



Michigan Libertarian

Volume 32, Issue 6

November/December 2003

Clean Sweep in Targeted Races

by Greg Dirasian

Hazel Park MI—Libertarians celebrated a clean sweep election night (November 4). Three Libertarian city councilmen were re-elected and Libertarians added two new council members to their ever-growing farm team of elected officials.

The three re-elected councilmen are Mark Owen in Owosso, Andy LeCureaux in Hazel Park, and Bill Bradley in South Haven. Despite negative campaigning from anonymous and fraudulent sources in Hazel Park attempting to discredit LeCureaux for belonging to a minor party, voters showed that when it comes to honesty and trust, the Libertarian name can't be beat.

Owen was also blasted for his Libertarian affiliation, but voters have proven repeatedly their personal budgets and property rights trump party affiliation every time.



Councilmen Andy LeCureaux (Hazel Park), Mark Owen (Owosso), Bill Bradley (South Haven), and Erin Stahl (St. Clair Shores)

“One thing is clear,” said LeCureaux, “the existing elected officials from the older parties wouldn't be attacking us if they weren't afraid. I'm still not sure what it is they fear, but I am sure that they don't want an open and honest discussion of the issues. If they did, they would be more interested in discussing issues than political affiliations.” LeCureaux continued, “In these difficult economic times, Libertarian councilmen are balancing budgets without raising taxes—much like most families are doing with their own budgets. Neighboring communities keep going to the voters for tax increases or they raise fees to increase revenues—seemingly uncon- (cont'd on pg. 5)

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*Michigan Constitution
ARTICLE I, SECTION 5
Every person may freely speak, write, express and publish his views on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of such right; and no law shall be enacted to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech or of the press.*

*Libertarian Party of Michigan
PO Box 27065
Lansing, MI 48909-7065*

<http://www.lpmich.org>

LibertyFest a Big Success

by Will Tyler White

The annual Michigan LP LibertyFest, hosted this year by the Capital Area Liberty Party at the Okemos Hampton Inn, drew about eighty people from around the State. A half dozen Green Party members and Libertarian city councilmen were in attendance, along with four prominent media personalities.

A panel discussion on Media & Third Party Politics was the featured program. Moderated by noted political commentator Bill Ballenger of *Inside Michigan Politics*, the open forum was informative, interesting, and entertaining. Executive editor Mickey Hirten

from the *Lansing State Journal*, political reporter Dawson Bell of the *Detroit Free Press* Lansing bureau, and anchorman Paul Junge from Fox47 TV were the panelists. A social hour with a cash bar preceded the event, which was followed by a buffet banquet and presentation of the Defender of Liberty (Libby) awards.

This year's Producer of Liberty award went to Greg Dirasian for his work in creating an online database system, newsletter changes, and campaign management.

The Promoter of Liberty award went to Joe Overton, former LPM Chair and former vice president of the Mackinac Center for

Public Policy, who passed away earlier this year when his ultralight crashed. Jack McHugh of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy accepted the award for Joe.

And, the Spokesperson for Liberty award went to Jeff Steinport who was elected to the Grand Rapids School Board in 2001.

Video tapes of the event are available at \$15 each, priority shipping included. Credit cards accepted through White Bros. Ltd. To put it on your credit card call Will White at (517) 349-3806, or send a check to the Capital Area Libertarian Party at PO Box 1402, East Lansing, MI, 48826.

Volume 32, Issue 6

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Newsletter Information

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Submissions: Please email articles to newsletter@lpmich.org
Only electronic format will be accepted. Acceptable formats are plain text, Word97, WordPerfect 6.X/5.X, RTE, HTML, Pagemaker 6.5.
Any other formats, please ask first.

Deadline: The next deadline for submission of articles and advertising is January 10, 2004.

Advertising: Please email advertising to newsletter@lpmich.org
Only electronic format will be accepted. Because of the nature of various programs, please send ads in .p65 format. Above formats are also acceptable, but layout or resolution may be lost in the publication process. Please mail payment to:
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25% discount for LPM Candidates, 50% discount for LPM Affiliates.

Visit: <http://www.lpmich.org/Newsletters/index.html>

From the Chair

by Bill Gelineau

Our new headquarters office will be opening in Lansing on January 1. This facility is located in the heart of Lansing, just a short hop to the center of political activity. It is located at 913 W. Holmes, Suite 240-B ... just across the hall from Libertarian Party member Jon Addiss, who will be assisting with our management of the office.

This office will provide a presence for the LPM in the Lansing that is easy for members to reach from most areas in the state within 90 minutes drive time. A staffing committee has been formed to ensure that the necessary activities of the Party are carried out regularly. Please contact Bill Gelineau at chair@lpmich.org or call 616-254-2878 if you would like to help.

While this office is considerably less expensive than our prior facility, we hope our members will continue to make donations to the dedicated office fund to ensure it's presence for years to come. Such donations will also help us fund an expected Field Office in the Detroit area being planned for the 2004 campaign season. You can continue to make such donations through the pledge program or make a targeted donation to the LPM. Simply mark your donation "Office Fund".

Our new mailing address is P.O. Box 27065, Lansing, MI 48924-7065. Shortly after the New Year, we will be hosting an open house for members to see the new office. It includes a sizable conference facility share by the building tenants that will be available for virtually any event needed.

The LEC may be using this facility or continue to meet at various locations around the State to provide as much opportunity as possible for members to participate and assist in building our party. Our meeting locations and dates will continue to be published in our Newsletter, posted on the LPM Website, and posted on the weekly LPM Online announcements. The staffing committee will also make arrangements for use of the conference room for committees which need meeting space.



Exterior of the new LPM office in Lansing

LeCureaux Re-Elected in Hazel Park

by Dave Collver

Councilman Andy LeCureaux was re-elected on November 4 to another two-year term on the Hazel Park City Council. In his first election two years ago, LeCureaux came in fourth place, barely making it on to the council. After two years of representing the people of Hazel Park, there was no doubt in their mind as to who was the most qualified—this year, he came in first, earning himself the position of mayor pro-tem.



Mayor Pro-Tem Andy LeCureaux of Hazel Park being sworn in by Judge Joseph Longo

It was clear from the start that this would be a mud-slinging campaign. LeCureaux and his fiscally responsible colleagues on the city council had cut out over a million dollars of waste in an effort to balance the budget and keep the city out of receivership.

Although the residents were pleased with the savings, there were other people who were not, and they would do anything to regain control of the city council.

On Thursday, a week-and-a-half before the election, a smear piece hit. The piece was mailed to likely voters via first-class mail, under the name of a fictitious organization, using the address of one of the other candidates who was supporting LeCureaux. Clearly a case of mail-fraud.

In what seems to be becoming a trend, the opposition attacked LeCureaux for being a Libertarian and for some of the positions in the national platform. But it went further, claiming that Libertarians favored child pornography and were being evicted from the Hazel Park headquarters. Some of LeCureaux's colleagues were also included in the hit piece and accused of being Libertarians.

Andy's wife, Suzie, who had been campaigning with him, was angry. Beware the wrath of a woman scorned. She had spent months going door-to-door campaigning for Andy and contacting numerous small businesses in the area. She immediately recognized the tactic as being similar to one used by the opposition in the Howrylak campaign. She contacted the Troika for additional campaign advice.

Greg Dirasian acted quickly. Within an hour he had the LPM web site updated with an announcement that Libertarian headquarters was being moved to Lansing—making it clear that the Hazel Park office was being vacated by choice.

The Royal Oak Daily Tribune ran an article on the hit piece which was very favorable to Andy. All weekend, Andy and the other two candidates on the piece were receiving phone calls of

support. The piece was beginning to backfire.

The Troika met with the LeCureaux campaign on Sunday reviewing the newspaper article and letters to the editor. There was a high-level of confidence that the hit piece had backfired, but it was also clear that the issues still needed to be addressed.

The decision was made to rewrite the "Bigfoot" piece that was used in the Howrylak campaign and run it in Hazel Park. The "Bigfoot" piece is a mock tabloid newspaper with ridiculous headlines and a title that says, "Some people will try to make you believe anything..." and when flipped over it says, "...Because they can't find fault with the truth." And then it lists the candidate's accomplishments.

On Tuesday, the final regularly scheduled city council meeting before the election lasted five and a half hours. Most of the time was taken up by public comment. With both sides turning the meeting into a campaign rally. Some members of the opposition were noticeably intoxicated.

LPM Chair Bill Gelineau drove all the way from Grand Rapids to Hazel Park (over two

hours) to address the city council and explain that we were not evicted from the Hazel Park headquarters and that the remarks in the "hit piece" were ridiculous. He noted that if we have a "secret agenda" as was alleged in the piece, a web site would be a bad place to hide it. He concluded by inviting anybody who wanted to know the truth to visit www.lpmich.org and find out for themselves.

The "Bigfoot" piece was completed and sent to the printer on Tuesday and picked up from the printer on Friday, to be lit-dropped on the Saturday before the election. Andy placed a call to the Firefighters Union, who were planning to do their own lit-drop. They agreed to doing a joint lit-drop with Andy and some other candidates.

The effect of the "Bigfoot" piece was made clear to the campaign when Andy received a phone call from a woman who had wanted him recalled when he was first elected and who even believed the lies told in the hit piece. She called to apologize to Andy for all the things she said and told him that she would be voting for him on Tuesday.

We held our final campaign meeting to complete the details for election day on Monday. In total, four different campaigns were in attendance as we coordinated for election day. The ad hoc alliance had become a full-blown slate.

Come election day, utilizing volunteers from other campaigns, residents who supported Andy, firefighters, and Libertarian Party volunteers, we had nearly every precinct covered all day. We handed out almost 2000 refrigerator magnets on election day alone.

When the dust settled, thanks to the hard work over the many months by many volunteers, Andy came in first place. On Tuesday, November 12, Andy LeCureaux was sworn in as Mayor Pro-Tem of the City of Hazel Park.

Candidate	Votes
Andrew LeCureaux (I)	*1581
Jan Parisi	*1554
Jeffrey A. Keeton (I)	*1530
Michael Webb (I)	*1482
Ronald Lawler (I)	1272
Edward Bullock	1061
Gary C. May	542

Stahl Stuns Status Quo

by "The Troika"

Erin Stahl, and her campaign management team, "The Troika" campaigned their way to a hard-fought victory Tuesday (November 4) winning a seat on the St. Clair Shores City Council.

The incumbents in St. Clair Shores had alienated many residents with their recent actions. Like many cities, St. Clair Shores is feeling the bite of declining revenues. A bad economy and reduced revenue sharing from the state is making it difficult for them to achieve a balanced budget. Like many cities, their solution was to ask for a tax increase and to raise revenues through increased fees.

Residents turned down the tax increase (Proposal S), but had no control over the increased fees. The situation turned ugly when the city's code enforcement officers began house to house inspections and issued citations for "blight" on everything from peeling paint to cracked vinyl siding to gravel driveways.

Erin, a regular council meeting attendee for two years, was an outspoken advocate for these victims, often disagreeing publicly with the Mayor. The "blight" issue became a central point of Erin's campaign.

But Erin's campaign took it a step further,

suggesting that the council balance the budget through sound fiscal management. Some of the problems were probably best outlined in a newspaper ad published by Erin's campaign.

Campaigning in St. Clair Shores presented some unique problems. First, there is a definite demographic split in the city. There is the affluent lakeshore area and the smaller, modest homes of average residents. The message needed to be tailored to appeal to both of these groups.

Second, a largely senior population meant that a much larger portion of the vote would be from absentees. This was both good and bad. It was good because Erin's message would resonate well with seniors on fixed incomes. It was bad because this meant that they would be voting early, risking an early campaign "peak." Peaking too early would alert the incumbents to the seriousness of their opposition in time to pump up their own campaigns.

It also meant a lot of work. In order to increase the number of voters that will actually open the outreach letter, The Troika prefers to use hand-addressed letters to absentee voters. In St. Clair Shores, the number of likely absentee voters was 6,232. After combining people

who live at the same address, the number came down to 4,547.

Batches of 100 addresses were assigned to people willing to address envelopes. Despite the distance between their affiliate and the candidate's district, even the LP of Washtenaw County devoted one of their meetings to help with this process.

Then on the evening of October 10 from 6:00pm until almost 2:00am, approximately 25 people, both Libertarians and non-Libertarian St. Clair Shores residents who support Erin, met at LPM headquarters to finish addressing, stuffing, sealing, and affixing return address labels and postage. Three Libertarian elected city councilmen were there (and another persuaded his wife to cover for him)

The absentee mailing was delivered to the post office on time, and the response from the community was very favorable. Erin received dozens of positive calls, and numerous requests for lawn signs after it was received. This letter can be viewed at www.ErinStahl.com

Throughout, Erin continued her campaigning door-to-door and networking with St. Clair Shores residents and organizations. Establishing another "first" in the LP, Erin was endorsed by 2 environ- (cont'd on next page)

How Much Lower Would Your Taxes Be If the City Council Did NOT:

- Approve No-Bid Contracts
- Approve Cost Over-Runs
- Approve a multi-year, \$160,000+ per year City Manager Contract

Maybe your taxes wouldn't be any lower... ...but maybe then the City Council wouldn't:

- Demand a millage increase (Proposal S)
- Harass seniors & other residents with overzealous blight programs

And They Might Even:

- Fix Crumbling Streets
- Fix Sewer Backups
- Fix Sidewalks Properly

On **November 4** VOTE for **Erin Stahl**

ERIN STAHL Let's Make a Positive Change!!! **ERIN STAHL**
for St. Clair Shores City Council paid for by Friends of Erin Stahl • 20113 Avalon • St. Clair Shores, MI 48080 for St. Clair Shores City Council

(cont'd from previous page) mental groups - Clean Water Action and Toxic Free Shores . Both organizations applauded Erin's environmental advocacy positions of "Polluter Pays" and "Find the source of the problem and develop a plan to resolve the problem at the source, before we spend another dime." Members of Clean Water Action came from as far away as Lansing to help campaign.



Judge Mark A. Fratarcangeli administers the oath of office to Erin Stahl at St. Clair Shores city hall.

In addition to 4 targeted district mailings, lawn signs, post cards, and phone calls, Erin's campaign volunteers teamed up with workers from the (unsuccessful) mayoral challenger to blanket the entire city with literature from both campaigns on the last weekend before the election.

As election day arrived, Erin and The Troika maintained a "cautiously optimistic" projection on the outcome. A strong effort was made to have a person at each of the polling places, but resources were stretched. Many Oakland Libertarians came to St. Clair Shores to help work the polls, but many were focused on working the polls for Andy LeCureaux's reelection campaign. Even Al Titran (76 years old and with two open-heart surgeries under his belt) came out of retirement to work a poll for Erin.

When the polls closed and we started collecting our own numbers it quickly became obvious that there was no clear trend. Voter turnout was heavy—36% higher than the last mayoral election. And with nearly 40% of the vote being absentee, the tension at the election

night party was palpable.

Finally, the results were announced. Erin Stahl came in second out of the six candidates, just 14 votes behind the first place winner and 484 votes ahead of the third place winner. The top three candidates were elected.

While ecstatic about the win, and thrilled with the high placement, the team was disappointed to have missed first place by such a

small margin. Perhaps a few more people to work the polls would have made the difference. Historical wisdom is that a candidate can pick up 1 to 2 percent by having people at the polls, thus one or two more volunteers during peak time might have done it. But typically, Erin shouldered the responsibility herself. Despite having worked tirelessly for months, she said - "If only I hadn't taken a break to eat my lunch that day, I might have shaken hands with the 15 vot-

ers we needed!"

As the only challenger to win a seat, Erin's challenge has just begun. She has her work cut out for her, as the lone voice of fiscal responsibility on a council favoring "tax and spend" policies. Her advantage is that she has a network of other elected council members who have promised to guide and advise her, and Erin has proven that she is a fast learner who can reach out to people and build alliances.

And as Fred Collins, Andy LeCureaux, Mark Owen, Bill Bradley, Jeff Steinport and Martin Howrylak have proven before her:

One lone Libertarian can make a difference!

Candidate	Votes
Michael A. Boyle (I)	*7783
Erin Stahl	*7769
Beverly A. McFadyen (I)	*7285
William J. Nearon(I)	6869
Mark Moffit	6862
Geri Hofmann	4516

www.ErinStahl.com

New Newsletter Editor Sought

by Greg Stempfle

This will be my last issue of the newsletter. I recently returned to school to pursue an advanced degree at the University of Michigan. With the additional work load of studying on top of a full time job, the time I can dedicate to editing a quality state party newsletter is significantly reduced. Therefore we are currently seeking somebody to replace me as newsletter editor. The job of the editor primarily includes layout and editing of articles and content.

While I do write a few articles for each issue, most of the work comes from other party members. The editor also makes sure the newsletter gets printed and mailed. These last two activities are currently performed by a printing company and a mailing house.

I will still be available to write articles and assist the new editor with their work as will the previous editor, Greg Dirasian. If interested in this position, please contact myself, Greg Stempfle at newsletter@lpmich.org, or LPM Chair Bill Gelineau at chair@lpmich.org

Clean Sweep

(cont'd from pg. 1) cerned about the impact on their constituents. It is unfortunate that they seem to have taken a lesson from their counterparts in the state legislature."

The two new council members are Erin Stahl of St. Clair Shores and John Stempfle of Grosse Pointe. This was Stahl's second run for a council seat. "Many voters urged me to run again," Stahl said. "Our city council had become so arrogant and disrespectful of the residents that they had to be replaced. The strong showings by the other challengers was an expression of how upset the residents were—I hope the remaining council members get the message."

Getting Elected the Troika Way

by Greg Dirasian

The LP of Michigan's leading campaign management team, "The Troika," has just added their fifth victory (that's five wins out of six campaigns). "The Troika" is Barb Goushaw-Collins, Fred Collins, and Greg Dirasian. Getting Libertarians elected to non-partisan office is actually easier than one might expect. It is no more difficult than getting Republicans or Democrats elected.

But (emphasis on that—BUT) it does require a great deal of work. It requires much more work than most Libertarians have put into their campaigns in the past. For many Libertarians, it requires a shift in their way of presenting our ideas. And it requires extensive work before even announcing and starting the campaign. Then, when the campaign finally does begin, it requires presenting a serious and professional image.

Benefits vs. Features

The shift in presenting ideas is fundamental. Several books on sales and marketing will teach the same things that Libertarian leaders, like Marshall Fritz (when he was still with the Advocates for Self-Government), Michael Cloud, and Don Gorman, have been trying to

teach Libertarians for years. Libertarians need to talk about benefits, not features.

For example, in the recent winning campaign in St. Clair Shores, one of the issues was their blight ordinance. The city, in an attempt to increase revenues, instructed their code enforcement folks to start examining closely all properties in the city and make certain that they were being properly maintained. An example of one of their "blight" problems was the home of an elderly woman who had a gravel driveway. Under an obscure city blight ordinance, the woman was ordered to change it to a "hard-surface" driveway within 45 days or face penalties.

The laughable part about this is that the woman's home had received awards from the city in the recent past for her beautifully maintained yard and home. She had lived in the house for 30 years with the same gravel driveway. The cost of a new "hard-surface" driveway for this woman would be approximately \$12,000. That's an expensive improvement for working people, but for a senior citizen on a fixed income, it was virtually devastating.

Some Libertarians might be tempted to defend this woman by talking about property rights. Of course, property rights is the under-

lying principle, but if we don't say exactly what we mean, people's wild imaginations will think up some wild twist to our statements (define or be defined). So the Troika helped the candidate explain this story simply and then drew the logical conclusion, "I think this is wrong." We didn't even mention property rights—people can draw all the rest of the conclusions for themselves. Conclusions like:

- The city shouldn't make life difficult for seniors
- The city shouldn't make life difficult for struggling families
- The city shouldn't make life difficult for laid-off auto workers (this is the Detroit area)
- I don't want this to happen to me and my home
- I don't want this to happen to my mother (or other relative)
- I should be free to do whatever I want with my property

The campaign did NOT leave the door open for people to jump to the conclusion that unregulated property will result in factories and pig farms springing up next to them. The campaign took a stand that was classically Libertarian, on an issue that the aver- (*cont'd on pg. 10*)

Become a University Board Candidate

by Leonard Schwartz

LPM Candidate Recruitment Chair

Candidates for the governing boards of Michigan's three largest universities usually receive little attention from the news media. But 2004 will be different for two reasons.

First, there was much media coverage of two recent U. S. Supreme Court cases involving the University of Michigan's admissions policy. The court ruled that preferential treatment toward certain minorities does not violate of the U. S. Constitution.

Second, there probably will be a ballot proposal in 2004 that will seek to prohibit government schools from engaging in preferential treatment based on sex, race, color, religion, or national origin.

The news media will be interested in each candidate's view on preferential treatment. The

news media should be especially interested in Libertarian candidates because the Libertarian stance on this issue is unique. First, the Libertarian Party is the only political party that truly opposes government discrimination based on sex, race, color, religion, or national origin. Second, the Libertarian Party also is the only political party that supports freedom of association and thus opposes government prohibition of private discrimination based on sex, race, color, religion, or national origin.

LPM candidates for the university boards will have a great opportunity to get free media publicity. But to get news media coverage, LPM needs active candidates—ones who will contact the news media, speak at candidate forums, and campaign at other community events.

News media coverage of LPM's active candidates for university boards will increase pub-

lic awareness of the Libertarian Party. This will benefit LPM and all its candidates.

If LPM has active candidates, I expect that the LPM Campaign Fund will pay for a special campaign leaflet for its university board candidates. This will save each candidate the trouble and expense of having an individual campaign leaflet.

LPM can nominate two candidates for each university board: the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan, the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University, and the Board of Governors of Wayne State University. Candidates need not be graduates of any of those universities.

LPM needs six active candidates for university boards. If you are interested in becoming an active candidate, please contact me. E-mail: schwartz@lpmich.org. Phone: 248-546-3569.

Election Results

Owosso City Council

Top three Elected to 4-year terms 4th elected to a 2-year term

Justin Horvath	849
Joane Ford	750
Mark Owen (LPM Member) (I) .....	.691
Linda Robertson .....	.629
Samantha Lieberman-Steichschulte .....	.572
Jack Crawford .....	.551
Kirk Messmer .....	.508
Terry Carrivau .....	.496

South Haven City Council

Bill Bradley (LPM Member) re-elected in unopposed race.

Grosse Pointe City Council

Top 3 Elected

G. John Stevens .....	.996
John Stempfle (LPM Member) .....	.859
Dick Clarke .....	.743
Stephen L. Sholty (I) .....	.493
Larry A. Dowers (I) .....	.430
Anne C. Ryan .....	.421

Ann Arbor City Council Ward 3

Leigh Greden (DEM) .....	.2667
Rich Birkett (LIB) .....	.521
Donna Rose .....	.443

Ann Arbor City Council Ward 4

Marcia Higgins (REP)	1885
Scott S. Trudeau (GRN)	1082
Jon Kinsey	445
Dan Sheill(LIB)	209

Ann Arbor City Council Ward 5

Wendy A. Woods (DEM)	3928
Adrianna Bounarroti (GRN) .....	.752
Jason Kantz (LIB) .....	.587

Editor's Note

I would like to extend my gratitude to Greg Dirasian for his help in editing my last issue of the Michigan Libertarian. My family experienced a tragic death as I was working on it and Greg stepped up to the plate and took over for me during our time of grief. Mr. Dirasian's Producer of Liberty Award this year was indeed well deserved.

Greg Stempfle



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Dave Nagy
(Detroit Area)

Will White
(Mid Michigan)

Jon Admiss
(N&W Michigan)

LEC 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*

August 10, 2003

Chair called meeting to order at 2pm.

Vice Chair Paul Hitch absent, all other members present.

Chairman reported on his recent activities, and commended former Treasurer Keith Wesselman for his service.

Secretary submitted minutes of previous meeting approved on voice vote.

Treasurer's report submitted approved on voice vote.

Vice Chair being absent the affiliates self reported. Lansing and TriCities sponsored Operation Politically Homeless at their respective county fairs.

Wayne Co. will be holding information booth at Gibraltar Trade Center.

Macomb had no news, and Oakland was working on the Andy LeCureaux campaign.

Director Donahue reported on State Office operations. Lease will expire on 11/30/03, Dave Collver will assist again with negotiations. Possible purchase of an office building, incorporation issues, and the sign were discussed.

Director Sherman reported on the first meeting of the Issues Committee.

Newsletter Editor Greg Stemple issued a reminder of the Sept 13 deadline and submitted a report: Operation Balance of Power, listing 17 key districts for possible libertarian candidates.

Director Donahue reported on the Stuart Ruley Estate.

Chairman reported National is two months behind on dues payments.

LibertyFest announcement, again in November, location undetermined

Director Miller reported on the Connally Initiative regarding affirmative action.

Next years State Convention was discussed, a May convention to elect state officers and national convention delegates, as well as an August candidates nominating convention maybe necessary. Each event could be held on a single day.

Motion to Purchase new election district maps. Bloom/Donahue/ agreed.

Jerry Bloom elected new Treasurer by acclamation.

Upon the nomination of the Chairman the LEC elected Rose Marie {Rae} Jozwiak as new Director at Large.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Warner, Secretary

October 5, 2003

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 by Chair Bill Gelineau at Headquarters.

Present were: Committee: Bill Gelineau, Paul Hitch, Jerry Bloom, Mike Donahue, Rae Jozwiak, Jim Miller, Leonard Schwartz, and later, Ray Warner, plus guests.

Chair Gelineau appointed Keith Edwards as Acting Secretary (non-voting).

The agenda was approved 8-0.

Chair Gelineau reported on the status of the Headquarters. The lease ends Nov. 30. We have an opportunity to sub-let space from the ACLU in Lansing for \$125 per month. We should not renew the lease at the Hazel Park location. Oakland County LP would not subsidize the present HQ

after expiration, but is considering buying a building with possible sub-lease to the LPM. Le Seniorita would host any LEC meetings for \$35. Discussion will follow.

Vice Chair report by Paul Hitch was a report on the rally for civil rights in Lapeer with a turnout of 500. Two persons have declined to revive the Traverse Bay affiliate. There is a new student group at Oakland U. He introduced Lindsay Stover from that group.

Minutes of last meeting given by Jerry Bloom in absence of Ray Warner. Move to approve without a reading by Mike Donahue. Passed 8-0

Treasurer's report was given by Jerry Bloom. Ben Bachrach has accepted the position of Assistant Treasurer. Jerry reported that there was some confusion between the records of the last

two treasurers and that there are some minor errors as a result. He hopes to resolve this by the next meeting. It appears that National is only one month behind in UMP payments at most. Donahue suggested the need for a year-end audit by a disinterested person. Motion to add Bachrach and Gelineau as signers on the account by Schwartz and Donahue respectively. Seconded by Hitch and passed 8-0

Motion by Donahue and Miller regarding the change in headquarters was debated and withdrawn. Donahue prefers an independent location to avoid connection with the ACLU. Will White said that there was an alternative location at Jon Addiss' office. He would help man the Lansing office. Discussion followed on the Oakland proposal. The purchase would be by an LLC composed of Oakland members.

Motion by Donahue and Bloom to form a state office committee to pursue a Lansing location for six-month lease with six-month option to renew passed 9-0. Motion by Schwartz and Hitch to negotiate a month-to-month extension of the current lease at no more than the current rent passed 8-1. Motion by Bloom and Schwartz to go on record that we also want an office in SE Michigan passed 9-0.

Farm Team report was given by James Hudler. He proposed that he be the temporary OFT Field Director, as an unpaid volunteer with the authority to hire one or more interns to train as future FD, interns to be paid out of the Farm Team Fund. Motion by Schwartz and Bloom to authorize this. Passed 9-0.

Will White gave the report on the Liberty Fest banquet on Nov. 8. Deadline for nominations is Oct.20.

Newsletter report was given by Greg Stempfle. He is resigning at year-end. Next deadline is Nov. 15. We need an editor. He will help train. We are using Adobe Pagemaker.

There are no developments on the Stuart Ruley Estate.

Candidate Committee: current non-partisan candidates are Andy LeCureaux in Hazel Park, Mark Owen in Owosso, Erin Stahl in St. Clair Shores, and John Stempfle in Grosse Pointe.

Operation Balance of Power was discussed, it is the intent to run candidates for the State Rep seats won by 10% or less last election and non-incumbent races. The final wording on the Connerly Proposal for Michigan has not been completed as yet.

National dues increase vote failed. We will need appointees to the National Platform and Bylaws committees. There (*cont'd on next pg.*)



Tales From The Front

How One Elected Libertarian Can Make a Difference

by Fred Collins

It has been said that "All Politics is Local," and truer words were never spoken! It is the local units of government that provide the services that people truly need, and are happy to pay the tab for. Police and fire protection. Sewer systems that remove the waste when you flush. Court systems for resolving disputes. Protection of private property at it's most basic level.

There are also many things that local governments do that are not the proper function of government. As Libertarian elected officials, it is our task to try and eliminate or reduce these items. Sometimes, we must be content to simply make the burden less onerous. On certain rare occasions we are able to prove that eliminating a regulation or stopping a bad one from passing will not create the disasters that are predicted by those in government who feel the need to control every aspect of our daily lives. As I enter my 6th year on the Berkley City Council, I am pleased to report that persuading other council members to agree to a less intrusive policy is becoming easier. In fact, just a couple weeks ago several of my fellow council members adopted, as their own idea, a position that I had previously proposed - and I didn't need to say a word!

Signs, Signs, Everywhere Signs

As a small urban community with a centralized downtown, Berkley has had a long standing prohibition on "Sidewalk sandwich board signs" that contain anything other than the name of the business and the hours of operation. This silly restriction has been pretty much ignored by the business owners, but some busy-body with nothing better to do complained, prompting the city to start enforcing the prohibition. (You would be amazed at how many ridiculous laws and ordinances are prompted by this type of citizen) A business owner came to me complaining about the city's sudden harassment, and I agreed to do what I could to fix it.

But being on the city council does not, unfortunately, give me the unlimited power to right wrongs and make sweeping changes. So I began the process of change by bringing the issue up during a council work session. My job: to "sell" the other council members on the idea

that A) The current regulation needed to be changed, B) that such a change would benefit the businesses that we are trying to attract and retain. C) That the majority of the citizenry would agree with the changes D) That no children would be harmed by changing the ordinance and E) That life as we know it in Berkley would not come to an end if the change was made.

This accomplished, the council instructed the administration to send the ordinance to the planning commission for revision. Secure in the knowledge that the process would take months, I asked the council to instruct code enforcement to cease enforcing the current ordinance until the review/revision was complete. This reasonable request was granted.

The recommendation that came back from planning (over the objections of LP and Planning commission member Darrell Johnson) allowed the businesses to add additional text and logo, but was still ridiculously restrictive and complex and required that businesses get approval from the building department for any changes to the wording on the signs, due to concerns that some wording might be offensive to the community.

I objected, of course, stating that NO Business would be silly enough to put offensive wording outside their business (and as my bride reminded me later, the current ordinance did not prevent a business from a sign that said "we're f—ing open from 8 to 4," if they were of that mindset) Further, I declared that it was wrong to put the building department in charge of deciding what was - or was not, offensive. Still, giving up control is a difficult thing to request of those who feel they are charged with the responsibility of protecting the masses from themselves, and the new ordinance was tentatively approved over my objections. (This was the first reading - two are required for passage, to allow for public comment.) So, I requested that the local business groups be notified and given the opportunity to respond, prior to the second - and final- reading and vote.

Unlike some of our other cities, Berkley council meetings are fairly quiet, with few citizens coming out to take advantage of public comment. Indeed, when I walk into council chambers and find the room is full, I wonder

what we have done wrong this time.

But, as I anticipated, the next meeting was filled with business owners complaining that the new ordinance was still too restrictive. Owner after owner came to the microphone to explain that it was absurd to have to go to the building department when they wanted to change the text on their signs, as well as the other restrictions.

This is where it gets really fun to be the lone Libertarian on an elected body. At this meeting, virtually every point I had presented previously was parroted by other members of the council. I didn't have to say a word, just sat back and watched them agree with me, all the while thinking it was their own opinion. As a result, the ordinance was sent back to the administration and the planning commission for further loosening of the restrictions. I suspect that the other members of the planning commission will start listening to, and quoting, Darrell the same way.

Sometimes, gridlock is good. While we dither back and forth, NO ordinance at all is being enforced. And nobody has died falling over a sandwich board. No one has had their morals corrupted by offensive signage. No child has been harmed in the process, and Berkley life as we know it continues without interruption. Most importantly, our businesses are promoting their products free from harassment from code enforcement.

And as long as that's happening, I am doing my job.

And the old wisdom once again holds true: There are two things you never want to watch being made - sausages and laws.

LEC

(cont'd from prev. page) are complaints about the repetition of National fundraising letters.

There was discussion on the LPM insurance policy written through Chris Miller Agency in Berkley. Coverage is on the LPM, not the affiliates. Hitch said that if an affiliate needs a certificate of insurance on an event, the affiliate should advise the agent who will confirm coverage with the event organization. This will be confirmed or denied at the next meeting.

Sherman mentioned the Intermediate School District hearings and suggested we attend.

Dave Raaflaub announced that the Tax Fee Credit petition is being finalized.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Keith Edwards, Acting Secretary

Getting Elected

(cont'd from pg. 6) age voter on the street could agree was wrong. The key difference was in the way that it was presented—in concrete rather than philosophical terms.

Libertarianism and freedom are populist concepts. Democrats and Republicans have spun their arguments to talk us out of our rights. It is now time for us to start some **unspinning** when talking about freedom.

And while Libertarians and the average voter can agree that some things are wrong, they can also agree that some things are right. Candidates should avoid the negative and try to be positive. For example, everybody wants less spending, nobody wants less service. Once again, in St. Clair Shores, the candidate went on to talk about cutting spending. How? By employing some quality control concepts espoused by Demming (the guru of quality) and empower city employees to identify and eliminate waste. This was a popular idea with the employees, it was a popular idea with the voters, and it demonstrated knowledge and experience with quality control concepts. It was also an idea that virtually everyone could relate to, because most working people DO know where their employers are wasting money, and could easily believe that the city workers would too. Further, it was attractive because it did not require the voters to “give up” anything to accomplish the goal of reduced spending.

Let's face facts. A Libertarian is not going to get elected and abolish the city budget. But cutting spending is moving us in the direction we want to go. We can eventually cut more by being in office and, as employees leave through normal attrition, suggesting that we try running the city without a replacement and see if that affects services. For the most part, residents won't even notice.

This assumes, of course, that one agrees with the idea that making small movement in the direction of a more Libertarian society is preferable to those who prefer to “wait until we can have it all.” Those who subscribe to the “wait” side of this debate should continue to do so.

Two-Years Before

But getting people elected requires more than good ideas. Face it, if all it took were good ideas, we would have been in office long ago.

Prospective candidates must do at least two years of groundwork before they get elected. There are some special circumstances where a candidate can get away with less, but in the average case, it requires a minimum of two years. If we look at the progression of elected Libertarians in Michigan, we can see what they have done and perhaps emulate some of their success.

Fred Collins did not serve on any boards or commissions in his district, but he grew up in a neighboring city where his parents still live. He resided and worked in Berkley for 14 years, and his children all went through the public school system there. He was active with the local Jaycees, Dad's club, and as a boy scout leader. He participated in community events. He volunteered on community projects. He is intelligent and likeable. He campaigned door-to-door. He came in third to win a seat in his first council election and was unopposed when reelected four years later.

Martin Howrylak served on the Troy Historic District Commission for years before being elected as a city councilman. He lived in Troy his entire life. He went to high school there. He went to church there. He worked there. He ran for city council twice before getting elected. If you were a Troy resident and ran into Martin at the mall, he would ask how you are and how your family was doing, and he probably even knew your dog's name. His father was active and well known in local politics. Even then, it was a hard fought campaign. Martin is intelligent and likeable. He went door-to-door in his first two campaigns and again in his third. Troy is a big city—it probably takes 3 campaigns just to meet a fraction of the voters. He came in first place in his first election, he was reelected this year with an even larger vote total and percentage.

Andy LeCureaux did not serve on any commission in Hazel Park, but another Libertarian in that community, Lloyd Sherman, had served for a couple years. Lloyd introduced Andy to everybody. Andy grew up in the city next door where his parents still live. Andy's father was active in his church and other community organizations. Andy's father was also able to rally support from people he knew in Hazel Park. Andy is intelligent and likeable. He worked hard in his campaign and went door-to-door

(which is how he met his new wife). In his first election, Andy won, coming in fourth place. After serving for two years, the community knew him better and he was reelected this year, coming in first place, and thereby becoming mayor pro-tem.

Mark Owen did not serve on any boards or commissions, however, prior to running for office he led the petition drive to put his city's new historic district ordinance on the ballot for repeal. He then led the campaign against it. After winning the referendum, he went on to run for city council. His is intelligent and likeable. He was elected to a two-year term. In his second campaign, he did more door-to-door work, earned a better vote total, and was reelected to a four-year term this year.

Bill Bradley attended council meetings in his community for years. He spoke out on issues in an intelligent, friendly, and non-threatening manner. When an unexpected vacancy arose on the council, Bill was the obvious choice for an appointment. He was reelected this year, unopposed.

David Eisenbacher served on the Troy Historic District Commission for two years before being elected. David is also intelligent and likeable and was able to build on the series of connections that Howrylak had already made. He ran unsuccessfully for city council in 2001, but was finally elected in 2002, coming in first place in another landslide. He also went door-to-door. During his 2001 campaign, he passed out from exhaustion and was rushed to the hospital. That's not a good thing, but all of our candidates show that level of commitment.

Erin Stahl did not serve on any boards or commissions, but she ran for city council unsuccessfully in 2001. Then she started attending council meetings regularly and spoke at many of them during the citizen comment periods. She was an outspoken advocate for the residents. Her family's business has been located in the city for over 20 years and they are one of the largest employers in the city. Her father was already known to many community leaders. Erin is likeable and intelligent. She also went door-to-door campaigning. She didn't make it to every precinct, but she did best in the precincts where she did the most door-to-door campaigning. She came in second place, missing first place by only 14 votes, but beating third by almost 500 votes—the top three were elected.

(cont'd on next pg.)

Getting Elected

(cont'd from prev. pg.)

A Professional Image

None of these candidates popped up out of nowhere and expected to win. They all did extensive groundwork before being elected. In many cases, their long history and their family's history in the community was an important asset to their success. It was part of their image and the community perception of who they are. Building a professional image is important.

Building that image requires not only time, but money. If you are going to run, determine how many votes you will need to win (based on previous elections) and expect to spend \$3.50 per vote. It will be more or less depending on how much work you have done before the campaign and what kind of opposition you face, but \$3.50 per vote is a good number for estimating. Of course, a large volunteer base can help to offset some of this cost—and it is important to remember that volunteers from the city in which you live are significantly more effective than non-resident volunteers from the party. All of the candidates described above had substantial local volunteers in addition to party members.

Expect to raise at least a third of your money from family and friends, a third from Libertarians (if you have built a credible reputation in the party), and a third will come out of your own pocket. It is also important that you be able to raise money from the community. If all your funding comes from “outside” you can be sure that your opposition (and the media) will try and make it an issue.

Have your campaign manager, county chair, or a friend, write articles about your activities for your Libertarian state party newsletter during the two years leading up to your campaign. Make sure your photo is included. If people don't know who you are, what you look like, or what you have been doing, don't expect them to contribute to your campaign.

You must have a campaign manager. You will be unable to view your campaign objectively. Management of the voter database is crucial—expect to have a database manager. Proper management will save you anywhere from hundreds to thousands of dollars. Improper management of your voter database could cost you the election. Either your campaign manager must be able to instruct the database manager well, or the database manager must understand what is required in a campaign. Database man-

agement is a topic all its own.

Your campaign literature needs to look professional. Spend the money to get good professional photos taken. Have your campaign literature designed by somebody who knows what he is doing and printed by a quality printer. Glossy paper looks better than standard stock. Use two colors at a minimum, full color if you can afford it.

Think about photos that you will need in your campaign literature and don't wait until the last minute to take them. In addition to a professional portrait, some of the most commonly used photos include:

- in front of city hall
- with seniors
- with children
- with other community leaders
- at community events
- at a volunteer event
- at a church event

Keep your campaign literature simple. Pick 3 to 5 issues and stick to them. Use lots of white

space and a large font. People will not read long diatribes. Stick to the issues, preferably with bullet points. If you don't get their attention in the first few words, your campaign literature will be tossed.

Your campaign literature should be a logical progression. Start off with an introductory piece, add an issues piece, finish off with a “goals for” or “future of” the city piece. Expect to publish three pieces to likely voters and a special letter to absentee voters. You may need more; it depends on your particular campaign.

This is just an introduction to some of the groundwork you need to do to prepare yourself to run. The important lesson here is that if you expect to win, you start the campaign two years before you declare your candidacy. For Libertarians, this is a difficult lesson to learn. People join the Libertarian Party because their first priority is freedom, not because they want a political career. But if we are to succeed, we need to be a vital part of the community we hope to change.

Libertarian Headquarters Project

by Nathan Allen

Over the last four years Libertarian pledgers have donated in excess of \$50,000 to support LPM headquarters. A group of Libertarians began discussing this issue. There must be a better way to provide a permanent home for our activities.

We were all convinced that buying was a better option than renting, but we puzzled over how to come up with the money. After discussing several alternatives, we decided that rather than asking our donors to contribute more money we would take a completely different approach.

We decided to form a Limited Liability Company (LLC) and seek investors. Each investor would purchase one or two units in the company at a price of \$2,500 to \$3,000 per unit. Our goal is to obtain commitments for 40 units at \$2,500 each to raise a total of \$100,000.

Simultaneously, we began looking for a building to purchase. The building will be in the same area, southeast Oakland County near the I-75 / I-696 junction convenient to all our members in the metro-Detroit area which accounts for 50% of the LPM's total membership. We have already identified one suitable building in Ferndale which is in our price range, but we continue to seek other options.

The unique thing about this plan is that the people who have supported the party for so long with their donations can now support the party simply by redirecting some of their investments. **THIS WILL NOT BE A DONATION!**

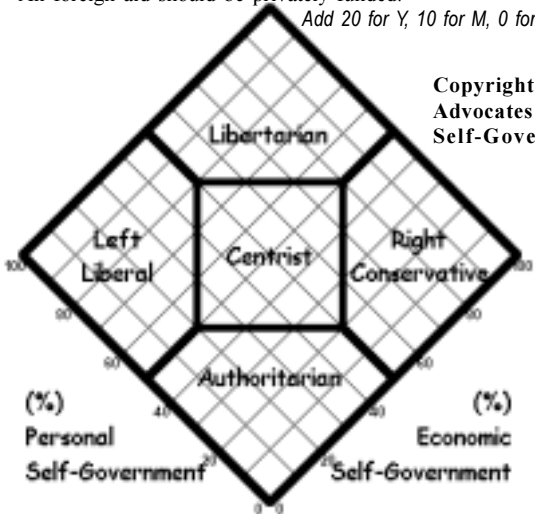
Many of our pledgers contribute \$50 per month for the office. Over the last four years, that has amounted to \$2,400. By making this change, the donors now become investors. The LLC plans to lease the office to the LPM for the cost of taxes, insurance, and a small reserve to cover repairs (such as heating/cooling, roof, etc). At their last meeting, the LEC voted to support this plan.

At this time, members have pledged to purchase 21 units if we proceed with this plan. We are continuing to seek interested parties. Anybody who would like to know more can contact me, Nathan Allen, at: Chair@LpocMi.org.

World's Smallest Political Quiz

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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Take the **WORLD'S SMALLEST POLITICAL QUIZ**. Then, use the Self-Government Compass to find your political position. Mark **Y** when you agree with a statement, **M** for Maybe, Sometimes, or Need-More-Information, or mark **N** for No.

If you score Libertarian, we invite you to join the Libertarian Party.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

ZIP Code: _____ Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

\$25 Michigan & National

\$35 Tri-Level (County, Michigan & National)

I certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving social or political goals.

Signature: _____
(Signature required for national membership)

Please charge this to my credit card (Visa or Mastercard only):

Card #: _____ Exp Date: _____

Signature: _____

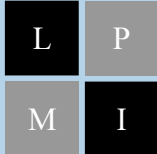
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