

**METRO-
DETROIT**

FALL EDITION

LIBERTARIAN LIBERTARIAN

In recent months it has been suggested by some that the METRO-DETROIT LIBERTARIANS as an organization is no longer useful. That it has outlived its usefulness. With a wry gleam in their eyes, they say, "Thanks MDL, but look, you're duplicating our efforts. We can handle it from here on in."

Well, for the moment the state party is on a roll and perhaps, just perhaps, they have a reason to feel that way. With a successful ballot drive, a consistent and well-produced newsletter, and the best state convention in recent memory under its belt, the party is beginning to flesh itself out. There are new activists. Scores are running campaigns. Bridges are being built with other groups. The media is glancing over its shoulder from time to time just in case they might have missed something.

Heady stuff, but the fate of the party, national and otherwise, still hangs in the balance. Its brief sixteen year history has been clouded by dispute and walkouts. Dr. Peter Breggin (a onetime National Committee member) once remarked that NatCom is in the perpetual process of a hostile takeover of itself. Judging from recent growing pains within our local LPM, having the Libertarian Party of Michigan described as the fourth largest state party is not all that comforting. The success of the party has been described accurately as a beachhead.

In August of 1942 the Allied expeditionary forces landed in strength on the beaches of northern France. In less than three days they were driven back into the sea. They took heavy losses with men killed, wounded, and taken prisoner climbing into the thousands. The headlines of "Successful Invasion" were quickly pulled and in their place were substituted stories of an Allied tactical reconnaissance in force. It was Orwellian newspeak. It was the small northern seacoast town of Dieppe, now a remote footnote in history.

I am sanguine about the libertarian movement. I believe the philosophy of individual liberty, tolerance, responsibility for self, and just plain decency is catching on out there. The efforts of many diverse and creative "small l" libertarian organizations have cast giant shadows across this culture. It's true that some may live in ivory towers, but thankfully they litter the country-side with their keen insight and thoughtful research. As a result, middle America is beginning to rethink the unthinkable, grapple with the givens, and abandon its knee jerk repertoire of collective causes. Consequently, the grass roots are eroding; the ground is shifting beneath the feet of the politician leaving him exposed, wearing the Emperor's clothes.

The Libertarian Party exists to run elections. That is what it does and as such, it makes a powerful and important statement for the philosophy of freedom. The Libertarian Party, both state and national, is part of a mix that, in time, will revolutionize this society. Whether the party is the central axis about which the libertarian movement revolves remains much in doubt. I welcome the success of the Michigan Libertarian Party and will continue in the areas available to me to assist in its efforts. It is not, however, the whole pie. The pitfalls it faces are legion: a Hobson's choice of dilution into moral nothingness or cold rigidity until it becomes a tiny cabal for the doctrinely pure, or deep hibernation between election years, or even worse, activists more than willing to look down the Party well and see only their own reflections. These are real landmines that have historically detonated and taken their toll. In its adolescence the party is a rough and tumble that at times is exciting. But for some it may be a bit much. It is in this shadow, this place of safety, that MDL may most prove its value. The jury is still out on whether the architects of the beachhead will suffer the same fate of a forgotten Dieppe, or Dunkirk, or--more hopefully-- a D-Day.

...And oh yes. Rest assured that if we hear rumblings that the LPM is duplicating the efforts of the METRO-DETROIT LIBERTARIANS, we will be quick to suggest a more balanced perspective.

MARK D. SELLERS
NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR



NOTICE OF ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR LPOC

The Libertarian Party of Oakland County is organizing at this time. The first meeting will be on Friday, November 4 at Zim's Spirits and Eatery, 4880 S. Baldwin Road, Orion Township (just north of I-75, take exit 84). The evening begins at 6:30pm with cocktails, 7:00pm dinner and the meeting starts promptly at 8:00pm. All interested Oakland County residents are invited to attend. For more information, contact Doreen Wright at 674-0053.

PAID POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENT

LIBERTARIAN COMMUNITY SERVICE

Stan Gentry would like for MDL to become involved in some sort of community service activity that would bring libertarians increased visibility, respectability, and credibility. We believe that people acting on their own free will can do a better job at practically anything than a government that uses force. Let's show the world what libertarians are capable of. Let's help someone find a job and get off welfare. Let's teach an adult who attended public schools to read. Let's find some activity that the government does poorly and really do it better.

We will be asking a few interested people to be on a committee to investigate how MDL could best achieve the above stated goals. If you would like to play a part in this activity, contact Stan at (313) 757-5085 or come to the Planning Meeting on November 21.

OCTOBER SUPPER CLUB to MEET



The METRO-DETROIT LIBERTARIANS Supper Club will meet on October 17 at 6:00 pm at the **Soup Kitchen Saloon**, 1585 Franklin Street, Detroit. The Soup Kitchen is conveniently located two blocks south of Jefferson and four blocks east of the Renaissance Center at Orleans Street and offers plenty of free parking.

Our guest speaker will be **Dick Jacobs**, the Libertarian Party candidate for the United States Senate. Dick will present his position on the issues confronting the senate race as well as his strategy to unseat the Democratic Party incumbent candidate, Donald Riegle. He will bring us up to date on the progress of his campaign and give his assessments of this opponents, Riegle and Republican Party candidate, Jim Dunn.

SCHEDULE

6:00 pm	Cocktails	
6:30	Dinner	
8:00	Program	

We will have a full course dinner with your choice of ROAST BEEF or STUFFED CHICKEN BREASTS. A cash bar will be available throughout the evening. Please send \$12.50 per meal along with your choice of entree to METRO-DETROIT LIBERTARIANS, 322 Millington Blvd, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303 *today* or contact the Supper Club Coordinator, Stan Gentry at (314) 757-5085 for more information.

OPEN PLANNING MEETING SLATED FOR NOVEMBER SUPPER CLUB

METRO-DETROIT LIBERTARIANS announce our First Annual Open Planning Meeting to be held at the Supper Club on November 21 at 6:00pm. We will meet at the Red Lobster Restaurant, 24705 West 12 Mile, Southfield (located one mile west of Telegraph). We will be discussing organizational details and planning for the upcoming year. Please make your plans to attend and contribute your ideas for enhancing the MDL.

Since its beginning over two years ago, MDL has been run in a minimalist style. There are no officers (a situation we would like to continue), but instead, a board of interested Detroit area libertarians have shared responsibility and led in areas of individual interest. For the most part this style has worked well.

If there is any limitation to the informal system that MDL uses, it is with "passing the ball." We believe innovation and turnover are positive signs of a healthy organization. The Planning Meeting provides an opportunity for individuals to explore and discover areas of personal interest and potential responsibility. Since we do little to spotlight any particular position or individual, coordinators can contribute *sine notabilia* without all the hoopla and ballyhoo of being formal officers. (if only we can get the government to work this way -- Ed.)

We believe this atmosphere is ideal for new members. It gives a chance for a new activist to learn, to develop new talents, and, as in any free society, risk failure as well as success.

Remember, this is an open meeting. ALL METRO-DETROIT LIBERTARIANS are urged to attend, learn how things work, and if able, become involved. At this meeting we want to: (1) review our progress during the last year, (2) discuss the direction that the membership feels MDL should take, and (3) identify volunteers who would be willing to assume various areas of responsibility. You

are essential in spreading the freedom philosophy in the Detroit area. We need your input. If you are unable to attend the November meeting but want to contribute your ideas, time, or support, please contact Emily Salvette, our organizational coordinator, at (313) 332-7834.

The following areas were developed by the MDL membership in past years:

MDL Board - Responsible for overall organization management. The board meets four times a year and is open to interested libertarians.

Organizational Coordinator - Meeting setup, maintains mailing list, supports other coordinators.

Financial Coordinator - Handles financial transactions for MDL. Currently maintains a savings account.

Newletter Coordinator - With help of assistant, puts out the METRO-DETROIT LIBERTARIAN quarterly newsletter.

Supper Club Coordinator - Arranges programs, finds restaurants, takes reservations, and assumes overall responsibility for the programs.

Press Coordinator - Organizes media efforts to publicize MDL events.

Fundraising Coordinator - Plans and implements one fundraiser a year to support MDL programs.

New Outreach Coordinator - Sends an introductory letter and materials to people who have written letters to the editor that favor libertarian positions.

Additionally, we would like to begin Community Outreach activities (see Stan's article) and get additional help with a Speakers Bureau. These areas show exceptional opportunity for rapid growth for the libertarian message.

SELF-DISCOVERY GROUP ON TRACK

Advocates for Self-Government announced in September the first successful Seminar Two program completion right here in Metro-Detroit. The Seminar Two is a logical successor to the Seminar One programs, both pioneered by the president and founder the Advocates, Marshall Fritz. The goal of the Seminar programs are to present libertarian ideas to opinion leaders, in an open atmosphere, so that they may hear, understand, and when appropriate embrace the freedom philosophy.

The eighteen hour proto-type Seminar Two program was held over a period of six weeks. Although both programs include individual research and group discussion, Seminar Two differs in its extensive use of the video format. The Seminar Two format includes:

LIBERTARIANISM: An Idea Whose Time Has Come...Again.
Advocates for Self-Government---Five 28 minute episodes

THE NEW ENLIGHTENMENT
The Reason Foundation/Institute of Economic Affairs
Scheduled to appear on PBS in March---Six 30 minute episodes

INSIDE LIFE OUTSIDE by Scott Sinkler and Sachiko Hamada
58 minute award winning documentary in the "cinema verite"
style about the life of a homeless family in New York City

THE CATO INSTITUTE: Ten Years of Promoting Liberty
The Cato Institute---19 minutes

...among others.

The Seminar Two (Self-Discovery Group) initially included five individuals, four of whom made it on the last night of the group. All four became libertarians. At this writing, a second group is presently being finalized. Copyright restrictions limit the group size to no more than ten and locations to the private home. The Seminar is exclusively designed as a self-discovery group for non-libertarians (no preaching to the choir---sorry). If any MDL'ers out there are interested in hosting a seminar in their home or have identified individuals who are potential libertarians for a third group, please call:

Mark Sellers
49630 Ellis Court
Utica, MI 48087
(313) 247-4257

OAKLAND COUNTY COUPLE RISK THEIR HOME IN POST ELECTION PARTY !

Yes, Doreen and Tony Wright are bravely hosting an election night victory party November 8 at 7:30pm. A five dollar donation is requested to cover the cost of drink setups, scholarship funds for their first born, and sandwich trays. BYOB. Please call Doreen and Tony at 674-0053 so they can get the head count. Candidates, supporters, friends, and sycophantic hangers-on are more than welcome. And if you don't remember how to get to Drayton Plains, Doreen said she would go over it one more time. Be there.

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For those on a limited budget, you may want to consider renting our direct-mail lists for:

Statewide - \$75.00
Metro-Detroit - \$50.00

For more info call:

313-292-3548

METRO DETROIT LIBERTARIANS

322 Millington
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013

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"You know, we're just
not reaching that guy."

Bill Shovey
22335 Francis
Dearborn, MI 48124