



Macomb Liberty

NEWSLETTER OF LIBERTARIANS OF MACOMB COUNTY

July-August-September, 2008

Libertarians Nominate Bob Barr

By Keith Edwards

In one of the most exciting battle in its 36 year history, the Libertarian Party nominated former Georgia Congressman Bob Barr to be its presidential nominee.

It took six ballots to make the choice that began with eight candidates. It was a tight race from the start, led by former Republican Barr and Mary Ruwart, the long time Michigan activist, now of Texas. Businessman Wayne Alan Root, former Democratic Senator Mike Gravel, LP activist George Phillies, long time medical marijuana user and advocate Steve Kubby, businessman Mike Jingoian and Christine Smith were the others. The latter two were dropped after the first ballot and each subsequent vote cut another candidate.

As the following stats show, the race between Barr and Ruwart were close, ending in a tie in the third and fourth rounds. When Root was eliminated in the fifth round, he threw his support to Barr settling the matter. Root was subsequently picked by Barr for the Vice President spot (surprise!) and nominated.

Candidate	1	2	3	4	5	6
Barr	153	188	186	202	223	324
Ruwart	152	162	186	202	229	276
Root	123	138	136	149	165	
Gravel	71	73	73	76		
Phillies	49	36	31			
Kubby	41	32				
Jingoian	23					
Smith	6					

Smith missed the debate, but did not help herself when she did speak. Kubby was popular because of his main

issue, but few seemed to want a user on the ticket. Only Gravel's close supporters trusted him and Phillies ran as a "centrist" which meant that neither "purists" nor "pragmatists" wanted him and most were for Barr or Ruwart.

And that's what the race was all about. Purists were for Ruwart and Mary has always been a very strict constructionist of libertarian principle. She doubted the conversion of Barr and Gravel and called followers of Barr "carpetbaggers." She believes Barr became a member of the LP just to get the nomination. Pragmatists believed that the party will go nowhere unless it runs "name" candidates even if they are not 100% libertarian. Barr supporters aggravated Ruwart fans with some of their behavior that bordered on arrogance. Barr attempted to stay above the fray and praised Mary in his acceptance speech. Mary did not endorse him.

There are bitter feelings as there usually are after a close battle involving principles. In interviews since the convention, Barr seems to be adhering to libertarian positions, but often invoking the term "conservative." That may not be a repudiation of libertarianism, just an attempt to attract votes from the many conservatives who cannot stand, with good reason, John McCain. The argument for nominating Barr was always that he would boost the LP presidential vote because he is attractive to conservatives as well as better known than any other libertarian. He is already getting good TV exposure such as C-SPAN and CNN as the media detects the possibility that Barr may get enough votes to be a spoiler for McCain. The Wall Street Journal published an article of his on judicial selection.

Whatever one's view, the fact is that the Libertarian presidential candidate IS Bob Barr. He will make a good showing for the party only with full support.

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:

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Treasurer	Marnie Edwards	586-777-7468
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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.

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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

August 13, 2008 - Regular Meeting of Libertarians of Macomb County at Loon River Café at 7:30. Optional dinner-discussion at is at 6:30.

September 10, 2008 – Regular meeting of LMC at Loon River.

October 8, 2008 – Regular meeting of LMC at Loon River.

November 4, 2008 – General Election.

November 12, 2008 – Regular meeting of LMC at Loon River.

Macomb County Libertarian Candidates

Libertarians of Macomb County of the completed their candidate nominations at the State Convention Libertarian Party of Michigan on June 7. The only offices listed here are those whose districts are within Macomb County. Statewide offices and those that cross county lines were nominated by the entire convention or by congressional districts. A list of those will appear in The Michigan Libertarian.

State Representative District	25	James Allison
	31	James Miller
	32	Joseph Zemens
	42	Daniel Flamand
County Commissioner Dist.	5	James McWilliams
	6	Michael Brylewski
	14	Lauren Zemens
	21	John Bonnell
	23	Erin Stahl
	24	Keith Edwards

We will be doing some literature drops in selected precincts to publicize the LP and our candidates. Here are the tentative dates for those drops.

Saturday, September 6 at 1 pm	Precinct To be det.
Sunday, September 14 at 1 pm	Precinct TBD
Saturday, October 4 at 1 pm	Precinct TBD
Saturday, October 19 at 1pm	Precinct TBD

If you would like to help, please contact Dan Flamand at daniel.flamand@att.net for the exact time and location.

Literature costs money. If you would like to contribute money for this outreach effort, please do so using the form on the last page and mark it "LIT." We would appreciate it and so will our candidates.

* * * * *

"You are as good as the best thing you've ever done."

Director Billy Wilder as quoted by Jack Lemmon

LPM Opens Office

By Keith Edwards

The Libertarian Party of Michigan has opened a new office in Troy to replace the former small office in Lansing. Actually, it is a "virtual" office that is staffed by the landlord that includes a mailing address, telephone answering service, access to meeting rooms and at an additional cost, an office if needed. It is a beautiful location on floor 14 at 101 West Big Beaver, just east of exit 69 of I-75, near Livernois.

On June 11, a number of us visited the office just prior to a meeting of the Executive Committee (LEC) of the LPM. The event was catered by Stahls' Catering.

This is a classy location at a minimum cost. LPM Vice Chair and LMC member Erin Stahl headed the search for the spot and conducted the tour of the facilities. Any local LPM affiliate that wants to use the event should contact Erin for details and to make reservations. She did an outstanding job.

This was the first LEC meeting Marnie and I have attended in about two years and we were impressed by the way in which Chair Bill Hall conducted the meeting and the professionalism of the LEC members. They are:

Chair Bill Hall
 Vice Chair Erin Stahl
 Secretary Emily Salvette (who was absent due to serious illness in the family.)
 Treasurer Nicole Michalak
 Director Jim Allison
 Director Greg Creswell
 Director Dan Grow
 Director Bob Jackson
 Director Greg Stempfle

They were elected (some re-elected) at the state convention. They discussed a number of matters including more help for candidates in setting up web sites and electoral information. A representative of the Bob Barr presidential campaign spoke to us on speaker phone about the volunteer program.

The LPM is in good hands!!!

Published Letters

Board gives better representation

Creating a county executive may sound like the perfect answer to our problems, but if voters look closely, they will discover this proposal will only hurt Macomb County residents.

Some have claimed that a county executive will become more efficient. It is true that the Board of Commissioners can sometimes be sluggish in its decision-making processes, but efficiency in policy decisions should not be the No. 1 goal in government.

In our current system, 26 commissioners are allowed to carefully deliberate on the issues of the day and they must form a true consensus before setting policy that will affect the entire county.

Instead of placing power in the hands of one executive, the political power is spread among the commissioners who represent different areas of the county. Some may tire of the endless debates and sometimes unresponsiveness of the board, but it should be seen that the system's checks and balances are working as intended.

Another problem with a county executive is the cost of a supporting staff. Not only must the taxpayers support an executive who earns a salary between \$100,000 and \$200,000, but we must also finance the creation of new bureaucracy to support this office. With these new employees, the county's liabilities will balloon into millions of dollars when including additional health care and retirement costs.

Paying 26 part-time commissioners \$34,000 a year will seem like a bargain compared to the costs of the county executive plan.

The county executive plan will further polarize county politics. The party that controls the executive seat will likely have great influence over the board and this will facilitate the creation of legislation tailored by the executive.

By maintaining our current structure, this situation will be prevented since each of the 26 commissioners has

equal political power and must form coalitions, sometimes across party lines, to pass legislation. This creates a better representation of the entire county's interests and will ensure that the political power will be retained by the people, not the bureaucracy.

If this ballot proposal succeeds, the residents of Macomb County will lose a form of government that has treated them well for so many years. We will have transformed ourselves from a low-tax, consensus-building county into a high-tax bureaucratic machine dominated by party politics.

Even though Macomb County government is far from perfect, creating a county executive will not provide the path to perfection as some would like you to believe.

Daniel J. Flamand, Eastpointe
c/o The Macomb Daily, April 8, 2008

Domestic drilling must be allowed.

I agree with your July 6 editorial, "Dems must allow more oil drilling to lower gas prices."

The law of supply and demand can never be repealed, but the Democrats are quite ignorant of economics and may never wake up. I agree also that it's hard to tell "where to begin to address (Sen. Harry) Reid's hysteria or his nonsense." One place to start is with the comments made in the Macomb Daily on June 15 when Chad Selweski wrote, "More oil drilling is just another gimmick to fix gas prices." He raved in almost consecutive paragraphs that drilling in Alaska, offshore or elsewhere would not help. Raising supply would not help? Of course, it would help. It would also help dampen the wild speculation in oil futures. He even complains that Alaskan oil might go to China rather than to the United States. I guess he thinks that shipping oil thousands of miles out of the way is cheaper. In fact, once oil is produced, it's like any other oil and can go anywhere, but it still adds to supply.

The liberal mantra is control, control, control. Make people live closer to their jobs. Make people drive smaller cars. Make them depend on solar energy in January. Make them ride smelly buses run by people
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Domestic drilling must be allowed

(Concluded from page 4)

like Kwame Kilpatrick. Never is there a proposal from the liberals to use nuclear power, or to stop destroying the dollar via deficit spending which drives up the price of most everything including gas.

It would be nice if the Republicans had more sense, but they've chosen a presidential candidate who has fallen for the global warming fad. He won't be much help. There is no such thing as energy independence; it's a global market. We should drill where the oil is, make the dollar stronger, and rely on a free market to make the adjustments.

Keith P. Edwards, St. Clair Shores
c/o The Macomb Daily
July 12, 2008

Taxpayers can't be forced to support zoo

On August 5, Macomb County taxpayers will once again be asked to shoulder a new tax burden.

It seems that our elected officials who approved this new taxing authority, feel that we have an abundance of expendable income and expect us to subsidize the private operations of the Detroit Zoo.

Supporters of this proposal claim that costs per household will be so small that it will not impact anyone's budget, but this type of proposal will only open the doors to a new wave of taxation based on mandatory charity. At one time, charitable giving was a personal choice that individuals made based on their ability to give and their personal connection to the cause. Once a majority forces us to give our income to a private cause, it is no longer charity. Rather, it becomes a government-mandated transfer of wealth.

The Detroit Zoo is a great asset to the metropolitan area, but should taxpayers really finance a private organization? Why not have Macomb County residents foot the bill to bring back the Belle Isle Aquarium, or maybe Macomb residents can start picking up the tab for all Detroit area organizations?

There are thousands of organizations that require funding to support their operations, but it is best left to individuals to determine which groups deserve their money the most.

I urge those who enjoy the zoo to donate as much as they can to help and become a frequent patron. But, please do not force everyone, especially in these economic times, to support a private organization that needs to adjust its business model, just like the rest of us have adjusted. Vote "no" on the Detroit Zoo millage.

Daniel J. Flamand, Eastpointe
c/o The Macomb Daily
July 12, 2008

Editor's Note: This is the second time that two LMC members each got a letter published in the same paper on the same day.

The Non-Partisan Judicial Ballot

By Keith Edwards

The Michigan Libertarian probably will publish the complete list of candidates of the Libertarian Party of Michigan in the November election. If you miss it, the ballot will show most of our candidates under the Libertarian Party Banner, so you shouldn't miss a chance to vote for all of them.

One exception is the non-partisan part of the ballot. Nominees for Michigan's Supreme Court are chosen by the parties at their respective conventions, but listed without party identification on the non-partisan section.

The LPM has nominated a candidate for the Supreme Court. He is Bob Roddis, an attorney who has been in the party for many years, at least since 1976, which is when I met him. He has run for this position before. Please do not overlook his name.

"The government was set to protect man from criminals – and the Constitution was written to protect man from the government."

Ayn Rand

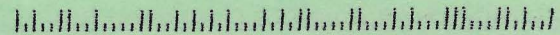
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LPC

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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

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