

MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

MARCH IN MICHIGAN:

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 4

\$1.00

APRIL 1984

LEWIS

CLARK!

VILLAGE COUNCIL RESULTS

Michigan Saturday, March 17, a week before Ed Clark's scheduled visit from March 22-25 in conjunction with

Indiana's campaign kickoff. Jim Lewis was interviewed by the Ann Arbor Daily on Saturday. On Sunday, introductory and organizational get-togethers were scheduled in Williamston and Delta Township, followed by dinner with the LCC in downtown Lansing. sized marketing techniques for our political philosophy in talking to activists.

At Hillsdale college on Monday night, Jim Lewis's topic was "Libertarian Renaissance--Why Conservatives Should Take Libertarianism Seriously." Jim discussed economic and monetary policy, outlined Libertarian principles, and addressed the need to separate the state from education; Hillsdale, a private college Friday morning layover in which accepts no public funds, has recently been subjected to federal regulation because some of its students get federal loans.

Jim Lewis would begin to roll back government by repealing bad laws. repeal of "victimless crime" laws would take their product away from organized crime and reduce law en-

Jim Lewis arrived in work and stabilize prices so that the need for social programs would be reduced. The U.S. would not pay for the defense of Japan and Germany whose economies are stronger than ours, and "Star Wars technology" could provide a real <u>defense</u> against nuclear weapons. Then we could engage the Soviets in a nuclear arms reduction race.

On Tuesday, Jim Lewis Jim empha- testified before the House Elections Committee and appeared on WDTB All News Radio "Behind the Headlines," an hour long talk

Ed Clark flew to Grand Rapids Thursday, March 22 for Grand Rapids Libertarian Supper Club. The "Direction of the Libertarian Party" was the topic. A Grand Valley State College appearance and media coverage were also on the itinerary. A Detroit was also available to the media, and Ed Clark did a radio call-in.

On Sunday, Clark's Brunch Speech was covered by by Channel 2 TV and he was interviewed by Greg Kayza who works for a Wyandotte newspaper. Ed Clark's address differentiated Libertarian positions from the rhetoric of "Reagonomics." forcement costs. Free trade Interventionist foreign polwithout government regula-licy has cost American lives tions, corporate subsidies, and respect and has inor immigration barriers creased deficit spending: would put people back to Libertarians would make

Chuck Dawson polled 6% of 150 votes for Carleton Village Council President. His campaign this year suffered from lack of funds. but he has some interesting comparisons with the level of activity and recognition in earlier partisan and nonpartisan races, respectively for village councilman and school board.

Joe Cote' and his fellow condominium residents lost the Bingham Farms Village Council race which will lead to the imposition of new costs for road pavement.

INSIDE . Burris and Bradley on Taxes Feature p. 2. Guest Column p. 3. Clark in Grand Rapids p.4. LCC Reports

real, significant budget cuts and act on ethical principles with respect to neighboring nationals and individuals.

Ed clark also spoke of the progress of the Bergland Campaign, of which Ed is Chairman. "Nightline," for example, called Bergland to appear on a telecast with Republican and Democratic chairpeople, John Anderson and Gus Hall! In 1984, Ed Clark observes that he is getting more media attention this year as Bergland's campaign committee chairman than he did in 1980 as our Presidential candidate! He's hopeful of obtaining ballot status in all 50 states again.

Taxation Is Theft

By Alan Burris
Libertarians feel the same about taxation as they do about government. Just as no one has a right to rob his neighbor, neither does any gang of criminals, even if the gang is called government. There is a technical question as to whether taxation is properly called theft, robbery, extortion or slavery. All would seem to apply.

The elders of Israel came to Samuel and said unto him, "Now make us a king to judge us like all the other nations." And Samuel answered with the words of the Lord, saying, "This will be the manner of the king that would reign over you: He will take your sons and make them his charioteers. He will set them to reap his harvest and make his instruments of war. He will take your daughters to be cooks. And he will take your fields and your vineyards and give them to his supporters. He will take a tenth of your produce and give it to his staff. He will take the tenth of your sheep; and you shall be his servants. And you shall cry out in that day because of your king which you shall have chosen."

It may be claimed that we have somehow agreed to be robbed. But if we agree, why is it necessary that we be forced to pay against our will? As we do not possess the right to rob our neighbors, there is no way we can delegate to government this power we do not have.

Taking a man's money without his consent is also as much robbery, when it is done by millions of men acting in concert, and calling themselves a government, as when it is done by a single individual, acting on his own responsibility, and calling himself a highwayman. Neither the numbers engaged in the act, nor the different characters they assume as a cover for the act, after the nature of the act itself.

Lysander Spooner, 1852

Each man owns his own body and mind, and thus cannot rightfully own the body and mind of another man. We hold that what one man cannot morally do, a million of men cannot morally do, and government, representing many millions of men, cannot do.

Auberon Herbert, 1897

It is ridiculous to assert that rational men would fail to voluntarily support services they need if they were not forced to do so. And it is ridiculous, as well as immoral, to force men to support services they do not use and do not value, just because one man or group of men think they know what is best for everybody else. Government services performed today could be provided just as well by free market enterprisers. People would pay for what they desire. No one person would be forced to work for the benefit of another (sometimes known as slavery) and no other person could expect to have that person work for him. Taxation is theft and should be abolished!

Dave Walter

Government would have us condemn the person who "cheats" on taxes, on the theory that "honest" taxpayers will have to pay more. But don't we congratulate the person who has concealed his money from a robber? And doesn't the "honest" taxpayer pay for our oppression?

Libertarians sometimes forget that not only is taxation immoral, but paying taxes which finance the oppression of others is also immoral. Eliminating taxation is a prime Libertarian goal, for taxation is the lifeblood of government, as well as its main reason for existence.

If a thousand men were not to pay their tax-bills this year, that would not be a violent and bloody measure, as it would be to pay them, and enable the State to commit violence and shed innocent blood. Henry David Thoreau, 1849

Necessary Evil?

The American Revolution established that taxation without representation is tyranny. Now we know that taxation is tyranny, period.

The initiation of force for any purpose is unjust. Therefore, there are no just taxes without the consent of every individual paying the tax. However, if everyone consents, it is not a tax, but rather a voluntary contribution.

An edited excerpt from A Liberty Primer, 2nd edition,

© 1983 Alan Burris. Published by David Hoesly, Genesee Valley Society for Individual Liberty, Box 10224, Rochester, NY 14610, \$7.95



Editor:

Denise Kline

Printing: Nick Hamilton

Mailing: Rose Wright

Michigan Libertarian is published monthly as the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan, and is sent to all members and subscribers. Complimentary issues will be sent to interested persons for two months, but will not be continued unless they become members or subscribers. Subscriptions are available for \$10/year (usually twelve issues).

Letters-to-the-editor and other articles submitted for publication should be typewritten and signed. Advertising is available at \$2 per column-inch for camera-ready copy and must be submitted by the 20th day of the month preceding the desired issue.



The Libertarian Party of Michigan is a statewide organization of individuals dedicated to the preservation of individual rights and the advancement of freedom through political action. The Central Committee consists of two representatives from each congressional district and five members at large.

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GUEST COLUMN:

Painless Tax Reform--Not Likely

Hidden among the book reviews in the October. 1983, issue of Reason was a topic that seems to be of some importance to the Libertarian movement -- the drive for a flat rate income tax. The review in question was a tirade against Hall and Rabushka's Low Tax, Simple Tax, Flat Tax by Jennifer Roback, Ms. Roback was extremely indignant that the work does not delve extensively into the morality of taxation but, rather, approaches the subject as a pragmatic argument aimed at a populist audience. would suggest that the authors' failure to digress deeply into material that is peripheral to their book is not nearly so great as the reviewers failure to acknowledge, simply, that the book was aimed at a far different audience than the one for which she was writing. Far more revealing. however, was Ms. Roback's personal assessment of the flat rate tax.

While she admits the present tax structure intimidates the average citizen, disproportionately penalizes wage earners, and lures thousands of lawyers, accountants, preparers, auditors, and others from more productive (and honest) pursuits, Ms. Roback concludes, "after all, avoiding taxes through the complex tax code is one of the few methods of protest and resistance that remains open to us." What she seems to imply is that while the weight of rational argument favors tax reform, the lure of self-interest is the critical factor against it. Tax reform, particularly modifications of the present system, present a good area for discerning the hypocrisy quotient of the Libertarian movement. Are

Libertarian goals worth making sacrifices for or is the typical libertarian only in favor of action that will not cause him/her any financial or social distress? Reducing government will not be a painless process because it can't happen until the upper classes of American society begin to really hurt from government's interventionist policies.

Federal politicians are generally not responsive to popular pressure because they have limited competition, sophisticated public relations, and, usually, comfortable job opportunities with especially favored interests when the public becomes too outraged at their irresponsibility. What they do seem to respond to is opinion polls and peer pressure roughly in that order. If enough opinion pressure can cause them to reform the tax code, the middle class peer pressure that will result may finally produce fiscal reform. What a reformed tax code will do is destroy the tax shelter myth for the upper middle class, and hopefully get them fighting mad.

What is the tax shelter It is possibly the myth? cleverest of all big government public relations It works on the schemes. basis that while "the people" have the power to change office holders in our national game of musical politicians, only rarely can they directly affect policy. Policy is set principally by spokesmen for business, labor, media, and academia, most of whom are members of the middle class and usually the upper middle class by the time they reach positions of prominence. The problem big government faces is how to get this group to

G. R. Bradley support the status quo while still taxing the policy making class at about a 25-35% rate (without which the government could not raise the, revenue to stay in business.) The answer is obvious to any con man: make. the suckers think they're getting something for nothing. This is the tax shelter con game, open to those in the \$30,000 to \$200,000 income brackets. (Those in higher figures pay tax lawyers instead of the government.) Uncle Sam cons the suckers into believing he's entitled to half of what they make (70% pre-Reagan). He then displays his varieties of tax shelters for all middle class situations and lifestyles--surely some of these will be suitable for your particular tax needs sir or madam. In the end, the sucker is so thrilled with the \$10,000 "saved" that the \$25,000 the IRS got is considered insignificant. The only way to eliminate this fiscal sleight of hand is by reforming the deductions in the tax code, a byproduct of most flat rate proposals.

The Libertarian response to such tax reform, however, has been exceedingly ambivalent. Many, like Ms. Roback, are willing to consider cutting loopholes only so long as they are someone else's loopholes. Others state that they can't ethically support any tax reform that does not lower Considering the taxes. present government penchant for arithmetic growth of revenues and geometric growth of spending, this quaint policy would achieve 50% interest rates rather than the nominal 30% rates we can expect by the end of the decade. Collapse of the global economy is a steep GUEST

price to pay for ethics. Another prominent faction considers all taxes immoral and nothing less than their complete abolition is worthy of support. This position may be imminently correct philosophically, but it is about as practical as trying to explain the virtues of vegetarianism to a pack of hungry jackals. The federal income tax reached its present level of oppression in gradual stages since 1916, and it is not likely to disappear overnight. Its elimination must also come as a gradual series of reforms. This will, however, require the establishment of priorities, something the Libertarian movement seems congenitally incapable of doing.

Elimination of the income tax is a laudable goal which might be achieved in a century or so. Eliminating the graduated income tax is more realistic and might be accomplished with just a few decades of concerted effort. For the immediate future, the most realistic approach is to support tax reform measures of majority party politicians with the proviso that the measures don't go far enough but they are better than nothing. At this time, the Bradley-Gephart tax reform bill is the least objectionable proposal with any chance of passage. (It is presently being blocked in committee by Senator Dole.) A Libertarian endorsement of this bill as the first step in tax reform would accomplish two things. First, it would show that the Party is willing to consider a gradualist approach to achieving its goals. Second, by endorsing, however provisionally, Democratic legislation, it

ED CLARK VISITS GRAND RAPIDS

The Kent County Liber-tarian Supper Club met at Holiday Inn East, March 22, 1984 for dinner. Ed Clark, the 1980 Presidential Candidate of the Libertarian Party was guest speaker. In his remarks, Mr. Clark emphasized the direction of the Libertarian Party during the 1980's. He confidently predicts an increase in the party membership and a larger percentage of the votes cast in the 1984 election.

There are two good reasons for this prediction according to Mr. Clark. One, John Anderson will be less visible as a candidate. Two, Ronald Reagan has basically deserted the conservative element in the country. Reagan has done this by manipulating the economy and destroying the idea that conservatives always vote against foreign aid. Libertarian Party is the only party left that stands for a smaller government.

Gwendoline Stillwell



would enhance the perception that the Libertarians are a serious political party that recognizes the need for compromise and cooperation in the political process, and not the radical doctrinaire ideologues the major media portray us to be. Unless the Party begins to set short term priorities, and displays some pragmatism in its approach to achieving long term goals, those detractors may be justified.

Mr. Bradley is a member of the Issues Committee of the Libertarian Party of Michigan

Views expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the Michigan Libertarian.

LYNN JOHNSTON seeks Libertarian nomination for U.S. Senate. Candidate Committee is forming; contact Bill Krebaum, P.O. Box 4539, Ann Arbor, MI 48106, (313) 434-7445 for information.

LPM PHONE LISTINGS

A Metropolitan Detroit Libertarian Party phone listing has been obtained by Virginia Cropsey and the metro area county organizations. The new number, (313) 978-8710, will provide announcements as well as taking messages and may be used as a contact number for media releases, etc. Notify Virginia if you want help in answering calls on a major event. Virginia would also be glad to accept contributions toward the phone bill which runs about \$30 per month. The number is listed in 7 counties: St. Clair, Livingston, Monroe, Washtenaw, Oakland, Wayne and Macomb.

In December, the LPM, with the support of county organizations, invested in multiple white pages listings so that various areas in Michigan could obtain our Headquarters number from information. Areas added were Ann Arbor, Downtown Detroit, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo and Pontiac including North Woodward area.

Additional listings will be ordered in May for Jackson and Hillsdale, compliments of Gerry Potts. Anyone who would like to purchase LPM phone listings for your area, please contact LPM Headquarters soon. The charges range from \$.85 - \$1.50 per month plus a share of the one-time installation charge, a maximum of \$5.00 if you order before May.

LPM RESOLUTION ON PRAYER AND EDUCATION

The Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Michigan passed the following Resolution drafted by Tim O'Brien at their meeting on Sunday, March 18: WHERE-AS, the people of the United States are justifiably concerned over government involvement in an regulation of the educational process, and WHEREAS, sentiment is building toward constitutional prohibition of government intrusion into the area of voluntary prayer in public schools, and WHEREAS, the school prayer issue is merely symptomatic of the larger problem, therefore be it RESOLVED, that the Libertarian Party of Michigan proposes, advocates, and will actively promote the adoption of the following amendment to the United States Constitution: T. THE RIGHT OF FREE PEOPLE TO EDUCATE THEIR CHILDREN --EACH ACCORDING TO HIS OWN BELIEFS AND VALUES -- BEING FUNDAMENTAL, THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SEVERAL STATES, AND ALL LESSER JURISDICTIONS AND HEREBY PROHIBITED FROM ANY INVOLVEMENT WHATSOEVER, DI-RECT OR INDIRECT, IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS. CON-GRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECTING ANY EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT, EXACT TAXES IN SUPPORT OF ANY SUCH IN-STITUTION, NOR REGULATE ITS POLICIES IN ANY WAY NOT RELATED TO PHYSICAL SAFETY OR FRAUD. THERE SHALL HENCEFORTH BE A COMPLETE AND TOTAL SEPARATION OF EDUCA-TION AND STATE.

II. THIS AMENDMENT SHALL TAKE EFFECT ONE YEAR FOLLOW-ING RATIFICATION BY THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF STATES.

TSSUES COMMITTEE REPORT

At the March 18 Issues meeting, priorities for position papers were redefined. Since the position papers will not be needed until just before the priit was decided to marv. prioritize candidate training, in the belief that we are our own best resource. Issues will develop brief fact summaries of issues for state and local elections and a brief Libertarian analysis of the problem. These will be intended to develop candidates' ability to respond to questions in candidate forums, informally, and in writing, and will be available at the June candidate's workshop.

Brian Wright presented a questionnaire he developed for candidate evaluation. Completed questionnaires will be on file at the convention for delegates to review before voting. month the Issues Committee will debate a resolution calling upon convention delegates to nominate only those candidates whose responses to the questionnaire, conversation, and past performance demonstrate that they are libertarians.

Help is still needed to perform legislative watch functions. Participation in the legislative process is educative and we find we can increasingly have an impact. Please ask Issues Chair Virginia Cropsey or LPM Coordinator Denise Kline how you can become involved.

The Issues Committee requests everyone's participation in the Libertarian letter writing project. Important issues to consider writing about: taxes and tax protest, separation of education and state, sobriety checklanes, capitol punishment and restitutionary

LCC SYNOPSTS

Preliminary meetings of the Issues and Candidates Committee dealt with surveys for potential candidates, types of workshops needed. etc. Chairman Brian Wright presented the convention Tax Protest Day report. events are being planned locally. Development of an introductory brochure similar to the manilla one with the arrow diagram has been taken on by James Hudler. Headquarters is receiving an increasing number of calls (quintupled since Jan.): many of these are from new people anxious to become involved. Scheduling is underway for Bergland's tour in May, and Kurt Weber (Kalamazoo activist, LPN intern communications director. traveling petitioner, honor student . . .) will perform as on-site Bergland coordi-Resolutions were nator. passed regarding school prayer, election law, and sobriety check-lanes. Brian Wright announced vacancies for LPM Chair and Treasurer since he and Ben Bachrach have decided not to run so that others have an opportunity to become involved as LPM leadership.

PATRICK A. HELLER

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justice, where libertarians are in the political spectrum. Proposed resolutions on contemporary subjects are invited. The next Issues meeting is at 11:00 AM before the April 15 LCC meeting at the Lansing office.

Virginia Cropsey

COUNTY CHAIRS NOTICE

LPM County Chairs will be expected to attend a training session for nominating candidates at their county caucus. This training session will be held at 11 AM April 15, just prior to the LCC meeting at LPM Headquarters in Lansing. All forms will be available to be picked up for your county's use. Chairs, please try to find out who is running for which offices in your area. County clerks can tell you what offices will be open for Nov. 84.

Sheryl Loux Candidate Committee Chair



Post Office Box 1062 441 West Front Street Traverse City, MI 49684 616/946-6246

OUTREACH MATERIAL -- Correction-

The videotapes listed in April's newsletter have been consigned to KAL Corporation which rents them at \$3 per tape plus postage. Funds are used to generate additional educational materials. Contact Sheryl Loux.

Also, LPM headquarters now has the videotape version of "We Hold These Truths."

A LIBERTY PRIMER
by Alan Burris
is now available from
LPM Headquarters at
\$7.95 per copy
or \$7.00 each for 5 or more.

HEADQUARTERS REPORT --Honor Roll--

March has been full of activities, both Libertarian and Statist. We've had to respond to a restrictive election law: Chuck Congdon, Tom Jones, Jim Lewis, and Richard Winger helped.

Jim Lewis surprised us with an unscheduled visit. Many new people agreed to see what they could do and did something! John Kane and Jon Addiss hosted gettogethers for Jim near Lansing. Ron Johnson, a former U.P. state representative candidate, hosted Jim at Hillsdale College. Secretary Rick Wunsch of the Citizens Party, whom we met at the Elections Committee hearing, finding himself extensively in agreement with Jim Lewis, wrote a report on the Hillsdale event and has invited us to participate in debates with their active candidates in Congressional Districts 2, 9, 4 and 16. Enthusiastic Hillsdale students may begin a local Libertarian league. Gerry Potts and Denise Kline were also on the scene to represent LPM at Hillsdale.

Jim Lewis was also interviewed by the Ann Arbor News on Saturday, March 17, arranged by our own James Hudler who also hosted Jim that evening. Bob Stepanovich was Jim's Lansing host Monday night.

With the cooperation of the Libertarian Party of Indiana, Ed Clark came to us in March. Bill Hall and John Tallman in Grand Rapids arranged for media, a Supper Club, and a college appearance in a few hours Thursday

During a Friday morning layover in Detroit, Clark was scheduled for a media conference at the airport arranged by Virginia Cropsey with assistance from Mike

POST OFFICE LOSES LPM MEMBERSHIPS

The trusty U.S. Post Office was unable to locate several postage due return envelopes which were used for membership renewals early this year. If yours was returned or if you haven't gotten your membership card or cancelled check, please try again.

It's bad enough that the postal monopoly charges us 38¢ to retrieve these envelopes, but the service does not assure delivery either.

ØFELEPHONE (313) 459-3930

ARTHUR W. GULICK, M.D.

DERMATOLOGY

OFFICE HOURS 227 NORTH SHELDON ROAD.

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Palonus and Tim O'Brien.

Sunday's Brunch and Reception for Ed Clark was hosted by Mike Palonus. Ben Bachrach, Virginia Cropsey and others had done advance work. Bette Erwin introduced Clark. Gary Bradley auctioned Clark momentoes and handled literature sales with Keith Rodney. South manned the door very competently and graciously. Brian Wright saw Ed to his flight. Bill Hollander lent his VCR and Steve Raimi took time out to adjust the typesetter.

The continuing substantial contributions of Ben Bachrach and Rose Wright in processing and maintaining the membership lists are appreciable, as are the efforts of our publisher, Nick Hamilton. Gwendoline Stillwell has offered newsletter assistance this month.

Now this may sound like a lot of volunteers, but the more we do, the MORE VOLUN-TEERS WE NEED. There is a lot to do; toward liberty! ALENDAI

THE LPM CONVENTION will be held May 18-20, 1984 in Ann Arbor at the Ann Arbor Inn.

THE LIBERTARIAN CENTRAL COM-MITTEE will meet on Sunday, April 15. At 11:00 there will be a Training Session for County Chairs regarding county conventions, nominations, and paperwork. Senator DiNello will address the Committee regarding Tuition Tax Credits, with the main meeting starting at 1:00.

KALAMAZOO COUNTY LP meets alternate Wednesday's at WMU. For more information contact Mary Ruwart (616) 375-4959 evenings or (616) 343-4737.

JACKSON COUNTY LP will meet at the home of J.L. Hudler. 6606 South Jackson Rd. at 7PM on April 18. Discussion of possible candidates and "Principles of Liberty" course will take place. The next meeting will be on May 16. Contact 784-4982.

TAX PROTEST NIGHT at Downtown Detroit Post Office begins at 10:30 PM at the corner of Fort and Trumbull. For events earlier in the day, check with local coordinators.

MACOMB TAX PROTESTS will take place in Sterling Heights, Warren, Mt. Clemens, and Roseville. Contact Virginia Cropsey. TAX PROTESTS STATEWIDE are being planned as we go to print. Call local chair. LANSING AREA Discussion Group in the Mural Room, 2nd Floor M.S.U. Union at 8:30 on Wednesdays April 18, May 2, 16, and 30. Contact Denise Kline.

THE METRO DETROIT LI-BERTARIAN SUPPER CLUB meets regularly Southfield. For dates and times please contact Michael Palonous at (313) 561-1690.

THE MIDLAND COUNTY LP meets regularly at Paddy's Pub. 6:30 and the For details contact Janet Parkes at 7:30. at (517) 631-9737.

OAKLAND COUNTY LP meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Harbor Steak House, 3251 Orchard Lake Rd. in Keego Harbor. Dinner is at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:30. Contact Bill Hollander.

WASHTENAW CTY. LP & ANN ARBOR LIBERTARIAN LEAGUE will meet at 7 PM on April 13. Place: Glen Mensching's home at 228 Crest St.. Ann Arbor. Phone: 313-662-7158. Anti-Tax Day protest plans and social gathering. On May 10 Washtenaw Cty. LP will meet at 7 PM. Place: James Hudler's home at 17165 Fahrner Rd., Chelsea. Phone: 313-475-9792. Agenda: Convention and Strategy and Social Gathering.

WAYNE COUNTY LP meets the first Monday of each month at the Ram's Horn restaurant on Telegraph just north of Plymouth Rd. Dinner is at 6:30 and the meeting begins Contact Mike Palonus at (313) 561-1690.

Meetings and events of LP organizations, or groups of interest to Libertarians, will be announced free of charge. Send your message to: MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN, 112 W. Allegan, Lansing, Mich., 48933, Announcement of activities does not necessarily imply LPM endorsement.

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(517) 484-2188 LPM HEADQUARTERS Lansing (313) 644-1816 Brian Wright LPM Chairman Sheryl Loux (616) 343-4737 LPM Vice Chair LPM Treasurer (313) 563-1558 Ben Bachrach (616)784-6619 I_PM Secretary Mart Hillard NatCom Representative (313)475-9792 James Hudler Kurt Weber Bergland Coordinator (616)382-6145 Students for a Libertarian Society (212) 475-9701 (713)686-1776 Libertarian National Committee (313) 662-7158 Ann Arbor Area Glen Mensching Bay County LP Mike Murphy (517) 892-5290 Grand Traverse Co. LP Nick Hamilton (616) 946-6246 Ionia County LP Dick Whitelock (517) 647-6252

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