

# The Free State Project

*“Liberty in Our Lifetime”*



*The Quill*

## Dispatch from the Front:

### Report on the FSP at the LP Convention

*By Alan R. Weiss*

Signed-Up Members  
as of  
June 27, 2004:  
**5,878**

The FSP was one of the hottest stories at the LP Convention, other than the surprise upset victory by Michael Badnarik—who is an FSP participant. We made *sure* we made “hay” from that.

The FSP Breakout Session, where Amanda, Jason, and I spoke, was very successful. We spoke to over 60 new people, and they were asking all the right questions. We expect to see a jump in membership from this alone. And we were inclusive, too—John Babiarz, Rich Tomasso, Howard Wilson, and others helped answer questions about New Hampshire during the question-and-answer session. Amanda and Jason did a brilliant job of conveying the FSP’s history, the rationale, and how awesome New Hampshire is and will be. I shared my conviction that we will be successful and why. I will have an essay out on that later this month.

The FSP spoke to hundreds of people at the convention.

The FSP handed out almost 100 copies of *Liberty*, so that we could “spread the word” around the LP Convention.

The FSP leadership found the most awesome, amazing group of hard-working volunteers who staffed the booth and table, and we are going to call on them in the future. I can’t stress this enough: our Porcupines really pitched in and worked hard to promote the FSP. I can’t hope to name all of them, but

Amber, Barry, Chris, Clayton, Daniel, Glenn, Justin, Keith, Nick, Paul—you *rock* and it is because of you that I know we will succeed.

We recruited and talked to as many people as we could about the FSP.

Amanda and I talked with dozens of powerful libertarians who, we found, were largely in support of the FSP. Included in this list were Michael Badnarik, Sharon Harris, Jim Lark, Aaron Russo, and others. Having powerful friends will serve us well in the future.

Amanda and I were interviewed by local and national media, and received compliments from conventioners about the TV appearance that aired on Atlanta news programs during the LP Convention.

We generated two press releases with Steve Cobb.

I personally made one of the nominating speeches for Michael Badnarik’s presidential nomination. The mes-

sage that there *is* a Free State of New Hampshire went out as part of a nominating speech for the person who became the presidential candidate of the Libertarian Party. This was carried on C-SPAN.

I talked with Nancy Neale about having the 2006 Libertarian Party Convention held in the Free State of New Hampshire. Thanks to John Babiarz and Rich Tomasso for helping spread this idea!



**Michael Badnarik** – 2004  
Presidential nominee of the  
Libertarian Party, & FSP Member.



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# The More Things Change

## A Note from the Chair


*By Jason Sorens*

As the presidential election season gets underway, I'm getting a strong sense of déjà vu. Once again, we're supposed to have a closely fought contest between two nonalternatives. Whatever your political affiliation may be, for those of us who favor individual liberty, the current U.S. presidential election seems to be depressingly familiar. America is supposedly "divided" between Republicans and Democrats as never before. Yet the choice we're being offered is more pointless than ever before. In the 2000 election, there seemed to be some relevant differences between the main candidates. By 2004, bipartisan consensus has become complete. The only thing Democrats and Republicans don't agree on is what the White House occupant's name should be.

Now, I know the FSP isn't political, but I think many Porcupines sympathize with what I'm writing here. Thank goodness for Michael Badnarik. Michael was just nominated as the presidential candidate of the Libertarian Party, and he is also a signed participant in the FSP. While I wish him all the success in the world, and hope that an abnormally high protest vote will send some signals to Washington, D.C. this year, I have no illusions about Michael's chances of winning, and I don't think he does either. His campaign is important because it highlights the sclerosis in the national political system, and demonstrates why now, more than ever, the FSP is necessary.

Who will repeal the USA Patriot Act, stop the growth in federal spending and the ballooning deficit, and roll back the federalization of education? The guys and gals currently in Washington, D.C. won't do it. Yet we also know that once government expands into new areas, it hardly ever surrenders its territory. Government power keeps expanding; individual freedoms continue to fall, one by one; the chances of regaining lost ground continue to fade as long as we're focused on the federal level. By achieving a Copernican revolution in our thinking, and focusing first on the political levels closest to the individual, we can start to rub out immediately the cancerous statism eating our society. Many freedom-friendly people have talked about starting out on the local level first, but just doing that isn't enough. A few small victories scattered around the country don't create momentum for freedom, change the social atmosphere, or begin a revolution in our neighbors' thinking. We also need to concentrate our activist resources within the FSP.

Once we're in New Hampshire, we can start to make the debate between those who wish to cut government and those who wish to preserve its current bloat. By choosing New Hampshire as our destination, we've already put the ideas of freedom front and center into the debate in the state. Now, we just need the activist presence and local knowledge to provide a genuine defense of those ideas. After building a local coalition in favor of freedom, we will create a staunch bulwark in state government that can stand up to the federal government and defend the Constitution. No more USA Patriot Acts, no more giveaways to special interests, no more centralization and regulation.

We still have a long way to go. We have to recruit about 14,000 more people willing to move to New Hampshire. In order to do this, we have to raise our profile not just in New Hampshire but in the rest of the country. We have to show that what happens in New Hampshire matter greatly everywhere else. This election year provides us a great opportunity because people are increasingly realizing that salvation does not come from Washington, D.C. and that the result of this election doesn't really matter. Right now, many people are engrossed in the details of the campaign and its "horse race" aspects, and much of the politically oriented media coverage that would come our way is now going into the campaign. However, whatever the result of the election may be, the FSP is poised to benefit. 

## Dispatch from the Front:

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In the end, the way to measure the success of our efforts at the LP Convention is to track the number of articles, videos, radio interviews, people who sign up now, and people who will sign up later because of their exposure to the FSP.

Was it worth it? I know it was. It cost me personally over \$2,200 to do this, and yes, I think it was worth it.

Now what? Simply this: let's use the contacts, the press, the mentions, the individuals who expressed an interest in the FSP to *keep recruiting, stay positive, and never surrender!*

*Alan R. Weiss*

Free State Project Vice President and Volunteer

# Man About the Free State

## New Hampshire continues to rock!

We started the month off with a lovely meet and greet at Karen and Cal's. Stan and his lovely wife were the guests of honor, visiting from New Jersey. Must say that Karen and Cal's have really gone the extra mile to open up their home to our visitors. Really think their example says something about the quality of folks we have in the FSP.

Representative Bic Bicknell was also there with his wife. He laughingly stated, "This sure is a lot more fun than the Republican events I attend!" On a more serious note, Bicknell agreed to come and speak to our local groups about the political climate in New Hampshire, and has volunteered to help us find speakers on issues that many of us hold dear. My thinking is that it is critical we learn our way around the political and freedom world so we can share that information with the rest of you folks when you get here.

Karen and I had an interesting discussion about our move to New Hampshire. Funny, we both smiled and agreed that not for a second have we regretted our decision. Truth be told, every newly arrived Porcupine I have met shares our view. A special thanks to all the New Hampshireites who have treated us so kindly.

As has become customary, I hitched a ride with Michele to the LPNH Board of Directors meeting. Interesting that so many of the active LP members in New Hampshire are also Porcupines. For those of you who have never met Michael Badnarik, please note he's a Porcupine, and has been an active FSP supporter.

Next up was Michele and Jim's meet-and-greet for Jason. Of course, Jason showed up in a suit and tie. Well now, the jacket and tie came off quickly, and he got a good taste of sunlight I am told. While I can't speak for Jason, I can't help but think he could feel the energy that is always in the air when the Porcupines gather. As has become a common occurrence, we had an older local couple call, then stop by wanting to learn more about us. They promised to join us for our September group meeting. We are really drawing much interest from the locals and I believe this will lead to future support.

On Tuesday, a group of us met at Michele and Jim's place again to stuff envelopes for the upcoming NHLA dinner. Believe it or not, stuffing envelopes can be fun. As I looked around the room, I wondered in amazement at what a diverse group we truly are. Our oldest member was 70, and our youngest was 14. Yet there we sat, so different, yet sharing a common resolve and enjoying each other's company. Doing the little, yet necessary, things to create a Free State.

Third Saturday of the month, time for the Seacoast Porcupine meeting! Since the minutes are already posted on the forum I see no need to go into

the detail, but know that we are on the right track, and expect we will be ready to start to participate in a meaningful way in the fall elections. Please understand many of us are rookies, so don't expect miracles, but I do believe that by 2006 we will really be able to have a significant effect.

Kate and Adam decided to drive up from Washington, D.C. for the Memorial Day weekend and test out their new air mattress. Hey folks, it works fine! Getting in late Friday, we had little time for more than a couple beverages, and a bit of FSP lala.

I'll leave most of the details to their entry in the guest book, but Saturday we attended the Merrimack Porcupine meeting in Manchester. We also did some touring, including a trip the beach, then off to dinner in the evening to meet some of the Seacoast Porcupines. On Sunday, Kate and Adam soloed, checking out possibilities for their move. Sunday evening, we all went over to Manchester, and hooked up with Joel to take in some fireworks.

Couldn't help but think, as we exchanged goodbyes Monday morning, that Kate and Adam had already decided that New Hampshire was home and they were just going back to Washington, D.C. for a visit. Think they will be a fine addition to our growing group when they come to stay next summer.

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

## Quote of the Month

*By Roderick Long*

*"The most succinct formulation of libertarianism I can think of is this: Other people are not your property."*

Roderick T. Long, "Libertarianism in One Sentence," *Austro-Athenian Empire*, May 29, 2004 blog entry, <http://praxeology.net/unblog05-04.htm#14> (last accessed June 17, 2004).

*David Mincin*

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# *The Quill*

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## **FSP EVENTS CALENDAR**

**Fox Valley LP**  
**When:** June 30, 7 p.m.  
**Where:** IL  
**FSP Speaker:** David Hughes

**Freedom Summit**  
**When:** October 9 – 10  
**Where:** Best Western at Grace Inn, Phoenix, AZ  
**FSP Speaker:** Alan Weiss, Amanda Phillips

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**Goffstown, NH 03045**