

From the Chair

By the next newsletter, which may be a bit late so it can report on our April 30 convention, you will be hearing from a new State Chair. I'd like to thank everyone who helped make the Libertarian Party of Michigan great in the past two years. Thanks to the candidates who ran spirited races in November. Thanks to the activists who advanced the message of freedom in their communities through their local affiliates. Thanks to the volunteers who managed and organized the LPM's projects and events. And thanks to my colleagues on the state executive committee; without your stewardship the party couldn't exist as the major minor party in Michigan.

We have many opportunities ahead of us. The folly of big government is becoming apparent even to casual political observers. The number of people rising up to question heretofore unquestionable institutions, such as teachers unions, are increasing and getting louder. The initial actions of many Republicans who rode into office in November have not been particularly bold or liberty-advancing. In fact, some are promoting bigger government in support of their social agendas. So, the cause of individual freedom, personal responsibility and tolerance for others' choices still needs a clear voice. For forty years that voice has been the Libertarian Party. With your help the LP will continue to be a growing voice in the coming years.

Like all volunteer organizations, the LPM could do more if it had more money, volunteers and leadership. I encourage you to lend a hand in this worthy endeavor. Make a donation, volunteer to help run your local affiliate (or if there isn't one in your area, start one), come to the state convention and run for a state office. It's clear to me Michigan still needs a Libertarian Party, and the Libertarian Party still needs you so it can grow into the voice of freedom Michigan needs.

Thanks for everything these past two years, and thanks in advance for supporting the party and its leadership in the years to come.

-Emily Salvette

State Leadership Meeting a Big Success

Thirty-seven people attended the March 12 leadership meeting in Lansing. The conversation was lively and productive with the group agreeing on several actions to take and volunteers identified to run for state-wide positions for term.

Among the group attending were the Chairs (or their designates) from 8 of our 11 active affiliates, 19 of our candidates from the November election, and 8 out of 9 Libertarian Executive Committee members.

Major suggestions from the meeting

- Affiliates need more engagement with the state LP organization. How:
 - Ask affiliates to have someone attend the Libertarian Executive Committee meetings
 - Develop a set of affiliate guidelines – Jay Longtain volunteered

- Identify opportunities for regional affiliates or regional cooperation among county affiliates
 - Provide state training, e.g. candidate training, on a regional basis
- Provide more opportunities for affiliates to share ideas and experiences e.g. meetings like this, email discussion group
- Strategies to strengthen affiliates
 - Educate community about principles of Libertarianism
 - Raise LP profile in the community through participation in fairs, festivals, community service projects
 - Competition for best affiliate
 - at the meeting a donor offered to give a prize to the affiliate that recruited the most new members—get ready for an announcement at the state convention!
 - Get involved in local issues and ballot initiatives
- State Party strategies
 - Have more LEC meetings
 - Appoint campus outreach coordinator – Shyler Engel volunteered
 - Run party on a business model
 - Do a marketing survey for baseline
 - Develop a strategic plan
 - Become more of a presence in Lansing

Volunteers who agreed to run for state-wide office:

- Chair – James H Lewis II, Patrick Clawson (perhaps), Will White (or where needed)
- Vice Chair – Todd Richardson
- Secretary – Pam Sanderson
- Treasurer – Denee Rockman-Moon
- At-large Director – Mary Buzuma, Greg Creswell, Jim Fulner, Lawrence Johnson, Tim Keirnan, Chris Sharer

Volunteers for state-level committees:

- Assistant Treasurer – Bill Hall
- Campus Outreach – Shyler Engel
- Convention Chair – Renee Lewis
- Media – Michael Moon
- Political Director – Bill Gelineau
- Assist with Affiliates committee – J Longtain, Renee Lewis, Chaz Rodriguez, Nicholas Sundquist

Thanks to everyone who participated and brought such great ideas and to those who volunteered to lead the party next term. Also, thanks to Greg Creswell, Bill Gelineau, Dan Johnson, and Pam Sanderson

for bringing refreshments, and to Pat Clawson and Bill Gelineau who came up with the original idea. This meeting was a group effort with good results that we should continue in the future.

Affiliate Guidelines are Coming—Your Input Needed!

Jay Longtain and others will be developing affiliate guidelines to help local LP groups know how to interact more effectively with the state and national LP, other affiliates and their communities. Your input would be very helpful in crafting this document. What do you think you need to know or do to run a successful affiliate? What have you found in your affiliate that works well? Please send ideas, suggestions, experiences, successes to Jay at jlongtain@yahoo.com by May 15.

Highlights of the March 13, 2011 Libertarian Executive Committee Meeting

Campus Outreach Coordinator appointed

Shyler Engel's appointment as LPM Campus Outreach Director was confirmed. Shyler is a recent Seaton Hall Law School grad who has just moved to the Grand Rapids area. He has worked with the Federalist Society and Students for Liberty. He will begin by distributing a survey to find out what Libertarian things are happening on our state's campuses. He'll also reach out to current student Libertarian and liberty-oriented groups. He will be helping coordinate the student outreach workshop at the state convention.

Contact Shyler at shyler.engel@gmail.com.

Straits Libertarian Party (SLaP) approved as LPM's newest affiliate

The LEC voted unanimously to accept SLAP's bylaws and list of officers to create the affiliate, which covers Cheboygan, Chippewa, Emmet and Mackinac counties. The chair is James Johnson (minidu@gmail.com), Vice Chair is Chad Stevens, Treasurer is Jude Reed and Liz Zajac is Secretary. Congratulations to our newest affiliate, and to LPM Affiliate Director Dan Johnson, who worked tirelessly to make this happen.

Convention Rules Approved

The LEC unanimously approved the following standing rules for the 2011 State Convention in Midland on April 30th:

Rule 1. The Credentials Committee, directly after the opening of the first business meeting, shall report the number of delegates registered as present with proper credentials, and will make a supplementary report at the beginning of each session that business continues.

Rule 2. The success or failure of any motion will be based on the number of delegates present and voting on that question.

Rule 3. To facilitate identification in the assembly hall, delegates are required to wear the badge issued by the Credentials Committee upon registration

Rule 4. A main motion offered by an individual member must be in writing, signed by the maker and the seconder—each of whom must be a voting member of the convention—and be given to the Recording Secretary.

Rule 5. No member may speak in debate more than once on the same question on the same day, or longer than two minutes, without permission of the convention granted by a two-thirds vote without debate.

Rule 6. All reports and other material for the permanent record or printed proceedings must be typed, and immediately on presentation, be given to the Recording Secretary.

Rule 7. Nominations for each office to be filled by the convention will be limited to one nominating speech of three minutes and one seconding speech of one minute for each nominee.

Rule 8. Notices for announcement to the convention must be in writing, signed by the person (or proper representative) under whose authority the announcement is issued, and be given to the Recording Secretary.

Rule 9. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised will govern the convention in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Michigan or these standing rules.

The Chair also reminded everyone that proposed bylaws or platform changes must be submitted to the respective committee chairs by April 5. Send bylaws changes to Jay Longtain at jlongtain@yahoo.com or platform changes to Daniel Grow at grow.daniel@gmail.com.

Libertarian National Committee Meeting and State Leadership Conference in Columbus, OH in August

The Libertarian State Leadership Alliance will hold its annual conference on Friday, August 19 from 9:45 am-6 pm at the Chestnut Hyatt Regency in downtown Columbus, Ohio. The LSLA is an organization of state chairs and other state leaders from around the country. In addition to a business meeting for the state chairs, there will be workshops and social events. There will be a joint LSLA-LNC reception on Friday from 6-8 pm. LPM leaders should take advantage of the training and networking opportunities so close to Michigan. The cost is only \$35 per person. For more information or to register, visit <http://lsla.lpin.org/>

A Libertarian National Committee meeting is being held in the same hotel Saturday, August 20-21. All LNC meetings are open to LP members. This is a great opportunity for Michigan LP members to see your national leadership in action.