



The Liberty Agenda

News & Upcoming Events Of
The Libertarian Party of West Michigan

MAR / APR
1993

Libertarian Party of Michigan 1993 Convention, April 30 - May 2

The Libertarian Party of Michigan is convening its 1993 Convention on Friday, April 30, in downtown Grand Rapids with the theme of "Religious Liberty." (The Days Inn is located just east of 131 at the Pearl Street exit, south of the Gerald R. Ford Museum).

Official business is scheduled to take place on Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon. This will include **bylaws discussion and the election of LPM officers and delegates to the national convention** (which will be in Utah in September). This year will also include an **information session with regard to the LPM petition drive to regain ballot access in Michigan**.

Several other Convention activities are planned. The Convention will feature such speakers as long-time libertarian luminaries **Dr. Mary Ruwart**, author of *Healing Our World*, on the subject "The Role of Spirituality in Political Freedom" and **Jim Hudler**, one of the original founders of the Libertarian Party in the U.S. and in Michigan, on "Grassroots LP Activism."

Reverend Richard Keep, a Free Methodist minister in Kentwood, Michigan, will discuss "Religious Liberty and Government Persecution." Local LPWM member **Dr. Erwin Haas** will discuss "How Government Cost Controls increase Health Care Costs," a topic about which he is working on a book soon to be published by The Heartland Institute, a midwest libertarian think tank. **Bob Wittmann**, president of TEACH Michigan, will be speaking about **educational choice**. Other topics include: home schooling, the Second Amendment, protecting private information, strategies for getting elected, and a seminar on persuasion.

One fun event planned for Friday night is **Karaoke** (we'll see how Libertarians do on this one!). Another is planned for Saturday evening after the banquet, but you must register to find out what it is.

If you register for the Convention by April 16, the **full package price** (which includes all speakers, the Saturday night banquet, and the Sunday morning brunch) is **\$65**; after April 16 it is **\$85**. The **basic package price** (which includes speakers only) is **\$45** until April 16, then **\$50** thereafter.

If you will be staying overnight at the hotel, you need to reserve your room by April 15. Just call (616) 235-7611. Hotel room cost is not included in the price of convention registration. The cost for a room is a flat **\$57** for up to four people, so you may want to room with some friends to share the cost.

Libertarian Party of West Michigan 1993 Convention, April 3

Just to avoid any confusion, we mention right up front that the LPWM is the local group of the LP (headquartered in Grand Rapids) that works in the West Michigan region. The convention discussed in the article above is for the state party.

The **LPWM convention will be Saturday, April 3, from 6-9 p.m. at 1159 Leonard St. NW** (between Pizza Hut and Burger King). **Business will include bylaws revisions and the election of executive committee members.** Positions up for election are: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and up to seven executive managers of various organizational functions, such as fund-raising and protest activities.

Annual Tax Protest Day → April 15

Every April 15 members of the Libertarian Party and sympathetic friends all across the country gather in front of their post offices to protest taxation. This April 15 is no exception.

Here in Grand Rapids, **members of the Libertarian Party of West Michigan will be gathering in front of the downtown Grand Rapids post office.** They will carry protest signs to remind people that all is not well in the United States and that **the income tax is not only an unwelcome yoke but is an unjust one as well.** They will also hand out literature and reply cards that people can fill out and mail to us for more information about the Libertarian Party.

LPWM member Todd Greene is organizing the tax protest this year. **If you are interested in participating and want to find out more about it, call (616) 458-3379.**

If you will be making signs, you should use white or light-colored poster paper with carboard or styrofoam backing (available, for instance, at any Meijer store). You can typically get waste wood for pickets from lumber yards for free. Use heavy-duty staples or clear, wide wrapping tape to attach your poster to the picket.

Here are some slogan ideas to get your brain-storm going for your own sign (or go ahead and use one of these):

INSIDIOUS ROBBERY SYSTEM

FREEDOM IS FOR EVERYONE - EXCEPT TAXPAYERS!
HONK IF YOU HATE TAXES!
ABOLISH THE IRS!
TAXATION IS LEGALIZED PLUNDER!
GOVERNMENT SERVES GREED WELL!
IMPEACH CLINTON!
IMPEACH CONGRESS!
POLITICIANS ARE TAX SUCKERS!
THAT GOVERNMENT IS BEST WHICH GOVERNS LEAST.
TAXATION IS INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE!
LIBERTY IS CHEAPER THAN GOVERNMENT!
I'M SICK OF OTHERS SPENDING MY MONEY!
THE INDIVIDUAL DOES NOT BELONG TO THE STATE!
THE PEOPLE, NOT GOVERNMENT, POSSESS SOVEREIGNTY.
LESS GOVERNMENT, MORE LIBERTY!
GOVERNMENT SPENDS, GOVERNMENT TAXES, CITIZENS LOSE.
WHAT IS BILL CLINTON? A LIAR!

All of those who participated last year said they had a good time and enjoyed the camaraderie. And when was the last time you made a public statement about the wrongness of what Congress and other government entities are shoving down your throat?! **The protest will begin about 4 pm and run till about 11:30 pm. Join us!**

*Vigilance against government
is a patriotic virtue.*

There is also some discussion and controversy regarding the possibility of changing the current status of the LPWM from being a tax-exempt political organization (section 527) to a tax-exempt educational organization (section 501 (c) 3). There are advantages and disadvantages to either classification. For example, contributions to a section 501 (c) 3 organization are tax-deductible, donations to a section 527 organization are not. On the other hand, section 527 organizations can take positions on specific candidates and proposed legislation while section 501 (c) 3 organizations are prohibited from doing so.

Clintonomic Fallacies (Editorial)

There is a popular but socially maladaptive attitude corrupting its way among us: Those in government know best how we should live our lives and how we should spend our money. **We exist to serve the whims of those in government and those who use government for their purposes.** We are but lowly servants, and government is our esteemed, preeminent master.

Candidate Bill Clinton repeatedly and firmly exclaimed to all who would listen that he would grant "tax relief" to the "middle class." But he didn't stop at this. He further emphasized to us that if dealing with the federal deficit meant either raising taxes on the middle class or lowering government spending, then he, of course, would lower government spending.

Did you witness Mr. Bill's triple-faced speech to Congress? **The size of Bush's lying lips is superceded only by the length of Mr. Bill's nose.**

I heard Willy in his rhetorically adorned slickness advocate increasing taxes on the rich - meaning any married couple who makes more than \$30,000/year. In this way, Mr. Bill made more people rich in one year than if King Midas were Santa Claus. He was quite careful to not point out that if you have no children, you will pay more in taxes no matter how little you make. **Don't let Mr. Bill disguise from you the fact that he is advocating the largest tax increase in history.**

Let's look at some facts that we have allowed our government sycophants to ignore:

✓ **Tax Levels.** We pay more in taxes to government, at all levels, than ever before in the history of our country, the total amounting to an average of about 45% for each of us. This does not include "indirect taxes" involved with the unnecessary (and unjust) regulatory costs of government, such as import restrictions and domestic agricultural price controls. These additional government costs push our average imposed tax close to 60%. Here's another way to think about it: **If we pared government back to its legitimate constitutional activities, we would more than double our standard of living!** This is one major indication of the substantial degree to which our government simply drags us down.

✓ **Tax Deductions.** If the standard deduction amount on your income tax self-incrimination report had simply kept pace with inflation from the early '60s to the present, each deduction for you and your dependents would be at least \$7,000. So, for example, a family of 4 would deduct \$28,000 right off the top of their taxable income. This just gives you an idea of how much more government extracts from us today and how much government has grown in only about 30 years.

✓ **Tax Rates.** When the tax rate on upper income brackets was decreased in the '80s (the top tax rate fell from 70% to 28%), tax revenues from the top 5% earners actually rose by 50%. Even though high income earners pay more in taxes than the rest of us, **Mr. Bill keeps bleating that "fairness" in taxation requires us to raise tax rates on them even more than the rest of us.** I don't fall for that populist tactic. **Mr. Bill is only using this scheme to try to make it easier for us to swallow his tax increases on us.** Don't fall for it!

✓ **Spending Levels.** Government spending in absolute dollars (about \$1,500,000,000,000 - that's \$1.5 trillion) and as a percentage of our gross domestic product (GDP) is higher now than ever before in the history of our country (I repeat this phrase to emphasize this fact to you). **This year alone, government spending will increase about 12% from last year and this is about four times greater than the rate at which the economy is expected to grow.** Syndicated columnist George Will - who is anything but a free-market advocate - recently noted that federal expenditures have grown about seven times more than our GDP since 1929.

Free & Clear Radio Program Enjoys Growing Listenership

Free & Clear, on WBYW 89.9 FM, has recently gained back listeners after moving from its old Friday evening time to its current time slot **every Sunday from 6 to 8 p.m.** The move had caused a substantial drop in listeners and callers for several weeks. The variety of perspectives in callers' questions and comments has also increased.

The hosts of *Free & Clear* discuss the ideas and concepts behind current events and issues from a libertarian perspective. Listeners are encouraged to call in and participate in the discussion. The program features lively discussion, analysis, controversy, predictions, a wide variety of music, and some fun, too!

Join the growing number of listeners - tune in to 89.9 FM this Sunday at 6 o'clock. Call 453-3711 to participate.

THANKS to the following individuals who helped at the last mailing party: Glenn Barr, Mike Gillman, Sharon & Todd Greene.

✓ **Deficits.** For every tax increase since 1946 (yes, I do mean every one!), the government increased spending **more than the additional tax "revenue" received.** Economists have pegged the figure at \$1.59 in increased spending for every \$1.00 in increased taxes for the period 1947 to 1990. Under Reagan, budget director David Stockman told us that the tax deal of 1982 would give us about \$3 in budget cuts for every dollar in taxes. The cuts never happened. Under Bush, budget director Richard Darman advocated (along with the Democrats) the tax deal of 1990 which again was foisted off as a spending cut/tax increase. We got the tax increases (of course) - but, again, the spending cuts never came. Are we Americans gullible or what? Current budget director Leon Panetta proclaims (with a straight face, mind you) that Mr. Bill's budget plan will give us \$2 in budget cuts for every \$1 in tax increases. (Sorry - I didn't mean to make you cough so loudly.) Despite Mr. Bill's veneer of concerned competence, the features of his current plan indicate that it would be worse for us than continuing with the already bad 1990 plan.

✓ **Jobs.** It is impossible for the government to create jobs. This is due to the nature of its funding mechanism - taxation. When money (which represents resources and effort) is exchanged voluntarily, it fulfills people's values more productively than when it is extorted under threat of coercion. **All of the money that government spends to "create jobs" is money that has been taken away from the people who earned it in the first place. All of the jobs in the areas where these people would have spent their money have been destroyed.** In addition, government takes its "cut" to pay its own people. And more, since government is typically inefficient in the way it spends money compared to equivalent market services, we know that the money would have created more jobs if it had remained in the voluntary sphere of the marketplace. It has been estimated that the private sector would have created at least one million more jobs if the 1990 tax increases had not been implemented. In other words, the 1990 tax plan destroyed at least 1 million jobs.

I could continue, but I have run out of room. **With what is coming out of Mr. Bill's administration, we could supply the entire U.S. agricultural demand for manure for the next eight years. Tax increases will not fix the deficit.** We might as well serve an alcoholic more liquor in order to help him stop his drinking problem. **The problem is too much government spending.**

Did you know that if our federal government simply froze spending (allowing increases only for inflation), we could bring the deficit under control in only two years. It's that simple. But will they do it? Not unless we get off our collective butt and let Congress and Mr. Bill know loudly and clearly:

YOU NEED TO CUT SPENDING, NOT RAISE TAXES!

BECOME AN LPWM MEMBER!

To become a member of the Libertarian Party of West Michigan, you need only send us the completed membership form with an accompanying donation of \$10 and affirm the following statement with your signature:

"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."

Signature _____

Date _____

A donation of only \$10 is required for membership. However, additional contributions in any amount are requested in order to provide funds for the operating expenses of the LPWM. For every \$25 you donate beyond the initial \$10 membership dues, you may select one book from the list at right (circle letter(s)) →

Check all applicable choices:

- ☐ LPWM Membership (\$10; includes *Liberty Agenda* subscription)
☐ Subscription to *Liberty Agenda* only (\$5)
☐ I want to help the LPWM with my additional donation of
(circle one) \$100 \$75 \$50 \$25 Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ W / H

- A. AGAINST THE GRAIN, by Boris Yeltsin (263 pages)
- B. DISTURBING THE PEACE, by Vaclav Havel (228)
- C. GOLDWATER, by Barry M. Goldwater (414)
- D. THE DIARY OF H.L. MENCKEN, Ed. by Charles A. Fecher (476)
- E. THE FATE OF LIBERTY: ABRAHAM LINCOLN & CIVIL LIBERTIES, by Mark E. Neely, Jr. (278)
- F. THE PRIVATIZATION DECISION, by John D. Donahue (264)
- G. THE TRIUMPH OF POLITICS: WHY THE REAGAN REVOLUTION FAILED, by David A. Stockman (422)
- H. WHY AMERICANS DON'T VOTE, by F.F. Piven & R.A. Cloward (325)
- I. A LAW UNTO ITSELF: POWER, POLITICS, & THE IRS, by David Burnham (419)
- J. THE BORDERLESS WORLD, by Kenichi Ohmae (223)

(all books new & hardbound; limited availability)

For Your Information

Libertarian Periodicals:

Critical Review

Critical Review is at the forefront of scholarly studies in libertarian thought (or "classical liberalism"), while remaining accessible to the intelligent layperson. With the subtitle *A Journal of Books and Ideas*, it provides articles, essays, and book reviews (more than 100 pages per issue) from more of an academic perspective than the periodicals discussed in our last issue: anthropology, history, law, linguistics, literary theory, political theory (of course), psychology, and so on. *Critical Review*, P. O. Box 14528, Dept. 2D, Chicago, IL 60614. One-year (4 issues) subscription price: \$19.00.

The Cato Journal

The Cato Journal is also a scholarly journal, but it is aimed more at the "political elite" thinkers, the *intelligentsia* of Washington, DC. It is published by the Cato Institute, which, as you may know, is the leading libertarian think tank on the east coast, working right in the dregs of the political quagmire itself - Washington, doing its best to show people the cleaner side of life. Though not light reading in any sense of the phrase, the journal's articles are packed with detailed factual information and analysis. Publisher: Cato Institute, 224 Second St. SE, Washington, DC 20003. One-year (4 issues) subscription price: \$21.00.

(See next issue for more info on libertarian periodicals)

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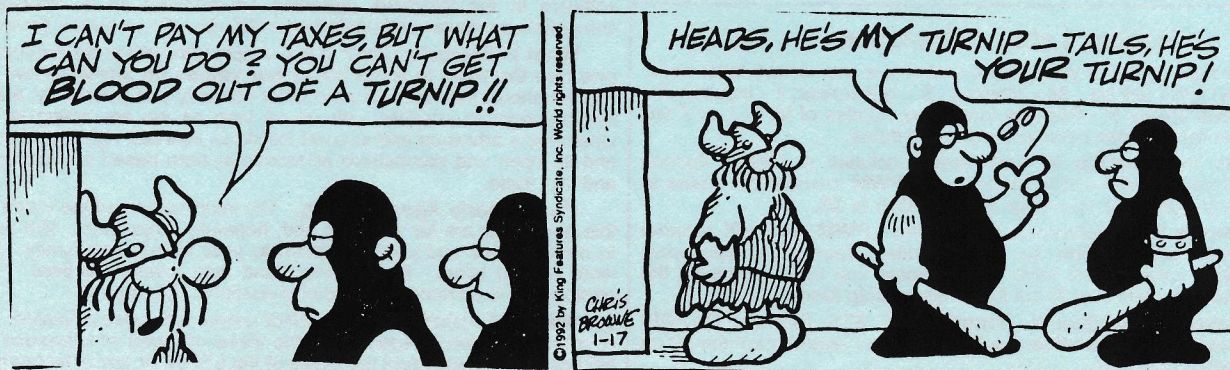
by David Friedman

(from *The Machinery of Freedom*, 1973)

A saint said "Let the perfect city rise.
Here needs no long debate on subtleties,
Means, end,
Let us intend
That all be clothed and fed; while one remains
Hungry our quarreling but mocks his pains.
So all will labor to the good
In one phalanx of brotherhood."

A man cried out "I know the truth, I, I,
Perfect and whole. He who denies
My vision is a madman or a fool
Or seeks some base advantage in his lies.
All peoples are a tool that fits my hand
Cutting you each and all
Into my plan."

They were one man.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 3:** LPWM Annual Convention (bylaws discussion, selection of officers), 6-10 pm, 1159 Leonard NW. For info, call 456-5585.
- April 13:** Thomas Jefferson's birthday.
- April 15:** Annual Tax Protest Day (LPers at post offices nationwide, LPWM activists at downtown Grand Rapids post office).
- April 15:** Deadline for reserving hotel room at Days Inn for LPM 1993 Convention.
- April 16:** Registration deadline for LPM 1993 Convention.
- April 16:** Conference: North American Free Trade Agreement - Implications For A Changing Economy, Hyatt Regency, Dearborn, MI. Sponsors: The Heartland Institute and The Fraser Institute. Call Thomas Shull at (313) 961-1950 for more information.
- April 30-May 2:** LPM 1993 Convention, Days Inn, downtown Grand Rapids.
- May 8:** LPWM Exec. Comm. meeting, 7-9 pm, 1159 Leonard NW.
- May 15:** LPWM Bowling Party, 7-9 pm, Westgate Bowl, 4486 Alpine NW, Comstock Park. Call 458-3379 for more info.
- May 19:** Deadline for material for *Liberty Agenda*.
- May 28:** *Liberty Agenda* mailing party, 7pm, 307 Garfield NW.

Mailing Label Information

In the upper right corner of your address label is a one- or two-letter code. The first (or only) letter will be: **M** - Member; **S** - Subscriber; **I** - Inquirer; **T** - Teacher; **N** - News Media; **P** - Possible Interested. Codes of M, S, I, or P will have dates to the right. These dates are expiration dates.

A one-year membership is \$10 (which includes a *Liberty Agenda* subscription). If you do not want to become an LPWM member but desire to receive the *Liberty Agenda*, a one-year subscription is \$5.

If you persuade four individuals to join the LPWM, you will receive a free one-year subscription to the premier libertarian magazine *Reason* (a \$19.95 value). Just have them indicate that they are joining the LPWM at your behest when they fill out their membership form.

If you make an additional donation of \$25 (beyond the \$10 membership dues), you will receive the book of your choice from the list on the membership/donation form.

WANTED!! Material For *Liberty Agenda*

1. Clippings or copies of local news articles about privatization, volunteer efforts, and government waste and abuse (or any other gov't ludicracies) in West Michigan.
2. Articles about projects (volunteer or otherwise) you are involved in that would be of interest to libertarians.
3. Letters-to-the-editor that have been published or letters to elected politicians by Libertarians (for letters-to-the-editor please send clipping or copy from the periodical it appeared in - and be sure to indicate the periodical name and the date it was published).
4. Cartoons with a libertarian perspective on current issues.
5. Letters to and essays for *Liberty Agenda*!

Deadline for next issue: May 19, 1993

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Grand Rapids, MI 49514
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Liberty Agenda is published bi-monthly. It is created using PFS:Publisher software in the Windows operating environment on a 386-based IBM PC compatible computer and printed on a 300 dpi HP LaserJet II compatible printer.

What is libertarianism? It is a simple idea with profound implications: **No one has the right to force his or her values on anyone else.** This implies that we should interact with each other honestly and peacefully, and that no one has the right to interfere with us as long as we are acting in this manner. Libertarians advocate and support individual liberties, rights, and responsibilities and an open and competitive economic system based on voluntary exchange and free trade.

Pass *Liberty Agenda* along. The information and the views expressed in this newsletter are for your use and, hopefully, enjoyment. We encourage you to make copies and distribute them to your friends and family. Sometimes a word is all it takes. Be a branch, and help extend the tree! The libertarian perspective is an honorable social philosophy. Express it!

Note: All material is by the editor unless otherwise indicated. The opinions expressed in *Liberty Agenda* are the views of those who express them and do not necessarily represent the views of the LPWM or any of its members.