

Michigan Libertarian

Volume 30, Issue 6

November/December 2001

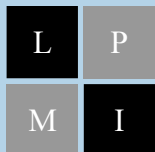
Petition Drive 46,258

by Nancy O'Brien

After six grueling months of non-stop petitioning, the Ballot Access Restoration Committee ended its campaign with enough signatures to virtually assure the Libertarian Party of Michigan's place on the 2002 ballot. On Monday, October 29, with great fanfare, the LPM submitted 46,258 signatures to the Michigan State Bureau of Elections.

"This was a full 50% more than the number of valid signatures required by law," said Nancy O'Brien, LPM director and chair of the committee. "This extra cushion was collected to insure that no matter how much state bureaucrats 'flyspeck' the petitions for minor errors, or how much the Republicans and Democrats on the Board of Elections would like to rule Libertarians out of the game on a technicality, there would be no choice for them but to restore us to our rightful place on the 2002 ballot."

O'Brien noted that aside from the shear *(cont'd on pg. 3)*



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Fred Collins RE-elected

by Barb Goushaw

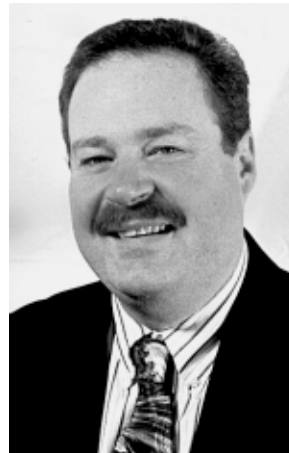
On November 6, Fred Collins was reelected to the Berkley city council. His reelection came as no surprise. He was running unopposed.

The real story doesn't begin last August when Collins filed to run for reelection. It begins in 1997 when he was sworn in for his first term as a Berkley city councilman, beginning four years of Libertarian leadership that led up to an election where no one would even file to challenge him.

Space does not permit a detailed recitation, but here is a short list of some of Councilman Collins' accomplishments:

He eliminated taxicab licensing. When he took office taxis were not operating in Berkley because of the high licensing fees. Collins worked for months to get the votes on the council to repeal this regulation. Insuring that seniors are able

to get to stores and doctor appointments was an argument that got him two votes. He picked up two more when the Chamber of Commerce wanted to start a program to pay for cabs to drive people home on New Year's Eve if they were too drunk. Collins noted that they wouldn't be able to get cabs in



Fred Collins, elected to second term on the Berkley city council.

Berkley at all — because the high licensing fees had closed the market. It worked. Berkley seniors can now get around on roads that are a little safer from drunk drivers.

Other changes came more easily. A city ordinance had banned fortune-telling based on the premise "that no one may pretend to predict the future for profit unless they are a licensed minister." Collins said he viewed fortune-telling as entertainment. "In my opinion," he said, "there is no difference between banning fortune-telling or music concerts; each of us chooses the things that we find entertaining. It's not up to the city council to tell us which ones are okay and which ones are wrong." When presented in that light, his fellow council members agreed. The ban was rescinded.

Many Libertarian positions are recognized as almost self-evident — as soon as they are actually articulated and the rea- *(cont'd on pg. 2)*

LeCureaux and Owen Win Elections!

by Greg Dirasian

Andy LeCureaux was elected to the Hazel Park city council and Mark Owen was elected to the Owosso city council on Tuesday, November 6.

Along with Fred Collins, three Michigan LP members celebrated victories that night.

Two other members ran hard-fought campaigns, but came up short. Craig Hodges barely missed election to the Harper Woods city council and Erin Stahl, after winning in the primary, lost her bid to join the St. Clair Shores city council.

A 60% success rate is unprec-

edented for the Libertarian Party of Michigan. Although non-partisan, these are very important victories in that they are elective rather than appointed offices. Further, they are legislative positions with broad policy-making scope that includes everything from drafting ordinances and resolutions to developing and passing government budgets. Winning election to city councils has historically been the first step in partisan politics for virtually everyone from county commissioners to president of the United States.

The distinguishing feature in each of these races is that they had serious, dedicated campaign man-

agers and candidates who were willing to devote the time and money necessary to actually win. And three out of five of them did!

These elected members — and even the unsuccessful candidates — are building a constituency for libertarian ideas as well as experience and name-recognition for future runs for higher office.

Such races are an indication of our growing professionalism, success, and ability to reach voters with our message of personal freedom and responsibility.

For more details on all these campaigns, please see the articles inside.

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The *Michigan Libertarian* is published bimonthly as the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan, 619 E. Nine Mile Rd., Hazel Park, MI 48030. Phone: (248) 591-FREE

Submissions: Please email articles to newsletter@lpmich.org
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Any other formats, please ask first.

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Nancy O'Brien, Leonard Schwartz, and Al Titran deliver the petitions to the Bureau of Elections in Lansing (photo to the right).

Fred Collins RE-elected

(cont'd from pg. 1) soning behind the status quo questioned.

Another of the relatively easy changes was restoring the annual Woodward "Dream Cruise" to its voluntary roots. (Dream Cruise is a day when people drive their classic cars up and down Woodward Avenue from Detroit to Pontiac.) Just prior to Collins' election, the city decided that the Dream Cruise, originally an entirely spontaneous display by car enthusiasts, had become important enough for public officials to take over. The result was inevitable — a profitable event suddenly started losing money. Collins worked to change it back to a voluntary event. Immediately small businesses and entrepreneurs were again turning a profit. And in the process the city stopped losing the taxpayers' money.

Speaking of taxpayers, Collins saved them another \$12,000 by keeping a police bike patrol funded by private donations, rather than becoming part of the city budget.

Collins also convinced his fellow council members NOT to vote on a resolution opposing marijuana legalization. Collins noted, "It is not our place [to decide]. I don't see any reason to change the direction we've taken," (*Daily Tribune*, Nov. 23, 2001). Nearby communities soon followed Berkley's lead, refusing to even put the resolution on their agendas.

But perhaps the most telling example of a Libertarian in action is the bottom line. The Berkley budget has remained constant over the last four years, never varying by more than \$10,000 - a relatively small sum in a \$17 million budget. If the budget had simply kept pace with inflation, it would have increased by \$2 million over those four years.

And Berkley is booming. Property values have soared — double the average rate in Oakland County. Volunteerism is at an all time high (as I write this we have just returned from spending the day with a dozen other activists, doing yard work for homebound seniors).

In conclusion, a note to those who contributed to the Collins reelection campaign: your contributions will be returned. Along with our sincere request that you please send them to another worthy Libertarian candidate!



Petition Drive: 46,258

(cont'd from pg. 1) volume of signatures, every signature was surface checked for errors. In addition a random sample of another 5,000 signatures were checked against the state's "Qualified Voter" database (listing every registered voter in the state) to insure a high validity rate. State Bureau of Elections worker Amy Shell said she will personally review the petitions on behalf of the state over the next few weeks. Once the petitions are checked, Shell's office will make its recommendation to the State Board of Canvass-

ers at its next meeting.

"Because of the hard work and financial contributions of dedicated Libertarian activists, our ballot status is in the bag," O'Brien said. In the final count, volunteers contributed 22,845 signatures and paid petitioners using the funds contributed to the campaign collected 23,413. The national Libertarian Party also contributed \$10,000 to support the petition drive.

"I would like to thank everyone on the BARC committee," O'Brien added. "And I'd

Affiliate	Sigs.	\$\$ + Sigs.	Goal	% Of Goal
Allegan	118	218	560	38.93
Berrien	266	464	560	82.86
Branch-Hillsdale	453	689	351	196.30
Clare-Gladwin	273	273	320	85.31
Ionia	28	28	240	11.67
Kalamazoo	513	591	1013	58.34
Lapeer-Genesee	824	1589	1413	112.46
Livingston	310	1212	1732	69.98
Macomb	2717	4748	5784	82.09
Mid-Michigan	740	1185	2852	41.55
Midwest Michigan	308	452	560	80.71
Oakland	6737	14542	10688	136.06
Ottawa	58	58	800	7.25
South Central Michigan	117	152	1652	9.20
Shiawassee	2969	3019	293	1030.38
Saint Clair	48	78	693	11.26
Traverse Bay	23	86	773	11.13
Tri-Cities	1184	1712	1173	145.95
Upper Peninsula	73	458	1119	40.93
Van Buren	412	510	426	119.72
Washtenaw	1439	2859	2799	102.14
Wayne	1809	3896	8422	46.26
West Michigan	951	2551	2799	91.14
Totals	22370	41370	47022	*****

These number are approximate only and do not include donations or signatures from unaffiliated areas.

like to extend my personal thanks to a few people in particular without whose commitment and extra efforts this enormous job would never have been accomplished. First, Al Titran and Rosemary Racchi who spent virtually every afternoon over the entire six months at the HQ checking signatures and entering them into our database. Next, Greg Dirasian who opened his own home for weeks to house professional petitioners. Then, Ben Bachrach and Jerry Bloom who devised and created both the database and the 'Qualified Voter' checking software. Finally, Erin Stahl and my husband Tim who handled the incentives creation and distribution" she concluded.

"The final bills for the incentives have not come in yet," said O'Brien. "But I'm certain there will be seed money

left in the BARC account after the final accounting is done."

The money to fund the drive was handled by BARC treasurer Diane Szabla through the party's separate Campaign Fund account that is earmarked for support of campaigns in general, and particularly the party's ballot status "top of ticket" candidate. (Under Michigan law governing minor parties, the candidate who appears highest on the ballot must receive at least 1% of the total number of votes cast for Secretary of State in the last election in which there was a race for Secretary of State in order to retain its position on the ballot.) For this reason the LPM has set up a special committee and Campaign Fund — separate from its general fund — dedicated to support of the "top of ticket" race. O'Brien helped to motivate the volunteers at the kick-off of the petition drive with the promise that any remaining funds would be retained for this purpose in next year's election.

All individual party members who contributed 50 or more signatures/dollars will receive a lapel pin with our party logo. Everyone who contributed 200 or more signatures/dollars will also receive a Statue of Liberty replica. And everyone who contributed 500 or more signatures/dollars will also receive a custom-made, hand-embroidered "Champion of Liberty" polo shirt.

In addition, our top three petitioner/contributors received special recognition awards. First place finisher, Al Titran, won a "Gold" package to the next national convention that will give him full access to every event and function — including breakfasts, lunches and the banquet. Second place winner, Leonard Schwartz, will receive a full package to the next LPM convention — also including all meals and the main banquet. The third place finisher, Sheldon Rose, won two tickets to LibertyFest (his health not permitting, he graciously deferred to the next highest finisher — Ben Steele).

O'Brien concluded by saying, "Congratulations to all 183 LPM members whose willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty earned them special recognition." [Editor's Note: See the full list of winners on page 4.] "They not only earned these prizes but, more important, the sincere gratitude of the entire party for leading the way to the successful restoration of our position on the ballot as a legally qualified political party. Enjoy your restored ballot status, everyone," she said. "You are certainly entitled to it!"

Petition Drive Award Winners

500+ Contributors Polo Shirt (plus mini-Libby & lapel pin)

Albert J Titran	2436
Leonard C. Schwartz	2345
Sheldon Rose	1505
Ben Steele III	1222
Jerry E Bloom	1110
William W. Hall	1042
Irving Rose	1000
Greg Dirasian	955
Richard E Jozwiak	623
Christopher Pellerito	600
Violet Steele	549
Benjamin I. Bachrach	528
James B. Parker	517
Malcolm Johnson	506
Trafton Jean	501
Rosemary Racchi	500
Gary Bora	500
Fred Collins	500
Leigh Rodney	500
Erin Stahl	500
Barbara B. Goushaw	500

200+ Contributors Mini-Libby (plus lapel pin)

Benjamin Steele, Jr.	450
Mickey Hall	398
William White	396
Bill Gelineau	344
Paul Hitch	341
Andrew LeCureaux	337
Constance Catalfo	321
James L. Hudler	320
Michael Dickson	310
Lloyd Sherman	307
Charles Goodman	306
Leslie Rose	303
Mark Scher	302
Ken "Bisson	300
Stephen Townsend	296
Tom Quinn	290
David J. Eisenbacher	288
Gregory Creswell	274
Laura Reeds	262
Jean Paul Denoyer	259
Helen A Hubbard	251
Nancy O'Brien	236
Trevor Peck	230
Nathan E. Allen	227
Dennis P. Manko	224
Mark Owen	215
Joseph Server	214
Trish Marie	206
Larry L. Ball	203
Paul Arends	202
Joann M. Karpinski	200
Keith Wesselmann	200
Charles Gelman	200
James M. Rodney	200

50+ Contributors Lapel Pin

Jon C Boehmer	196
Daniel LaFavers	191
Emily H. Salvette	186
Robert F. Broda	185
George Sise	184
David Collver	182
Scott Beavers	173
Timothy O'Brien	172
Ray Kirkus	165
John W. Loosemore	138
Brian Goluska	135
David S. Thompson	129
Ghazey H. Aleck	127
Lynn Fitzpatrick	123
Charles M. Jensen	118
Scott A. Larry	116
Loel Gnad	116
Eric Larsen	116
James F. Montgomery	116
Nick Contaxes	115
Rena B Coon	114
Not Available	111
Don Eichstaedt	104
Jeffrey D. Gilbert	104
Bruce Campbell	104
Jack E. Elder	103
Ray Okonski	102
Arno Buhner	101
Brian R. Wright	100
Patrick Dewan	100
David L. Gillie	100
Lewis C Rudel	100
Dean C Fisher	100
Peter Porcaro	100
William H. Bradley	100
Richard C. Blumenstein	100
Mark W. Rutherford	100
Christopher Gonzalez	100
Richard Gach	99
Robert G. Beebe	97
Elisabeth Larsen	95
Shane Mieras	94
Heather R Pauli	92
Jon W. Addiss	91
Jay Gajda	91
Dianne Szabla	90
Charles Kainz	90
Jim Allison	88
Rick Secula	84
Wendy Morisi	84
Jason C. Miller	83
Bert Dunn	80
Bill Nichols	80
Ron Heeren	80
Bruce A Hoepner	79
Dorothy Mongan	79
Helen A. Weaver	78
Donald Smith	78
Chris Carr	76
Charlamaine	75

Richard Todd	74
Michael Rafferty	72
Joel Stanesa	71
James Miller	71
David S. Hamburger	70
Ann Rowe	70
Randy Szabla	70
B Brumley	69
Steven Hooley	68
David Nagy	68
Wendy Adams	67
Richard Durant	67
Timothy Keirnan	67
Nicholas Sundquist	67
Joel Goodall	66
Craig Aaron Yope	66
James Carney	66
Ronald Retka	66
Charles H Kainz	66
Robert Schwannecke	66
Gerald W Barycz	66
Willis Clark Jr	66
Tullio Proni	64
Rian C. Klefstad	62
John Durant	62
Mike Brinkman	61
Arthur Dubin	61
Brian A Kluesner	61
Jim Lee	60
Jeff Steinport	60
Victor Cervenak	59
William Wichers	58
Laura Reeds	58
Jerry D. Taylor	58
William J. Shotey	57
Ronald Texter	57
Ralph J. Telling	56
David M. Miller	56
Steve Wixom	55
George J. Pollak	53
Jim Mills	53
Cindy Anderson	52
Rick & Krystal Dutkiewicz	52
Matt Huff	52
Robert Scriptor Jr	52
Gary Goss	52
David R. Gimby	52
Fred T. Martin	51
Charles F Morton	51
James Pike	51
Michael Glenn Hignite	51
Philip Skomra	50
Eric Christensen	50
Lynne M. Bradley-Horan	50
Greg Robinson	50
Donald S Pratt	50
Kenneth Lewis	50
Stanley C McDonald	50
Walter C. Wylie	50
John Sargent	50
William H Bouma	50
Joseph S Bommarito	50
Rosemarie (Rae) Jozwiak	50

LibertyFest 2001

by Padraic Gresham

DEARBORN. About 100 LPM members and guests, including state representative Leon Drolet (R-Clinton Township), attended the party's annual *Defenders of Liberty* awards banquet on Saturday, November 10, at the Automotive Hall of Fame in Dearborn.

Recognition and appreciation were given to the three LPM members who won election to office earlier in the week — Andy LeCureaux to the Hazel Park city council, Mark Owen to the Owosso city council, and Fred Collins who was reelected to the Berkley city council.

There was also special recognition for the leading contributors to the party's successful petition drive by Ballot Access Restoration Committee chair Nancy O'Brien. The top three individuals were Al Titran, Leonard Schwartz and Sheldon Rose. The top affiliate was Shiawassee County.

The event featured special guest speaker *Car & Driver* magazine editor Csaba Csere who stepped in to replace Claire Wolfe (a reclusive writer who lives on the left coast and withdrew following the September 11 disaster out of concern over traveling here). The auto expert gave an enlightening and entertaining presentation on the perverse effects of federal fuel and safety regulations at a venue that couldn't have been more appropriate for the subject.

The main event was, of course, the presentation of three *Defender of Liberty* awards.

The *Promoter of Liberty* award went to Rainbow Farm campground founder and marijuana activist Tom Crosslin who was assassinated last Labor Day by a federal sniper during a siege of

the property after he and his long-time partner Rollie Rohm refused to capitulate to asset forfeiture laws. Rohm met a similar fate the next day. Crosslin family members were on hand to accept the Libby award (the only one of the three categories open not just to LPM members but to any Michigan resident who demonstrates an outstanding commitment to promoting liberty). The nomination and presentation were both made by Tim O'Brien.

The *Producer of Liberty* award went to ballot access petition drive chair Nancy O'Brien. She was recognized for her years of dedicated, behind-the-scenes service of which running the party's just completed ballot drive was only the most recent example. She has, among other things, chaired a state party convention committee and a previous LibertyFest committee, as well as serving several terms on the LPM executive committee. Nominated by several people, the presentation was made by one of them — Wayne County affiliate chair Heather Pauli.

The *Spokesman for Liberty* award went to guest speaker Csaba Csere who has advanced libertarian ideas on the pages of *Car & Driver* for many years. His most recent column, for instance, roundly denounces the idea of using hidden cameras to enforce compliance with traffic signals. (For those who might be wondering, yes, Csere is an LP member.) The nomination and presentation were both made by Ben Bachrach.

Finally, a special posthumous *Producer of Liberty* award was made to Joanne Karpinski who recently passed away after a long battle with

cancer. The presentation was made by LPM chair Michael Corliss and accepted by Joanne's husband Ed. The nomination, made by Tim O'Brien, said:

The judges of the *Defender of Liberty* awards always have the option of making an additional, special award without regard to category. This year the judges should avail themselves of the opportunity and make a special *Producer of Liberty* award to Joanne Karpinski who, sadly for all who knew her, passed away this fall.

A former Wayne County chair, a crucial team member in the Jon Coon campaigns, she became a virtual fixture at too many mailings to even recall. Whenever tedious work needed to be done, Joanne Karpinski was always there to do it — the first one to arrive, the last one to leave.

Joanne was another of those very dedicated Libertarians who work tirelessly for the cause of liberty without giving so much as a passing thought to getting any recognition for their good efforts. As seems to happen all too often in life, we don't really appreciate what we have until it is gone. It is profoundly sad that we never gave Joanne the recognition she deserved when she was with us. The least we can do is to pay tribute to her life and work now, by awarding her a special *Producer of Liberty*.



Nancy O'Brien, winner of the *Producer of Liberty* award.



Csaba Csere, winner of the *Spokesperson for Liberty* award and banquet speaker.



Joann Karpinski (1937-2001), winner of a special *Producer of Liberty* award.

LeCureaux Wins!

by Dave Collver

On Tuesday, November 6, Andy LeCureaux won election to the Hazel Park City Council. An At-Large Director of the Libertarian Party of Oakland County, the 40 year old father had been preparing for this campaign for a long time, starting with one of Barb Goushaw's campaign workshops in February 2000.

Name	Votes	Percent
*Lloyd	2006	18.85%
*Webb	1917	18.02%
*Lawler	1590	14.94%
*LeCureaux	1413	13.28%
Johnson	1301	12.23%
Pashkarnis	1219	11.46%
Bullock	1194	11.22%

Seven months ago, at the post-election party for the David Eisenbacher campaign in Troy, the Andy LeCureaux campaign officially began. Andy asked me to be his campaign manager, and we sketched out a few general strategy ideas. Our first few meetings were rocky, as Andy and I were both neophytes to this game of city politics. But we were determined and began asking people for money and getting Andy speaking engagements. Slowly, we gathered momentum. Lloyd Sherman (my right-hand man) had numerous contacts in Hazel Park city government, and had been spreading Andy's name around for months.

During the course of the campaign we raised \$6,000. (We actually finished under-budget!) We outspent one incumbent 5-to-1, and many of the other candidates by lesser margins.

Our first major event was the Memorial Day parade, and several volunteers helped us by cheering Andy from the crowds. Sara Sjoberg even acquired a Dodge Viper to hang LeCureaux campaign banners from in the parade. Andy

walked along the parade route and shook hands with dozens of people.

We moved quickly to get professional quality photos taken (courtesy of photographer Dawn Hurayt, who also took photos for the Mike Carson for Sheriff campaign last year). We put together a walk letter and sent Andy out door-to-door. The local real estate magnate, Bill Hitchcock, who has been involved in city politics for 30 years and knew Andy's dad for most of that time, met with us several times offering us much-needed practical advice.

We went into our next strategy meeting, chose the campaign colors (red and white), designed the lawn signs and refrigerator magnets, and placed orders. We used refrigerator magnets instead of business cards so people would

point messages and carrying our campaign slogans: "End the Blight and Spend the Money Right" and "Andy LeCureaux — The Cure for City Council!"

We didn't do well early on in the lawn sign war, often seeing only a few red LeCureaux signs in a sea of multi-colored signs from other candidates. The last few weeks of the campaign, however, Andy worked overtime securing sign locations and the campaign surged to parity with the other campaigns. We eventually placed nearly 250 signs. (We had ordered 500 to have enough to replace any that might turn up missing.)

Early on, we had agreed to cooperate with the Mayor and two other city council candidates in a slate. However, we subsequently saw a

mud-storm approaching on the horizon, and decided to distance ourselves from it. The LeCureaux campaign had made a strategic decision to stay independent.

It was a very contentious race, and the slate headed by the Mayor Pro-Tem also approached Andy about possible cooperation. We had given our word to the Mayor, and we kept it for the duration of the campaign.

In addition to the

Mayor's endorsement, Andy received the endorsement of the Hazel Park Firefighters' Union as well as that of the United Steelworkers of America. (Andy ended up a mere four votes shy of getting endorsed by the Hazel Park Democratic Club.) To our knowledge, this is the first time a Libertarian candidate in Michigan has been endorsed by not just one, but two labor unions.

We sent out hand-addressed envelopes carrying the hand-signed absentee-voter letters and other goodies (a tea bag in the first, a refrigerator magnet in the second), with first-class postage to everyone who voted ab-



Andy LeCureaux is sworn in to the Hazel Park city council.

have an excuse to put them on the refrigerator and look at them all the time. Andy handed them out to everyone he met, whether it was walking door-to-door or at city council meetings. All in all, we ended up distributing almost 2,000 magnets.

We organized a lit drop, and excellent support from Libertarians throughout southeast Michigan. We delivered tri-fold brochures to every house in Hazel Park. (We didn't get the apartments, but we would cover those with the mailings.) We decided to go with direct mailings instead of subsequent lit drops. We designed three 8.5"x5.5" post cards with short, to-the-

(cont'd on pg. 11)

Owen Wins Election to Owosso Council

by Ben Steele

On November 6, Libertarian Party of Shiawassee County Chair Mark Owen won his bid for the Owosso City Council, placing fourth among 10 candidates. The top three vote seats were four-year terms, and fourth place was a two-year term.. Mark received 559 votes, just 26 more than the fifth place candidate. This win comes on the heels of the successful repeal of Owosso's Historic District ordinance, an effort which was lead by Owen and the LPSC.

In December of 2000, the Owosso City Council approved a plan to designate an area of town an "Historic District." Homeowners in that area would have been forced to have improvements to their homes pre-approved by a council-appointed "Historical Commission." The plan also included taxpayer-funded subsidies for home improvements by Historic District homeowners.

A substantial number of Owosso citizens, both in and out of the designated Historic District, opposed the ordinance, but no real organized effort was underway to repeal it. Mark Owen organized a meeting and set up a campaign committee named the Owosso Residents for Property Rights. The group was a coalition of both local Libertarians and non-Libertarians, including some of Owosso's most influential business owners and politicians. Mark was named the group's spokesperson. We set about collecting petitions to force a referendum.

A special election was scheduled for a renewal of the county's library system millage, and the Historic District repeal was added to the ballot in the City of Owosso. On August 14th, the voters of Owosso rejected the Historic District ordinance by a 70% margin.

With the Historic District battle behind him, Mark decided to use his increased name recognition and the new relationships he had formed during the referendum effort to run for - and win -- a seat on the Owosso City Council.

Of 10,366 registered voters in Owosso, 1,906 voted in the Historic District referendum, with 1,324 of those voting to repeal.

Among those running for the four open council seats were two strong incumbents, including the mayor. Another candidate was a local government "insider" and was very likely to win a seat. That left one seat up for grabs, and seven candidates fighting for it. We knew that we would need about 500 votes to win this seat.

Thanks to his hard work on the Historic District issue, Mark had a distinct advantage over most of the other six candidates in terms of name recognition.

We settled on a simple strategy of focusing on Mark's leadership on the Historic District referendum and targeting those who voted in the special election to repeal the district. Knowing that over 1,300 of the 1,900 voters were on our side on that issue, we felt we could count on that group for the votes we needed to get Mark on the council. We got a list of those who voted on August 14th and began discussing tactics for reaching them.

A fundraising letter was sent to Libertarian donors statewide, and another was sent to the local donors who funded the Historic District referendum. Contributions also came from The Liberty Leadership Council PAC and from the Libertarian Victory Fund PAC. Yard signs were ordered and brochures were printed.

The absentee voters represented a large block-- almost a third --of the Historic District voters. We mailed to the entire list of almost 700 permanent absentee voters, timing the mailing to reach their homes within days of their ballots.

The rest of the list was reached through aggressive door-to-door campaigning. A half dozen volunteers focused on doing targeted lit drops, working from the list of voters who went to the polls in August, while the candidate knocked on doors and spoke personally to as many voters as he could.

One hundred yard signs were placed throughout the city, particularly in the former Historic District area.

Volunteers passed out candy to children and campaign brochures to their parents during the City of Owosso's "Downtown Trick-or-Treating" event on October 27.

Ads were placed in both major newspapers in the county, reminding voters that Mark was the one responsible for the repeal of the Historic District and touting endorsements from several former city council members, a school board member, two nationally published authors, prominent business owners, and the one incumbent city council member who had stood up against the Historic District ordinance and had worked with the Owosso Citizens for Property Rights.

By election day, we had distributed 2,500 brochures to Owosso voters, including all 1,900 on our Historic District voters list. But we weren't



Mark Owen, newly elected to the Owosso City Council.

done yet.

The candidate and volunteers hit the polls on November 6, meeting the voters and distributing photocopies of the newspaper ads we had run. We covered the most active polling spots in the city, taking care to follow state election law regarding distance from the polls.

After the polls closed, we headed down to city hall and waited for the results. Doing our homework paid off; the three candidates we had predicted to easily win took the first three seats, leaving one seat open. Only one of the remaining candidates gave us any real competition, due to name recognition by virtue of a family name and a stake in several local businesses. However, when the last precinct was in, our hard work made the difference. The Mark Owen campaign was unquestionably the most well-funded, well-planned, and aggressive campaign for the Owosso City Council and the results showed in the end.

Without the Historic District issue and the name recognition and political alliances created from it, Mark Owen probably wouldn't have been able to win this seat over several candidates who have lived in the city longer and have deeper roots in the community. Without the support of prominent, non-Libertarian locals, we might have come close, but not close enough. The difference in this race was all the hard work, networking, and planning that went into it long before candidate paperwork was ever filed.

It is not often that a local government hands us a perfect issue to leverage into success at the polls. But when it happens, we have to be prepared to take advantage of it. That is the great lesson of the Mark Owen for Owosso City Council campaign.

Hodges' Heartbreak Campaign

by Tim O'Brien

HARPER WOODS. Wayne County LP member Craig Hodges finished 4th of seven candidates in a race for a seat on the Harper Woods city council. The top three vote getters were elected.

The final results (100% of precincts reporting):

Name	Votes	Percent
*John M. Szymanski (i)	1,502	20.7%
*Vivian M. Sawicki (i)	1,356	18.7%
*Daniel S. Palmer	1,267	17.5%
Craig B. Hodges	1,180	16.3%
Dino S. Mocerri	1,072	14.8%
Carl W. Bahr Jr.	579	8.0%
Russell M. Myers	286	3.9%

"It was a heartbreaker," Hodges said on election night. "But it was clear from the beginning that the mayor and both of the two incumbent council members were throwing all their weight behind Palmer. I think this especially made a big difference with the Dad's Club. In any event," he concluded, "when the last ballot was counted it turned out we lost by 87 votes"

Still, no one connected with the campaign is having any 'could-a, should-a' type second thoughts.

The Friends of Craig Hodges campaign committee raised and spent a little over \$3,000 to reach the 6500-household, near east side Detroit suburb.

The dedicated candidate began doorbelling on August 23 — spending a total of 127 hours over 53 days. By October 15 he had covered the entire city, getting 150 yard sign locations and distributing more than 2500 refrigerator magnets in the process. He also made numerous speaking engagements including the League of Women Voters debate that was televised on local cable.

A 3-fold self-mailer went to all 2500 households that received absentee ballot applications from the city. A hand-addressed, 1st class letter then went to the 1300 absentee voters who actually requested a ballot. And, indeed, Hodges placed 3rd (behind only the two incumbents) in the AV total.

35 volunteers also distributed another lit piece at every house in the city on the Saturday before the election.



Craig Hodges, soccer dad and coach.

"Emotionally, I don't know which is harder to take," said Tim O'Brien, a Wayne County member who played a very active role in the campaign, "getting blown out or missing by a hair's breadth. But," he added in an e-mail to the campaign team the day after the election, "I do know that, practically speaking, losing in a very close race is clearly better for several reasons.

"First, it shows that our campaign themes obviously struck a responsive chord with the voters. We certainly know that to be true in this particular race since the mayor (who was running unopposed but still took cable TV time to make a speech) quite literally plagiarized our entire platform. He didn't even bother to paraphrase our lit!

"Second, because of the first reason, those who did win will be paying close attention to the issues we raised. And that is, after all, why

we Libertarians run for office in the first place — to affect policy, not to obtain political power.

"Finally, you build positive and invaluable name recognition for the next election. David Eisenbacher, who lost earlier this year in Troy by little more than Craig did yesterday, is regarded by everyone in that city as the odds-on favorite to win election next time."

O'Brien, who first proposed Hodges as his affiliate's designated candidate under the LPM "Just One" targeted campaign program, was very positive about the closeness of the final result. "Being competitive doesn't mean that we win every race," he said. "It simply means that we are serious contenders — not to be ignored, or even taken lightly. That, alone, is major progress for the LP. And," he concluded, "it would be hard to be much more competitive than finishing a mere 87 votes short!"

LPOC Plans Annual Holiday Party

by Lloyd Sherman

Back by popular demand, the Libertarian Party of Oakland County is planning its second annual holiday party and potluck dinner for Saturday, December 8, at LPM headquarters, at 7:00PM. Last year, in spite of bad weather, the party was a big success - and there was even a surprise visit from Santa Claus.

It is rumored that Santa Claus will be making a visit again this year. Bring your singing voice and be prepared to join in some holiday

songs. All LPM members and their families are invited to attend (even those from outside Oakland County). This is strictly a FUN event, i.e. no boring speakers and no fundraising.

Please contact Jeannie Sherman at jlsherman@ameritech.net and let her know what you plan to bring (or ask her what areas have not been covered yet). If you have any fun traditions of your own that you would like to share, we will all be happy to join you.

E-Tax Update

by Padraic Gresham

LANSING. As expected Governor Engler was back with his proposal to have Michigan send representatives to a National Council of State Legislatures meeting to negotiate an interstate compact for reciprocal enforcement of Use taxes (the equivalent of sales taxes only applied to out-of-state purchases).

However, the governor abandoned all hopes of getting SB-433 past the house Tax Policy committee and, instead, had a more sympathetic legislator, Jason Allen (R-Traverse City), introduce a slightly modified version as HB-5080 "The Equitable Sales and Use Tax Administration Act" on September 20, the very day the legislature convened for its fall session.

House Speaker Rick Johnson (R-LeRoy) immediately assigned the bill to Rep. Allen's Commerce committee. Allen scheduled a hearing the legal minimum 24 hours later with a tentative alternate meeting set for

Joanne Emmons (R-Big Rapids) scheduled a sham "hearing," also with the minimum legal notice, announcing after the opening gavel that testimony would be limited to two minutes per witness.

12:01 a.m. the following calendar day (in compliance with another legal obstacle intended to prevent ramrodding legislation through the process).

Voted out of Commerce with a 14 to 2 recommendation, HB-5080 passed the house on September 26 by an uncomfortably close 57-50 vote as nervous Republicans looked forward to making bids for senate seats (opened by term limits) next year posing as "Taxpayer Champions."

HB-5080 was then sent over to the senate Finance committee where chair Joanne Emmons (R-Big Rapids) scheduled a sham "hearing," also with the minimum legal notice, announcing after the opening gavel that testimony would be limited to two minutes per witness since the senators all had busy schedules and she didn't want to lose a quorum for the vote. In less than half an hour the seven witnesses against HB-5080 had had their two-minute say (there were no witnesses there to speak in favor) and the e-tax bill was dutifully recommended to the full senate on a 5-0 vote.

The Equitable Sales and Use Tax Administration Act passed the senate by 27 to 9 on October 4 and was signed by the governor a few days later.

Alas for Michigan and the nineteen other states preparing to meet to negotiate the details of their you-rip-off-my-citizens-and-I'll-rip-off-yours compact, the United States Congress was about to stop the whole scheme dead in its tracks.

On November 15 the recently expired federal moratorium on "Internet-related" taxes was extended for another two years. There had been some question as to whether this federal moratorium was only on new and/or access taxes or whether it would also apply to the planned multi-state compact.

Congress resolved any doubts by rejecting on a procedural motion an amendment that would have preserved the opportunity to vote approval of the state compact scheme (as required by Art I Sec. 10 of the US Constitution).

It's not often we find the US Congress protecting our pocketbooks against avaricious state governments. This appears to be one of those rare instances. For the next two years, at least.



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4. Separation of legislative and executive powers in LPM officers.

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Demorep1@aol.com

Executive Director Resigns

by Fred Collins

Tim O'Brien, executive director of the Libertarian Party of Michigan for nearly two and a half years advised the executive committee in a letter dated October 8 that he was resigning.

O'Brien had served in the position since opting not to seek a third term as party chair at the LPM convention in 1999. He stepped aside in favor of then vice chair Stacy Van Oast, whose first official action was to appoint him to the newly created executive director role.

"The plan was to split the responsibilities for party operations in order to relieve the chair of at least half the burden," O'Brien said. "Plus, this would allow me to devote more time to LP work because I could bill through my company for some of the professional services I could only provide for free so long as I remained chair," the advertising veteran added.

Although more than a quarter of the LP state affiliates across the country have executive directors, these are all regular, salaried positions. But Michigan's creative (and unique) volunteer/contractor "hybrid" agreement benefitted both parties.

O'Brien didn't have to work entirely without compensation on every project. Instead, he could recoup something — at least for the professional services for which he was billing regular clients (although he also cut his usual rate in half for the LPM).

The LPM got the communications skills not merely of a professional writer and broadcast producer, but of one with impeccable Libertarian credentials and proven dedication to the cause. Further, the use of "line item" billing through his company avoided all the commitments, costs and legal complications associated with actually hiring an employee — even assuming it was possible to find one with Tim's knowledge and skills.

This first, tentative step into

professionalizing LPM operations worked far better than anyone anticipated.

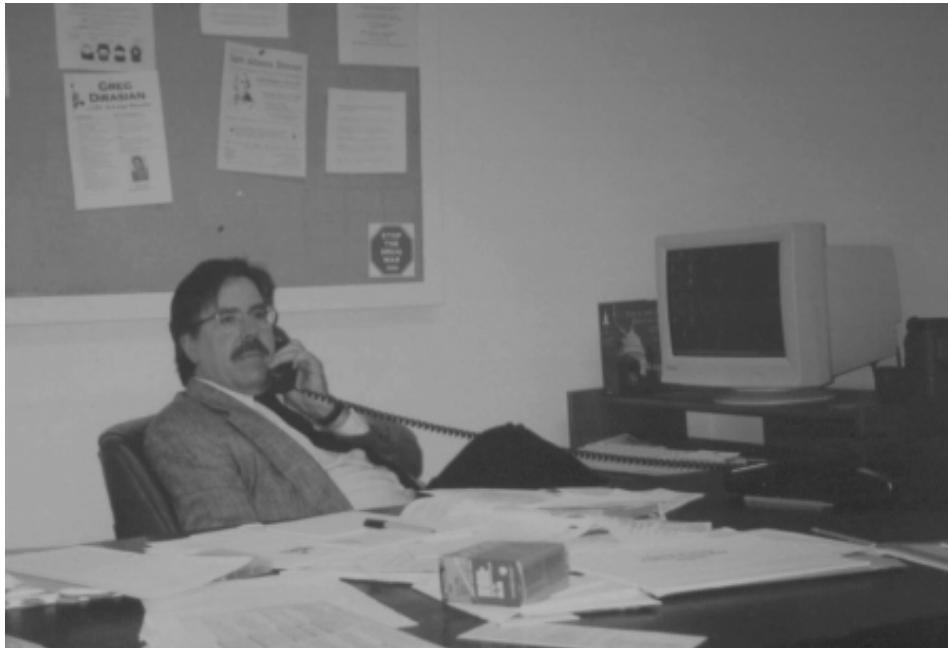
Party membership nearly doubled. The party's general operations budget more than tripled — without even taking into account the \$100,000 raised between the two BARC committees (the first in support of the party's presidential candidate last year, the second for the

tirely new areas including, for instance, lobbying in Lansing. The first foray into lobbying was to help Drolet and Gosselin throw sand in the gears of the governor's e-tax plan (temporarily, at least). And, fulfilling the initial reason for starting the lobbying effort, new ally Rep. Drolet has just introduced a bill to redefine "principal candidate" under state election. [Editor's

Note: see Top-of-Ticket Reform Bill Introduced, pg. 14]. If adopted, this modification should eliminate the threat of the LPM ever again losing ballot status because of "Wasted Vote" syndrome and having to petition to regain it.

Meanwhile, LPM affiliates and candidates were also benefiting from having the services of an advertising and campaign consulting professional readily available.

In the 2000 election the new executive director created and



Former executive director, Tim O'Brien, in his office at LPM headquarters.

placed (through his advertising company) the radio spots for presidential candidate Harry Browne and US Senate candidate Michael Corliss, as well as the "Tweedles" ad promoting the Libertarian slate that was also picked up and run on network radio by the national LP.

just completed ballot access petition drive). Regular press releases began generating regular newspaper and radio interviews and other media coverage. O'Brien's Libertarian opinion columns began routinely appearing on newspaper op-ed pages throughout the state, including both of Detroit's major dailies.

Bimonthly fundraising letters began going out proposing specific projects to members. In fact it was one of these that launched the pledge program on the promise of opening a party HQ (which promise was fulfilled when offices were opened in Hazel Park in May, 2000).

New relationships were formed where interests coincided, including with such organizations as the Michigan ACLU and the local Community Activists Network, as well as with public officials such as state representatives Leon Drolet (R-Macomb Township) and Robert Gosselin (R-Troy), and Hazel Park mayor Ben Colly.

The party also began venturing into en-

factor in the Shiawassee affiliate's successful effort to repeal the Owosso Historic District ordinance earlier this year.

He was also involved in both the Mark Owen and Craig Hodges city council races, peripherally involved in the Eisenbacher, LeCureaux and Stahl city council races.

And those are just some of the highlights. A tremendous amount of routine maintenance and office operations were

(cont'd on next pg.)

Exec. Director Resigns

also getting done in the meantime.

In a word, the LPM grew exponentially.

But so did the demands on Tim's time and energy. Serving as the LPM's volunteer executive director had evolved into a full time job. Simultaneously, the work for which he was actually being paid dwindled (partly because virtually all of the party's discretionary resources were being devoted to the ballot drive, and partly because some members of the executive committee began questioning the value of what he was doing). Invoices from his company for professional services, never averaging much more than \$800 per month in either of his first two years, declined to barely \$600 per month since the beginning of the party's new fiscal year.

"Much as I loved what I was doing and all the progress we were making," he said, "I simply could no longer afford to work full-time for what amounted to less than \$3.50 an hour."

So, O'Brien drafted a new (and more traditional) executive director agreement to propose to the LPM, modeled on the one currently used by the LP affiliates in California and Illinois -- base salary plus a percentage of fundraising -- while continuing in the interim to operate under the old agreement.

But by the October executive committee meeting it had become apparent that any contract, regardless of terms, was ill-fated. Several excom members wanted to get rid of either the position of executive director or O'Brien himself. Or both.

Vice chair Ghazey Aleck had been asserting for months that O'Brien had too much power and was essentially supplanting the chair. He even introduced a motion at the August meeting to abolish the position of executive director altogether.

Secretary Keith Edwards had been raising objections with each monthly invoice to particular charges for some of the writing for which O'Brien was still being paid.

Director Diane Barnes also made numerous complaints including, for example, that O'Brien was sponsoring bimonthly meetings of the C.A.N. group (which he had joined at its inception the preceding year) at the LPMHQ.

Two other members were at the very least less than enthusiastically supportive -- expressing concerns either about O'Brien or the position itself.

In addition, two former LPM chairs, Stacy Van Oast and Emily Salvette, appointed to draft

a business plan for the party, released a preliminary report the conclusions of which began with:

1. get rid of office at earliest opportunity; divert pledged funds to pay for hired 'Administrator'
2. immediately stop spending money on non-essential activities
 - a. quit paying for press releases, op eds, fundraising letters, newsletter articles, etc., presently these services are provided by Tim as acting Executive Director -- abolish the position and concentrate on meeting short-term goals and hiring Administrator

Given all of these circumstances, O'Brien, both embattled and impoverished, resigned as executive director.

Thus, those who have objected to the direction the party has been taking can now chart a new course.

Considering how far the LPM has come in the last two and a half years, the challenge to do even better is considerable.

As LP national director Steve Dasbach remarked in a note to O'Brien upon hearing the news that he had stepped down: "I hope that the LPMI finds a way to continue moving forward in your absence -- I would hate to see one of our best state parties begin moving backward. You have left a large set of shoes to fill."

LeCureaux Wins Election in Hazel Park

(cont'd from pg. 6) sentee in the 2000 general election -- over 500 people. We would later find out that this paid off in a big way.

Last minute setbacks put the final outcome in doubt. The last mailing was delivered to the printer a week and a half before the election. Plenty of time. They reported that the cards had been printed and delivered to the mailing house one week before the election. Plenty of time. As the days slipped by, none of us had gotten the mailing, and indeed, it hadn't been delivered by election day. This mailing was intended to reach 3,700 voters. (The mailing arrived at the voters' doors on Wednesday, November 7th, the day AFTER the election).

To compound our problems, the campaign invested in an automated phone-call service which would record a 12-second message by Andy and deliver it to 2,500 voters twice before election day. We recorded the message but no phone calls went out.

When election day arrived, volunteers

showed up in force to work the nine Hazel Park precincts. We had virtually every precinct covered all day. Volunteers held signs, greeted voters, handed out magnets and campaign brochures.

Early returns showed Andy running a close fifth with three precincts reporting. However, as the larger precincts reported in Andy pulled slightly ahead of the candidate previously in front of him. The absentee vote totals cemented the victory.

It was a long, grueling race. (Thanks to Bruce Hoepner for keeping us motivated throughout!) We learned a lot, made some mistakes, made some friends and enemies. I think the most important things we learned are that a campaign is a marathon, not a sprint, and personal relationships are the most valuable thing you can have.

During the campaign, there were two slates of candidates - one headed by the mayor and the other headed by the former Mayor Pro-Tem.

Although Andy was endorsed by the mayor, he was not really part of the slate and remained on friendly terms with both sides.

The mayor and one person from his slate was elected. Although the mayor pro-tem lost her election bid, two people from her slate were elected. This means that the council consists of two people from each side and Andy. Andy is the balance of power. This should give him the opportunity to get his issues passed.

He also has two other nearby libertarian city councilmen (Howrylak in Troy and Collins in Berkley) in southeast Oakland County that he can consult with. The November 7 issue of the *Daily Tribune* said, "LeCureaux, 40, is a Libertarian, who joins other party members taking local seats on area city councils."

One Liberterian elected to city council could be called an accident. Two elected, a fluke. Three is definitely a pattern.

Erin Stahl on St. Clair Shores Council Race

by Erin Stahl

In St. Clair Shores, the majority of the residents are seniors. The incumbents did a thorough job of wooing them with spaghetti dinners and



other events. Though I was able to make it past the primary, I wasn't able to make it past the General Election---the 3 incumbents all got back in. But the good news...

In 10 out of 25 districts I was 4th, over a candidate who was running for the 2nd time!!!

I received 2,512 votes which was about 1,100 more than the Primary. This puts me in a very good position for the next election in 2003. My friends, family, and I have already started the planning for the 2003 election.

We're looking at what we did, didn't do, and learning from it. Next election, when the Mayor is running, should be an interesting and successful race.

The outpouring of support by fellow Libertarians, business owners, residents, family and friends has been so wonderful. With this kind of support I have been able to look at this election not as a defeat but as a great learning experience.....watch out for Erin Stahl in the future!!!

Name	Votes	Percent
Robert G. Soulliere	6604	26%
Kip C. Walby	6610	24%
Robert A. Hison	5780	23%
Mark J. Moffitt	2670	10%
Erin Alana Stahl	2512	10%
Ruth C. Vogt	1924	8%

Oakland Libertarians Plan StratCon3

by Christopher Pellerito

Oakland County Libertarians will hold their third Strategic Planning Conference on January 12, 2002. The meeting, called StratCon3, will be held at LPM headquarters in Hazel Park and is open to all LPOC members.

The first strategic planning meeting was held on June 26, 1999. It set a focus for the LPOC in four areas: Membership, Public Relations, Candidates, and Fundraising.

Inspired by the plan and focus, the membership enthusiastically supported actions by contributing and running as candidates. Although not managing to accomplish every goal, the LPOC elected two candidates in 2000 (Martin Howrylak and Gary Bora) and then repeated that feat in 2001 (Fred Collins and Andy LeCureaux).

The second strategic planning meeting was held on January 13, 2001 and laid out a plan of action for the forthcoming year. More members volunteered to help with work. Even though we once again failed to meet all our goals, we still enjoyed considerable success:

- electing 2 candidates
- getting an 8 foot tall Statue of Liberty for our Independence Day parade float
- hosting a successful event at the Woodward Dream Cruise (where we gathered 1700 ballot access petition signatures in one day)
- surpassing our goal in the petition drive, to yield the largest number of signatures and cash in the state (14,542)

- receiving continued financial support from our membership
- maintaining our support of the state headquarters and our office there

Nothing happens by accident. Volunteers worked hard to make these things happen. Each of the candidates worked for weeks (along with their campaign managers) and put a substantial amount of their own money into their campaigns.

StratCon3 promises to be an interesting chance to advance the affiliate even further as our improved infrastructure and resources enable us to devote more time and money to advancing our goals and less time on administrative issues.

Among the issues to be discussed will be researching offices that are going unfilled and matching them up with members in those districts, outreach to inquiries, getting lapsed members to renew, outreach to special interest groups, building coalitions with like-minded organizations, and, of course, general candidate recruitment for the 2002 election.

Additionally, LPOC members continue planning the state convention and associated activities, as well as participation in other state-wide events.

All LPOC members are encouraged to attend and participate. It's a lot of fun being a part of a winning team. And the three elected Libertarian city councilmen in Oakland County are merely a beginning.



Councilman Andy LeCureaux of Hazel Park, Councilman Fred Collins of Berkley, and Councilman Martin Howrylak of Troy at The Automotive Hall of Fame for LibertyFest 2001.

LPM Committee Meeting Minutes

These minutes have not yet been approved by the Committee. It is possible that there will be additions or corrections at the next Committee meeting. If so, they will be published here

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. Present were, Committee: Mike Corliss, Ghazey Aleck, Keith Edwards, Trafton Jean, Diane Barnes, Greg Dirasian, Nancy O'Brien, Leonard Schwartz and Ben Steele III; Others: Tim O'Brien, Marnie Edwards, Bill Shotey, Tom Jones, David Raaflaub, Stephen Townsend, Dave Collver, Jerry Bloom, Lloyd Sherman and Bill Gelineau. Guests from Indiana were Mark Rutherford, Phil Miller and Mark Schreiber.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as corrected. Name of Region 3 LNC Rep is Mark Rutherford. Petition validity rate for the sample of 600 was 16.7%

Chair Report by Mike Corliss acknowledged the death of super volunteer Joann Karpinski. The business plan research is in progress. He urged more restraint in email debate and set guidelines for discussion at meetings.

Tim O'Brien reported that the ballot access bill amending the principal candidate rule from top of ticket to largest vote getter will be introduced October 9. He reported on the status of the internet tax bill. In the IRS 527 trial, the discovery period has expired, depositions made. The LNC has delayed paying the second \$5,000 payment to BARC. Claire Wolfe has cancelled as Liberty Fest speaker. Bill Shotey has obtained a waiver of one-half of the HQ rent for November and December.

Keith Edwards urged spending restraint due to the post-election drop in membership and pledges.

Trafton Jean gave the Treasurers Report and proposed a budget.

Nancy O'Brien gave the BARC report, discussing the experience with paid petitioners, whose validity rate is lower than that of volunteers.

Editor Greg Dirasian raised a question about running pictures in the newsletter of libertarian activities not officially connected to the LPM and about the use of LPM logo and motto by non-affiliated libertarian groups. It was pointed out that the name and motto of the LP is protected but the logo is not, but approved groups may use them. The cost of the newslet-

ter was discussed. Keith Edwards moved that "No payment shall be made for articles written for any LPM newsletter." Seconded by Ben Steele.

Motion to table by Nancy O'Brien and Leonard Schwartz was defeated 4-5. Motion passed 5-3.

Phil Miller reported on the LNC Strategic Planning Report and asked for comments and feedback. Steve Townsend reported that 34 candidates have been recruited for 2002. Conversion of new district numbers to zip codes awaits final approval of the redistricting plan. He asked for motions on actions to implement his plan and was advised that most of them can be done by contacting staff members.



Leonard Schwartz gave the Language Committee report. He has made changes based on the repeal of the Libertarian Advisory Council, numbering, grammar, punctuation, and other unsubstantial changes to the bylaws and platform. It was decided that the issue of the renaming of the Committee to Executive Commit-

tee be discussed at the convention. Motion to accept the report was made by Leonard Schwarz, seconded by Keith Edwards and passed 8-0.

Leonard Schwarz moved to approve the budget, seconded by Diane Barnes and passed 5-4.

Bill Gelineau reported on the annual Liberty Banquet in West Michigan and suggested that the Leadership Conference be held on the same weekend at the same site. Ghazey Aleck moved that West Michigan host the Leadership Conference and authorize spending of up to \$300 for the room. Seconded by Leonard Schwartz and passed 9-0.

The next LPM fundraising letter was discussed.

Moved by Leonard Schwartz to go into executive session to discuss the Executive Director's September 6 meeting and the Execu-

tive Director contract. Seconded by Greg Dirasian. Passed.

Details of the meeting are confidential as to details. Tim O'Brien presented a proposal for a new contract. A motion was by made by Leonard Schwartz to accept the proposal, and seconded by Greg Dirasian, but failed 2-6. A motion was made by Ben Steele to take a week for the Chair to draft a counter-proposal to Tim subject to Committee approval. Seconded by Greg Dirasian. Passed 5-3.

A motion to adjourn was made by Keith Edwards, seconded by Leonard Schwartz. Passed 9-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Keith Edwards, Secretary

Nancy O'Brien Resigns

by Greg Dirasian

Nancy O'Brien resigned from the LPM executive committee on November 11. The day after receiving the Producer of Liberty award at LibertyFest.

Citing personal reasons, Nancy went on to say in her letter of resignation, "I will ensure the completion of the final tasks associated with the ballot drive such as any further communications with election officials, distributing the incentive prizes, writing my final report and turning over all receipts and bank statements to the chair. However I will not be attending the LEC meeting on December 7.

I apologize for the inconvenience this will cause. I wish all of you well in your quest to secure liberty in our lifetime."

Nancy will certainly be missed. Her level of competence and dedication are a rare combination to find in a volunteer.

The LPM executive committee will take up the issue of possibly appointing a replacement for Nancy at the December 2 meeting. Any interested members should make themselves known to the committee prior to that date.

Medical Marijuana Initiative in Detroit

by Padraic Gresham

DETROIT. LPM member Tim Beck has begun a petition drive to put Medical Marijuana on the ballot in Detroit next year.

“Ballot access for an initiative is relatively easy in Detroit,” Beck noted. “We will need less than 5,500 valid signatures. Plus, this issue is about as close to a slam dunk with the voters as you can get,” he added, observing that medical marijuana has been on the ballot in eight states plus the District of Columbia and is currently 9 for 9.

Beck organized a group called the Detroit Coalition for Compassionate Care that, among others, includes former Detroit police chief Ike McKinnon, state representative Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit), Wayne County commissioner George Cushingberry, Eugene Perrin, MD of the Wayne State University School of Medicine, Jeff Montgomery of the Triangle Foundation, and even Tom Ness of the Green Party.

The 180-day drive kicked off on October 18. However, most of the 2,270 signatures gathered so far were collected at the polls on Election Day, November 6, by about 20 volunteers and paid professionals. (Beck put up several thousand dollars of his own money to get the ball rolling.)

“Technically,” Beck said, “we have until April 16. But we’d really like to get the issue on the August primary ballot. And since you have to file the signatures no less than 140 days before the election, we want to be done by the beginning of March.”

Primary voters are, of course, more politically involved and therefore, Tim believes, more politically astute as well. In addition, he anticipates that the Democrat primary for governor will be hotly contested, making largely Democrat-leaning Detroit a major battleground.

“Being on the primary ballot will force all the Democrat gubernatorial candidates to, at least, address the issue,” said Beck who already has in hand a letter of support from former congressman David Bonior — one of the three main contenders.

Anyone interested in helping out the Detroit Coalition for Compassionate Care should call Tim Beck at 313-964-0249.

Top-of-Ticket Reform Bill Introduced

by Leonard Schwartz

LANSING. Following through on a commitment he made to the LPM at the party convention last May state representative Leon Drolet (R-Clinton Township) has introduced legislation that would dramatically reduce the threat of the party losing its ballot status in future elections.

HB-5237 would modify MCL 168.685 by redefining the term “principal candidate” from “the candidate whose name appears nearest the top of the party column” to “the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes of all candidates of that political party for that election.”

Since it is only the number of votes cast for a party’s “principal candidate” that determines whether it will maintain its ballot status as a minor party (nominating all candidates at convention) or even become a major party (nominating most candidates in a primary election), the definition of the term “principal candidate” is crucial. The proposed legislation does not affect the number of votes required for either. It merely allows the threshold to be met by any of a party’s candidates — rather than only by the one candidate who is highest up on the ballot.

“Since the candidate ‘nearest the top of the party column’ is usually going to be for president or governor,” observed former LPM executive director Tim O’Brien who spent a good deal of time and effort getting this bill introduced, “the current law leaves minor parties very vulnerable to what we have come to call ‘Wasted Vote’ syndrome. The most recent election is a good case in point,” he added. “The LPM had 115 candidates who garnered more than 1.5 million votes. But because Harry Browne was competing for votes in the closest presidential race in the history of the country many thousands of people who voted for Libertarian candidates, nevertheless, voted for one of the major party candidates for president. Undoubtedly, most of them,” he concluded with a sigh, “never even realizing that this would cost us our ballot status under current Michigan election law and force us to undertake a grueling and expensive petition drive to get back on.”

The bill, cosponsored by Rep. Robert Gosselin (R-Troy), was introduced on October 16 and referred to the House Redistricting and Elections committee. Hearings have not yet been scheduled.

Eisenbacher Pulls Petitions

by Greg Dirasian

David Eisenbacher has “pulled petitions” in preparation for a second run for Troy City Council. Eisenbacher came close to winning last year - beating one of the incumbents and coming in third (out of a field of eight candidates) in a race where the top two win.

There will be some important differences in this year’s campaign.

Eisenbacher was a relative unknown going into the race last year. But by late March, his campaign was receiving positive press in the local papers. After the League of Women Voters debate, the papers wrote an article about the debate, but much of it was devoted to Eisenbacher. After that, one of the papers did an article on web sites, but once again, most of it was about Eisenbacher.

The problem was that he “peaked” too late. The absentees had already voted. Eisenbacher won in 16 of Troy’s 34 precincts and tied in 3 others, but the absentee vote was significant and he lost there.

This time around, Eisenbacher will build

on the name recognition he developed last year.

One more important distinction to this campaign: this time Eisenbacher will receive the endorsements of some influential political insiders (the campaign will release that information when the endorsements are formally made).

Volunteers should email volunteer@eisenbacher.org. Contributions can be mailed to: Friends of David Eisenbacher, 1863 Lakewood, Troy, Michigan 48083.



New Drug Reform Initiative for Michigan

by Greg Dirasian

The Campaign for New Drug Policies plans to sponsor a campaign for a ballot proposal in Michigan to overhaul the state's drug sentencing laws. The primary goals of this legislation are:

- to provide stiff and certain penalties for major drug traffickers;
- to provide treatment instead of jail time for non-violent drug possession offenders; and
- to devise sentences for lower-level and middle-level dealers that fit the crime and are proportionate to the offender's role.

All of these provisions are part of the same ballot proposal, a constitutional amendment expected to be placed before voters in November 2002. The final text of the initiative is expected to be filed during the week beginning December 3, 2001. A petition drive will begin shortly thereafter.

This is the same group that has sponsored numerous ballot initiatives across the country. Of their last six ballot proposals, 5 have passed. They also have the funding to be certain that once started, they can successfully complete their petition drive.

For more information about The Campaign for New Drug Policies, visit their web site at: <http://www.DrugReform.org>.



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"We'd be happy to give up this Fourth Amendment thing, if you could help us with our fear of the sky falling."



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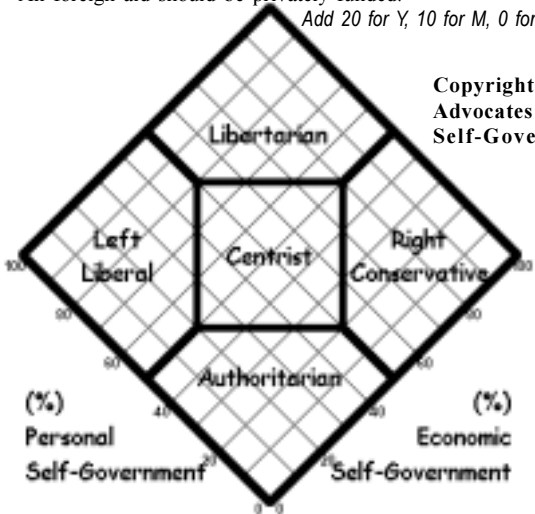
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Personal Issues	Y	M	N
Military service should be voluntary. (No draft)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Govt. should not control radio, TV, the press or the Internet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Repeal regulations on sex for consenting adults	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drug laws do more harm than good. Repeal them.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Let peaceful people cross borders freely.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Add 20 for Y, 10 for M, 0 for N</i>			

Economic Issues	Y	M	N
Businesses and farms should operate without govt subsidies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
People are better off with free trade than with tariffs.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Minimum wage laws cause unemployment. Repeal them.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
End taxes. Pay for services with user fees.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
All foreign aid should be privately funded.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Add 20 for Y, 10 for M, 0 for N</i>			



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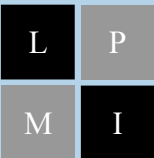
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