocates for Self Government "Lights of Liberty" program honors individuals who have taken the ideas of liberty to the public. So ... if you have written Letters to the Editor, manned several Operation Politically Homeless Booths (OPH) and/or spoken to groups about libertarianism, visit the Advocates' link at self-gov.org/programs.html to see if your activities qualify you or a Libertarian friend for this award. The submission deadline this year is February 15th so hurry ... what a great opportunity to help LP-Illinois shine!!!

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Affiliates On The Move!

Libertarian Party of Chicago:

LP-Chicago sponsored an LP/OPH booth the weekend of January 7th & 8th at the Quad Cities Conservation Alliance Expo Center in Rock Island, IL. To learn more about LP Chicago's activities, join the chapter for regular meetings which are held the second Tuesday of every month. The next two meetings will be February 14th (yep, Valentine's day) and March 14th at the Goose Island Brewing Company, 1800 N. Clybourn in Chicago. Conversation and networking begin at 5:30pm and the meeting kicks off at 6:00pm. Just ask the hostess where the Libertarians are! For more information, call (877) LPC-VOTE.

DuPage Libertarians:


On February 1st, the DuPage Libertarians will discuss the "Fallout from the War on Drugs." Speaking on this topic will be Lorraine D. Cooper, who is a founder and director of "Voices for Justice and Freedom," an advocacy organization for incarcerated individuals, their families, and their communities. Everyone is invited to join us at our new location: T's Restaurant, 535 Roosevelt in Glen Ellyn. If you would like more information, please contact Crystal Jurczynski at 630.876.1935 or Crystal@Jurczynski.com.

Okaw Valley Libertarians:

At OVL's January meeting, LPI's Executive Director, Jan Stover, spoke on the new direction of the LPI and Don Stover, VC-Campaigns spoke on Goal 102. OVL's Vice chair and webmaster, Nathan Dothager talked about updates to the website (www.okawvalleylibertarians.com). Ron Clark gave a report on the last SOC meeting and the changes in officers and their duties (eg. treasurer, database manager and webmaster). The direction of our 'brainstorming' is to concentrate on local issues and how the Libertarian political philosophy applies. Also discussed was the need for informative speakers at monthly meetings and the education of the membership. OVL meets the second Thursday of each month at Jay's in Vandalia.

Metro East Libertarians:

MEL's January meeting included Dr. Thomas Blackburn and his presentation on Fiat Currency and the History of the US Dollar. The March meeting will be exciting as the Chapter has invited Debbie Hopper, founder of "Mothers Against the Draft", to speak. The public, all affiliates and friends are invited to attend! MEL meets the third Wednesday of each month at Southwestern Illinois College in Belleville.



The Libertarian Current
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Don Stover - VC Campaigns, Ken Prazak - VC Media
Walt Steele - VC Membership, Walter Simons - Secretary
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