



# Macomb Liberty

NEWSLETTER OF LIBERTARIANS OF MACOMB COUNTY

May, 2002

## Bonnell Fights Utica H.S. Censors

By Keith Edwards and Diane Barnes

LMC member John Bonnell has begun another fight against educational censorship, this time at Utica High School. On Friday, April 26, Bonnell began picketing the school over its censorship of the school newspaper.

The picketing has attracted the attention of some students and 4 or 5 administrators, the latter at some distance. A few students, who had not read the paper and had heard nothing, shouted catcalls, but most gave thumbs up and smiles. A plainclothes police officer approached to advise the pickets that they were breaking no rules and to keep it that way (with a smile.)

Al Titran and Marc Stemmer helped picket.

He was interviewed by a cameraman from the local community-service cable channel. When asked by an older gentleman why he was there, Bonnell replied, "I am an American who believes in the First Amendment, and so may be regarded as an outside agitator." He has been picketing three times a week at Utica.

Bonnell, who will be running for the State House District 42 seat, is the Macomb County Community College English professor who was suspended for his frank language in class after a complaint lodged by one female student, and returned to find a speech monitor in his classes. Apparently MCCC does not teach the First Amendment.

There is at least one candidate for the Macomb County Community College Board of Trustees who agrees with Bonnell, Libertarian Jeff LaButte.

## First Amendment Under Fire

By John Bonnell

The First Amendment is under fire all over America and maybe especially in the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit (Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee).

Though a locally notable college professor is active in mobilizing this protest, even he agrees that one good reporter is worth a hundred professors. That is, a free press is more important than free expression/free speech rights of any other identifiable group in a democracy. Professors reach a rather small audience; journalists have vast impact. This local professor, in fact, wouldn't even know about this latest assault on the First Amendment if he hadn't read about it in the papers.

The judiciary, especially the federal judiciary, has taken a very cavalier attitude toward the rights and dignity of "mere" high school students ever since the Supreme Court's admirable ruling in *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District* (1969) wherein they stated; "It can hardly be argued that either students or teachers shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate . . . In our system, state operated schools may not be enclaves of totalitarianism . . . Students may not . . . be confined to the expression of those sentiments that are officially approved."

That was then. There has been a lot of retreating and revising since. And, as colleges are being reduced to snazzy concentration camps, the notion that the indoctrination of high schoolers can later be reversed is rapidly losing its credibility. Federal judges are increasingly reducing ALL students to the junior high level, college students not excepted. Thus the hydra-headed monster of CENSORSHIP must be resisted

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## Macomb Liberty

Macomb Liberty is published nine times per year as the official publication of Libertarians of Macomb County, 28960 Jane St., St. Clair Shores, MI 48081-1032.

All statements contained herein represent the opinion of the author and are not necessarily the position of Libertarians of Macomb County.

Articles and letters to the editor must be submitted by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month. Text should be typewritten and signed. Unsigned material will not be used. Submissions may be edited.

Advertising is available at \$10.00 per column inch for camera ready copy.

Articles, letters and ad copy should be sent to the editor at the above address.

## Directory

### Executive Committee:

Chair	Keith Edwards	586-777-7468
Vice Chair	Diane Barnes	586-774-1625
Secretary	Erin Stahl	586-776-8522
Treasurer	Marnie Edwards	586-777-7468
At Large	Jim Miller	586-792-5168
"	Kevin Grand	
"	Wendy Morisi	
Candidates	Diane Barnes	586-774-1625
Database	Kevin Grand	
Editor	Keith Edwards	586-777-7468
Membership	Stacy Van Oast	
Road Clean-up	Jim Miller	
Speakers	Keith Edwards	586-777-7468

Membership meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month (except December) at Mile's World Restaurant, 17689 Masonic (just east of Groesbeck) in Fraser. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting is at 7:30. All members of the Libertarian Party of Michigan are welcome as well as guests.

For further information, call the Chair.

[www.mi.lp.org/lmc](http://www.mi.lp.org/lmc)

## Local Representatives

Local Representatives are appointed by the Chair for the various municipalities in Macomb County. Their duties include finding which public offices are up for election each year and the dates of elections, recruiting candidates, and helping with literature drops and if possible, locating potential precinct delegates. Representatives are encouraged to attend local council meetings to determine what are the hot issues and perhaps speak on them from a libertarian perspective!

Armada Township	Bob Van Oast	586-784-8783
Armada Village	Bob Van Oast	586-784-8783
Bruce Township		
Center Line		
Chesterfield Township	Joe Zemens	586-492-2352
Clinton Township	Jim Miller	586-792-5168
Eastpointe	Diane Barnes	586-774 1625
Fraser		
Harrison Township		
Lake Township		
Lenox Township		
Macomb Township		
Memphis		
Mount Clemens		
New Baltimore		
New Haven		
Ray Township		
Richmond	Bob Van Oast	586-784-8783
Richmond Township	Bob Van Oast	586-784-8783
Romeo		
Roseville	Al Titran	586-776-2214
St. Clair Shores	Erin Stahl	586-776-8522
Shelby Township	Craig Yope	586-997-1707
Sterling Heights	Paul Soyk	586-977-3523
Utica	Craig Yope	586-997-1707
Warren	Dean Sahutske	586-979-4099
Washington Township		

To volunteer for your area, call Diane Barnes.

## College Libertarian Clubs

We encourage the formation of college libertarian clubs. If you are a student, start one. Or if you have a son or daughter in college you might encourage them to start such a club. This age group will be voting for the next 60 years!

Each school has its own policies and rules regarding clubs. Check your school's rules. (You may need a faculty advisor.) We have speakers available. Contact us if interested.



## **Libertarians of Macomb County Minutes of April 10, 2002 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Keith Edwards at 7:30 P.M. at Mile's World.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as corrected. The number of Delegates to the National Convention is 61.

Treasurer's report was given by Marnie Edwards and approved as submitted.

Membership report was given by Kevin Grand. Membership was up 11% from the previous month.

Deadline for the next newsletter is April 25.

Jim Miller has set the first road clean-up for Saturday, May 4, at 9:00 A.M. Meet at the bank parking lot at Metro Parkway and Schoenherr.

Registration for the State Convention in Troy is slow and the brochure and state newsletter are late, hindering knowledge of prices and deadlines. Chair Edwards urged early registration for lower prices.

Edwards also asked who wishes to be a Delegate to the National Convention. Edwards, Diane Barnes, Jim Miller, Rosemary Racchi and Al Titran were put on the nomination list. Other LPM members may get on the list by contacting Keith Edwards.

Candidates were solicited for the November election, paperwork was distributed and instructions given for filling it out. Official nominations will be made at the State Convention, but we hope to have full commitments by next meeting.

There will be a LMC Committee meeting on April 24 at 7:30 at Marnie and Keith's home.

Al Titran recommended subscriptions to Imprimis, the publication of Hillsdale College. No cost.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 P.M.

Keith Edwards, Chair and Acting Secretary

## **Calendar**

May 8, 2002 – Regular meeting of Libertarians of Macomb County at Mile's World Restaurant, 17689 Masonic, just east of Groesbeck, in Fraser. Dinner is at 6:30 and meeting starts at 7:30. We will focus on final recruiting of candidates and distribution of paperwork and instructions. Information on upcoming State Convention and National Delegate nomination list.

May 17-19, 2002 – State Convention of the Libertarian Party of Michigan at Troy Marriott. Bylaws and platform review, nomination of statewide candidates for public office, election of officers, election of National Delegates, banquet, party and seminars. Election of officers is scheduled for 4 P.M. Saturday. Diane Barnes and Keith Edwards are running for re-election as state Vice Chair and Secretary.

June 12, 2002 – Regular meeting of LMC at Mile's World. We will talk about issues of interest to Michigan candidates. Speaker to be announced.

July 3-7, 2002 – Bi-annual National Convention of the Libertarian Party in Indianapolis. By-laws and platform review, election of national officers, speakers, seminars, entertainment, vendors and parties. See LP News for details and registration information. Great fun, over 1,000 Libertarians in one place!

July 10, 2002 – Regular meeting of LMC at Mile's World. Karen DeCoster of Mackinac Center will speak.

August 14, 2002 – Regular meeting of LMC at Miles World. Lively discussion. Speaker to be announced.

September 11, 2002 – Regular meeting of LMC at Mile's World. Speaker on an issue of importance in Michigan to be announced.

November 5, 2002 – General Election. Work the polls and vote!

November 9, 2002 – Annual LPM Liberty Fest Awards Banquet at Mac and Ray's Restaurant in Harrison Township, a beautiful facility. Libertarian author Wendy McElroy will speak. LMC is the host for this event, always a big hit!



## Are You a Candidate?

By Keith Edwards

At the April meeting of Libertarians of Macomb County, commitments were received from 12 Libertarians to run for the state legislature and county commission seats. In addition, Jeff LaButte is running for Macomb County Community College Board of Trustees and Diane Barnes will seek the nomination for State Board of Education. That's fourteen. However, there are more spots to be filled. We are recruiting another State Senate spot as two State Representative positions.

Our biggest need is for County Commissioner candidates. Out of 26 seats, we have candidates for just 5 so far.

So, why aren't YOU running? Libertarians are bright, serious people. We have strong opinions about the relationship of government to the individual (too big) and the number of smart, honest people in office (too small). So there YOU are. Do you like the way the Democrats run (or ruin) Macomb County? Are the Republicans doing anything to change it? Not much.

So if we Libertarians have all the right answers, why aren't we filling the ballot with candidates?

At our meeting on May 8, we will try to fill those empty spots on the ballot. Do you wonder why we have blank spots? Because YOU are not running!

Never run before? Neither did I, until 1970. Neither did any of our other candidates until they decided to make a commitment. There's always a first time and that's always a bit scary. But it's really a snap

Just show up at Mile's World Restaurant, 17689 Masonic, just east of Groesbeck on May 8, at 7:30 and we will help you with the paperwork. Then you just sit back and wait for a few newspaper surveys to answer. Your ideas will be in print!

Of course, you can run a real busy campaign if you wish. But either way, you can look back later and say, "I helped make a difference. I fought the good fight. I'm not just a spectator, I'm a freedom fighter!"

## Thanks

By Keith Edwards

As we approach another election season, I'd like to thanks those Libertarians who have stepped up and taken on the responsibility of running for office again.

Scott Allen, who just moved to Macomb County several years ago, jumped right in to the political wars and joins me in running for the State Senate.

Erin Stahl, who just got active a couple of years ago, ran for the St. Clair Shores City Council last year got some press last month for protesting high property taxes and is going for the State House of Representatives this year, along with newcomer Jim Allison, Jim Miller, who ran a very active race last time; Bob Van Oast a veteran Libertarian candidate just coming off heart surgery; and John Bonnell, whose exploits are covered on page one of this issue.

Paul Stables, another new guy, is taking the plunge in running for County Commissioner. He's joined by Mike Jablonski, another fairly new face; Craig Yope who was our Vice Chair; super volunteer and frequent candidate Al Titran, who also didn't let heart surgery slow him down; and a feisty new candidate, Wendy Morisi.

Diane Barnes, who kept us on the ballot on 1998 as our top of ticket, is returning for another shot at State Board of Education after leading the fight against the living wage in politically naïve Eastpointe.

Jeff LaButte, after seeing the injustice laid on John Bonnell, is in his first race, for the Macomb County Community College Board of Trustees. At last, a voice for academic freedom and the First Amendment may be heard.

Thanks to all these candidates and to others who will join them at our May meeting. We appreciate the commitment to liberty that you are making.

"Our strength exceeds our will; how often we say things are impossible when we are looking for an excuse"

Francois de Marsillac, duc de la Rochefoucauld



## First Amendment Under Fire

(Concluded from Page 1)

wherever it snarls from its lair.

Censorship can no longer be accepted as a necessity or a luxury in the "lower" grades. The encouragement to embrace informed and responsible citizenship must begin at the earliest ages possible. The "inmates" in our K-12 system know very well that "free" education is a process of chronic repression and insult. Soon, the collegiate crew will join (i.e., never leave) their passive, sullen ranks.

## Need a Speaker?

Libertarians of Macomb County has speakers available for your local high school or college class, civic group or fraternal organization, inside or outside Macomb County. We can cover specific issues, or politics in general. Whether it is foreign policy, education, free speech, social security, the drug war, gun control, assisted suicide, or most any issue, we can handle it. And, it's free! Just ask!

If you need a speaker, call Keith Edwards at 586-777-7468 or email [Keithmarni@aol.com](mailto:Keithmarni@aol.com) and we will be happy to set a date.

## Declare Your Independence

**With a Libertarian Party of Michigan T-shirt!**



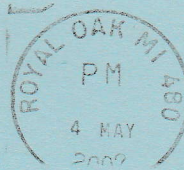
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**Available at all meetings of Libertarians of Macomb County**



Macomb Liberty  
28960 Jane  
St. Clair Shores, MI 48081-1032



EMILY SALVETTE  
2016 DEVONSHIRE RD  
ANN ARBOR MI 48104-4058

**Please join (or renew) now and keep Macomb Liberty coming!**

#### LMC Membership and Contribution Form

☐ \$35 LMC, Michigan (LPM) and National ☐ \$10 Libertarians of Macomb County Only New\_\_\_\_ Renewal\_\_\_\_

Contribution to the LMC: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_

GOVERNMENT MANDATED NOTICES: The United States Postal Service requires that we notify you that the cost of newsletter subscriptions (\$25 National, \$15 Michigan, \$10 LMC) are included in your membership dues. The Internal Revenue Service requires that we print "contributions are not tax-deductible".

Applicants for membership must indicate concurrence with the following statement by signing below:

"I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals." *This statement does not preclude self-defense or resistance to tyranny.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

SEND TO: Libertarians of Macomb County, 28960 Jane, St. Clair Shores MI 48081-1032

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