

THE WASHTENAW LIBERTARIAN

Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Washtenaw County, Michigan
and College Libertarians/Ann Arbor Libertarian League

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★ Including News and Listings for the Libertarian Party of Jackson County ★



Elizabeth Keslacy, Co-Chair of University of Michigan College Libertarians and 1998 Ann Arbor mayor candidate.

LPWC Website

By James Hudler

Dan LaFavers, LPWC Secretary and Webmaster has provided the LPWC a new, updated site on the World Wide Web. Located at <http://www.coast.net/~lpm/wash>, the site now has a cleaner, more modern look with easier access to the information. LaFavers expects to add more pages this spring that people can use to request bumper stickers and pamphlets by mail. We're considering letting members review and update their membership information on the web site.

LaFavers has also created an e-mail discussion list. You can sign up for it at the website. The list is hosted by listbot.com, which is the same company that the state party uses for its list. We'll use this list to announce meetings and to keep members informed

(See WEB, page 5)

Proposal One Smashed

By Jeff Muir

On November 3 Washtenaw County voters spoke loud and clear about new taxes and the ever-increasing reach of government by rejecting Proposal One, 58 to 42 percent. Proposal One had been billed as a "comprehensive land preservation strategy," and was supported by a coalition of environmental activists and local governmental bodies.

The initiative would have hiked local property taxes by \$32 million over ten years to fund a \$16 million "purchase of development

rights" program and a gaggie of unrelated redevelopment, land-acquisition and urban renewal funds. Many observers suspected that these unrelated funds had been merely inserted into the proposal as a way of garnering support from city officials. These officials otherwise would have little reason to support the plan which, in effect, would have taken tax revenues from their districts and transferred them to the outlying townships.

While most observers predicted a

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From the Chair

By James Hudler

Our LPWC candidates did a great job in the November elections, with improved showing over times past. Another LPWC election triumph in Washtenaw County was the overwhelming defeat of Proposal One. The LP was the only political party to oppose this new "land preservation" tax. Allying ourselves with Washtenaw Citizens for Responsible Growth, we distributed leaflets, issued mailings, gave speeches and put up yard signs against this socialist proposal. Please see the story on page 1 by Jeff Muir of Citizens for Responsible Growth. Many thanks to all who helped to advance the libertarian cause in these elections.

Liz Keslacy, head of the U-M College Libertarians (and recent LPWC candidate for City of Ann Arbor mayor), has been joined by Gabriel Quinnan, another U-M student, to co-chair the student group. Quinnan is now in the process of moving to campus.

Check out the Emily Salvette's back page story on the Sam Adams Liberty Festival. This annual LPWC fund raiser needs *your* volunteer help. Please give Emily a call.

The LPWC/CL weekly Thursday evening meetings continue. We currently meet at 7:30 pm in a second floor conference room at the Michigan Union on the U-M campus. Instead of having dinner with the meeting, some of us have begun to go out to a local restaurant afterwards. On March 11 we will return to our regular meeting site at Dominick's Restaurant. □

Membership

By Dan LaFavers

Several LPWC memberships will be coming up for renewal in the spring. I want to take a moment to remind all the current members how much their support means to our group. We have many members who do not even live in Washtenaw County, but remain members to offer their support. Last year that support helped us prepare candidate literature such as photographs, pamphlets, and fliers. The funds are also used to print and mail the newsletter and to pay speakers to come talk at the meetings.

We'll be sending out reminders soon, and then a renewal form. Thanks to all for your support in the past, and I hope you'll continue to feel that your membership dues are being put to productive use. And, as always, we're trying to reach out to as many people as possible. Toward that end we have put together a modest information package that can be requested from the new website. If you know of anyone leaning in our political direction, let us know and we'll send them our introduction packet. The best way to do that is go to the new website and click "Join the LPWC". □

College Libertarians

By Liz Keslacy

In response to the Defend Affirmative Action Party's (DAAP) overwhelming victory in the Michigan Student Assembly's fall elections, the College Libertarians plan an information campaign. We believe that much of the DAAP's support was generated by myths and misinformation spread during the election. We believe we can combat this current attitude by using an information campaign which would not only introduce a rational anti-affirmative action argument into the debate, but would also seek to dispel the negative reputation the DAAP would give us. We also hope to bring in well-known, reputable speakers to help propagate our message.

U-M College Libertarians will have an organizational meeting at 6:00 pm, January 14 in the Tap Room of the Michigan Union on the U-M central campus. □

For The Record

By Brett Cashman

As Washtenaw County's only elected Libertarian I would like to offer this report on recent activities concerning my position as Superior Township Parks Commissioner. Let me preface by stating that I am acutely aware that I represent the Libertarians of Washtenaw Co. whenever I am acting in an official capacity in my elected office. Even though the office I hold is trivial by political standards I still feel it is a matter of principle that I cast votes and decide issues by following the precepts that Libertarians hold dear. To that end I remain loyal to the two oaths I have taken in this regard: firstly, the Libertarian pledge that I do not believe in the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals, and secondly, the oath of office to uphold the Constitution of these United States and the sovereign state of Michigan.

It should be noted that nearly every function of the Superior Township Parks Commission is in violation of the non-initiation of force and often contrary to the spirit if not the letter of said constitutions. I should also note that I have one vote of 6 and that there is no one else on the commission who feels as I do on this matter. Thus I am usually the lone dissenter on most votes. That is not to say that my Libertarian principles are completely ignored or have no effect. On the contrary, the stark contrast with the viewpoints of the others often enables some members to question their own views on particular subjects.

Perhaps the most important issue that has come before me recently was the projected budget for 1999. The Superior Township Parks Commission was authorized by a vote of the people in 1974.

CALENDAR

Note: The LPWC and CL/AALL hold weekly meetings on Thursdays at 7:30 pm. Our current meeting site is at the Michigan Union at the corner of State St. and South University Avenue in Ann Arbor; room location posted in lobby.

Thursday, January 7	Business Meeting. Michigan Union, Room 2105D, 7:30 pm
Thursday, January 14	Newsletter mailing. Michigan Union, Room 2105D, 7:30 pm
Thursday, January 21	Discussion. Ann Arbor City politics and the upcoming election. Michigan Union, Room 2105D, 7:30 pm.
Thursday, January 28	Video Night. Showing of "Waco—The Rules of Engagement" with discussion. Michigan Union, 7:30 pm.
Thursday, February 4	Ayn Rand Birthday Party. Formal readings from her works, plus cake. Michigan Union, 7:30 pm.
Thursday, February 11	Speech. "Lessons to Learn from the Failure of Russian Socialism," by Dr. Anna Ebeling, Professor of Business at Hillsdale College. Dr. Ebeling holds a Ph.D. from Moscow State University, Russia. Michigan Union, 7:30 pm.
Thursday, February 18	Business Meeting. Election of officers and by-laws revisions. Michigan Union, 7:30 pm.
Thursday, February 25	Speech. "Putting Libertarian Opinions in Print," by Tom Shull, editorial writer for <i>The Detroit News</i> and former chief of the Heartland Institute Detroit bureau. Michigan Union, Room 2105D, 7:30 pm.
Thursday, March 4	Business Meeting. Michigan Union, 7:30 pm.
Thursday, March 11	Speech. Details to be announced. We return to our regular meeting site at Dominick's Restaurant, 612 Monroe St., Ann Arbor; 7:30 pm.
May 1-2, 1999	LP of Michigan Annual Convention. Contact Pam Collins, 248-542-6885. Location TBA.

Porn and Prostitution Busts in Ypsilanti

Editor's note: the following is a recent press release from the LPWC.

The Libertarian Party of Washtenaw County finds the recent actions of the City of Ypsilanti police department directed against adult businesses, prostitution and the operator of a marijuana greenhouse to be largely a waste of time and taxpayers' money. While the Libertarian party does not promote pot, porn or prostitution. We understand that some adults will seek them out. Libertarians believe that when the government tries to stop adults from such pursuits our society suffers more from the loss of freedom than we gain in enforced virtue.

We find it ironic that the city has decided to harass the few businesses that have been able to survive and even thrive in the downtown Ypsilanti area. More traditional, politically correct stores have been driven out

of the central business district by government interference and businesses that can make a go of it in downtown Ypsilanti are pornography, prostitution and pot.

In a aparent campaign to boost the police department's public image, the city has waged war against the legitimate adult bookstores downtown by enforcing stringent and unfair zoning regulations, while at the same time conducting numerous police stings on prostitutes and their customers. Interestingly enough, the police department profits from the confiscation of seized automobiles while the prostitutes are often back on the street within a few hours. The arrest of the marijuana greenhouse operator was not the result of fine police work or the wise use of federal "drug war" funds but instead happened when police stumbled upon the pot-filled warehouse after years of business there.

(See POT, page 4)

(TAX, from page 1)

competitive election, none expected the degree of rejection with which voters turned back the proposal. The plan passed only in the city of Ann Arbor and three additional precincts in Ann Arbor and Scio Townships. In all, the proposal was rejected in more than 75 percent of the County's 180-plus voting precincts. In the county's Southern and Western farm-belts the measure received a "No" vote from 65 to 75 percent of voters. Every major newspaper in the region—including the Ann Arbor News and the Detroit Free Press—encouraged a "No" vote.

What does all of this mean? One analysis holds that the proposal—written largely by traditional Ann Arbor environmentalists—was simply not attractive to blue collar, rural or upper-income suburban voters. One could also look at this vote as the first expression of the "new" Washtenaw County. This may have been the first election in which a majority of voters did not live in the county's seven cities and in which these non-city dwellers were for the most part upper-income suburbanites.

In all, this was the most expensive ballot election in the county's history. Washtenaw Citizens for Responsible Growth, the coalition opposed to Proposal One, raised and spent in excess of \$335,000 on the campaign. Save Our Land, Save Our Future and Farmers for Farmland Preservation, both of which supported passage, raised and spent approximately \$230,000 for the campaign.



The "No" coalition focused more aggressively on East County blue-collar workers and farm belt voters, and also spent heavily on television and radio efforts. The "Yes" campaign, on the other hand, spent heavily on direct mail and focused mainly on Ann Arbor

voters, apparently taking the labor and farm vote for granted.

The "No" effort was aided significantly by the contributions of the Libertarian Party of Washtenaw County, the only major political party to take a stand on the issue. Libertarian volunteers put up scores of yard signs, knocked on hundreds of doors, raised thousands of dollars and assisted with campaign strategy efforts.

Supporters of the measure have vowed to fight on, explaining that voters either "didn't understand" the measure or were merely in an anti-tax mode. Opponents of the measure, including the Home Builders, the Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors, the Board of Realtors, the Contractors Association and the Building Trades Council, plan to stay organized and work toward free market-oriented land-use reforms. You can visit this coalition on the World Wide Web at www.grow-smart.org. □

Anti-Hillary Fax

By Inez Thorn

Here's some anti-Clinton propaganda a wag faxed to me the other day. Too true, I'd say.

Eight Reasons Hillary is Like Hitler

- (1) Both are willing to lie to the public to get their way.
- (2) Both are willing to use force against other countries to get their way.
- (3) Both want to take over the education system
- (4) Both want to take guns away from the general populace.
- (5) Both want everyone documented and accounted for.
- (6) Both attempt to smear and destroy their enemies.
- (7) Both think citizens should work primarily for the government
- (8) Both think the government knows what's best for the people. □

CONTACT PERSONS

COLLEGE LIBERTARIANS/ANN ARBOR LIBERTARIAN LEAGUE: Liz Keslacy (734-475-9792); Gabriel Quinnan (734-966-2396). Mailing address: PO Box 447, Chelsea MI 48118.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF WASHTENAW COUNTY: Chair: James Hudler (734-475-9792). Vice Chair: Kurt Verhoff (734-665-6429). Treasurer: Brett Cashman (734-481-1354). Secretary: Dan LaFavers (734-483-5978). Membership Committee: Joann Taylor (734-677-0609). Art Fair Committee: Nick Contaxes (734-668-8132). Mailing address: PO Box 447, Chelsea MI 48118. LPWC Infoline: 734-747-8129. **YPSILANTI LIBERTARIAN CAUCUS:** Brett Cashman (734-481-1354); Geoff Foster (734-481-3044).

SAM ADAMS DINNER COMMITTEE : Emily Salvette (734-668-2607).

LPWC WEB SITE: www.coast.net/~lpm/wash/

LPWC Webmaster: Dan LaFavers (734-483-5978). **LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN ;** Tim O'Brien, Chair(313-562-5778); LPM mailing address: 604 N. Vernon St., Dearborn, MI 48128-1553.

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(POT from page 3)

The Libertarian Party feels that while it might be a popular move to go after those involved in the sex and drug trades, it would make a lot more sense for the police to concentrate on arresting the real criminals that cause the most harm to our community—the murderers, rapists and robbers. And if city officials are really serious about trying to revive the downtown area, perhaps they should consider lowering taxes, reducing regulations and ending their meddling so that more conventional businesses would move in and again make downtown Ypsilanti prosperous. □

(WEB, from page 1)

about the activities of the LPWC and of current issues in Washtenaw County. It's an open forum and anyone can join and post questions and comments.

Libertarians are out there on the Web, as LaFavers points out, and giving them an old, stale site might make them browse out as quickly as they click in. So we want to be keep the web site current, with new material added frequently. If any of the LPWC members would like to contribute stories, or even a regular column, send email to lpwc@arrenkyle.com. We're always looking for new ideas. We would also like to provide information about government offices, election cycles, etc, for all the cities and townships in Washtenaw County, but it takes a while to get that material together. Anyone's help for that would be welcome.

The new pages are generated by Perl scripts written by LaFavers, who donated space at his own domain, www.arrenkyle.com, to host the pages. □

"Let us contemplate our forefathers and posterity, and resolve to maintain the rights bequeathed to us from the former for the sake of the latter. The necessity of the times, more than ever, calls for our utmost circumspection, deliberation, fortitude and perseverance. Let us remember that 'if we suffer tamely a lawless attack upon our liberty, we encourage it, and involve others in our doom.' It is a very serious consideration ... that millions yet unborn may be the miserable sharers of the event."

—Sam Adams, speech, 1771.

(PARKS from page 2)

Recreational responsibilities were added by ordinance in the early 1980's. It is my opinion after two plus years involved with this Commission that the Department serves little useful function, is not popular among the citizens, is a burden to the township council and thus should be abolished. The Department's budget is allocated from the township general fund (tax money), and supplemented by grants from other government agencies (tax money) and a small amount of private organization grants and donations. Thus the department is funded primarily by the use of force (tax money).

For fiscal year 1999 the chair of the Superior Township Parks Commission moved that we request approximately \$130,000 from the township council. During discussion I offered an amendment to change that amount to zero dollars. When asked why, I explained my principles on the matter and offered the opinion that we would be better serving our constituents by de-funding the department then by allowing it to live on. Plus we would all probably become celebrities by being a government agency that put itself out of a job. My amendment failed 5 to 1. The original budget passed (5 to 1) and was eventually OK'ed by the township council.

Another controversial vote that I cast was a "No" vote to recommend a person to replace an open position on the Parks Commission for a commissioner that had resigned. The election last November for Parks commissioner did not have any candidates listed to fill the vacancy and there were no qualified write-ins. Since no one ran, no one was elected. The usual

procedure in this matter is for the Superior Township Parks Commission to interview candidates and make a recommendation to the township council to appoint a replacement. I objected to this on the "none of the above" principle. If no one was interested enough to run and the people had spoken by electing nobody, then nobody should fill the position. Also the prospective candidate stated her main qualification for the job was her experience at writing government grants (begging for a share of the money that has been taken from other people). She was recommended on a 4 to 1 vote, the township appointed her unanimously.

My other Libertarian positions have been "No" votes to apply for, approve, spend, look into, consider, or even think about: government grants. These inter-governmental transfers of stolen wealth are the poison of our republic. They buy influence, political patronage,

and turn local governments into fawning, begging, pawns of the state and federal government. Unfortunately to a local government official receiving a grant is like hitting the lottery. No one (but a Libertarian) would ever refuse this "free" money.

I have also moved at several meeting that the Superior Township Parks Commission move to remand all funds in our budget back to the general fund and sell off all assets and return the money to the township. This motion is never seconded and is often ruled out of order as the chairperson feels the Parks Dept. can request and spend tax money but not give any back. My goals for the future are to attempt to convince the Commission to sell off the Recreation building and I am looking into ways to get a ballot initiative to repeal the Superior Township Parks Commission. □

"Grants turn local governments into fawning, begging pawns of the state and federal government."

Sam Adams Committee Report

By Emily Salvette, Chair

For the last four years the LPWC has hosted the Sam Adams Dinner as our major fundraiser for the year. We honor the Boston patriot Samuel Adams, often called the Father of the American Revolution, because he was instrumental in encouraging the colonies to govern themselves based on libertarian principles.

The Sam Adams committee has decided to skip the formal banquet-with-speaker format this year. Instead, we're hosting an educational and fun afternoon for the whole family. Plans for the Sam Adams Liberty Festival include speakers, historical re-enactors, traditional music, and games for the kids. Food and drink will be provided by volunteers. Tentatively, we are planning to hold the event on Saturday, April 17 at the Pittsfield Grange Hall on Saline Ann Arbor Road in Ann Arbor. Admission price is expected to be \$10 per adult, \$5 for students, and free for children 11 and under. We hope these lower prices will encourage people to bring family and friends to learn more about the Libertarian Party and our roots in American history.

While an event like this is lower cost than the

traditional banquet, it is more labor intensive. We'll need many volunteers to make this day a success. We're still in the planning stages and would welcome *your* help and/or suggestions. We've established the following subcommittees, thanks to the members who have agreed to head these various efforts:

- Publicity: Dan Lafavers
- Food: Sherri Foster
- Entertainment: Brett Cashman
- Music: Garry Kaluzny
- Children's Activities: open
- Speakers: James Hudler
- Clean-up: Kurt Verhoff
- Decorations and Set-up: open

Thanks to the other Sam Adams Committee members: Diana Peacor and James Montgomery

As you can see, we still have two major volunteer opportunities available, but even if all you can do is bring a plate of cookies that day, we need you! Please call Emily Salvette at 734-668-2607 or e-mail at Salvette@aol.com if you can help. □

**Plan to Attend the LPM State Convention,
May 1-2, 1999**

Join the Libertarian Party of Washtenaw County!

- Here's \$10 for my Libertarian Party of Washtenaw County membership, including subscription to *Washtenaw Libertarian*. I'm either: a new member; or paying my annual membership renewal.
- I'm a new member and would also like to join the state and national LP, and get their newsletters. Here's an additional \$25.

New LP members must sign to indicate their concurrence with this statement: "I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving social or political goals."

Signature: _____ Date: _____

- I wish to receive *Washtenaw Libertarian* without joining. Enclosed is \$10 payment for a year's subscription.
- My additional contribution of \$ _____ is enclosed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number(s): _____

Fax, e-mail information: _____

Employer & Occupation: _____

Please send your check to: Libertarian Party of Washtenaw County, PO Box 447, Chelsea MI 48118.
(Contributions not tax-deductible.)