



# Macomb Liberty

NEWSLETTER OF LIBERTARIANS OF MACOMB COUNTY

April-May-June, 2009

## LPM Elects Salvette Chair

By Keith Edwards

The Libertarian Party of Michigan elected Emily Salvette State Chair at its annual convention on May 23 in Jackson. Although it was unanimous, it wasn't easy. At least a half dozen nominees declined to run for the spot, most of them former chairs, including Emily herself. (Full disclosure: I was one of them.) Retiring Chair Bill Hall was the first nominated, then Emily and on it went. Finally, Emily relented and accepted the nomination after much urging. She previously served in the position in 1995-97. She was Secretary this last year and is very highly regarded in the party.

Dan Johnson was elected Vice Chair and Tom Bagwell Secretary, both unanimously, after they indicated a desire to serve.

The election for Treasurer was the one hotly contested office and Macomb's Erin Stahl edged Bill Hall by one vote, 21-20.

The Libertarian Executive Committee (LEC) was filled out as five Directors were elected in a real race with Bill Hall (37 votes), Greg Stempfle (34), Greg Creswell (32) Andy LeCureaux (30) and Brian Wright (23) winning over Will White 16, Roy Smith 15 and Johnny Stosnik 13. Again, there were some declinations.

The Judicial Committee took three ballots to decide with Bill Gelineau taking the top spot as chair with 26 votes and Keith Edwards getting 22 on the first ballot. Dan Grow took the third spot on the third ballot over Art Gulick, Will White and Jerry Bloom.

The number of declinations was not an encouraging sign, but we ended up with a veteran LEC that includes three former chairs (Wright, Salvette and Hall) from three different decades! That should provide a great deal of perspective.

There were no bylaws or platform changes made.

This being a non-election year, the LEC can concentrate on organizational changes including affiliate development, finance and outreach. With the growing repudiation by voters of the two overage parties, there should be an opportunity for the LP to gain many of the votes from the expanding numbers of independent voters. The LEC cannot do this all by itself. The rest of the membership needs to pitch in. We need to reactivate some affiliates and recruit new members. The finance area should benefit as a result. It's not too early to start. The new LEC met immediately after the convention adjourned and set the first full meeting at LPM HQ in Troy on Saturday, June 27, at 4:30.

The brunch speaker was Pat Clawson, who urged the members to get active in local politics by attending state legislative and city council meetings, especially at the committee level. He pointed out that few citizens do attend, so those who do can have some influence on proposals for new laws, taxes and spending. It's also good training to present one's ideas on the effect of proposals and to learn about legislative procedures. If you do this in a reasonable manner and the legislators get to know you, you may find that you have some influence. As a learned libertarian, your advice should improve the quality of legislation and maybe even to stop the worst of it. So why not do it?



### Macomb Liberty

Macomb Liberty is published quarterly 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 positions of Libertarians of Macomb County.

Articles and letters to the editor should be typewritten and signed. Unsigned material will not be used. Submissions may be edited for length or clarity.

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	Jim Allison	586-817-0395
Vice Chair	Dan Flamand	
Secretary	Keith Edwards	586-777-7468
Treasurer	Marnie Edwards	
At Large	Nicole Michalak	
At Large	Jim Miller	
At Large	Erin Stahl	
Membership	Marnie Edwards	
Publicity	Joe Zemens	
Speakers	Keith Edwards	
Webmaster	Jim Allison	

**Meetings** are held on the First Tuesday of the month (except December) at **Loon River Café**, 34911 Van Dyke at 15 Mile Road in Warren. Dinner and discussion are at 6:30 if you wish to attend.

For further information, call the chair.  
[www.mi.lp.org](http://www.mi.lp.org) for the Libertarian Party of Michigan  
[www.MacombLP.com](http://www.MacombLP.com) for Libertarians of Macomb County

### Need a Speaker?

Libertarians of Macomb County has speakers available for your high school or college class, civic group or fraternal organization, whether inside or outside Macomb County. Whether it is foreign policy, economics, education, free speech, the drug war, gun control or any other issue, we can handle it.

It's free! Just ask Keith Edwards at 586-777-7468.

### College Libertarian Clubs

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

Each school has its own policies and rules on clubs. Check your school's rules. You may need a faculty advisor. We have speakers available.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Libertarian:** 1. An advocate of the doctrine of free will. 2. One who upholds the principles of liberty, especially of thought and action.

Webster's Dictionary

**Rights:** A right is a moral principle that defines and limits a person's freedom of action in a social context.

Author Ayn Rand

**Capitalism:** An economic system characterized by private or corporation ownership of capital goods, by investments that are determined by private decision rather than by state control, and by prices, production, and the distribution of goods that are determined primarily in a free market.

Webster's Dictionary



## Veryser Speaks at Convention

By Keith Edwards

Professor Harry Veryser of University of Detroit Mercy expressed a very different view of the probable disaster of the Obama administration as the featured speaker at the State Convention of the Libertarian Party of Michigan at Jackson on June 23. He agrees it will flop with very serious results for the near future, but will be a good thing in the long run. Why? It will make obvious the inability of so-called liberals to manage the economy.

“The liberals now control the executive, legislative and judicial branches. They have the power and they will fail,” he said. “It is a statist program.” He believes that it will make so many mistakes that the public will see the ineptitude so clearly that it will provide the opportunity for a conservative-libertarian comeback. In the meantime, “we must provide the arguments for the remedy.”

Veryser believes that the left is going to be disillusioned by the failure. “The neo-conservatives have been discredited and are dead,” he says. The liberals will follow. This paves the way for the recognition of Austrian economics. He says that the U.S. government is running out of money and cannot finance the Obama-style socialism, nor can it maintain the empire. It will have to start withdrawing from its overseas commitments. “Who will buy their bonds as the dollar sinks? He thinks it is possible that China and Russia will stop and are already looking for a new world currency, and that might mean a return to the gold standard. It is happening just as in “Atlas Shrugged,” he said.

Professor Veryser has been training young teachers in Austrian economics and says they are now teaching at over 20 colleges. He was at the formation of the Libertarian Party of Michigan in May, 1972, and an original member of the LPM. He did return to the Republican Party and was their Macomb County Chair a decade ago. He has taught at a number of schools, recently at Walsh. Thanks go to Erin Stahl, a former student at Walsh for arranging his appearance.

## What Next?

By Keith Edwards

Beats me. I don't know what is next. As I write this, freedom-loving Iranians are demonstrating and the government thugs are cracking down on them. Who will win? The Messiah continues to promote more uneconomic foolishness (that's the American one, not the Iranian one.) Chrysler is now a foreign auto company and GM is now Government Motors with a partner called the UAW. Ford is behaving very well, not taking a government bribe and actually building good cars. How long will it be before the UAW bugs its partner to harass Ford, the able competitor? Will the Obamamaniacs raise taxes and kill the rest of the economy? I dunno.

Since listening to Harry Veryser's speech, I have seen a number of reports of big gold purchases and transfers by governments. True? I wonder if the switch away from the dollar isn't much closer now. I also hear reports that some democrats are backing away from their leader on issues such a socialized medicine.

I've believed for decades that runaway inflation will come sooner or later, and with Commissar of Money Bernanke engaging in dollar diarrhea, I expect that this type of diarrhea will resemble the usual kind. But Harry's speech implies a different possible result, deflation. What to do?

Well first, I think we all should do what we can to “provide the arguments for the remedy” as Harry suggests. Speak up to anyone you can, write letters to the editor, attend local government meetings.

Secondly, we must also apply the principles we espouse to our own lives. Be sure we have some good form of wealth in reserve, are as free of debt as possible and have some ordinary skills that others will always need.

We also need to keep in mind that the worse government gets, the more resistance arises. Who would have thought Iranians would revolt, or that Americans would again attend tea parties?



## **Latest Published Letters**

### **Big government ruined Michigan**

Chad Selweski raised a good point in his May 3 column, "What's in a name? For Detroiters, a lot." He said the national media often paints the whole metro area as if it were all a part of Detroit. "Detroit, Macomb County, Oakland County - they're all in the same downward spiral when you're on the outside looking in."

He is correct about that. Detroit is certainly a basket case, but much of the fault lies in an entity that covers much more space than even the whole metro area - Michigan. In the 1950s, Detroit and Michigan were economically vigorous. You could walk almost everywhere safely. The cultural facilities were well run. There was a good spirit here. But there was one specter casting its shadow: Growing government at all levels.

The last really smart, effective mayor was Al Cobo. The city council focused more on sociology than economics and city services declined. The city income tax discouraged new business, and the enforcement of drug laws created a market for organized crime as it had for prohibition decades earlier.

At the state level, Democrat Gov. "Soapy" Williams became a political caddy for the UAW's Walter Reuther, supporting laws, regulations and taxes that hurt industry. In the 1960s and '70s, there were Republicans George Romney and Bill Milliken, who not only failed to reverse the trend, but increased taxes to pay for Democrat programs. The sales tax went up. The state income tax was added. Today, Macomb County is raising taxes again.

The federal government began to torture the auto industry with contradictory regulation. The industry caved in to the government-union duopoly. The entire state suffers as a result. "Detroit" means Flint and Saginaw as well as Warren and Sterling Heights. Conservatives and libertarians predicted

these results in the 1960s and '70s. We urged governments to back off and return to a free market. Liberals scoffed.

So we are in that "downward spiral" that is not just the fault of Detroit. It's Michigan, and liberals asked for it. Now you're losing the jobs you destroyed.

Keith P. Edwards, St. Clair Shores  
C/o The Macomb Daily, May 13, 2009

### **Raising taxes erodes tax base**

Our county officials claimed we should support the Detroit Zoo, so our taxes went up. They said we needed a special millage to support additional veteran's services, and so our taxes went up. And now they raised the county operation millage so our taxes will go up again.

Macomb County was once a shining example of good government, low taxes, good services and balanced budgets. In these difficult economic times, all of us need to make sacrifices, and government is no exception.

Our county commissioners refused to make the tough choices, so they shifted that burden on the taxpayers. Now families across the county have to surrender a greater portion of their income to support nonessential services, while county government foregoes any sacrifices.

Tax increases such as these give residents just one more reason to leave the county and the state, and we cannot afford to lose more of our shrinking tax base. Those commissioners who recklessly approved this hike in the millage cap should be held accountable in the next election. We need to see Macomb County return to its fiscally conservative origins.

The "tea party" protests showed that there is a growing resentment among Americans on the issue of taxation. As long as our elected officials

(continued on page 5)



## Tax base

(Continued from page 4)

continue to ignore our cries, they will bear witness to a rising tide of taxpayer dissatisfaction that will eventually sweep them out of power.

Daniel J. Flamand, Eastpointe  
c/o The Macomb Daily, May 16, 2009

## Become business friendly

Thanks for the June 2 editorial, "GM bankruptcy is Michigan's darkest day." I couldn't agree more with the recommendation that Michigan must focus on being a friendly state. Michigan has strayed so far from pro-business policies that the state is actively competing against its successful companies. For example, Michigan has two programs, Careersite and Michigan Talent Bank, that directly compete with hundreds of Michigan-based job recruitment companies. These state businesses are unfairly having their earnings taken away through taxation to fund their government-run competition. Rather than drive these companies out of the state or into bankruptcy, the state government should instead let job recruitment stay in the private sector.

Jim Allison, Warren  
c/o The Detroit News, June 17, 2009

## Rosemary Racchi, R.I.P.

Former Libertarians of Macomb County activist Rosemary Racchi died on May 21, 2009, from heart disease at the age of 82. She is survived by five children and was both a grandmother and great grandmother.

Rosemary was an exceptionally nice lady who did a lot of the grind work that is essential to any political organization. It was always a pleasure to see her at our events.

## LMC Calendar

July 4, 2009 - Celebrate the 233<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. See if there is a "tea party" celebration in your area. Here's a chance to meet new people who are almost sure to be interested in freedom. They need to know that there is a political party that shares their values.

July 7, 2009 - Regular business meeting of Libertarians of Macomb County at Loon River Café at 7:30 P.M. Optional dinner discussion at 6:30. After the business portion, we will play the Politigo game to test our skill at answering tough political questions.

August 4, 2009 - Primary Election Day.

August 4, 2009 - Regular meeting of LMC at Loon River Café. We will discuss energy issues with an emphasis on nuclear ( not new clear, Mr. Bush!)

September 1, 2009 - Regular business meeting of LMC at Loon River Café. Meet the candidates for local elections.

October 6, 2009 - Regular meeting of LMC at Loon River Café. Subject tba.

November 3, 2009 - General Election Day.

November 3, 2009 - Regular meeting of LMC at Loon River Café. Subject tba.

"Every socialist is a disguised dictator."  
Ludwig von Mises

"The more things a government undertakes to do, the fewer things it can do competently. When the government tries to do everything, it must do everything badly.

Henry Hazlitt

The more powerful government becomes, the more abuses it commits and the more lies it must tell.

James Bovard

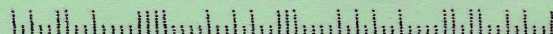


Macomb Liberty  
28960 Jane  
St. Clair Shores, MI 48081-1032



Emily Salvette LPC  
2016 Devonshire  
Ann Arbor MI 48104-4058

481044058 CO44



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

**LMC Membership and Contribution Form**

☐ \$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

☐ Check or Money Order Enclosed payable to the **Libertarians of Macomb County** Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_