



The Liberty Agenda

"That government is best which governs least" - Thomas Jefferson

MAY / JUN
1993

Libertarian Party Petitions For Ballot Access

Due to the low number of votes received by Libertarian Party presidential candidate Andre Marrou in Michigan, the Libertarian Party of Michigan lost ballot access. The LPM has created a special committee for the purpose of organizing statewide petitioning activities to put the Libertarian Party back on the ballot. The Ballot Access Petition Committee "kicked off" petitioning activities June 1, and the petitioning period will run for 180 days.

Requirements for a party to stay on the ballot are based on the number of votes received by the top statewide candidate of the party - in this case, the presidential candidate. There is a potential for some legislative changes to be made that would count any statewide candidate of a party who received the highest number of votes. If this was the law now, the Libertarian Party would still be on the ballot, since Dr. Mary Ruwart, running for the State Board of Education, received a vote total (about 90,000) higher than the required minimum. But such a change in legislation is questionable, so petitioning efforts are necessary to ensure the LP's place on the ballot.

Local LPWM members should contact Glenn Barr, Kent County Petitioning Coordinator, for more information and to pledge time and/or money to assist with petitioning efforts in this area. You can leave a message to have him contact you by calling the Libertarian Party of West Michigan at (616) 456-5585 in Grand Rapids. In Kent County, a major signature gathering effort is being scheduled for July 4 in downtown Grand Rapids.

At press time, other county coordinators in West Michigan were: Scott Beavers (St. Joseph), 616/944-1852; Dick Jacobs (Ottawa), 616/399-8581; Dick Whitelock (Ionia), 616/527-9263.

About 40,000 signatures must be gathered statewide in order to put the LP back on the ballot. (The actual requirement is about 26,000 signatures, but about 40,000 must be gathered to guarantee that there are enough valid signatures.) In addition, at least 100 signatures must come from 8 congressional districts throughout the state.

LPWM's 1993 Convention Results

The Libertarian Party of West Michigan held its annual convention on April 3. A new Executive Committee was selected. The new committee members are:

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Chair | Secretary | Newsletter Mgr |
| Glenn Barr | Dan Marsh | Todd Greene |
| Vice Chair | Treasurer | |
| Mike Gillman | Erwin Haas | |

As was mentioned in the last *Liberty Agenda*, there was some consideration given to changing the legal status of the LPWM from a political party (IRS classification 527) to a non-profit organization (IRS classification 501 (c) 3). The executive committee took no action to change the status, but did decide to study the matter further.

Libertarian Party of Michigan 1993 Convention A Productive Event

The Libertarian Party of Michigan Convention on the May 1st weekend was a great success! Convention planning committee chairman, Glenn Barr, deserves our gratitude for making sure everything got done, with regard to both the planning and the execution of convention activities. Other local members who contributed substantially to the convention were: Michael Gillman, Jim Gross, Dr. Erwin Haas, Jim and Heidi Pruitt, and Todd and Sharon Greene. We truly thank all of these individuals for their efforts.

LPM Committee members, Judicial Committee members, and Michigan delegates to the National LP Convention were elected. In addition, two special-purpose committees were created - one to coordinate our ballot access petition efforts (see related article *Libertarian Party Petitions For Ballot Access*) and one to set up a speakers bureau. LPM bylaws went almost unchanged, with only a few minor modifications made.

The newly elected LPM Committee members are:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Chair | At-Large Directors |
| Keith Edwards | Todd Greene |
| Vice Chair | James Hudler |
| Jon Coon | Barb Vozenilek |
| Secretary | Judicial Committee |
| Pat Baker | Glenn Barr |
| Treasurer | Bill Hall |
| Dave Nagy | Dr. Mary Ruwart |

Michigan delegates to the 1993 National LP Convention were also chosen. They are (areas indicated where known): John Addis, Ben Bachrach (Dearborn), Glenn Barr (Grand Rapids), Scott Boman (Detroit), Gary Bradley (Lansing), Jon Coon (Henderson), Keith Edwards (St. Clair Shores), Nancy Geragosian, Barbara Goushaw (Waterford), Todd Greene (Grand Rapids), Eric Haight (Ann Arbor), James Hudler (Chelsea), David Hunt, Tom Jones, Mike Miller, Tim O'Brien, Janet Parkes (Midland), David Raafaub (Ann Arbor), Mary Ruwart (Kalamazoo), Emily Salvette (Ann Arbor), Karen Scarborough (Waterford), Barb Vozenilek (Brooklyn), Dick Whitelock (Ionia), and Brian Wright.

Ideas are valuable, but actions are priceless!

Please Renew Your Membership!

Several memberships expired at the end of April. Check the mailing label on this newsletter. If it says "EXPIRED," please consider renewing your membership with the Libertarian Party of West Michigan. Just fill out the "Become An LPWM Member" form on page 3, cut it out, and mail it with your \$10 membership dues to: LPWM, P.O. Box 141453, Grand Rapids, MI 49514. Thank you for your support!

Bashing the Gay-Bashers (Editorial)

Let's call gay-bashing what it really is: BIGOTRY! When it comes right down to it, those who try to tear down and vilify an individual on the sole basis of that person's sexual orientation generally justify their intolerance from a religious perspective. Homosexuality is sinful. Government and religion don't mix.

If a person wants to believe that homosexuality is a sinful behavior, she has every right to her belief. Even more, she has every right to act in correspondence with her beliefs. No one has the right to force her to support a person who is engaging in an activity that she is opposed to. No one has the right to forcibly prohibit her from acting in a bigoted manner.

But intolerant people generally fail to recognize that the libertarian principle goes both ways. Gays, lesbians, their supporters, and those who are simply opposed to intolerance have every right to ostracize (without initiating force against anyone) those who are intolerant. Also, just as homosexuals and those who support the individual rights of homosexuals have no right to use force to make others tolerate or support the sexual

(see *BASHING*, page 3)

Questionable "Investigation"

(adapted from *Grand Rapids Press*, 6/2/93)

This is regarding the May 16 article, "Anti-gay lecture prompts review at Calvin." Let me talk a little about hypocrisy and intolerance.

This article was about a conservative Christian activist, David Noebel from Colorado, who was cited as too "anti-gay" by liberal professors at Calvin College.

How dare he show videos of a San Francisco gay pride parade? It is usually these events and the recent march on Washington that embarrass conservative gays who want to appear credible. Anyone who has seen footage from these spectacles knows what I mean.

The liberals who oppose Noebel's appearance at Calvin were so frustrated with his appearance that they have launched an investigation against the group who sponsored his visit.

They say the College Republicans have an unfair advantage by getting too much funding from outside sources who support their cause.

The liberal opposition, headed by Professor Dale Van Kley, has called for a formal review of the group and their mentor, Professor William Stevenson.

Let's talk about the unfair advantages that gay activists have gained through political coercion. The millions of dollars they have accumulated (much of it government money) makes the budget of the college Republicans look like a pittance.

If a group has more support than others to air its views, that is the will of the donators and is a sign of successful efforts on the part of the group. The group's views should not be censored in some twisted effort to be fair.

Is this the first time a controversial person has aired his views on a college campus? Because if it is not, I would like to know what kind of investigations were spawned by other groups who may have safely stayed within the bounds of political correctness, yet dared to be controversial.

Charles Stabler

Let Market Control Trash Disposal

(reprinted from *Grand Rapids Press*, 3/9/93)

I am writing this letter in reference to the Feb. 27 article, "Entrepreneurs see gold in this garbage . . ."

For some years now, we have been told that recycling is an absolute good. The resulting tremendous increase in the supply of recyclables across the nation has been known to drive the price of recyclables so low in some markets that it does not pay to sell them to end users.

The result: The trash (which is what it is until it is actually recycled) has ended up in an incinerator or landfill at greater cost than if it had been shipped there directly in the first place.

In a free market, true landfill scarcity would be reflected in tipping and tag fees. As landfill space became more scarce, tipping and tag fees would go up and recycling would look more and more attractive as an alternative to the landfill. The simple fact is that there is no shortage of landfill space in Kent County.

If there was a shortage of landfill space, the county would not feel the need to thwart the efforts of John Huyge and other composters. The county is worried that composting (a form of recycling) will divert garbage (and hence, tipping revenue) away from the "county-owned South Kent Landfill and . . . incinerator." The county is even contemplating charging businesses like Mr. Huyge's a "fee for the waste they take in," i.e., in order to discourage recycling!

Since it is clear that there is abundant landfill space in Kent County, government-subsidized drop-off and curbside recycling programs should be discontinued as quickly as possible. In the long run, the county (and all other governments) should get out of the waste management business and let free market forces decide the most efficient destination for trash, whether it be a landfill, incinerator, or recycling.

Edward P. Van Wesep

THANKS to the following individuals who helped with the last mailing: Mike Gillman, Erwin Haas, Chad Stabler, Todd Greene.

Make A Difference

by Mary Gingell, National LP Chair

I have a big job as national chair of the Libertarian Party. The work that I and my colleagues do is important in terms of increasing our national recognition and helping our views become more understood and accepted by opinion leaders around the country.

And we're doing some exciting things in this area. By the time you read this column, if things go as planned, we will have hired a high-powered, energetic director of communications to work full-time in our national office in DC. This person will focus on such things as media relations, networking with allied groups in the DC area and around the country, and evaluating our stepped-up efforts in these areas to measure our effectiveness at getting the Libertarian message out.

Sounds pretty distant and professional compared to the role you probably play, that of local Libertarian grassroots activist. But it all ties together.

What can you do to add to our effectiveness? If you have been involved in local issues, keep doing what you are doing. It is extremely important that we show activity in state elections, at

(see *DIFFERENCE*, page 3)

BECOME AN LPWM MEMBER!

To become a member of the Libertarian Party of West Michigan, you need only send us this 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 \$10 donation is required for membership. Additional contributions 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 Yeksin (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 TRIUMPH OF POLITICS: WHY THE REAGAN REVOLUTION FAILED, by David A. Stockman (422)
- G. WHY AMERICANS DON'T VOTE, by F.F. Piven & R.A. Cloward (325)
- H. A LAW UNTO ITSELF: POWER, POLITICS, & THE IRS, by David Burnham (419)
- I. THE BORDERLESS WORLD, by Kenichi Ohmae (223)

(all books new & hardbound; limited availability)

(DIFFERENCE, from page 2)

county fair booths, at the local planning commission, in the weekly town paper, so that people who hear about us through our national programs can see that we aren't just a philosophical discussion group, can see how we help increase liberty in their lives, right here at home, in their communities, on the issues they feel are important.

If you are busy with other things in your life - friends, family, career - and you can't devote as much time as you'd like to LP causes and projects, donate money to the national, state, and local parties, to support the work of other Libertarians. But even more important than that, pick the ONE local issue that really turns you on, and take action on that issue, even if it's just a letter to the editor in your local paper.

Pick your favorite issue. All of life is affected by our Big Brother government. And we are the people who want most strongly to reverse that trend.

Be involved locally for liberty. Make that difference.

(adapted from *Libertarian Party NEWS*, 6/93 issue)

(BASHING, from page 2)

behavior of gays and lesbians, other people have no right to use force against gays and lesbians to prohibit their sexual behavior.

Sexual relations between members of the same sex is *illegal* in 23 states and in the District of Columbia. This is ridiculous! It is not the purpose of government to dictate the sexual relations of consenting adults. Government has no right to regulate or prohibit the honest and peaceful interactions of consenting adults, sexual or otherwise.

For Your Information

Libertarian Periodicals:

The Free Market

The Free Market is a short (typically 8-page) newsletter with one-page articles by professional economists applying economic principles to current issues and events. For example, the 4/93 issue features articles on such topics as health care, the Fabian socialism of Clinton's policies, the government takeover of our country's "information highway" as proposed by Clinton and Gore, and an analysis of national infrastructure spending. These articles are intended for the lay reader, not the economic or political specialist. The writers write from the perspective of the Austrian school of economics, so you will not find any government sycophancy, which makes their articles a refreshing break from the drool of people like Robert Reich, Clinton's economic advisor. Ludwig von Mises Institute, Auburn, AL 36849-5301. One-year (12 issues): \$25.00 donation to the LvMI.

Intellectual Ammunition

Intellectual Ammunition provides an excellent, high quality, 30- to 40-page compendium of concise information on a variety of topics. This publication was begun recently by The Heartland Institute, a libertarian think tank based in Chicago. Unfortunately, the price is steep. Get a sample copy for \$9 and see what you think. 634 S. Wabash Ave., 2nd Fl., Chicago, IL 60605. One-year (6 issues) subscription: \$98.00.

(See next issue for more info on libertarian periodicals)

Suggestions For Action

Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.

Help gather signatures to put the Party of Liberty back on the ballot.

Make a copy of this newsletter and pass it along to a friend.

Drop in at the next newsletter mailing party.

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LPM MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR
BILL SHOTLEY

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 26: LPWM Bowling Party, 7-9 pm, Westgate Bowl, 4486 Alpine NW, Comstock Park. Call 458-3379 for more info.
- July 4: Independence Day signature gathering to put the Libertarian Party back on the ballot in Michigan (downtown Grand Rapids).
- July 10: LPWM Executive Comm. meeting, 7-9 pm, 1159 Leonard NW.
- July 21: Deadline for material for *Liberty Agenda*.
- July 30: *Liberty Agenda* mailing party, 7 pm, 307 Garfield NW.
- August 14: LPWM Exec. Comm. meeting, 7-9 pm, 1159 Leonard NW.

"Life in Silicon Valley is a daily sprint. Government moves at a crawl. Competition and innovation, not subsidies, save the U.S. chip industry."

T. J. Rodgers
President & CEO, Cypress Semiconductor

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 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 (please send clipping or copy from the periodical it appeared in - be sure to indicate periodical name and date) or letters to elected politicians by Libertarians.
4. Cartoons with a libertarian perspective on current issues.
5. Letters to and essays for *Liberty Agenda*!

Deadline for next issue: July 21, 1993

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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.