

# Michigan Libertarian

Volume 30, Issue 5, September/October 2001

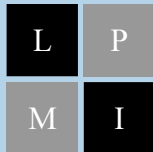
## Petition Drive Homestretch

by Nancy O'Brien

With the October 20 final deadline fast approaching on the LPM's petition drive to restore the party's ballot access we are at a critical stage in the process and still significantly short of our goal.

We currently have a total of about 22,000 signatures in-hand. While that is less than half of our original goal of 50,000, there are two important considerations that make this not quite as bad as it sounds.

First, we have just greatly expanded our contracting with paid petitioners to make up the difference. That means the impact of those who donated money in lieu of gathering signatures will now really begin to be felt. Much as I had hoped to do this entirely with our own LPM members – in both volunteer and paid categories – when we were two-thirds of the way through our 180 day limit and had only one-third of the signatures we needed I decided to bring in some outside pros. The ones I have hired are independents (rather than petitioning companies) who have *(cont'd on pg. 3)*



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## Victory in Owosso!

by Mark Owen

Last December, the LPSC was holding its semi-monthly meeting in Owosso. The election was only a month behind us and we were looking for our next project after Trafton Jean's State Representative run. We noticed the city council was up to its usual business of regulating people's lives and property by creating a new "Historic District." The difference was that there were a lot of angry people this time, but they did not seem organized or that anything was going to happen. I thought this was an excellent opportunity to "do something" and spearhead the effort to repeal this statist ordinance.

We called together a general meeting with some of the Owosso residents who

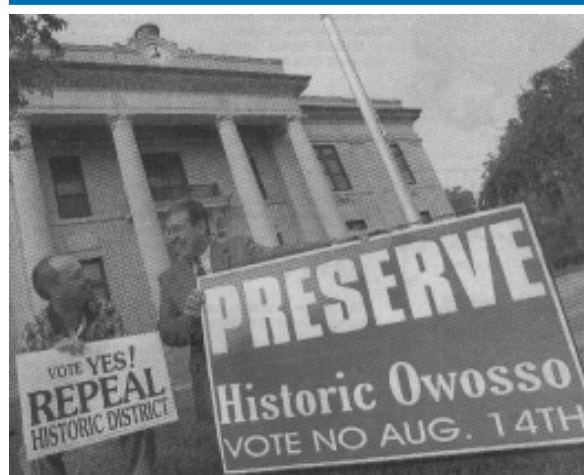
were opposed to the new Oliver Street Historic District and Environs ordinance. The task was daunting. Owosso requires that 15% of registered voters sign a petition in order to put an ordinance to a vote for repeal. This worked out to 1562 valid signatures, and we had 60 days to collect them. It was January and it was cold! It was

the wrong time of year to be beginning such an effort, but we feared if we waited, that the whole effort would lose steam and we would fail.

We began collecting signatures in late January going house to house. We were able to average 10-15 an hour. It was tough going and we quickly fell behind our goals, and

by the end of February we were in real danger of falling short. We decided to change tactics and began collecting signatures in front to the post office and a couple other locations in addition to house to house. In addition, the weather warmed and we were able to get more volunteers out to work. So, we pulled it off in the end.

The issue went *(cont'd on pg. 2)*



*Mark Owen stands next to a Historic District proponent. More money and bigger signs still couldn't defeat Mark.*

## Ms. Liberty Goes to Lansing

# Battle to Derail Governor's E-Tax

by Tim O'Brien

In March of 2000 the LPM responded to a proposal by Governor Engler to begin taxing e-commerce with an ad campaign opposing the idea on talk radio stations around the state.

The paid announcement compared our current situation with the one faced by our grandparents when the idea of taxing income was first being proposed. We asked listeners to act now to help

stop the e-tax in its tracks and not let their own grandchildren down. We suggested that they contact their legislators — referring them to our new SpeakOutMichigan web site for a prewritten message that would automatically be sent to the appropriate public officials (based on the user's home address).

We also put out a statewide press release ("HANDS OFF THE INTERNET" LPM TELLS POLITICIANS) that generated a couple

of radio interviews on the subject.

This initial foray against Governor John "31 Tax Cuts" Engler's scheme to attach the government leech to e-commerce resulted in hundreds of e-mails to legislators telling them to keep their greedy, grubby mitts off the Internet.

And it was apparently enough to upset the apple cart the governor had planned to ride into his chairmanship of *(cont'd on pg. 6)*

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## Newsletter Information

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*Editor's Note:* The last issue was incorrectly labeled Volume 1, Issue 1. It should have been Volume 30, Issue 4.

# Victory in Owosso!

(cont'd from pg. 1) before the city council. They had to choose between rescinding the ordinance and putting it to a vote. They decided to let the people of Owosso vote on the issue. The next month was very quiet as we prepared for the campaign.

We planned to have yard signs, create a flyer that we would mail to absentee voters, and purchase advertising in the local newspapers. Fundraising was of great importance realizing we would need \$1500 to achieve our plan. The best part was that over 98% of our money came from non-libertarians.

We began to put our signs up about a month before the election. I think we caught our opposition off guard since it remained quiet for over a week. Then suddenly their signs began to appear; they were reacting to our efforts. We had them on the ropes. We mailed out our absentee flyer a little late which was our biggest mistake of the campaign, but because of our excellent relationship with the city clerk we were able to get the names of who had and who had not already mailed in their votes. The opposition realized they were in big trouble and they opened their purse strings. We were buying ¼ page ads while they were buying *full-page ads*. They mounted a major editorial barrage. We countered them with our own editorials and the weekend before the election distributed literature throughout much of the city and did some targeted work on likely voters we had identified.

When Election Day came, it was a slam-dunk. We won 70% of the vote and every precinct in the city. The point of Libertarian involvement was brought up from day one. "Those meddling Libertarians," was a phrase heard repeatedly. The best part is we actually did something to repeal a statist law.

I would like to thank all those Libertarians who helped us gain the signature we needed. Several came from other counties. Without you this would not have been possible.

There is not enough room here to sum up everything we learned. We picked an issue where many people were angry but unorganized. Since our numbers are limited we have to be able to leverage our efforts. We did not endlessly ramble on about philosophy, but simply formed alliances with those who wanted to accomplish the same thing we did and got to work. Eventually libertarianism will come up, but it can not be a focus. We set our goal and worked *consistently* toward it. If it had been solely Libertarians on this effort, we would have probably failed. I hope to have the opportunity in the future to more fully explain what we learned here in Shiawassee County. In the end we were able to foil the efforts of the elitist of Owosso. We must be intelligent in our methods and have a will to victory stronger than our opponents. Then, we can – and do – win!!

## Living Wage Lives On

In spite of a valiant effort by Diane Barnes in Eastpointe, the living wage ordinance survived a recent vote. Losing by a mere 315 votes is a disappointment. But being competitive doesn't mean we always win. It means we are a force to be reckoned with. This adds to our credibility so that when we speak on issues, people will pay attention. Diane has certainly gained valuable political capital from this in her community.

# Homestretch

(cont'd from pg. 1) worked on other LP affiliate ballot access drives and have proven track records. They were all recommended by LP national political director Ron Crickenberger.

Second, our validity rate is sufficient that we can safely scale back our original goal from 50,000 to 45,000 gross signatures. We should anticipate that our validity rate will drop when we get into the last few, frantic weeks of a petition drive. However, if we can manage to stay

somewhere close to our current rate (better than 80%), we may be able to scale back our "cushion" even farther.

Below is a list of all of our affiliates along with the percentage of their "fair share" - calculated based on membership - of signatures and contributions already submitted. These are the latest available numbers. (These numbers do not include paid signatures collected or volunteer signatures from unaffiliated areas).

Affiliate	Sigs.	\$\$ + Sigs.	Goal	% Of Goal
Allegan	95	195	560	34.8%
Berrien	135	343	560	61.3%
Branch-Hillsdale	48	174	351	49.6%
Clare-Gladwin	269	269	320	84.0%
Ionia	23	23	240	9.6%
Kalamazoo	84	129	1013	12.7%
Lapeer-Genesee	627	1342	1413	95.0%
Livingston	98	1000	1732	57.7%
Macomb	1902	3452	5784	59.7%
Mid-Michigan	515	901	2852	31.6%
Midwest Michigan	305	371	560	66.3%
Oakland	5022	8402	10688	78.6%
Ottawa	138	141	800	17.6%
South Central Michigan	43	77	1652	4.7%
Shiawassee	2559	2599	293	887.0%
Saint Clair	13	13	693	1.9%
Traverse Bay	18	81	773	10.5%
Tri-Cities	1045	1373	1173	117.0%
Upper Peninsula	39	312	1119	27.9%
Van Buren	191	239	426	56.1%
Washtenaw	1341	2233	2799	79.8%
Wayne	1218	2897	8422	34.4%
West Michigan	487	931	2799	33.3%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>16215</b>	<b>27497</b>	<b>47022</b>	<b>55.0%</b>

Signature totals as of September 11, 2001 (does not include paid signatures or signatures from unaffiliated areas)

Now is the time to make the final push for signatures. If we are to regain our ballot status so we can run partisan candidates next year, we are going to need the concerted efforts of all of our members.

If you don't have signatures, please collect them. If you have signatures, be sure to send them in to the HQ to arrive no later than **October 20**.

Remember: failure is not an option!



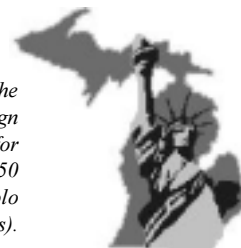
Statue of Liberty, awarded to volunteers who collect 200 or more signatures.

## Top 20 Petitioners

Below is the list of the top 20 volunteer petitioners in the LPM. It's not too late for you to make it onto this list too.

Name	Sigs.
Leonard C. Schwartz	1647
Albert J. Titran	1281
Ben Steele	1277
Jerry E. Bloom	722
Richard E. Jozwiak	535
Benjamin Steele	417
Violet Steele	404
Trafton Jean	343
Charles Goodman	306
Stephen Townsend	296
Greg Dirasian	270
Lloyd Sherman II	267
Fred Collins	262
Jean Paul Denoyer	259
Bill Gelineau	246
David J. Eisenbacher	239
Constance Catalfio	232
Trevor Peck	230
James L. Hudler	230
Paul Hitch	217

The logo to the right is the design that will be used for the lapel pin (50 sigs) and the polo shirt (500 sigs).



# Do Well While Doing Good

by Nancy O'Brien

Because our petition drive is so important, and because some of our members prefer to contribute financial support to our effort in lieu of gathering signatures, we have the opportunity to offer our more outgoing members some incentives for going "above and beyond the call of duty."

## Earn some fast cash

First, you can earn some quick and easy money by becoming a paid petitioner. We are offering 75 cents per valid signature. The only limitation on this offer is that you must commit to collecting a total of 1,000 signatures at a minimum rate of 250 per week. We need to set this threshold both for planning and administration purposes. Beyond that, you are free to collect where and when you wish. It should be noted that our most productive petitioners tell us that they easily collect a minimum of 20 signatures an hour, under the best circumstances, twice that many. So, even an amateur should be able to get 250 in about 10 or 12 hours. In other words, you could do the whole thing on weekends.

## Earn recognition awards

Even if you want to stay in the volunteer category, you can still earn some very nice awards for simply doing better than the 28 signatures per member we determined at the beginning of the drive to be everyone's "fair share."

Collect 50 signatures and you will earn a

beautiful, blue and green enamel on gold, lapel pin that you will be proud to wear to Libertarian events (especially the national convention) for years to come.

Collect 200 signatures and – in addition to the lapel pin – you will also win a very nice 10-inch, marble statue of liberty replica, suitable for mantle, cadenza or desktop.

Collect 500 signatures and you will also get a custom-made, navy blue polo shirt with Liberty-over-Michigan logo embroidered in

blue, green and metallic gold thread.

## Win Prizes

Our top petitioner will also get a full "Gold" package to the next national convention. This will provide the delegate access to all events, including lunches and banquet, at the convention next summer in Indianapolis. It will be about a \$300 value.

Our second place petitioner will get a full package to the next state convention. This will also provide the delegate access to all events, including lunches and banquet, at our state convention next summer in Oakland County. It will be about a \$150 value.

The petitioner who "shows" will get two tickets to the next LibertyFest banquet – east or west, the winner's choice (the east one, coming up in November, will be in Dearborn and is described elsewhere in this newsletter, the west will be sometime in the late spring, somewhere in the Grand Rapids area). This is about a \$100 value.

Finally, the top producing affiliate (based on its original "fair share" quota) will get a large banner with party logo and the name of their affiliate to proudly display at all of their meetings and events.

Obviously, the real goal here is to restore our ballot status. If we have to pay to get signatures, we'd much rather return the money to our own members than give it to out-of-state professionals. The awards and prizes mentioned above are just a nice little extra for our volunteers – our way of saying: "Thank you, we really appreciate your support."



*Top petitioner, Leonard Schwartz, WANTS YOU!  
Leonard has 1,647 signatures to his credit.*

# May the Schwartz be with You

by Bruce Hoepner

If Leonard Schwartz seems like a quiet, mild-mannered, law professor, it's because he is. But appearances can be deceiving. Beneath that Clark Kent image is a Superman petitioner!

An At-Large Director of the LPM, Leonard also advises the Ballot Access Restoration Committee (BARC) on the arcane details of election and campaign finance law. He has provided his services to many of our candidates as well, saving them (and their treasurers) numerous headaches. Last year, he was our candidate for Pros-

ecutor in Oakland County.

Just how well is Leonard doing as the party's leading signature gatherer? His last official count 1,647. But he has collected hundreds more signatures since then.

Never passing up an opportunity to petition, Leonard has regularly e-mailed everybody about festivals, concerts, and other public gatherings so we can all join him. In fact if there's an event going on right now anywhere within about 100 miles of his house, you can bet that Leonard is there petitioning even as you're reading this.

He will almost certainly end up gathering 2,500 (or more) signatures before the petition drive is over. In other words, he will have collected 5% of the total number of signatures we need all by himself!

Maybe you recognize the title of this article from the Mel Brooks' satire "Spaceballs." There is no doubt that if every affiliate in the state had a Leonard Schwartz, by now they would all have met their goals and petition drive would already be done. Here is our wish for every affiliate -- "May the Schwartz be with you!"

# Stahl Wins Primary

by Dave Collver



On September 11, Erin Stahl won the primary for St. Clair Shores city council. With 8 candidates running for 6 slots, Erin placed a respectable 6th place. It is rumored that one of the remaining 6 candidates will be dropping out of the race. If that happens, there will be 5 people running for 3 seats - Erin will only need to beat two of them to win her race.

Erin works in her family's business, which has been located in St. Clair Shores for 30 years. She is a well established

resident of the community. She is also a graduate of Michigan State University, a member of Alpha Phi Omega (Community Service Fraternity), and a Detroit Humane Society volunteer.

Erin has done her homework. 7,000 people voted in the primary and she expects that the same people will be voting again in the regular election. This is a manageable number of voters to reach with her message of limited government and respect for the residents. She also has the support of an influential local church.

Erin welcomes all the volunteer help she can get, as well as donations. Donations can be mailed to: Friends of Erin Stahl, 21309 Erben St., St. Clair Shores, MI 48081. You can also reach Erin via email at: ErinStahl@Earthlink.net

# LeCureaux in High Gear

by Dave Collver

Andy LeCureaux's campaign for Hazel Park city council is in high gear. Campaign signs have been delivered and over 100 locations have already been secured for placing signs - that's excellent exposure in a city as small as Hazel Park.

Andy received the endorsement of the current mayor.

In other campaign news, Andy has recently received the endorsement of the Hazel Park Firefighters' Union. This is a major coup for the LeCureaux campaign.

Andy continues campaigning door-to-door and talking with voters, in addition to attending city council meetings and speaking out during the citizen comment portion of the meeting. In a recent article in the *Royal Oak Daily Tribune*, titled "Residents tell council to stop bickering," Andy was quoted, "They want me to remind you how it was when you ran [for election] as a team, keep the egos out of it."

Although it is still too early to tell, Andy is very popular in Hazel Park, giving him excellent prospects for winning this race. But volunteer help and donations are still greatly needed. Donations can be made to: Friends of Andy LeCureaux, 23440 Tawas, Hazel Park, MI 48030. To volunteer, contact campaign manager Dave Collver at: (248) 797-9128 or email him at DCCollver@aol.com.



# Hodges for Harper Woods

by Tim O'Brien

Early this year the LPM put out a call to every affiliate asking that each choose "Just One" local campaign and concentrate all financial and volunteer resources into that one effort.

The ideal race would depend on the convergence of two factors: a viable, committed candidate and a district of a manageable size.

Our Wayne County group was lucky enough to have just such an opportunity: Craig Hodges for Harper Woods city council.

## The candidate.

Craig had indicated in the past his interest in seeking a city council seat. Upon hearing about the "Just One" program and that our affiliate would consider supporting his bid, Craig wasted no time in going out door-to-door in his neighborhood to get the necessary signatures on a nominating petition.

I knew it was more than just idle wishing on his part when I called one evening a few weeks later to talk to him about the race and was told by his wife that he was out, as he was almost every second and fourth Monday, attend-

ing his city council meeting.

A church-going family man and veteran who coaches girls soccer, Craig has all the necessary credentials for local politics.

Owing to his long-term attendance at city council meetings and involvement with city government, he is on good terms with local officials — including being on a first name basis with the city clerk (more than meeting Goushaw's 1st Rule of local politics: "Don't irk the clerk.")

## The district.

Harper Woods is a near eastside suburb of 6500 homes on streets laid out in a convenient grid between Mack and Kelly Road, from 7 Mile to 8 Mile Road.

It is a bedroom community of mostly union and middle-management auto industry folks.

I was pretty familiar with it, since I spent the first two decades of my life growing up there.

Still primarily white, the ethnic composition is changing as former Detroiters flee the high crime, high taxes and almost non-existent



services of that city for a safer, more family-friendly environment.

We figured that the big issue for both paranooid whites and newly arriving Detroit refugees would be public safety, so we made that Craig's #1 campaign issue. We were right. Everywhere he campaigns the voters' questions are variations of the same concern: What are you going to do to protect us from crime?

## The campaign.

Craig was able to raise (and contribute himself) a modest amount of money to the campaign — about \$1,500 with another \$1,000 still out in pledges.

(cont'd on pg. 11)

# Battling the E-Tax

(*cont'd from pg. 1*) the National Governors Association, since nothing more was heard of the proposal for more than a year.

Then in late April of 2001 Senate Bill 433 was suddenly introduced by powerful Senate Majority Leader Joanne Emmons (R-Big Rapids). This enabling legislation would send four Michigan delegates to a National Council of State Legislatures meeting to negotiate a "Streamlined Sales and Use Tax" agreement — a necessary first step in entering Michigan into a multi-state Compact for reciprocal collection and remittance of taxes on e-commerce.

There was a May 1 show hearing before Emmons' Senate Finance committee that we heard about barely in time to get on the witness list to testify against the proposal. But it was a futile gesture. The committee votes to send the bill to the senate floor were obviously already lined up before the opening gavel. Indeed, SB-433 was voted out of the Finance committee with a unanimous recommendation.

The next step in the process would be referral of SB-433 to the House where it would go to the Tax Policy committee for consideration and possible recommendation to the full House.

The prospects for SB-433 became one of two major topics of conversation at the LPM annual convention the following weekend with Rep. Leon Drolet (R-Clinton Township) who attended along with his legislative aide Ken Braun and staff (the other subject being his potential sponsorship of a bill to reform Michigan ballot access law).

As fate would have it, Drolet was one of the nine Republicans on the 17-member Tax Policy committee.

And in a double dose of misfortune for the governor, another of the nine from his party on Tax Policy is the other House member in the Ron Paul Republican tradition: Robert Gosselin (R-Troy). In fact, Gosselin's legislative aide Jack McHugh — who had previously served in that same capacity for former LPM member Rep. Greg Kaza (R-Troy) during his three terms — was also at our convention.

Over the course of the next week I had extensive contact with Braun and McHugh, coordinating our efforts to rouse the rabble at the grass roots with their work inside the legisla-

ture — particularly concentrating on the seven other Republicans on Tax Policy, and most especially on committee chair Nancy Cassis (who liked to posture as a friend of the taxpayer and had her eye on a senate seat next year).

I suggested bringing our SpeakOutMichigan e-lobbying utility back online, this time hitting specifically at SB-433 instead of merely expressing opposition to e-taxes in general.

McHugh remembered our SpeakOutMichigan generated e-mails from the previous year, liked the idea, liked the site, but proposed a small modification (moving the sender's name and home address to the top of the letter so that legislators would know as soon as the e-mail was opened that it was from a constituent).

Site creator Greg Dirasian made the modification. And we once again asked Michigan to Speak Out, announcing the effort through our own e-lists and in a May 16 press release (LIBERTARIANS FIGHT EXPANSION OF SALES TAX).

Apparently, the spirits of those tea-tossing Boston Mohawks were smiling on the efforts of their progeny, as our timing couldn't have been better. The very next day the Senate (on a 28 to 8 vote) sent SB-433 on to the House.

Even as the bill was being referred to the Tax Policy committee e-mail protests were hitting its members. Both McHugh and Braun reported receiving about a half dozen. That might not sound like much, but multiply it by

110 members, add in the fact that there was nothing at all coming from the pro-tax side, and both considered it noticeable.

I next wrote an op-ed on the issue titled "Selling Us a Sales Tax Bill of Goods (Add 6%)" which we faxed out to all the newspapers in Michigan. And we know of at least two that ran it — the Oakland Press, and the Troy Gazette (the latter, incredibly, ran this piece intended to be an editorial on their front page!).

On June 21 (coincidentally, the same day the op-ed appeared in the Oakland Press) LPM chair Mike Corliss went to Lansing to testify against SB-433 before the House Tax Policy committee.

Corliss provoked a sharp counterattack from committee chair Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) when he warned of the potential consequences for Michigan consumers of "unifying" our sales and use taxes with states that apply these to everything from services to food and medicine.

Cassis was especially sensitive because she found herself in that awkward spot between the proverbial "rock and a hard place." Carrying water for the Engler administration on this tax issue might well be used against her by a future primary opponent, short-circuiting the putative taxpayer champion's ambitions to move over to the senate in 2002.

Next, the LPM chair noted that, contrary to popular assumptions, the members of his party have come from both of the majors.

"Where is the partisan balance in this proposed legislation?" he wondered. The sunset date taken in conjunction with the appointment authority (one each from the governor and treasurer, one each from the leaders of the house



LPM chair, Mike Corliss, testifies against SB-433 before the House Tax Policy committee.

# Battling the E-Tax

and senate) meant that the entire Michigan delegation to the national conference would be Republicans.

This observation did not sit well with committee vice chair Nancy Quarles (D-Southfield) or committee member William O'Neill (D-Allen Park), the latter eventually expressing similar concerns and proposing that the legislation be amended to provide for six Michigan delegates (so that two could be appointed by the minority party).

Among the others who would testify that day was Chamber of Commerce lobbyist Rich Studley who made it clear that his organization's support for SB-433, already tentative at best, was absolutely conditioned on it being unamended, and that any proposal to add more members to the delegation, would certainly be problematic.

For the first time it was beginning to look like the wheels might actually be coming loose on the governor's e-tax scheme as the committee adjourned that day without voting on the matter.

It appeared to us that committee chair Nancy Cassis was, to quote a popular TV show, "the weakest link." And nothing puts pressure on a politician more effectively than constituent heat.

We would now have to be more targeted and pro-active in finding people who could turn up the burner.

We decided to check our database for all of our members and recent inquiries that both lived in Cassis' 38th district and had e-mail addresses. There were 59. We sent them an e-mail note laying out the situation and asking that they immediately contact their state rep (thoughtfully providing her phone number) and express their opinion of the proposed e-tax.

We got one note back from someone on the inquiry list saying he had no idea who we were and asking to be removed from future distribution. And we got one note from a member who said "Thank you so much for letting me know about this, I have already called her office."

While we have no way of knowing what the other 57 did or did not do, what we did notice is that SB-433 cheerleader Nancy Cassis was suddenly talking about "listening to the ar-

guments" and "keeping an open mind."

The next day we put out another press release (LIBERTARIANS PRESS FIGHT AGAINST EXPANDED SALES TAX) that drew an additional radio interview with a small station associated with Northern Michigan University in Marquette.

About the only thing that happened over the next couple of weeks (the governor's attention being diverted by both the languishing state budget and Republican efforts to gerrymander the legislature) was that SB-433 author Sen. Emmons was frequently seen haunting the floor of the house and the halls of the house office building, presumably in a quest to shore up support for her bill.

As the session dragged on past the 4th of July break house members were growing increasingly restive. This was definitely going to be the last week for a spring session that had already gone half way through the summer.

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## **...the Democrats were sniffing trouble. And trouble for Republicans meant opportunity for them.**

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Late on the afternoon of July 9 chair Cassis sent notice to the members of Tax Policy that there would be a meeting at 8:00 a.m. the following morning.

Drolet and Gosselin were confident that they had pulled at least three and perhaps as many as five more of the nine Republican members of the committee to the "no" side. They also had one Democrat, Bob Brown (D-Dearborn Heights) who was a solid "no."

(Perhaps not coincidentally, Brown was the Democrat beneficiary of Brass Roots' successful campaign two years earlier to boot the turncoat Republican they dubbed "Lyin' Jim Ryan." We all fully expected Brown to be one of the most pro-gun Democrats in the house. His unequivocal opposition to the e-tax, however, came as a pleasant surprise.)

Upon receiving the late notice of the early

meeting the two maverick Republicans could only assume that the administration had counted sufficient noses to get the bill unstuck from Tax Policy, leaving Cassis to take the hit for advancing a bill out of her committee that was supported mostly by the opposing party.

The next morning the Tax Policy committee reconvened. But without vice chair Nancy Quarles. And with an opening announcement by chair Nancy Cassis that no vote would be taken at that time.

The Gosselin-Drolet forces were taken aback at this totally unexpected turn of events. Had dissension suddenly arisen on the other side of the aisle (also being strong-armed to vote "yes," but in their case by the teachers unions)?

Later that afternoon the governor personally met with the nine Republican members on the Tax Policy committee, spending more than an hour explaining the importance of SB-433.

Afterwards, it looked like he moved one Republican vote. Maybe two. But there were still at least five "no" votes — a majority — on the Republican side. Plus Bob Brown. And now no one knew what was going on with the rest of the Democrats.

The committee met again later that evening. But nothing came of it. And the next day would almost certainly be the last of the 2001 spring session.

The morning of July 11 House Speaker Rick Johnson (R-LeRoy) paid a little visit on his renegade Tax Policy caucus for a private chat. But he was even less successful than the governor — budging not a single one of the five Republican holdouts.

And while Johnson was busily twisting Republican arms, the eight Democrats on Tax Policy were also huddling.

Now, as Libertarians know all too well, politicians are very much like sharks. And aside from being omnivorous eating-machines, the one talent for which sharks are particularly known is the ability to smell blood in the water. With all the attention being paid a handful of low-ranking Republicans by their party's power elite the Democrats were sniffing trouble. And trouble for Republicans meant opportunity for them.

The minority members, whose votes Engler had been taking for granted (and absolutely had to have) as he worked over his own dissenters, suddenly let it be known that they were having second thoughts about the e-tax. But their misgivings might be assuaged if only the governor



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3. A proportional representation (p.r.) election method to represent ALL LPM members in legislative bodies.
4. Separation of legislative and executive powers in LPM officers.

More info - Contact  
Tom Jones  
15336 Cruse  
Detroit, MI 48227-3227  
Demorep1@aol.com

# Battling the E-Tax

were willing to restore certain K-12 education programs lopped from the new budget.

That was a political non-starter even for Engler. And the last nail in the coffin on his hopes of getting SB-433 out of Tax Policy with a favorable recommendation.

The administration now had no option left but to try to bypass the committee entirely, bringing a discharge petition directly to the floor of the house.

But Gosselin and Drolet still had one last trump card to play, themselves. They went out onto the house floor and marshaled sufficient votes to demand a roll call on whether or not to consider the discharge petition.

This was an inspired tactical maneuver in that it forced supporters of the e-tax to vote for it not once, but twice.

All the likely Republican contenders for all of those senate seats that term limits would open up next year — such as Tax Policy chair Nancy Cassis and member Mike Kowall (R-White Lake) — would be pushed into playing “chicken” with the closing of the electronic vote tally board. Whichever one posted (or changed) his or her vote last before the board was locked could pose as the true champion of the taxpayers, using the vote against the other in next year’s primary.

---

**“She had pledged to  
me she could deliver  
and didn’t.”**

---

And that was the end for SB-433 in the spring of 2001.

There was some routine housekeeping through the evening. And at 12:01 a.m. on July 12, the Michigan House of Representatives adjourned for the summer.

The governor whose party controlled all three branches of state government, who had, nevertheless, twice failed to deliver his state for President Bush, would now be sent off the following month to assume chairmanship of the National Governors Association having been denied the centerpiece of his agenda in his own home state.

And he clearly found it a bitter pill to swallow, sniping at Cassis, “She had pledged to me she could deliver and didn’t,” then ominously adding, “Hopefully, she can recover from that.”

Meanwhile, Libertarians raised a glass in celebration with Republican Representatives Drolet and Gosselin, having won an impressive battle against a formidable opponent. But recognizing that the war was far from over.

The fall session would begin on September 20 and SB-433 would surely be very near the top of the agenda. The governor would be back. But we weren’t going anywhere, either. We’ll be waiting for him.

Still, we felt entitled to at least a brief rest on our laurels.

Meeting with news reporters after the house adjourned for the summer, Engler said he was “very disappointed” at the chamber’s inaction, saying of Senate Bill 433, “it’s a no-brainer.”

Finally. An assessment our governor is well qualified to make.



# Dream Cruising for Signatures

by Bruce Hoepner

The Libertarian Party of Oakland County was helping to keep the dream alive at the Woodward Dream Cruise on Saturday August 18. In a major petitioning push, LPOC members and friends staged a party at 11 Mile Rd and Woodward in Berkley and spent the day petitioning.

The location was provided by Councilman Fred Collins, who normally hosts a private party there, but this year allowed the LPOC to use his site to petition.

Volunteers worked hard planning this event and worked to increase attendance. Every LPOC member received a phone call inviting them to the event and reminding them of the importance of the petition drive. Then, the week of the event, every member received a postcard.

The site was set up with two big tents (which you may remember from last year's Slash the Pork event), tables, chairs, clipboards and petitions, gas grill, food, drink, and gallons of lemonade. Executive Director, Tim O'Brien, wrote a public service announcement for us, and volunteers went up and down Woodward to all the radio station remote broadcasting booths asking them to read it (only WRIF agreed).

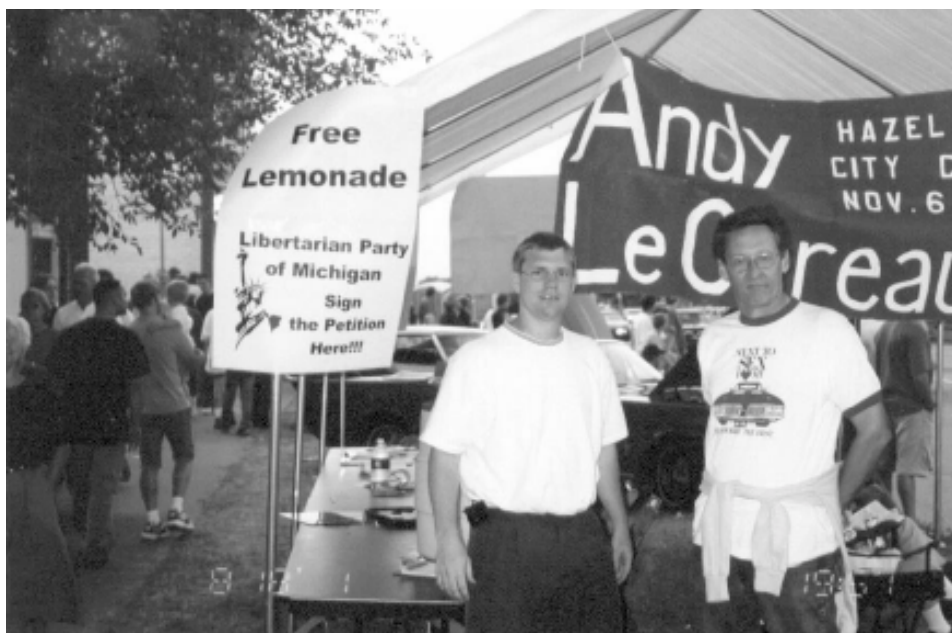
Even the Statue of Liberty showed up - with her traditional tablet replaced by a clipboard and petitions. The statue was almost as

big a hit as the lemonade, with passersby stopping to have their picture taken with her.

Approximately 35 volunteers showed up to petition and give out lemonade to the overheated pedestrians. Many volunteers rode the free shuttle bus to distant parts of the Dream Cruise to continue gathering signatures. By the end of the day, our signature count increased by almost 1700.

When the numbers were tallied for the end of Phase II on Sunday, Oakland County had collected 4,834 signatures. Total volunteer signatures collected thus far statewide was 12,679. The LPOC has collected over 38% of all the volunteer signatures collected to date. Not bad for an affiliate that represents only 20% of the members in the state. Although we are close to our target, our biggest event is behind us and I am calling on all volunteers to redouble their efforts for these final days of the petition drive.

LPOC's quota is 10,688. At the end of the event, signatures plus donations totaled 6,945. At the end of Phase II, we should have been at two-thirds of our quota or 7,161. We were behind by 216. One of our members wrote a check for \$216 to put us on target. Thank you to all the people who helped make this the most successful event of the petition drive.



Keith Wesselmann (LPOC secretary) and Nathan Allen (LPOC Vice Chair) work the table at Dream Cruise giving out lemonade and collecting signatures.

## Future of the LPM

by Fred Collins

What DOES the future hold for the LPM? After 30 years we find ourselves in a very odd position. We are having an impact on the system. The Democrats and the Republicans are starting to listen to us, and even asking us our views on different issues. Our chair has been invited to testify at committee hearings, as has our executive director.



We stand a good chance of changing the hated Top of Ticket law that has plagued our party for years and has cost us ballot status again. We were a player in the change in the CCW law, and acknowledged to be "THE grass roots" opposition that stopped, at least temporarily, the governor's pet project, the internet tax.

These are but a few examples of how we are coming of age as a political force in Michigan. We are on the brink of the big breakthrough we have all been working for.

The main problem that I see on the horizon is us. We still see ourselves as the small gang of irrelevant outsiders. We don't seem to be able to truly appreciate how far we have come. We only see this month or this year - and how far we still have to go. But if you were able to look back to 1972 and listen to the responses we got to our ideas and compare them to today you might think you were on a different planet. Back then, legalization was thought of as a ludicrous idea - and today PRA has a real chance. We were dismissed as radical for our stand on abolishing the income tax - and today there are elected D's and R's willing to talk about it.

We are coming of age. It is our time. If we are going to become a major force in Michigan politics then it's time we started acting like we ARE a major force in Michigan politics. Remember we are LIBERTARIANS and don't let anyone else forget it either. If you see or hear in the media something the rascals have done, then call, e-mail, or write your state rep. and your state senator. Go to your city council meetings and tell them the truth. If you annoy them enough, they WILL listen.

It IS our time. The only way we can lose is if we don't take charge and seize the opportunity. It's ours to lose. Let's not let this chance slip through our fingers.

# Join Us in Celebrating Michigan's Defenders of Liberty

by Heather Pauli

The annual post-election *Defender of Liberty* banquet (informally known as "LibertyFest") is set for Saturday, November, 10 at the Automotive Hall of Fame in Dearborn — next to Greenfield Village.

In addition to the successful completion of the petition drive to restore our ballot status, we hope to be celebrating at least five local electoral successes:

- ◆ Fred Collins to the Berkley city council in Oakland County
- ◆ Andy LeCureaux to the Hazel Park city council in Oakland county
- ◆ Mark Owen to the Owosso city council in Shiawassee county
- ◆ Craig Hodges to the Harper Woods city council in (sponsoring affiliate) Wayne county.
- ◆ Erin Stahl to the St. Clair Shores city council in Macomb County.

The featured speaker will be enigmatic cultural critic Claire Wolfe. Ms. Wolfe is well known in Libertarian circles for her 1996 book *101 Things to Do 'Til the Revolution* which famously begins: "America is at that awkward stage — too

late to work within the system, but too early to shoot the bastards." The usually reclusive libertarian author is coming out of hiding to talk about her new book *Think Free to Live Free: A Political Burnout's Guide to Life, Activism and Everything*, which will be available for purchase and autograph.

In addition we will, of course, be making the award presentations for which the annual banquet is named.

*Defender of Liberty* awards will be given to three individuals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty for our cause:

1.) **Promoter of Liberty.** In recognition of any Michigan resident (the only award not limited to LPM members) who has made significant contributions in advancing the cause of freedom. Dr. Jack Kevorkian was the first recipient.

2.) **Spokesperson for Liberty.** For the LPM member who has held high the torch of freedom before the world, willing to take the glare of publicity and the heat of statist hostility. Jon Coon is a former winner.

3.) **Producer of Liberty.** For the LPM

member who has worked tirelessly (and, often, thanklessly) in the trenches, behind the scenes, for nothing more than the love of liberty and the dream of seeing our country reclaim her heritage of freedom. Ben Bachrach is a former winner in this category.

At the discretion of the judges, a fourth award may be presented (without regard to category).

The opportunity to nominate individuals in any or all of these categories is open to every LPM member. A three judge panel will choose the winners.

If you would like to make a nomination, send in the name, along with a supporting statement of up to 200 words, postmarked no later than October 10 to:

Defender of Liberty  
Libertarian Party of Michigan  
619 E. 9 Mile Road  
Hazel Park, MI 48013

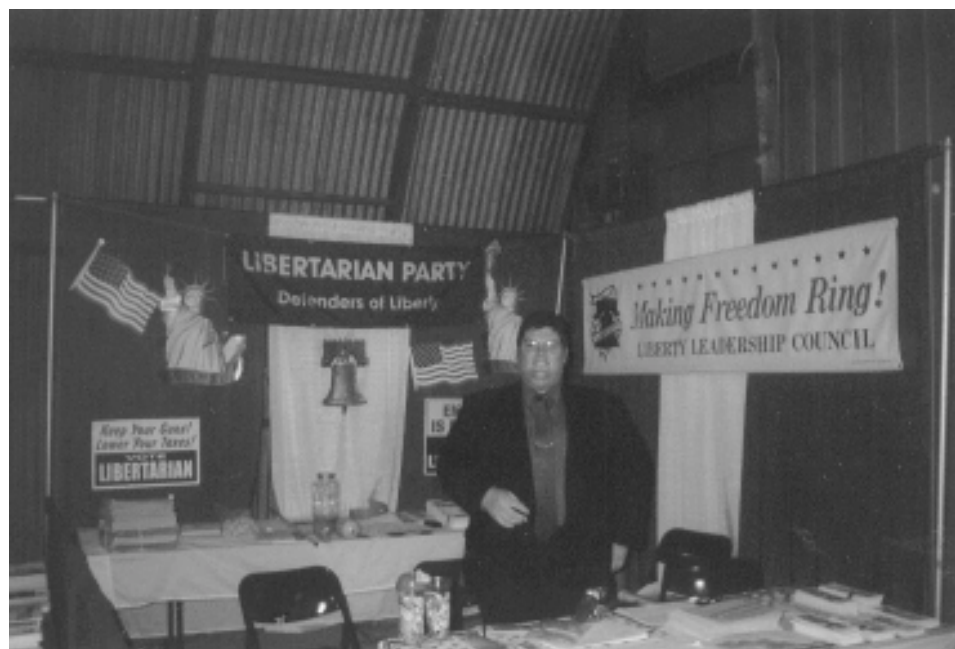
To get tickets for the banquet use the form at the bottom of the ad for the event (elsewhere in this newsletter) or buy them online at [www.lpmich.org](http://www.lpmich.org).

## 3 Affiliates Join Forces at Clare County Fair

by Ghazey Aleck

The Clare-Gladwin Libertarian Party had a booth at the Clare County Fair from July 28th through August 4th. The booth was manned constantly by Libertarians from 11:00a.m. - 8:00 p.m. daily. Most impressive was the fact that members from the Mid-West Michigan Libertarian Party and Tri-Cities Libertarian Party came forward to lend a hand and to join forces with CGLP to make the booth a huge success.

Thousands of people passed by and hundreds stop to get literature, sign the ballot access petition or to let their children receive a free "Libertarian Party w/ logo" helium balloon. Many new contacts were made and overall, it was good exposure for the party as a whole. The most common statement made by people who stopped at the booth was, "I am glad to see that the Libertarians are here!"



Tri-Cities LP Chair, Stephen Townsend, works the booth at the Clare-Gladwin County Fair

# Hodges for Harper Woods LPM Business Plan

(cont'd from pg. 5) Harper Woods has no primary, so Craig is among eight candidates vying for three seats in the November general election. One of those seats, incidentally, is completely open since only two of the three incumbents are seeking reelection.

We have already bought lawn signs and Craig has been concentrating his evening and weekend "doorbelling" along the busiest streets and in neighborhoods immediately surrounding the polling places, asking permission to use residents' lawns for sign locations.

We have also already purchased 2 x 3 1/2 inch "fridge" magnets. We did these a little differently than usual, designing them to be used vertically with a list of city phone numbers in the top two-thirds and the "Hodges for city council" message in the bottom third. It appears to have been a good idea. In addition to passing these out while doorbelling, Craig has been giving them away at events and actually had voters come up and ask him for his advertising piece!

A 3-fold self-mailer has been printed and sent to all 1545 households that got absentee ballot applications. We will be using the same

piece for his lit drop.

## The election.

There is still a lot of work to do. Based on his current pace, it will take Craig until mid October to visit every home on the list of frequent voters he got from the city clerk.

And more money is still needed, as well. At the very least we want to do a lit drop to the walk-in voters and send a personal, 1st class letter to every one of the 1545 potential absentee voters who actually sends back a request for a ballot. We also hope to have enough to do at least one 1/4 page display ad in the local paper the weekend before the election.

## Our prospects.

We have an excellent and dedicated candidate who is willing to wear out two or three pairs of shoes. And we have a district that is very doable in terms of size and geography.

If you'd like to help — whether you live in Wayne county or not — call Craig (313-640-1872) and volunteer your time, or send a contribution (up to the \$500 legal limit) to:

Friends of Craig Hodges  
20461 Eastwood  
Harper Woods, MI 48225

by Emily Salvette

Former LPM chairs Stacy Van Oast and Emily Salvette are currently working on a business plan for the LPM. The LEC gave approval for this project at its August 5 meeting.

For the next few months, Van Oast and Salvette will look at how the LPM currently does things and will develop a plan for future operations. They will be gathering data from LPM documents, interviewing officer and committee chairs, plus looking at how other states run their parties.

Van Oast noted, "The LPM has come a long way in efficient, professional operations over the last decade." A business plan will allow our LPM managers on the LEC to have a concise picture of how things are being done, a plan for how they might be done better, and ultimately, a document that they can use for financing major strategies. This initial plan will provide a foundation on which future operations and long-term plans can be laid.

Van Oast and Salvette welcome input—either how you're doing things now or how you believe they should be done. Contact them by e-mail at [stacy64@eesc.com](mailto:stacy64@eesc.com) or [salvette@ameritech.net](mailto:salvette@ameritech.net).

# Owen Runs in Owosso

by Greg Dirasian

Fresh off his victory defeating the Owosso Historic District ordinance, Mark Owen has decided to capitalize on his popularity by running for Owosso city council. This race should be a slam-dunk.

A whopping 70% of the voters told the current city council that they were wrong to pass the Historic District ordinance. Mark Owen led the battle to repeal this bad law. He had the overwhelming support of the residents of Owosso.

Mark has already earned his place in the community, but he has the background to support his candidacy also. He has a B.S. in Education and an M.A. in Economics from Central Michigan University. He is also a former vice chair of the Libertarian Party of Michigan and the current chair of the LP of Shiawassee County. He is an adjunct professor of economics at Northwood University in Lansing. He has two school-age daughters in Owosso in public schools.

Repealing the Historic District ordinance landed Mark's picture on the front page of the local paper at least 3 times. He was also interviewed on TV and had numerous other mentions in the press. He has excellent name recognition right now, and this will help him in the race where 8 candidates (2 of which are incumbents) are running for 4 seats.

Unseating incumbents and their hand-picked political successors is a tough job, and Mark will need donations and volunteers to do this. If you can help, please mail your donations to: Friends of Mark Owen, 725 Coventry Ct., Owosso, MI 48867. Or to volunteer, you can call Mark at: (989) 723-8995, or email him at: [mark\\_0066@hotmail.com](mailto:mark_0066@hotmail.com)

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# Miller Comes Up Short

by Chris Azzaro

At 18, Jason Miller boasts the major success of being the youngest appointed Libertarian in the country, holding office on the Hudsonville, MI Parks & Grounds Advisory Board.

Unfortunately, Miller lost his bid to win election to the local school board June 11. He finished in fourth place in a race where he needed to be one of the top two vote-getters to win election to the board.

Hudsonville School Board Election Results (non partisan) 2 Candidates to be Elected:

40% Tom Butcher -- 708 (winner)

29% Joan Huffman -- 520 (winner)

17% Howie Boeve -- 306

14% Jason C. Miller -- 254

The crucial factor in the loss was a very

low voter turnout (just 4%), and Jason noted that he would have liked to have had a better get-out-the-vote effort. He was facing two

longtime incumbents and this was his first run for office. However, because Miller ran a very professional campaign, he still received a respectable portion of the vote.

The Miller campaign had over 300 signs, an aggressive door-to-door effort, and an attractive campaign website. His campaign even held two voter registration drives at the local high school, and had an award-winning float in the Memorial Day parade.

To aid his efforts, the Libertarian Victory Fund made a direct contribution to the campaign and also made independent expenditures in support of the campaign.

Miller retains his position on the Hudsonville Parks & Grounds Advisory Board, and he is also currently a member of the Hudsonville Public Schools Curriculum Council. Miller clearly has a bright future in Libertarian politics!



# Freedom Banquet 2001 Set for October 20

by Ghazey Aleck

The Clare-Gladwin Libertarian Party will be holding its annual Freedom Banquet on October 20th, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town & Country Restaurant in Clare.

The feature speaker will be Mr. Michael D. LaFaive of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. Mr. LaFaive is a policy analyst and research project manager at the Mackinac Center. The topic of his speech will be *Entrepreneurs Versus the State*.

LaFaive is the author of dozens of articles, opinion-editorials, and studies on fiscal policy issues such as unfunded federal mandates, privatization, free trade, and economic development. He has served as managing editor of Michigan Privatization Report and frequently appears in major newspapers and on talk radio programs across Michi-



Michael D. LaFaive

gan. LaFaive teaches at Northwood Institute and, before joining the Mackinac Center, worked for Michigan Governor John Engler.

Also speaking at the event will be Stephen M. Townsend, president of the Liberty Leadership Council. He is a former Libertarian candidate for Midland County Commission and Tri-Cities Libertarian Party Chair. Townsend will speak on *Individual Activism and PACs*.

Tickets are \$15.00 per person for the banquet or \$20.00 per person to be entered into the 50/50 drawing. The dinner will include a large buffet and cash bar. CGLP will be holding a silent auction and there will be door prizes. Interested persons should contact Ghazey Aleck at (989) 386-2699 or e-mail him at ghazey@alecklawfirm.com.

## Form A New County Libertarian Party

by Ghazey Aleck

A new Libertarian Party affiliate can be formed in your county if none presently exists. All you have to do is call state vice-chair Ghazey Aleck at (989) 386-2699 or e-mail him at vicechair@lpmich.org if you are interested in

starting a Libertarian Party in your county. We will provide you with all the help needed. Just call us today!

Starting a new county Libertarian Party is like planting a seed of freedom from which the tree of Liberty will bloom.



The Liberty Leadership Council put up this billboard located between Mt. Pleasant and Houghton Lake on Highway U.S. 27, the billboard located on the East side on the highway can be viewed by southbound travelers.

# 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*

Committee Meeting Minutes for August 5, 2001

Meeting was called to order at Headquarters at 1:05 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'Brein, Marnie Edwards, Bill Gelineau, Al Titran, Rosemary Racchi, Jim Miller, Tom Jones, David Raaflaub, Steve Townsend, Bill Shotey, Gary Bora, Anne Bora, Bruce Hoepner, Emily Salvette, Stacy Van Oast, David Nagy, and later, David Collver.

Chair Corliss reported that he had not yet appointed a Speaker Bureau Chair.

Executive Director Tim O'Brien reported that the federal judge has given the government more discovery time in the IRS 527 lawsuit. State Representative Leon Drolet had the legislative services bureau redefine the "principal candidate" to be the candidate with the most votes in that party for his bill. Drolet requested that the Attorney General issue an opinion regarding whether a party loses ballot status immediately or at the next general election. She declined because of a pending court case. Corliss and O'Brien testified against the internet tax bill. The living wage abolition bill is out of committee. The August fundraising letters will go separately to petitioners and non-petitioners. We may have a temporary cash shortage due to the petition drive. Wayne County is working on the Liberty Fest. Bill Shotey is Chair of the Lobbying Committee.

Vice Chair Aleck reported that he had dropped off petitions at 5 affiliates. The Leadership Directory is ready for final corrections. He passed it around for review.

Treasurer Jean had questions about some Executive Director bills.

Dirasian reported that the newsletter went to the printer July 20, was returned July 30 and has been mailed. He used a mailing house, but Dirasian will pay for that. Total cost was \$1,854.07, less \$190 in advertising revenue for a net of \$1,664.07. Deadline for copy for the next issue is September 1. The advertising rate is being increased. Ben Steele said that he voted

for the change in editors based on the commitment to run it as a committee, but that the editor did not get the committee involved. Steele moved that "The minutes of each LPM Committee be printed in the LPM newsletter issue immediately following the meeting, followed by the statement, 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." Seconded by Keith Edwards and passed 7-1. Dirasian objected that this violated Robert's Rules, but Chair Corliss ruled that Robert's does not bar it.

BARC Chair Nancy O'Brien reported that 16,000 petition signatures had been received by August 5. Of 600+ samples, only 10.7% were invalid, which is encouraging. There are 4 paid petitioners who are contracted for 11,000 signatures. The next interim deadline for checking is August 18. We will need volunteers at HQ to help on August 19 at 1:00 P.M.

Schwartz reported that the Language Committee will have a report on the bylaws at the next meeting.

Steve Townsend gave a report on candidate recruitment.

Treasurer Jean reported that the records he inherited were in such a condition that a budget could not be done yet. Aleck moved to table adoption of the budget to the next meeting to allow time for the Treasurer to propose a full budget including income and expense projections. Seconded by Nancy O'Brien and passed 6-2.

Mark Rutherford is our new Libertarian National Committee Region 3 Representative.

Aleck moved that the position of Executive Director be abolished and that the LPM establish a Director of Operations and a Director of Public Relations. Motion failed for lack of a second. A lengthy discussion followed. Salvette and Van Oast said that the LPM needs a good

organizational structure to strengthen the party and a good business plan that defines the overall purpose and direction. Nancy O'Brien moved to authorize Emily and Stacy to develop a business plan and to offer our full assistance in its development. Seconded by Leonard Schwartz and passed 8-0.

Aleck moved to have Committee meetings monthly. Seconded by Nancy O'Brien. Motion failed 2-7.

Diane Barnes questioned the use of the office by other groups that are not affiliated with the LPM. Schwartz moved that groups that are not affiliated with the Libertarian Party can use the Headquarters with the approval of the Chair. Seconded by Nancy. Motion failed 3-4. Nancy moved the Committee shall have the discretion to reject any non-Libertarian group without cause. The point person shall be responsible to ask for donations to cover expenses for the group. The point person shall be responsible for gaining approval from the Committee in advance of the meeting. Seconded by Diane Barnes and passed 7-1.

Corliss reported that Wayne County will hold the Liberty Fest on November 10 at the Automobile Hall of Fame.

Bruce Hoepner reported that Oakland will meet to organize the 2002 State Convention. Committee approved 9-0.

Schwartz and Tim O'Brien reported further on IRS 527. There is a bill to exempt political parties.

Notice was given to the Committee that a case (Green Party of Michigan v. Miller) is pending in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit involving the constitutionality of the Michigan ballot access law for new parties. A hearing on the case will take place September 18, 2001 in Cincinnati.

Corliss will contact Detroit Edison to get the address changed in the bill. Marnie Edwards has tried several times to no avail.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Keith Edwards, Secretary



2001

# Defender of Liberty

## Awards Banquet

**Saturday November 10**

6:30 Reception (cash bar)

7:30 Dinner (vegetarian entrée available)

8:30 Awards presentation & speaker

### The Automotive Hall of Fame

21400 Oakwood Boulevard, Dearborn

(next to Greenfield Village)

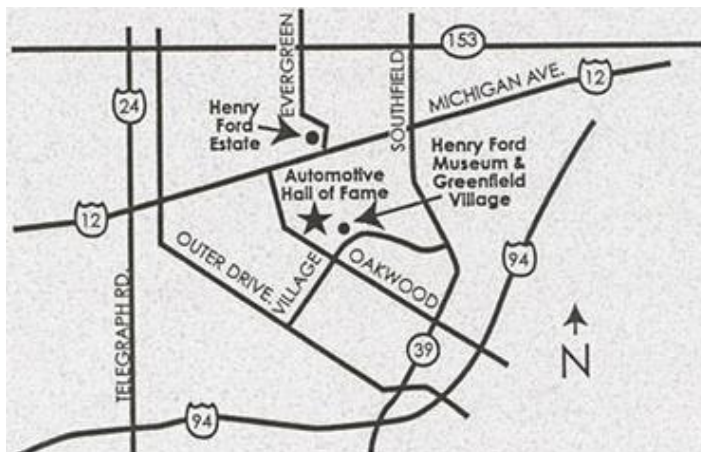
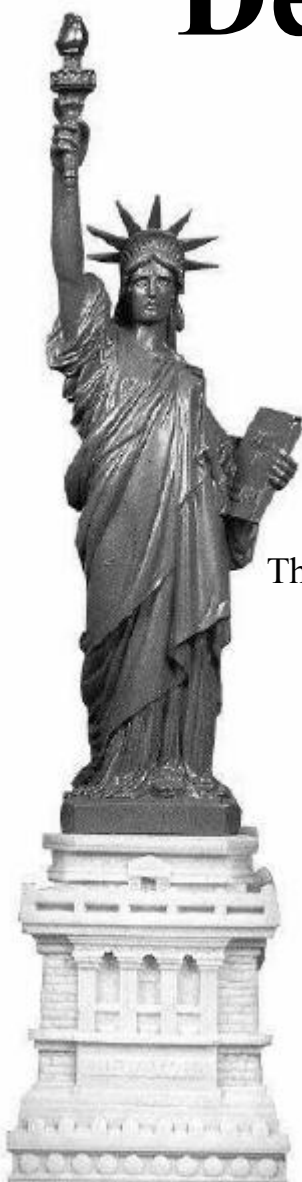
Three annual Defender of Liberty awards will be presented to:

**Promoter of Liberty**  
**Spokesperson for Liberty**  
**Producer of Liberty**

Featuring special guest speaker

## Claire Wolfe

Widely respected for her 1996 book *101 Things to Do 'Til the Revolution*, the iconoclastic, reclusive libertarian author is emerging from her secret lair to address the LPM from her new book: *Think Free to Live Free: A Political Burnout's Guide to Life, Activism and Everything*, which will be available for purchase and autograph. Limited seating. Don't miss this chance to see Claire Wolfe. (You may never get another opportunity.)



Note: You can also reserve tickets by credit card at our secure web site ([www.lpmich.org](http://www.lpmich.org)) or by calling 248-591-FREE

I/We cannot attend, but want to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I/We want to attend the 2001 Defender of Liberty awards banquet. Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places. I understand that tickets are \$48 each and include meal and museum admission.

Check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

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Former State Representative candidate, Greg Stemple, was stricken with a rare illness earlier this year, but still managed to come out to Pontiac's Arts, Beats & Eats festival and help petition. We are all pleased to know that Greg is expected to make a full recovery and soon be out of the wheelchair.



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| <b>Personal Liability</b>   |                                |

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# Winning without Winning

by Bruce Hoepner

Former Troy city council candidate, David Eisenbacher knows that you don't need to win at the polls to have an effect on government.

One of David's campaign issues was to allow residents to comment on issues at the beginning of a meeting rather than making them wait until the end of the meeting -- Troy city council meetings often run until after midnight and even as late as 2:00AM. With a schedule like that, residents get tired and go home before they have a chance to speak.

After David's strong showing in the April election, he suggested that the council adopt his proposal. Surprisingly, they did.

What will David do next? In response to a councilman's proposal to add a 2 mil tax so the city can purchase and preserve wetlands, David suggested that the city just preserve some of the wetlands they already own, or even sell some prime real estate that they own and use the proceeds to purchase more wetlands, thus avoiding implementing a new tax.

Cartoon courtesy of Jesse Hecksel. Reprinted with permission.

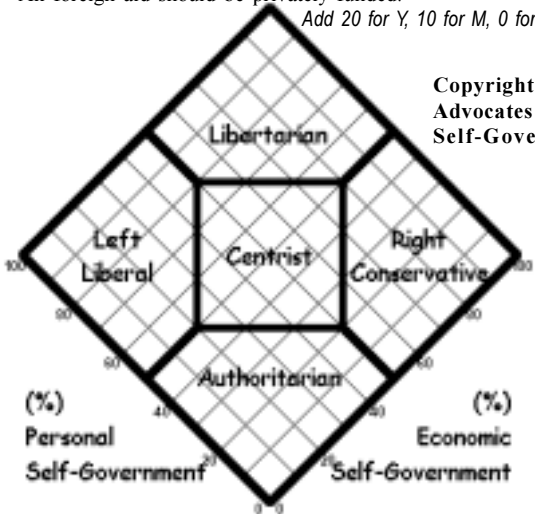


"It says we get to eat one surfer and two swimmers each month and they can't fish within a mile of us."

# 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)

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

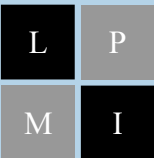
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