



Macomb Liberty

NEWSLETTER OF LIBERTARIANS OF MACOMB COUNTY

April-May-June, 2008

LMC Nominates Candidates

By Keith Edwards

Libertarians of Macomb County have begun the process of nominating candidates for public office for the November 4 general election. As of the April 9 meeting, the following nominations have been made.

State Representative:

District 25	Jim Allison
District 31	Jim Miller
District 42	Daniel Flamand

County Commissioner:

District 5	Jim McWilliams
District 6	Mike Brylewski
District 23	Erin Stahl

At the May 14 meeting, we hope to fill many of the remaining positions. They are State Rep. districts 24,28, 30, 32, 33 and 36 and County Commissioner districts 1-4, 7-22, 24,25, and 26. One or two spots may be left vacant if there is a libertarian running on another slate.

At the Libertarian Party of Michigan State Convention on June 7 we will nominate candidates for the Congressional seats in districts 10 and 12 which are shared with Oakland County. There will be specific caucuses for those two seats and the candidates chosen could be from either county. Anyone seeking one of those two seats should be at the convention.

Anyone seeking the State Rep or County Commission seats should be at our May 14 meeting. We do have some people who plan to run and have not yet appeared, and there may be candidates who are not decided about what office to run for. All LMC members are encouraged to attend and/or run.

McWilliams Elected Chair

By Keith Edwards

At the meeting of March 12, Libertarians of Macomb County elected their Executive Committee for the 2008-09 year. Jim McWilliams was elected chair by unanimous vote to succeed Dan Flamand who chose not to run for re-election due to job commitments. Jim is new to the committee although he has been attending meetings regularly.

Jim Allison was re-elected Vice Chair, also by a unanimous vote. He served as Chair the previous two years and has been on the committee since 2003.

Keith Edwards was re-elected Secretary for his second term, also unanimously. He has previously served 4 terms as Chair, 2 as Vice Chair and on the committee for most years since 1982.

Marnie Edwards was re-elected Treasurer for her 12th term also without opposition.

Four candidates were nominated for the three at-large Director positions. On the first ballot, Mike Brylewski and Nicole Michalak were elected and Dan Flamand and Erin Stahl tied for third. Dan won the runoff. He served on the committee the last two years as Vice Chair and Chair. This is Mike's first year on the committee. This will be Nicole's 4th term as Director.

Although Jim McWilliams is new to the committee, he is a real spark plug, has written a number of letters to editors and came up with the Politigo game that we have played as an educational tool before or after meetings. And most of the committee is very experienced including three former LMC chairs. And, as you can see on pages 4-6, we are off to a good start on our letters to the editor campaign.

Macomb Liberty

Macomb Liberty is published bimonthly 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 15th of the odd-numbered 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	Jim McWilliams	586-582-9444
Vice Chair	Jim Allison	586-817-0395
Secretary	Keith Edwards	586-777-7468
Treasurer	Marnie Edwards	586-777-7468
At Large	Mike Brylewski	
At large	Dan Flamand	
At large	Nicole Michalak	
Candidates	Jim Allison	
Editor	Keith Edwards	586-777-7468
Membership	Marnie Edwards	586-777-7468
Programs	Jim Allison	
Publicity		
Speakers	Keith Edwards	586-777-7468
Webmaster	Jim Allison	

Membership meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the every month at **Loon River Cafe, 34911 Van Dyke** (just south of 15 Mile Road) in Warren. The meeting starts at 7:30. Dinner and side discussion is available at 6:30 if you wish. Members of the Libertarian Party of Michigan, family and friends are welcome.

For further information, call the Chair.

www.mi.lp.org for the Libertarian Party of Michigan.
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. We can cover politics in general or specific issues. Whether it is foreign policy, education, free speech, social security, the drug war, gun control, Patriot Act or any other issue, we can handle it.

It's free! Just ask. If you need a speaker, call Keith Edwards at (586) 777-7468 or email him at Keithmarni@aol.com. We will be happy to oblige.

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! They are receptive to new ideas.

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.

* * * * *

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

Calendar

May 14, 2008 - Regular Meeting of Libertarians of Macomb County at Loon River Café at 7:30. Optional dinner-discussion at is at 6:30. Last chance to be nominated for State Representative or County Commissioner.

June 7, 2008 – State Convention of Libertarian Party of Michigan at Best Western Hotel. Nominations for statewide and multi-county district public offices. Election of Officers for 2008-09. Banquet.

June 11, 2008 – Regular meeting of LMC at Loon River.

July 9, 2008 – Regular meeting of LMC at Loon River.

The Crawl, er, Race Continues

By Keith Edwards

It seems like forever already, but there are six more months to go in the race to see who the next chief oppressor will be. Why does it seem so depressing? We've been through Bush 1-Dukakis, Bush 1-Clinton, Clinton-Dole, Bush 2-Gore and Bush 2-Kerry and survived. What's so bad about McCain- Hilary Obama? Oops, that wasn't a typo, Hilary Obama does seem like one entity since they each seem to agree that the other is incapable, but a fine candidate. Maybe it's because we *have* been through Bush1-Dukakis etc. We never get any relief or hope. Yet I get the feeling that I was less offended by the Bushes and Dole than I am by McCain. The others seemed somewhat less phony acting like conservatives even if we knew they weren't. Ah, for good ole Ronnie Reagan. We knew he really was conservative and he would make some mistakes, but basically wasn't that bad.

So why is McCain so depressing? Well, he's made some conservative points lately, like keeping the Bush tax cuts, making other new ones, cutting pork. But except for the latter, he's one Republican who voted no on those cuts before. And when he reads his speeches, it's as if he's mystified by the text, like reciting "Que es el burro?" the first day in Spanish class. Freedom is foreign to him, after all it does require a philosophy behind it.

And that's the problem. He has no philosophy. He seems to stagger from one political whim to another, with no concept of the consequences. Thus, they all become unintended. Like 527s.

As for Obama? Karl Rove just likened him to Adlai Stevenson, so remote, so condescending, so devoid of actual accomplishment. Ike slaughtered Adlai twice, but McCain is no Ike.

Hillary is a match for her occasional bedmate, the spectacular liar. No credibility, no ethics, nothing. She has no oval office experience or she'd have spotted Monica. But Bill beat Bush 1 and Dole. Hillary only needs to beat Obama and McCain. But who is more disliked by more people than Hillary?

So, what to do? Vote for McCain, the runaway train, Obama, the remote, or Hillary flying on Broomstick 1?

This *should* be a good year for the Libertarian Party. Note the emphasis. The other minor parties are in no position to take advantage of the situation. Most have lost a lot of ballot status. None have a name candidate. Some have changed names so often we don't recognize them.

The LP has a name that has not changed. It has a philosophy. It still has ballot status though there's still work to do. Does it have a candidate? Well, not yet. There were five original hopefuls including three unknowns and two others who are known only by a squeaky voice or being on the lam here and there because of medical marijuana. Not exactly for Middle America. More recently, we see Democrat Mike Gravel who could not get 1% in any Demo primary this year. Whoopee! That leaves Mary Ruwart, author, long-time LPM activist who really knows her stuff and is a fine communicator, but unknown outside the LP. And there is former Congressman Bob Barr, who was pretty libertarian when he was in office except for being a drug warrior (since recovered, he says) and is on the LP Nat Comm. But the public remember him?

The national LP is currently in that periodic civil war between the pragmatists and the purists. The pragmatists say to hell with philosophy, let's get a candidate with a name even if there is none who will run. The purists say there wouldn't be an LP if we didn't have a philosophy so let's keep it and educate people with the best representative of it. Ron Paul would be a name and is fairly consistent, but he's running for re-election to Congress in the real world.

Now I'm a purist, but one who believes if a candidate is 95% OK and has a name, go with him or her. We did that with Paul in '88 and it was OK. I could go for Barr if I were up to date on whether he hits 95%. I suspect he does. I like Mary a lot, always have, and think she'd be a fine candidate. There's only one other possibility I can think of and that is former Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura. He was always fairly libertarian and sounded more so in the recent Larry King interview. He was hinting that he's available for a party that has ballot status mostly solved and took openly libertarian positions. Hmmm.

Published Letters

Ron Paul wants to chop away federal programs

Chad Selweski was correct in his Jan. 13 column, "Misguided liberals throw their vote away on Ron Paul." He said that while they may agree with his position on the war they don't agree with the rest of Paul's idea, calling Paul "eccentric."

Yes, Paul does want to "chop away" at government programs, departments and agencies. Yes, he would dump FEMA of New Orleans fame. Why not? Volunteer individuals and companies did more good there than FEMA, which messed up the little that it did do.

There are several major departments that should be dumped. The Department of Education does not educate; it takes tax money, deducts its expenses and reallocates the rest to its favorites.

HUD has torn down more buildings than it puts up and interferes with market priorities. Agriculture pays out subsidies to rich people and rigs prices and production to promote monopolies.

Labor and Commerce are there only to promote special interests. Ending them would save hundreds of billions of dollars. Yes, Ron Paul would act to "eliminate the income tax which funds 42 percent of the federal budget." That sounds great to me. We could use a 42 percent tax cut and provide for our own retirement and medical care.

And think of what individuals and families could do with the \$1 trillion President Bush has spent in Iraq. Is that eccentric? Nope, it just gets us back to self-responsibility. Liberals don't like that, but Libertarians, conservatives and many independents do.

Too bad Ron Paul is the only candidate out there who does.

Keith P. Edwards
St. Clair Shores
c/o The Macomb Daily, February 3, 2008

Paul fights for ideals

Republican Ron Paul is the lone presidential candidate who is fighting to preserve the libertarian ideals that were used to found this great republic, such as limited government, states' rights and individual liberty.

Daniel Flamand, Eastpointe
The Detroit News, January 29, 2008

County shouldn't raid rainy day fund

Fiscal irresponsibility must be contagious because it seems our state legislators have passed along this illness to our county commissioners. Our Macomb County Board of Commissioners decided not to cut county staff, but instead chose to raid the county's treasury to resolve a \$5 million deficit. This so-called "rainy day" fund, which is the accumulation of excess taxes collected from Macomb County taxpayers, should not be depleted to maintain a bloated bureaucracy.

As our state's economic conditions worsen, these funds may be needed in the coming years to sustain vital services. If this fund is to be used at all, then it should be given back to every property taxpayer in the form of a rebate check, which would help spur private economic development and personal savings.

If this type of mentality remains the norm for our county commissioners, then property tax increases are sure to be on the agenda in the next few years. Businesses, families, and private organizations have all learned to cut back their expenditures as their incomes have decreased, and government should be no different.

Voters should write a new prescription come November, and elect fiscal conservatives and libertarians to restore fiscal responsibility and rid this disease within our state capitol and county seat.

Daniel Flamand, Eastpointe
c/o The Macomb Daily, February 11, 20-08

More Letters

What's wrong with sovereign investments?

Sen. Evan Bayh ("Time for Sovereign Wealth Rules," op-ed Feb.13) thinks foreign SWFs investing in U.S. corporations is dangerous and that Congress should write rules. Any rules Congress writes will do harm.

Consider why nationalized corporations are bad. If a government controls a corporation, it will abuse its unlimited powers to destroy competition, leading to a nationalized industry. For that reason, everyone should oppose government stakes in *domestic* corporations. When a *foreign* SWF invests in a U.S. Corporation, it lacks those unique powers of government. Still, Sen. Bayh wants us to worry. He mentioned no specific mischief a SWF might cause, but he muttered about "agendas different from our own" and "interests other than maximizing profits." The reason he can't be more specific is that a SWF has no more power than you would with the same number of shares.

Suppose a SWF could choose a majority of directors and those directors made management do something economically foolish. Competitors would cheer and take the corporation's revenue. Consequently, the SWF-controlled corporation would suffer and lose its power to do its hypothetical mischief. So a SWF has no special power outside its home nation, and there is no reason to fear SWFs.

Craig Landefeld, Washington, MI
c/o The Wall Street Journal, February 16, 2008

Michigan needs Cuban Trade

Thank you Very much for Feb. 20th's editorial titled "Castro's exit welcome, end trade embargo." The editorial correctly pointed out the benefits that trade could have at bringing democracy to Cuba, but it did not stress the economic impact. The United States, and especially Michigan, could definitely use another trading partner that would purchase our goods and services.

Libertarians have been stressing the importance of opening up trade to all nations for decade, and this

change in leadership provides a great opportunity to follow their advice.

James Allison, Warren
c/o The Detroit News, February 27, 2008

Chuckling the check-off

Jack Lessenberry writes that supporting Right- to-Work would "mean all existing unions would be destroyed." I support the libertarian principle that individuals should have freedom of association, and not be forced to join associations against their will. I also find Lessenberry's claim to be unfounded. Workers would voluntarily join a union if the benefits received are equal to or better than the value of the union dues. This change would force unions to become more efficient and provide higher quality benefits and services in order to retain and recruit members. The only unions that would be destroyed would be the ones whose dues are not worth the benefits provided – and I say good riddance to them if they cannot find a way to add value to the workers.

Jim Allison, Warren
c/o Metro Times, February 28, 2008

Try toll roads

Regarding your Feb. 21 editorial "Someone must pay: Raising the state gas tax would make the most sense": I strongly disagree with the conclusion that raising gas taxes, in our weak economic condition, is the solution that makes the most sense.

The libertarian solution of shifting the maintenance of our expressways from the public sector, which has failed for decades, to the private sector is far better. Private toll roads have been successful in other parts of the nation, and there is no reason to believe that this solution would not work in Michigan.

Jim Allison, Warren
c/o The Detroit Free Press, March 2, 2008

ED. NOTE: Craig's letter is the first I've seen written by an LMC member in the Wall Street Journal. And Jim scored a first by being published in three different papers in less than a week! Cheers for both of them!!!

Still More Letters

Voting for a third party better than not voting

A recent Soundoff caller declared they would “not vote for president because Barack Obama is too inexperienced, John McCain is too old and we’ve had too much of the Clintons.”

I expect that a vast majority of Americans agree with that position. How many people cast a vote for a candidate, not on the candidate’s merits, but because they disliked the other candidate? How many choose not to vote at all? Even the editorial cartoon that day displays this attitude.

Rather than casting a no vote, I urge this caller and others like them to find a candidate from an alternative party. For example, I consistently vote Libertarian. The Libertarian Party advocates reduced government spending and taxes, and the return of freedoms and liberties robbed of us over time by our ever-increasing authoritarian governments. I believe this party most closely matches what our Founding Fathers intended.

A vote for a third party is not a wasted vote. Choosing not to vote is a wasted vote. If enough people vote for alternative parties, word will spread, the media will take notice, and we can crumble the dual monopoly of excessive spending the Republicans and Democrats have created. Thomas Jefferson wrote, “Government big enough to supply everything you need is big enough to take everything you have.. . The course of history shows that as a government grows, liberty decreases.”

Jim McWilliams, Warren
c/o The Macomb Daily, March 9, 2008

* * * * *

Pretty good stuff. Eight letters this time. Five Libertarians felt strongly enough about the issues to write letters good enough for publication. How about you? You must be ticked off at some issue. You might even try your local paper instead of a biggie.

Government is never so small that it can’t screw up big time! Send me a copy at the address on page 2 when it is published.

K.E.

LPM State Convention

By Keith Edwards

The Libertarian Party of Michigan will hold its annual State Convention on June 7-8, 2008 at the Best Western Gateway Hotel, 9191 Wickham Road, in Romulus. The Convention registration starts at 8:00 A.M. and the Convention starts at 9:00.

At the Convention, the LPM will nominate our 2008 candidates for Congressional and statewide public offices as well as for State Representative districts which include two or more counties in their districts. There will be district caucuses for those districts. If you are interested in running for those offices be sure to be there, because you will need to get nominated and fill out some paperwork. If you do, be sure you know what district you are in (bring your voter registration card) and the address of a bank for your campaign organization.

There will be a notary station for your paperwork.

The LPM will also hold elections of its 2008-09 Executive Committee (LEC) which is comprised of the chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer and five at-large directors, and the Judiciary Committee with three members.

The state platform will also be addressed.

There will be a hosted luncheon and a banquet Saturday evening.

The Libertarian Party of Wayne County will host a hospitality suite.

It is hoped that several candidates for the Libertarian U.S. Presidential nomination will be at the banquet. Up to nine people have expressed interest in running, but not all will be there. Some may have backed off already.

This is a chance to spend the day with other freedom fighters of the Libertarian Party.

Call 888-Freenow or contact wgelineau@firsttam.com for further information.

Lessons From Politigo

By Keith Edwards

There are a lot of ways in which political issues can be discussed, debated, refined or discovered to be meaningless. Listening to the current Obama-Hillary debates is not one of them except for the discovery of meaninglessness. As I reported a year ago, LMC has found a fun way to do it in the Politigo game we play before or after a meeting. We discovered something new in our Politigo game before the February meeting this year.

In the game someone (usually Jim McWilliams) makes a list of political questions and we answer them on 3x5 cards and he reads them back to us and we vote for the three best. This time he made a board game of us and we were off to the races! Contestants included seven members and two visitors. We tried four questions, but I don't recall the exact order.

One was on education funding. All seven members advocated private funding in 2 or 3 sentences. The two visitors picked the current system, though one thought colleges should be privately funded. Some of the members' answers merely asserted that it's not a proper function of government. A couple of answers stressed personal responsibility of parents.

"What measures should society take to care for people unfortunate enough to lose their job? One of the visitors replied, "Nothin'!" He's on the right track. The other suggested lower benefits or roadway cleaning as encouragement to seek work and said free trade and correcting the trade imbalance would "head off" unemployment. Not bad for a "rookie, but he's accepted some false premises. All the members were on the right track, suggesting charities, stressing the free market as the way to avoid recession and catching the trick of substituting "society" for government or taxpayers. The class clown started his response with "Hippies need to cut their hair and someone will hire them." We do have fun with this game. A more serious answer was " 'Society' (government) should not be favoring some people on the basis of need at the expense of others. This is a function of charities which can choose its beneficiaries according to its values at it's own expense."

Noise disturbance was another subject. A city council member wants to ban installing excessive audio systems (kickers) in their vehicles. How would you respond in debate? Both visitors would support a ban, though one would restrict it to after 9 P.M. The members had a wider variety of responses. Of the seven members, four said that current noise ordinances should be sufficient but that outlawing such equipment is inflicting mass punishment or a violation of property rights, one said do nothing, one was too vague to classify and one approved the ordinance with future review. I'm not sure he really meant it as it read. One of the four also said in opposition, "we will deny a person the joy of kicking out the jams when they're in a remote location, such as driving to Hawaii." More fun!

The unexpected happened with the question, "Should 2 cohabitant males have the right to adopt a child; what about 2 cohabitant females? There were two opposed, emphatically saying NO. Only one was a visitor, the other a member. Three members said either the birth parents or the adoption agency should decide and that people can shop for an agency that reflects their views. Three members and one visitor were for no restrictions. One of the latter said, "What we really should stop is irresponsible idiots bringing more children in the world. It sounds like an emotional reaction to the many child-abuse-by-parents stories we hear, but leaves some big questions. Two others in that group stressed the need to find children good homes regardless. One said, "It might not be an ideal environment. . ." That could mean a reservation about gays, but a libertarian tolerance.

The three who favored the birth parents or adoption agencies making the choice offered a market solution to the people who are anti-gay as well as pro-gay. Whether that means the member was of one group or the other is not clear. (The class clown added, "Wait, hippies shouldn't be able to adopt, but that's it.") One could surmise that at least two of the nine responses are anti-gay or as many as six, the birth parents or adoption agency ideas maybe being a defensive measure. Who knows what people really believe? Yet, at least seven of nine held firm to libertarian tolerance.

Other LP groups might want to try the Politigo game as an educational tool, debate stimulus or just plain fun. The two visitors said they had learned a lot and were impressed. That alone is a good reason to try.

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

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: _____

Published Letters

Ron Paul wants to chop away federal programs

Chad Selweski was correct in his Jan. 13 column, "Misguided liberals throw their vote away on Ron Paul." He said that while they may agree with his position on the war they don't agree with the rest of Paul's idea, calling Paul "eccentric."

Yes, Paul does want to "chop away" at government programs, departments and agencies. Yes, he would dump FEMA of New Orleans fame. Why not? Volunteer individuals and companies did more good there than FEMA, which messed up the little that it did do.

There are several major departments that should be dumped. The Department of Education does not educate; it takes tax money, deducts its expenses and reallocates the rest to its favorites.

HUD has torn down more buildings than it puts up and interferes with market priorities. Agriculture pays out subsidies to rich people and rigs prices and production to promote monopolies.

Labor and Commerce are there only to promote special interests. Ending them would save hundreds of billions of dollars. Yes, Ron Paul would act to "eliminate the income tax which funds 42 percent of the federal budget." That sounds great to me. We could use a 42 percent tax cut and provide for our own retirement and medical care.

And think of what individuals and families could do with the \$1 trillion President Bush has spent in Iraq. Is that eccentric? Nope, it just gets us back to self-responsibility. Liberals don't like that, but Libertarians, conservatives and many independents do.

Too bad Ron Paul is the only candidate out there who does.

Keith P. Edwards
St. Clair Shores
c/o The Macomb Daily, February 3, 2008

Paul fights for ideals

Republican Ron Paul is the lone presidential candidate who is fighting to preserve the libertarian ideals that were used to found this great republic, such as limited government, states' rights and individual liberty.

Daniel Flamand, Eastpointe
The Detroit News, January 29, 2008

County shouldn't raid rainy day fund

Fiscal irresponsibility must be contagious because it seems our state legislators have passed along this illness to our county commissioners. Our Macomb County Board of Commissioners decided not to cut county staff, but instead chose to raid the county's treasury to resolve a \$5 million deficit. This so-called "rainy day" fund, which is the accumulation of excess taxes collected from Macomb County taxpayers, should not be depleted to maintain a bloated bureaucracy.

As our state's economic conditions worsen, these funds may be needed in the coming years to sustain vital services. If this fund is to be used at all, then it should be given back to every property taxpayer in the form of a rebate check, which would help spur private economic development and personal savings.

If this type of mentality remains the norm for our county commissioners, then property tax increases are sure to be on the agenda in the next few years. Businesses, families, and private organizations have all learned to cut back their expenditures as their incomes have decreased, and government should be no different.

Voters should write a new prescription come November, and elect fiscal conservatives and libertarians to restore fiscal responsibility and rid this disease within our state capitol and county seat.

Daniel Flamand, Eastpointe
c/o The Macomb Daily, February 11, 20-08