

The Free State Project

“Liberty in Our Lifetime”



The Quill

New Targeted Brochures

By Neil Alexander

Welcome to the March/April 2004 edition of *The Quill*, the Free State Project's newsletter! In this issue, we introduce new promotional literature designed to spread the word about the Free State, Dave Mincin meets new Porcupines, and a statement from our new president. We welcome articles and suggestions, and we are asking for letters from readers for our upcoming "Letters to the Editor" section. *The Quill* is also available online, so feel free to print copies and distribute *The Quill* in your local community. For more information please contact us at quilleditor@freestateproject.org.

Neil Alexander
The Quill Project Manager

A new series of brochures are in production to advertise the Free State.

Using the tagline, "What is Important to YOU?", these brochures are designed to be distributed by Porcupines at events and conventions to promote the Free State Project ("FSP").

The first brochures include the education brochure and the gun

rights brochure detailing their respective subjects and are designed to appeal to people's special interests. After printing a group of brochures, a Porcupine can then hand them out at home-school conventions, gun shows, home shows, sports games, and so forth.

Each tri-fold brochure includes customized graphics and text, the FSP's toll-free phone number and Web site address, a short section explaining how New Hampshire was selected, and a brief introduction to the commitment needed to become a Porcupine.

There are several more brochures in development covering such diverse topics as environment, zoning and inspection laws, freedom of travel, and so on.

Each brochure has a unique look but shares important

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Signed-Up Members
as of
April 7, 2004:
5,637



Man About New Hampshire

Hi folks, I'm home! I arrived in Dover, N.H. on February 2. I must first offer a special thanks to Michele and Jim because without their kindness and help I am not certain I would be here. For those of you who may be doubters, know in advance there are folks here to help, not do it for you, but help. I'm a witness to that.

Please know that when you honor your commitment and move to New Hampshire and become an activist, your life will never be dull again. I was talking to one of my new friends the other day, and we both laughed, exclaiming, "Our social calendars have never been so full!" There was a meet and greet at Karen and Cal's, and another at Michele and Jim's, and George stopped by from time to time on his nightly walks. OK, so activism is not all fun, but I happen to believe that to be activists, we must first become friends, learn to trust each other, and then go from there! Remember, we need to all be on the same page and trust is the key!

Met Cal and Tony up in Concord a couple weeks ago for the conceal-carry hearings—hey, we had three Porcupines testify! Two I didn't know, but do now! We had lunch in the legislative cafeteria after the meeting

with the folks from Gun Owners of New Hampshire and talked a bit about the Free State Project ("FSP"). To my amazement, two legislators and a senator came up to me and gave me their cards! They really seemed interested in the FSP and what we are about. Can you believe that? I have also been in contact with a legislator in Dover who is ready to help us in the homeschooling area and give educational choices back to parents. More on that as it develops!

So much more going on, but my space is limited. Michael and Janice are in this weekend from California, we'll have dinner in Manchester on Friday, they will be coming to our local meeting on Saturday, and then check out the Seacoast area. Tanya and John are in next Monday for a week from California, and another meet and greet at Alicia and Tony's next weekend, not to mention back to the conceal-carry hearings at the end of the month!

Hey folks, "We The People!" Be seeing you all down the road in New Hampshire!

Dave Mincin

Organizers

Robert Chesnavich
Stephen Cobb
Tim Condon

Coordinators

Amy Knickerbocker
Advertising
Brian Sullivan
Booth Materials &
Special Projects
Phil Denisch
Greeter
Chris Harrison
Community Liaisons
Keith Murphy
Local Groups
Trevor Snyder
Merchandise
Calvin Pratt
NH Groups
Phil Denisch
Speakers Bureau
Dave Mincin
Volunteer Coordinator

Other Positions

Amanda Phillips
National Media Rep
Neil Alexander
Newsletter Project
Manager
Tom Parker
Webmaster

From the President

By Amanda Phillips

The Free State Project (“FSP”) has come a long way from our humble beginnings as an idea floated by a graduate student on the Internet. We have chosen our destination; recruited over 5,637 members; obtained endorsements from some high-profile public figures, including three presidential candidates and a governor; built a first-class Web presence; and become the most talked about new project within libertarian circles. We owe a lot to the officers and directors who led us to where we are today.

It is time to take the FSP to the next level. We have been moving away from a centralized leadership structure to a more decentralized structure. As much as we would like to, Doug Hillman and I are not going to recruit and move 20,000 people all by ourselves. The strength of our organization rests in the 5,637 talented and committed people who have joined us. We are thousands of people who are so serious about freedom that we have pledged to pack up our entire lives and move for just the chance at having Liberty in Our Lifetime. That is a powerful force, and we would do well to tap into it.

To that end, we have just rolled out the Activist Center, a place where we can direct and focus our energies on constructive activities that will help us recruit and move 20,000 activists to the Free State. Activists who want to help the FSP can go to the Activist Center discussion forum at <http://forum.freestateproject.org/#12> to discover the many ways that they can get involved. Activists can join our Local Groups, join and support our Speakers Bureau, find ways to sign up new Porcupines, become Community Liaisons to help promote the FSP within various communities, become Greeters to help welcome new Porcupines, and volunteer in many other ways. Doug Hillman and his Activist Center team have done a fantastic job at organizing these efforts, and I want to personally thank them for bringing the Activist Center to life for the FSP.

In addition to encouraging our membership to be more actively involved in recruitment, we’d also like to encourage you to communicate with the leadership and share your ideas and concerns with us. We created an Ask the Leadership forum in the Members Only section at <http://forum.freestateproject.org/index.php?board=57> as a place for you to share your concerns with us. With your feedback and help, we will make our organization even stronger and more successful.

Another way that we’re making our organization stronger and more successful is by filling key positions with the most talented and dedicated people we can find. Seth Atwood is our new publicity director, Tim Condon is once again our director of member services, and Karen Pratt has joined us as our treasurer. You can find out more about these talented and dedicated Porcupines by clicking on the Organization page that’s under the About Us menu on the main site at <http://freestateproject.org/about/organization.jsp>. I’d also like to thank Tom Parker, Adam

A Note from the Chair

By Jason Sorens

Many of you have undoubtedly noticed that the Statement of Intent recruitment is starting to pick up again as we recover from the holiday doldrums. Another factor has been the new leadership team we’ve assembled over the past month or two; I’m very excited about the new initiatives they’re producing and have already produced. The Killington shadow ads campaign, which has gone well, that was funded by the Free State Project (“FSP”), and part of it was simply a grassroots campaign organized by Porcupines and supporters outside the auspices of the organization itself. I think this kind of “extracurricular” activity is a good sign, showing that our members truly are active and take the initiative.

The purpose of this note is to describe the brief strategic plan that the Board of Directors has adopted, and what it will mean for the FSP. As previously announced, the Board adopted the following goals for the year 2004: (i) pursue a section 501(c)(3) status; (ii) aggressively approach fundraising with a goal to obtain \$90,000 before the end of the year; (iii) upon achieving financial goals, begin the search for a “paid” president, with salary based on experience and qualifications; (iv) make publicity expenditures—to be used for advertising, partnerships and speaking engagements—a priority; (v) increase the amount of signed Porcupines to 7,000 by the end of the year; (vi) create a coast-to-coast local groups network, with members who have consented to distribution of their information assigned to a group; and (vii) by the end of April at the very latest, have an automated member database allowing Porcupines to log in securely and edit their information, rendering most of Member Services’ functions unneeded.

Of these goals, pursuing a tax-exempt status is probably the most controversial one. Some libertarians believe that this status will hamper donors’ privacy. However, we will be setting up a separate section 501(c)(4) organization that does not have to report the identity of our largest donors. This section 501(c)(4) organization will be funded separately but pursue the same mission. The only difference with the section 501(c)(3) organization is that section 501(c)(4) donors cannot deduct their donations from taxes.

Section 501(c)(3) status is necessary to raise the kind of money to take the FSP to the next level of having some kind of full-time staff, ideally a paid president as noted above, and eventually a physical presence in New Hampshire. All the experts we spoke to—leaders of prominent libertarian organizations—stressed that a full-time staff was essential to an organization of our size, and that tax-exempt status was a natural and desirable method for achieving the fiscal health to sustain a full-time staff. In addition, tax-exempt status will in no way constrain the FSP’s mission, which does not require lobbying or electioneering.

The FSP has worked pretty well as an all-volunteer organization, but it is clear that reaching our recruitment goals and helping our members make the Free State move

New Targeted Brochures

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visual and textual elements with its sister pamphlets. The effect is to grab the reader's attention and present a clear, professional appearance while maintaining a standardized appearance.

These brochures are another item in the Free State "Action Kits" that are designed to make it easy for Porcupines to put together and distribute appropriate materials and handouts for trade shows and events. Other items in these kits will include a "Liberty CD-ROM," and even a DVD!

These kits will be printable on ordinary laser and ink-

Mission: Possible

(Cue "Mission: Impossible" theme song.)

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to become a key operative in helping the Free State Project ("FSP") grow to 20,000 members and achieve Liberty in Our Lifetime. The risks are few and the rewards are many. The home office cannot be everywhere at once, so we are depending on you to carry out this mission.

Instructions for "Mission: Possible" are located at the Activist Center section of the forum at <http://forum.freestateproject.org>. Please note only Porcupines have clearance to post to the Activist Center.

If you are a Porcupine and have trouble posting to the Activist Center section of the forum, log in at <https://freestateproject.org/members/login.jsp> to get clearance.

If you are a Porcupine but haven't yet set up your account, you may do so at <https://freestateproject.org/members/register.jsp>.

If you are not a Porcupine, but wish to join, please join us now at <https://freestateproject.org/members/join.jsp>.

Key operatives can choose from a variety of activities, each of which will play a critical part in the success of the FSP: Activist Roll Call, Community Liaisons, Greeters, Local Groups, Media Tree, Shadow Ads, Sign Someone Up!, and Speakers Bureau.

Field operatives accepting these missions will gain experience in activism and can become leaders within the organization. The activists' cumulative efforts will achieve the ultimate success of "Mission: Possible"—uniting 20,000 liberty lovers in New Hampshire.

To accept this mission, visit the Activist Center on the forum at <http://forum.freestateproject.org>. The mission will continue until the objective has been accomplished. If discovered, the secretary will admit all knowledge of the mission.

This message will self-destruct in five seconds.

(Fade "Mission: Impossible" theme song.)

*Cheers,
FSP President Amanda Phillips*

jet printers. CD-ROMs will be available from the FSP for a nominal duplication and shipping cost.

Add these to bumper stickers, buttons, pens, and who knows what else, and the FSP will continue to create a big effect inside and outside the freedom movement. 🌟

From the President

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Rick, Justin Van Vorst and Eric Williams in the IT group for creating and maintaining our amazing Web presence.

Finally, I'd like to encourage everyone to take a look at the videos of our Killington ad and our "Chronicle" news special, which are linked from our front page at <http://freestateproject.org/about/advertising/killington-tv.jsp> and http://freestateproject.org/news/media_archive/0196.jsp respectively. Our historic movement continues to receive great publicity; these are the latest examples. My closing comments in the "Chronicle" interview are, "I have a vision of a better world, and I think it would be wrong of me to not try to make that vision a reality. It could be utopian, but I have to try." I'm grateful for the thousands of people who feel the same way. I look forward to the day when we are all in the Free State together and making our vision a reality. 🌟

A Note from the Chair

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requires a stronger commitment to organization and leadership. Ironically, the FSP has been at times little more efficient than a typical government bureaucracy because we've had to rely on people who are busy with their own lives as well. We can increase the efficiency of the FSP's organization by having a paid president report directly to the Board, thereby increasing accountability. Ideally, we would also be able to develop perquisites for the all-important treasurer and IT positions in order to give our volunteers in those areas the right incentives to do a great job.

Therefore, fundraising will take a higher priority over the next few months. We expect to raise most of our new funds from large, wealthy donors, and with the section 501(c)(3) status we would also be eligible for grants from libertarian foundations. The ultimate goal of this fundraising is not simply to have more liquidity, but to set up a structure of accountability. By the end of the year, you should see a much more active, efficient and responsive FSP. We hope to surpass the 7,000 signed membership goal easily, putting ourselves in good stead for a major, unrelenting recruiting push through 2005 and 2006, bringing us ultimately to 20,000 or more Statement of Intent signatures. 🌟

FSP Board of Directors

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Matt Cheselka

George Reich

Varrin Swearingen

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Information Technology

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Seth Atwood
Publicity

The Quill

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Free State Project Speakers and Events

What: Ohio Libertarian Party
Where: Clarion Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio
When: April 23–25
FSP Speaker: John Storey

What: Freedomfest 2004
Where: Bally's/Paris Resort, Las Vegas, N.V.
When: May 13–15
FSP Speaker: Jason Sorens

What: Libertarian Party Colorado Convention
Where: Estes Park Holiday Inn
When: May 21–23
FSP Speaker: James Reyes

What: Fox Valley Libertarian Party
Where: Illinois
When: June 30, 7 p.m.
FSP Speaker: David Hughes

See the latest schedule at
freestateproject.org/news/events.jsp

LOCAL PORCUPINE GROUPS

Ithaca Local Group update. The next meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2004, Tuesday at 6 p.m. Regional Summer Barbecue to be announced. Contact Brian Sullivan at bsulliv1@twcny.rr.com

Dallas/Ft. Worth Porcupines
First Sunday of each month: Social gathering
Third Sunday of each month: Business meeting
Times: 3–7 p.m.
Location: To be announced
Contact Bruce Morgan at
Bruce_Morgan@devtechservices.com

TriState FSP meetup Saturday night, April 24, 7:30 p.m.
Location: Manhattan, Jolly Madison Towers, Whaler Bar
Madison Avenue at 38th Street, New York, N.Y. 10016
Contact Thomas Ruks at TRuksLP@yahoo.com
Tel: (212) 802-0600

See the latest schedule at
freestateproject.org/community/localgroups

The Free State Project

"Liberty in Our Lifetime"

**74 Shirley Hill Road
Goffstown, NH 03045**