

## PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE VISITS GRAND RAPIDS AUGUST 10

Libertarian Party presidential candidate **Andre Marrou** visited Grand Rapids August 10 on a swing through Michigan in mid-August. Marrou appeared on "Front & Center" on WOTV Channel 8. He also met with former Perot supporters at one of their "Town Hall" forums at which he spoke and answered questions for about an hour (see article in 8/11/92 issue of **Grand Rapids Press**). Marrou was well received by the audience of about 60 people. (Thanks to local activists **Glenn Barr**, **Mike Gillman**, and **Dick Whitelock** for meeting with former Perot supporters ahead of time and helping to arrange this. Special thanks to **Chuck & Jessie Seven** and family for providing accommodations for Andre and his driver during that day and night. The Seven family also handed out Marrou's campaign literature to forum attendees.)

## PEROT & "PLAIN TEXAS TALK" (Editor's Viewpoint)

Speaking about Perot... Undeclared presidential candidate **Henry Ross Perot** finally declared that he would not become a declared presidential candidate, but for all of his supporters he did declare that he would still be an undeclared candidate. We do declare that Perot's campaign (at least, what there was of one) was based on a virtual vacuum, where almost nothing was declared except a non-declaration of, basically, everything. Voters must be desperate to have supported a candidate who had no principles, no convictions, no platforms, and no answers. (In more serious terms, we believe that Perot's "non-speak" allowed voters to read their own yearnings into his campaign, simply because Perot seems to share their frustration with the status quo and has the money to potentially do something about it.)

Supporters of Perot's candidacy have said they are fed up with what the two older parties have done and are doing (and not doing). We think LP presidential candidate **Andre Marrou** is well equipped - with principles, convictions, plans, answers, and vision - to give Perot's former supporters what they wanted in the first place: **LESS GOVERNMENT** - less spending, less taxation, less interference. **Libertarians have always advocated cutting government waste and reducing taxation.** The Libertarian payoff? A substantially improved economy with consequent higher employment and higher standard of living. And as individuals we would regain more control over our own lives (as well as keeping an extra few hundred of our hard-earned dollars out of government's confiscation system every single month).

We believe that the groups organized in support of Perot's campaign will gradually dissipate over the next several months, especially after the November elections. **The Libertarian Party has been around now for twenty years and is the third largest political party in the United States.** We share the frustrations and some of the major goals of Perot supporters. We will be around after the Perot organizations have disappeared. We welcome and invite all Perot supporters to join us in our efforts to streamline government and return it to its proper role.

## LPM/LPWM BOOTH AT IONIA COUNTY FREE FAIR JULY 31 - AUGUST 9

!!! 46 INQUIRIES GATHERED !!!

The LP of Michigan and the LPWM sponsored a booth at the Ionia County Free Fair, which ran from Friday, July 31, through Sunday, August 9. Booth visitors filled out a ten-question survey (the "World's Smallest Political Quiz" from Advocates For Self-Government), and booth supervisors plotted the results of each quiz on a giant two-dimensional chart showing the four quadrants "Libertarian," "Liberal," "Conservative," and "Authoritarian" (with a "Centrist" region in the middle). Visitors who were identified as libertarian were offered literature and were asked to sign up for more information about LP activities in their region. 46 people signed up for more information, of whom 35 live in the West Michigan region (10 are elsewhere in Michigan, and 1 lives in Indiana).

This is the type of "grass roots" work that real political activity involves. Your support for the growth of the LP is vividly demonstrated when you volunteer your time (and money, where funds permit) for such activities as this. We really appreciate the efforts of the following individuals who supervised the booth: **Glenn Barr**, **Ryan Baughn**, **Gary Bradley**, **Dale Dobberstein**, **Mike Gillman**, **Erwin Haas**, **Jim Heddle**, and **Jim & Heidi Pruitt**. We are especially grateful to **Dick Whitelock** (who, incidentally, is running for Congress in the 3rd district against incumbent Paul Henry) for providing the giant political map, table, chairs, literature, time (every day of the fair), and moral support.

## LPWM PICNIC ON SEPTEMBER 12 AT JOHN BALL PARK IN GRAND RAPIDS

\*\*\* ADVANCE TICKETS: \$4 / PERSON \*\*\*  
\*\*\* BARBECUE GRILL NEEDED \*\*\*

The Libertarian Party of West Michigan will be having a fun, "non-business-like," get-together picnic on Saturday, September 12 at John Ball Park in Grand Rapids (see attached map). Your ticket buys you food and drink and hobnobbing with local "LPers". Advance tickets are \$4/person (\$2.50 for children age 12 and under), family tickets are \$12.50 (immediate family only), and tickets at the site will be \$5/person.

**Dick Jacobs**, founder of the **Taxpayers Association of Michigan**, will be speaking about the **Term Limitation** initiative which is on the ballot for November. Dick was the author of the original wording of the initiative and gathered the support to get it off the ground. Dick, of course, is Libertarian candidate for the new 2nd congressional district (which incumbent Guy VanderJagt lost in the recent Republican/Democratic primary), and is respected as being one of the most active and successful Libertarians in the country.

**Erwin Haas**, Picnic Committee Chair, is looking for some kind soul to volunteer use of a barbecue grill for use at the picnic. If you are that kind of kind soul, please call Erwin at (616) 942-1271, or call the LPWM at (616) 456-5585.

## YOUR DONATION FOR LPWM GROWTH

Yes, here it is: our up-front request for your donation to the LPWM. As you see in this newsletter, the LPWM is active. These activities cost money. For example, we had to rent booth space at the Ionia County Free Fair. We have to purchase literature to use with a booth and to mail out in our inquiry packets. There is also the cost of producing and mailing this newsletter. We would also like to be able to purchase a bulk mail permit in the near future. Your financial support for the LPWM is, as always, necessary and appreciated (and put to good use).

**Send us your donation of \$100, \$50, or \$25 to support growth of the LPWM. Put it in the mail right now. We depend on you for growth.** (IRS required notice: Your donation is not tax deductible.)

## LP CANDIDATES IN WEST MICHIGAN

National		Congressional	
Andre Marrou	President	Dick Jacobs	2nd District
Nancy Lord	Vice President	Dick Whitelock	3rd District
State Board of Education		State House	
Mary Ruwart		Mike Gillman	76th District
		Jim Pruitt	74th District
Kent County Commission			
Glenn Barr	10th District		
Ryan Baughn	18th District		

## CANDIDATES RUNNING ACTIVE CAMPAIGNS

**Dick Jacobs**, founder of the Taxpayers Association of Michigan, is running a very active campaign for the 2nd Congressional seat against two virtual unknowns. Dick was the original author of the term limitation initiative that will be on the November ballot, so, as you would expect, Dick supports term limits, as do all the Libertarian candidates mentioned in this newsletter. Dick's campaign has already received a lot of media coverage. As already mentioned, Dick will be speaking at our September 12 picnic. You can contact Dick Jacobs at (616) 399-3430.

**Dick Whitelock**, past chair of the Libertarian Party of Michigan, is campaigning in the 3rd Congressional District. Dick supports tying balanced budgets to the entire federal payroll by proposing a 5% decrease in pay each time Congress passes an unbalanced budget. He believes this would be much more effective than a balanced budget amendment. He also supports campaign spending reform. Dick spoke with former Perot supporters on August 10 (during which he threw a few good-natured jabs at his Democratic opponent). You can contact Dick Whitelock at (616) 527-9263.

**Jim Pruitt** is running for State House of Representatives in the 74th district (against incumbent Ken Sikkema). Jim has three priorities: (1) a part-time legislature, (2) local control of school boards (curriculum and funding determined solely at the local level), and (3) property tax reform that includes controls on increases in state income taxes in order to prevent state government from simply shifting rather than reducing the tax burden. You can contact Jim Pruitt at (616) 791-4572.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF WEST MICHIGAN  
P. O. BOX 141453, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49514  
(616) 456-5585  
Inquiries: (616) 532-4234



## BUMPER STICKERS, BUTTONS, & YARD SIGNS FOR SALE

The LPWM now has "Enough Is Enough! Vote Libertarian!" bumper stickers, buttons, and yard signs for sale ranging from \$1.50 to \$3.00. These are high quality and well worth the price. Call 456-5585 and order yours today.

## RADIO TALK SHOW "FREE & CLEAR" ON 89.9 FM EVERY FRIDAY 4-6 P.M.

"Free & Clear," a radio talk show with caller participation, began broadcasting on **WBYW 89.9 FM** in June. You can tune in **every Friday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.** On "Free & Clear," local LPWM activists **Sharon & Todd Greene** host discussion of current events and issues and invite listeners to call and contribute to the discussion. Every show begins with the statement **"No one has the right to force his or her values on anyone else."** "Free & Clear" also features guest hosts, interviews, and alternative music. Join the growing number of listeners (and callers)!

## LPWM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING EVERY SECOND SATURDAY OF MONTH

The LPWM Executive Committee conducts a business meeting every 2nd Saturday of the month from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. **All interested individuals are welcome and invited to attend and provide ideas and opinions** (and, hey, maybe even some volunteer time to head up a committee to conduct your project for the greater LPWM cause).

## HOME SCHOOLER SPEAKS OUT IN HOLLAND

The following letter written by libertarian home schooler **Mike Aernouts** was printed in the 7/2/92 issue of the **Holland Sentinel**:

Editor,

President Bush has stated that he would be the "education president." Along with Education Secretary Lamar Alexander, he has come up with a plan that I think is worth getting excited about.

The "G.I. Bill for children" would create free-market-style competition among schools. A \$1,000 voucher could be used at any school to pay for education. That's right, any school: public, private, or parochial.

Opponents of parental choice say they fear the quality of education in this country would go down if the government no longer provided it. Nonsense. Private school pupils consistently score higher than their public school counterpart, and have been for years.

Some say that if parents are able to choose which school their children attend, enrollment in public schools would greatly decline. Others say, public schools may even have to close entirely for lack of sufficient enrollment! Probably not, but free-market-style competition would economically force public schools to either compete or fall by the wayside.

As for the argument over separation of church and state, the truth is, there is no conflict. The First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States merely prohibits the government from either promoting or restricting religion. The government's only function should be to protect the rights of its citizenry. It should not be in the business of teaching. Furthermore, as long as the voucher equals or is less than the amount normally spent anyway, there is no conflict. No increase in tax dollars would occur, and there would be freedom of choice!

Parents should have the right to choose the school their tax dollars go to. Parental choice is a realistic solution to the problems facing the educational system in America today.

**For more information, contact TEACH (Toward Educational Accountability and Choice) P.O. Box 39175, Detroit, MI 48239, or call (313) 533-8080.**

**Mike Aernouts - Holland**

## BENEFIT YARD SALE NETS \$70 FOR LPWM

The LPWM held a yard sale August 7-8 on Alpine Street in Grand Rapids. Several individuals donated items for the sale. The LPWM garnered about \$70 in "profit." We thank all those who contributed items and we thank **Glenn Barr, Ryan Baughn, Mike & Kim Gillman, Sharon Greene, and Jim & Heidi Pruitt** who contributed time and effort for set-up and supervision.

## WILL YOUR VOTE COUNT IN NOVEMBER? (AN EDITORIAL)

If you vote for Bush or Clinton, your vote will count for nothing. It's really that simple. Both of the older parties have been saying "If you want change, vote for us!" for decades. The phrase is now nothing more than a bad joke. That anyone would take either of them seriously can only be measured on the **scale of gullibility**. Neither of these two conventional parties have given us the change that they constantly promise. It does not matter whether you have a donkey or an elephant for president, what you get is higher taxes, increased government spending, and more government intrusions in our public and private lives dictating what we can and cannot do with our own money, our own property, and our own bodies.

This is the reality: **A vote for Bill or George is a vote for more government and more taxes.** If you vote for either of those two, you will have cast your vote into the **cesspool of status quo**, and you will have only yourself to blame. The records of their parties stand clear, and only those who are blind and who have terminally short memories can vote for George or Bill knowing that they represent the two older parties.

Some people are thinking, "Why should I vote for Andre Marrou? There's no way that he is going to win." These people are missing the whole point of what voting is all about. They think that voting is like a boxing match where you put your money on who you think is going to be the winner. They are wrong!

Your vote does only one thing: it sends a signal regarding the ideas you support. If you don't vote for Andre Marrou (or any candidate other than Bill and George), you are assured of achieving no change whatsoever. If you vote for George or Bill, the signal that you are sending is, "You Republicans and Democrats are doing fine. Give me more of the same." Is that what you really want to do with your vote? Throw it away on their hypocrisy and never-to-be-kept promises?

If you support the idea of more government and higher taxes, then by all means vote for Bill or George. But **if you support individual liberty and individual rights**, then make your vote really count: **Vote for Andre Marrou.**

## AN ORGANIZATIONAL CLARIFICATION

The Libertarian Party of West Michigan (LPWM) is an autonomous organization. We are a separate legal entity from the Libertarian Party (the national LP) and the Libertarian Party of Michigan (LPM). When you become a member of the LP and/or the LPM, this does not automatically make you a member of the LPWM. In addition, the LPWM receives no money from the LP or LPM. **The only money we have to fund LPWM activities is money that you donate to us directly.**

Furthermore, **if you want to participate in and influence Libertarian Party activities, the most effective and direct way for you to do it is at the local level, through the LPWM.** We invite and welcome your participation. Your personal influence in the LPWM is just one simple step away. Have a project in mind? Just attend an LPWM Executive Committee meeting and present your idea. Your appointment to Project Chair may come in short order!

## A NOTE ABOUT THIS ISSUE

This issue of *The Liberty Agenda* is, for the most part, a reiteration of our July/August issue. "What July/August issue?" you might ask. Well, it went like this: we were trying some new things both with newsletter production (in the typesetting style) and with mailing (bulk rate through the LPM). There were delays in all areas (for entirely different reasons). As a result, the undelivered July/August issue ended up sitting in a post office in Troy, MI after most of the events discussed in it as "This is coming up..." had happened and were past. As a result, we cancelled the mailing. We're still working the bugs out. Please bear with us.

(A further note for those few who are on our "first class mail" list: you, of course, did receive the July/August issue. In this issue, you will see most of that issue's information simply updated and/or modified.)

In addition, we will mention here that we can purchase our own bulk mail permit. This would help us streamline the process, because we could then mail the newsletter right out of the Grand Rapids post office rather than shipping it out to Troy. Unfortunately, the initial fee for the permit is \$150. If you would like to donate money for this particular project, just earmark your check by writing "Bulk Rate Permit" on it when you send it in. Yes, the savings on the mailing with bulk rate more than pays for the cost of the permit, but the payback occurs over several months.

---

Editor - Todd Greene  
Assistant Editor - Mike Gillman  
Production Assistant - Sharon Greene

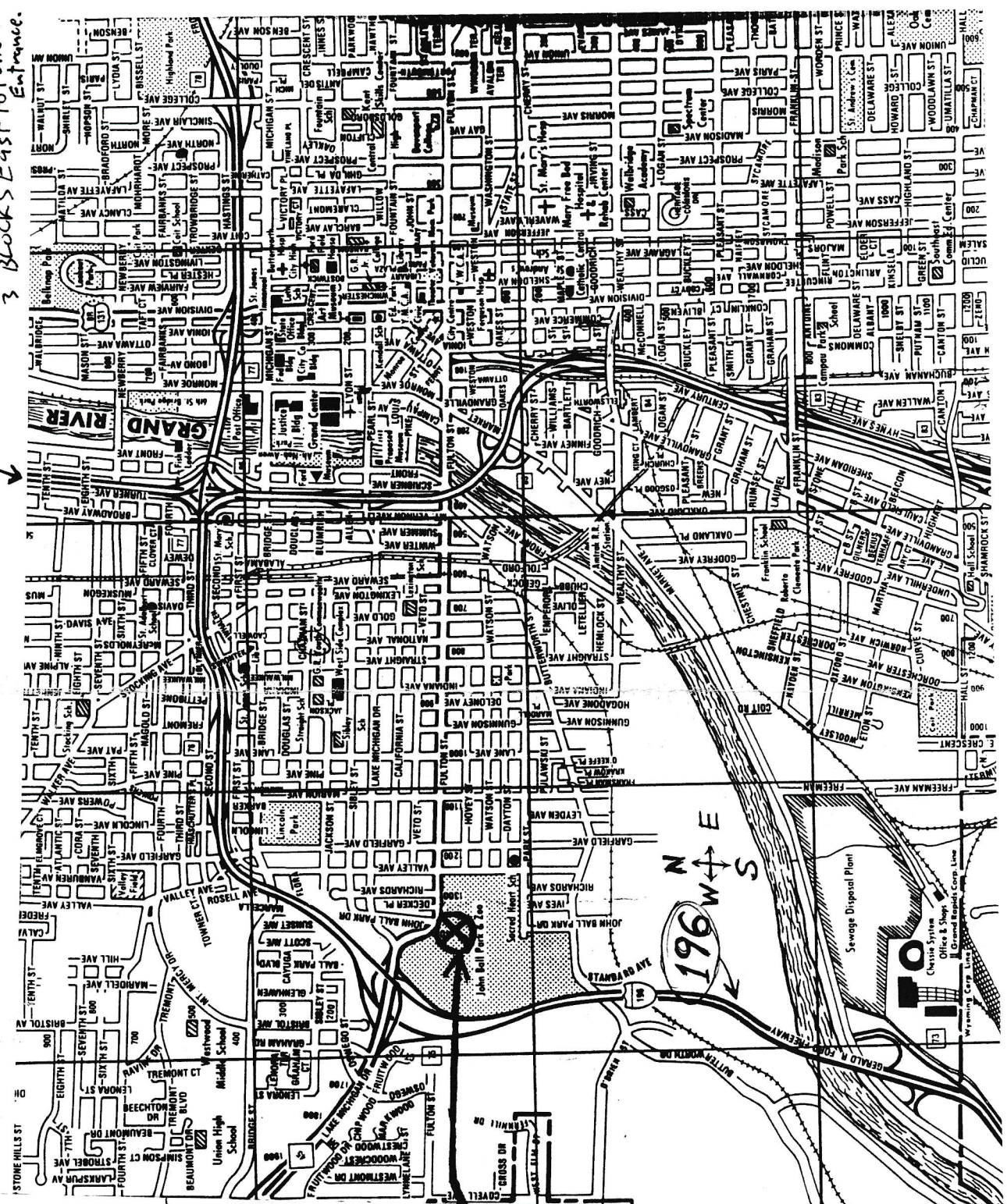
---



LPWM Picnic  
September 12

JOHN BALL  
PARK & ZOO

US 131 to I 196 west  
Exit at M-45  
3 blocks East to Fulton  
Entrance.



ADVANCE  
TICKETS:  
\$4/person  
Call  
(616) 456-5585

ENTER  
PARK  
FROM  
FULTON  
STREET  
Cadd'll parking  
on surrounding  
streets.  
For more  
info, read  
"PICNIC" item  
in newsletter  
(page 1)

P.S.: John Ball  
Zoo has  
"Free Day"  
this same day!  
Great for  
the kids!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ w / h

(The IRS requires us to tell you that "contributions are not tax deductible.")

☐ I want to help the LPWM with my donation of  
(circle one) \$100 \$50 \$25 \$15 Other \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I want to be a member of the LPWM

Check either or both:

No donation is required for membership. However, your voluntary donation is requested in order to provide funds for the operating expenses of the LPWM (such as newsletter production/ mailing expenses, inquiry packet literature costs & mailing expenses, stationery, etc.)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

To become a member of the Libertarian Party of West Michigan, you need only affirm the following statement:  
"I hereby certify that I do not believe in nor do I advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving social or political goals."

## BECOME AN LPWM MEMBER



Libertarian Party of West Michigan  
P. O. Box 141453  
Grand Rapids, MI 49514  
(616) 456-5585



V

Bill Shotey  
LPM Membership Coordinator  
22335 Francis  
Dearborn, MI 48124