



Michigan Libertarian

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

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Gelineau Wins Close Chair Race at State Convention

by Greg Stempfle

Unusual weather at the 2003 LPM state convention produced some unusual election results. A freak ice storm rolled into Michigan in the early morning hours of April 5th putting a chill over Ann Arbor's annual Hash Bash pro-legalization rally. However the temperature was up inside Ypsilanti's Eagle Crest Convention Center as two strong candidates vied for the position of LPM chair. Elections don't get any closer then this. Challenger Bill Gelineau edged out current chair James Hudler by a vote of 49 to 48 with 3 votes cast for

None of the Above. Since neither candidate received a majority, our bylaws require us to drop the lowest vote getter. In this case Hudler was struck from the ballot and Gelineau was elected by voice vote.

In uncontested races, Paul Hitch was elected Vice-Chair, Ray Warner was elected Secretary, and Keith Wesselmann was elected Treasurer. In the race for at-large directors, several rounds of balloting were needed to choose the five members. Those elected were Michael Donahue, Leonard Schwartz, Jerry Bloom, Lloyd Sherman, and Jim Miller.

The Judicial Committee will remain the same as before. Jon Coon, Michael Corliss, and Bill Hall were all elected by voice.

In other official business, there were several minor changes to the platform of the LPM. A special committee was assigned to clear up grammar, punctuation, and capitalization mistakes in the platform.

The bylaws of the LPM were tweaked a bit as well. Bylaw debates will now only take place in odd numbered years. This rule can be waived in even numbered years

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Howrylak Re-Elected in Troy

It has been three years since Martin Howrylak rocked the old-school network of Troy politics by winning votes from nearly 68% of voters in the 2000 City Council election. On April 7 he outdid his previous achievement, receiving votes from 75% of the voters who turned out on a frigid, snowy election day. Martin outpaced second place finisher Jeanne Stine - winner of the other available Council seat-by an incredible 27.9 percentage points.

The distant second-place finish for Stine, while it won her a seat on Council, can hardly be considered much more than a consolation prize, as more than 30% of voters



Troy City Councilman
Martin Howrylak

only cast one of their two available vote - for Martin - and left the other blank. Stine finished just 2.2 percentage points over

Christina Pappageorge, a first-time candidate to any political office who made too many campaign blunders to mention.

The big government tag-team that tried to shut down Martin Howrylak, has been humiliated. Despite the fact that this was a non-partisan race, the opposition did their best to smear Martin for his LP membership, attempting to make the LP sound like a bunch of half-crazed drug dealers. But because we had the resources to communicate directly with the voters, we were able to put to rest

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LPM Officers and Directors

Chair	Bill Gelineau	chair@lpmich.org
Vice Chair	Paul Hitch	vicechair@lpmich.org
Secretary	Ray Warner	secretary@lpmich.org
Treasurer	Keith Wesselmann	treasurer@lpmich.org
At-Large Director	Jerry Bloom	bloom@lpmich.org
At-Large Director	Mike Donahue	donahue@lpmich.org
At-Large Director	Leonard Schwartz	schwartz@lpmich.org
At-Large Director	Jim Miller	miller@lpmich.org
At-Large Director	Lloyd Sherman	sherman@lpmich.org

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Campaign Fund	Dianne Szabla	dianneszabla@netscape.net
Assistant Treasurer	vacant	vacant

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the weekly email newsletter of the LPM.

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<http://www.lpmich.org/lpmonline/subscribe.htm>

Newsletter Information

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Only electronic format will be accepted. Acceptable formats are plain text, Word97, WordPerfect 6.X/5.X, RTF, HTML, Pagemaker 6.5.
Any other formats, please ask first.

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for more information.

From the Chair Unifying the Political Animals

by **Bill Gelineau**

Since our convention in Ypsilanti, I've had occasion to talk with a veterinarian friend of mine. This was for the usual purposes that any of us might make such a visit. But something he said really struck me. "Every animal needs something different....and the desired responses require different approaches. But you can over-think this. Its still a cat." The reason this seemed so profound is that it truly applies to people as well. I've heard Libertarian activists describe our internal organizational efforts with the overused cliché "herding cats". While true enough, this may not be adequate to sum up the various kinds of political animals that are part of our movement.

The challenges before the LEC this year are no different or special than that faced by our predecessors. Our needs are the same as always: 1) Building a political organization to forward the ideas of liberty and; 2) Provide a method for implementing those ideas.

Over the years, we've had many debates about how to focus our energies. Libertarians are notorious for having many opinions regarding the future of the party. I call these the 2% discussions. While we agree on 98% of the issues and correctly identify the problems with our political environment, many Libertarians spend most of their energy debating the 2%. Every cat needs to have the best strut, I guess.

Well, with all the tasks that need to be done, we have room for all kinds of cats. The LEC has created several teams to generate activity over the next year. What is your interest?

Are you an organization person? If so, we need your help. From building membership to organizing the activities of local affiliates around the state, there are a wide variety of activities that need to be developed to help us grow and challenge the major parties more effectively. Our Affiliates Committee, led by our Vice-Chair Paul Hitch, needs your support. If membership is your bag, get on the Membership Team led by Gerald Phillips.

Or maybe your thing is political activity? Led by the Oakland County Affiliate, we've proven that well-organized local candidates can be incredibly successful. The recent landslide re-election of Martin Howrylak shows what strong planning and effective implementation can create.

There are dozens and dozens of small and not-so-small ways that each member can help out. And while you should rightly expect the leaders of the LPM to organize and lead, we need your involvement to build the kind of organization that effectively delivers the message of liberty. I hope you'll join me with a renewed spirit of commitment and activity. If you are willing to be more involved, please drop me an e-mail: chair@lpmich.org or give me a call: 616-897-0488. Check out our website for all the committees and activities we have going - or just drop me a line with your suggestions. Together, we can make this year the springboard for a great election cycle.

Shall we allow the political rats a free hand to enact more laws that restrict our freedom? Or, us cats can get together and have a little fun.

Gary Nolan Visits Michigan, Twice

by Keith Edwards

Forty local Libertarians came to the LPM headquarters on March 23 to hear radio talk show host Gary Nolan speak on his campaign for the Libertarian Party nomination for President of the United States. Nolan, one of several announced or prospective candidates has left his show to campaign.

A former Republican, Nolan switched to the LP in 1999, after, he says, he lost a debate with a Libertarian on his show over the drug war. Although he may not stress that issue, he was firm in stating that the drug war should be terminated and people be allowed to make their own decisions, but provide for their own treatment.

He favors elimination of Social Security in favor of self-responsibility and on the environment wants to let people protect their own land. He wants to end the regulation of business, but plans to take a positive posture on issues, rather than negative.

His question on the Iraq war is, "Will it make us safer?"

Nolan will have local candidates with him



Gary Nolan, Libertarian Party Presidential Candidate

on interviews and wants to help get them elected. He will not accept matching funds on principle. He says he will be open in his campaign expense accounting and there will be no secrets on cam-

paign spending.

Nolan claims his big asset is his connections with national network people and thinks he will get good coverage.

His positions pleased those present. He has a good radio voice, but is clearly inexperienced in visual presentation. He will need some professional help and polish. He is very tall and tends to stoop while speaking, as he did during his C-SPAN tv appearance in California. Nolan fields questions smoothly, reflecting his career as a radio talk show host.

Former LP national Chair and Executive Director Steve Dasbach is his campaign manager.

Nolan made a second appearance in Michigan on May 2nd where he was the special guest speaker at the LP of West Michigan's Liberty Banquet. Nolan will also be attending the 2003 LPM Picnic in Saginaw on July 20th (see advertisement in this issue).

For more information on Gary Nolan and his campaign for the presidency, please visit his website at www.garynolan.com.

Operation Farm Team Launched

By James Hudler

The Operation Farm Team plan to raise \$10,000 and hire a Field Director to support LP candidates for local office has been officially launched.

With about two-thirds of the money already in the bank and the time for organizing fall campaigns rapidly approaching, the LPM executive committee created an Operation Farm Team committee. I was honored to be appointed chair of the new OFT committee.

The basic premise of Operation Farm Team is that holding local elective office is the base that will allow Libertarians to then run for partisan office. Although this is a new approach for the Libertarian Party, it is in fact the same way the vast majority of Republicans and Democrats start out.

In addition we have shown that we have in our ranks people with the know-how to win these kinds of races. We currently have four Libertarians serving on city councils in Oakland county alone. Martin Howrylak, one of two Libertarians on the Troy city council, just won

his race for reelection by a huge margin!

If you are interested in making a serious run for local office in your community this November 4, please send a note to me care of LPMHQ letting me know, so that our OFT team can evaluate your plans and prospects to see where and how we might be able to advise and assist you. While we cannot provide direct funding for your campaign experience shows that a Libertarian with a serious plan and professional help can raise the money needed.

We are especially eager to help candidates seeking policy-making offices, such as mayor or city council. However, we will certainly also review and consider races for more administrative-type elective offices such as clerk or treasurer.

Getting your name on the ballot for these local races usually only requires collecting a relative handful of petition signatures. However, you should keep in mind that the filing deadline (for communities that have a primary) is June 17.

Finally, if you have the qualifications, experi-

ence and desire to take on the Field Director job for the LPM, please send me a resume and our OFT committee will consider you for recommendation to the full LEC (which will have the final say in who gets hired for the job).

Both candidates for public office and applicants for the Field Director position should get submissions in by June 4 so that they can be reviewed in time for the OFT committee to make recommendations at the next LEC meeting.

From Grand Rapids to Owosso we have proven that we can get Libertarians elected to local office. Let's get at least a dozen more people elected this fall. And twice that many more elected two year from now. They will become our "Farm Team."

It will be from this group that we can run LP candidates for the Michigan legislature in 2006. Since they will already be elected officials, experienced and known in their communities, they will have a far better chance of winning seats in the state legislature.

And when that happens the Libertarian Party will finally have players in the major league.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN

PICNIC 2003

HOSTED BY THE
TRI-CITY LIBERTARIAN PARTY

Sunday, July 20th

1:00 to 6:00 p.m.

held at

Roethke Park

400 Leddy Road,
Saginaw Township

Adults: \$8.00

Kids (10 and under): \$4.00

Donation covers meal,
children's games, and
door prize drawing.

★ Guest Speaker: Gary Nolan

For tickets, send check
or money order to:

Tri-City Libertarian Party
332 South Trumbull Road
Bay City, MI 48708

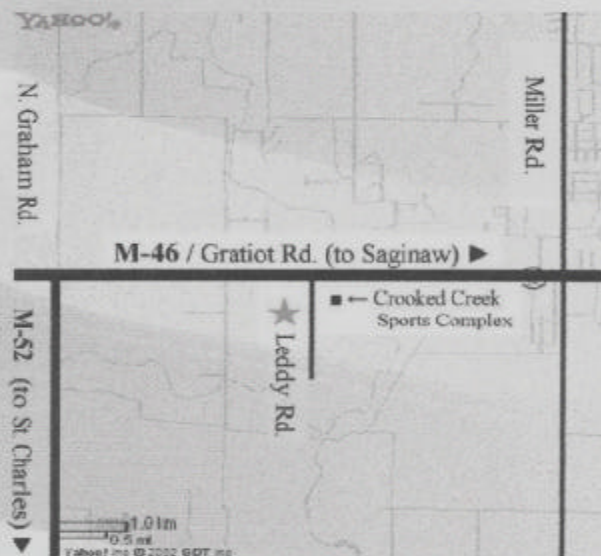
For info call (989) 922-5226
or e-mail jozie@mail.com

Park opens at 11:00 a.m.

Luncheon served from 3 to 6 p.m.

Park activities (nominal fee) include swimming, train rides,
fishing, and volleyball.

See you there!



Life as an Elected Libertarian

A Report from Owosso

by Mark Owen

Being a city councilman can be a very frustrating experience for anyone, let alone a libertarian. You begin as one out of seven and a rookie at that. The entire paradigm in which you operate is foreign to your experience, trying to make sense out of a menu of statist choices that operate under the assumption that government is the answer. Every now and then though, a clear-cut choice is proposed. One that reminds you of the importance of having someone with a free market property rights perspective. It is at moments like these where I have felt I was able to make society maybe just a little freer, to represent the interest of the people and not the city.

I began my term under less than ideal circumstances. For starters, five out of six council members were angry with me because I had led the campaign that decisively abolished a recently created historic district. They had been publicly embarrassed. To add insult upon this the week before the election a city resident had attended the meeting and focused on some high points in the LP platform. Of course, Ben Steele III was happy to put him on the LP mailing list. It was obvious that most of the other council members were apprehensive to see me sitting there with them at meetings.

One thing I did not want to do on the council



Owosso City Councilman Mark Owen

was to make myself irrelevant. I could find a principled reason to oppose nearly everything, and I would become a joke. Instead, I try to carefully decide on which hill I will make a stand.

I began by trying to learn the duties of my new position on the council. Wanting to make my position relevant I tried to focus on only one or two issues at a time. Otherwise, I would become ineffective. I also know that although government claims to be serving the people, usually government serves its own interests. More than any other council member, I ask questions. I try to look out for the interests and

property rights of the people who elected me while maintaining my libertarian principles.

I have been told a number of times that “people were concerned about what you might do when you got into office, but you are the only one who asks questions”. People are beginning to realize that libertarians are not a bunch of kooks who want a society that will put a crack house next door and have prostitutes walking on the sidewalk in front of your house. As a guardian of the public purse and private property, I have become a populist of sort. I actually look out for the public interest and many appreciate it.

Several strange things have come up during my term on the council. One time I got a frantic call from a city resident about a new ordinance that was going to be proposed. Given the new concern for “light pollution”, there was a planning committee proposal to limit outside lighting to 60 watts. I called the city manager and he assured me that this proposal would not see the light of day. Another was when it was revealed the city police chief had an imaginary Vietnam record. He was a nice guy, but it was time for him to retire and this proved to be a good time to do so. We are still searching for a police chief as I write. There is also the issue regarding the relationship between the city and surrounding townships. It reminds me of the Hatfields and the McCoys. Local officials fighting over their fiefdoms.

I believe local politics is the future of the Libertarian Party. It moves the LP from a debating society to active defenders of liberty. There are many methods to becoming involved in local politics, but the important thing is to get involved. Sure you won’t be able to engage in grandiose discussions about the income tax and the welfare state, but you can do battle for core libertarian principles such as property rights and less intrusive expensive local government. Local government is the arena of government where the efforts of Libertarians will reap the most benefits. Libertarians have been successful in Michigan at the local level, and we should only expect more success in the future.

Bill Bradley Defends Against Attack on Property Rights

At a March 17 meeting of the South Haven City Council, City Councilman and Libertarian Party Chairman Bill Bradley won his first battle in the fight for individual property rights in Southwestern Michigan. Bradley fought to block the enactment of an ordinance giving control of trees on private property to an un-elected Parks Commission. For six minutes, Bradley ticked off item by item various problems with the ordinance including a conflict with the ordinance that originally created the Parks Commission itself. He then moved that the proposed ordinance be tabled and his motion passed on a four to three vote.

This was a distinct turnaround from a council meeting two weeks ago, where Bradley lost on the same motion by five to one with one Councilman absent. In his next move, Bradley will attend the Michigan Municipal League Convention in Lansing next week. There he will be one of six Councilmen, all Libertarians, working to get the Michigan Municipal League to help stop state encroachment on private property rights. While in Lansing, Bradley also plans to speak with State Senator Ron Jelinek and State Representative Mary Ann Middaugh to ask their support in rolling back the state attacks.

Affiliate Information

Kalamazoo County (includes St. Joseph)

Meets the first Monday of every month at 7:00 PM at TGI Friday's Restaurant in Oshtemo, Michigan. Chair, Gerald Phillips, gaphillips@jasnetworks.net, (269) 382-0927

Livingston County

Chair, David Buck, (810) 220-5741, davebarysas@aol.com

We meet the 2nd Monday every month at Mexican Jones restaurant in Brighton, on Grand River. We usually show up at 6:30 to eat, and the business meeting starts around 7:00.

Macomb County

The LMC holds regular monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of every month (excluding December) at Mile's World 17689 Masonic (near Groesbeck), Fraser, MI 48026. Join us for cocktails and/or dinner at 6:00 pm, business begins at 7:00 pm.

Chair, Keith Edwards, (810) 777-7468, keithmarni@aol.com

Mid Michigan (Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Shiawasee))

Chair William White, 517-349-3806, whitewi5@msu.edu

Mid-West Michigan (Lake, Manistee, Mason, Missaukee, Osceola, Wexford)

General Membership meetings are every second Saturday at 6:00pm at Kountry Kitchen Restaurant, 1920 N. Mitchell in Cadillac.

Chair, Brian Kluesner, (616) 723-7087, chair@lpmwm.org

Oakland County

Meets the 4th Wednesday of every month at Sila's, 4033 W. 12 Mile Rd, Berkley. Sila's is 2 blocks east of Greenfield on the south side of 12 Mile Road. Chair, Fred Martin, (248) 394-0449, Fredtmartin@aol.com

Saint Clair County

Contact, Mark Byrne, (810) 987-9856, iwantska@hotmail.com

South Central (Branch, Calhoun, Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee)

Meetings are fourth Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Pirate's Cove Restaurant, Addison, M-127 and Main Street.

Chair, James Parker, (517) 439-0643, james.parker@eaglepicher.com

Thumb Area (Genesee, Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, Tuscola)

Meets the second Tuesday of every month at Whitey's Restaurant in

Davison. Chair, Paul Hitch, phitch@intouchmi.com, 810-667-7218

Traverse Bay (Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau)
Chair, Jerold Coon, (231) 369-2395, jtcoon@gtii.com

Tri-Cities (Bay, Midland, Saginaw, Isabella, Gratiot, Clare, Gladwin)

Meeting are the first Monday of each month at Damon's Grill on Tittabawassee Road in Saginaw (near I-675). Dinner is followed by the evening's guest speaker at 7:30 and the business meeting shortly afterward. Chair, Carol Dallen, msnixy@tm.net

University of Michigan Libertarians

Chair, Daniel Sheill, dsheill@umich.edu

Upper Peninsula

Chair, John Loosemore, (906) 334-2922, jwl@up.net

Van Buren County

Meets on the third Thursday of the month, and as always; our meetings are open to the public. For the time being, we are meeting at the home of Bill and Barbara Bradley, 746 Lee Street, South Haven at 7:00pm. Chair Bill Bradley 616-637-4525, bbradley@cybersol.com.

Washtenaw County

Meets every Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. at Cubs AC Restaurant located in the Colonial Lanes Bowling Center, 1950 S Industrial Hwy, Ann Arbor. The first Thursday of every month is a business meeting. Other meetings feature speakers, project work, or social events. Chair, Larry Johnson, (734) 476-7817.

Wayne County (includes Monroe)

Monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at City Tavern Restaurant in Dearborn at 14316 Michigan Ave., between Greenfield and Schaefer. Meeting begin at 7:30 pm, dinner orders are taken at 6:30. Chair, Charles Kainz, (313) 291-5684,

West Michigan (Allegan, Barry, Gratiot, Ionia, Kent, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa)

Monthly meetings held in Grand Rapids at Club North's Banquet Room at 1359 Plainfield NE, just north of Leonard. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00pm. Chair, Thomas Horan, (616) 887-2428, tomh@lpwm.org

10 Years Ago in the LPM

May 1993

At the LPM convention in Grand Rapids, Keith Edwards was re-elected as Chair.

June 1993

The LPM kicks off a petition drive to gain ballot access for the 1994 elections which featured US Senate super-candidate Jon Coon.

Dick Jacobs, longtime LP activist and 1982 gubernatorial candidate passes away after a long battle fighting cancer.

20 Years Ago in the LPM

May 1983

At the LPM convention in Traverse City Brian Wright was re-elected as Chair. Ben Bachrach was re-elected as Treasurer. Convention delegates also removed all offensive language from the party bylaws by changing the "State" Central Committee to the "Libertarian" Central Committee. A week earlier, the LPM submitted over 24,000 signatures to the Secretary of State to gain ballot access for the 1984 Presidential elections.

Calendar of Events

June 8.....Libertarian Executive Committee meeting, LPM HQ 619 E. Nine Mile, Hazel Park

July 20.....LPM Picnic, Saginaw

August 10.....Libertarian Executive Committee meeting, LPM HQ 619 E. Nine Mile, Hazel Park

September 9.....Primary Elections throughout the state

October 5.....Libertarian Executive Committee meeting, LPM HQ 619 E. Nine Mile, Hazel Park

November 4.....General Election. Several LP members are facing re-election campaigns. Andy LeCureaux in Hazel Park, Mark Owen in Owosso, and Bill Bradley in South Haven.

December 7.....Libertarian Executive Committee meeting, LPM HQ 619 E. Nine Mile, Hazel Park

Affiliate News

Chair's Meeting a Success

On Saturday, May 17, the Chairs from throughout Michigan met in Lansing for an informal discussion. Each person participating had an opportunity to offer ideas regarding the coming year.

The main focus of the agenda was membership. Many ideas were circulated; with Chairman Bill Gelineau setting forth a vision of a statewide membership effort over the next year. The first goal is to designate contact people for each jurisdiction.....many other specific goals were established. Our statewide plan is to retain 85% of all members as of May 1. Membership Director Jerry Phillips discussed several initiatives to develop our outreach agenda..... including a renewed effort to develop college Libertarian affiliates.

Everyone benefited from a detailed presentation by Greg Dirasian on the NIDUS database system. There were many questions related to how the system can assist local affiliates to create mailing lists, manage membership, and more. Greg did a great job of detailing this valuable membership tool.

There was much agreement that the meeting itself was very worthwhile. Several Chairs committed to increased interaction with the LEC and participation in Leadership Conferences and other upcoming events. Many expressed hope that more future events would be located in the Lansing area.

New Wayne County Officers Elected

by Greg Stempfle

The Libertarian Party of Wayne County held officer elections on April 3rd. Several new faces will bring in some new ideas and fresh blood for our affiliate this year. The new Wayne Co Chair is Charles Kainz of Taylor. Chuck ran an active race for State Representative last year. Continuing on as Vice-Chair is Mike Donahue of Detroit. Mike was our top Supreme Court candidate in 2002. Greg Stempfle, Dearborn Heights, will be returning to Secretary and will continue to edit the Michigan Libertarian. Dave Nagy, Westland, will be taking over the Treasurer position. Dave had been State Party Secretary many times in the past. The remaining at-large directors for Wayne County are William Detlor of Taylor, Loel Gnadl of Lincoln Park, and Ed Karpinski of Detroit.

New Washtenaw County Officers Chosen

At its February 6, 2003 meeting the LPWC elected new officers, replacing the top four positions with completely new personnel. Lawrence (Larry) W. Johnson became chair; Rick Birkett became Vice Chair; Jason Kantz took over as Treasurer; and Jeff Weber was elected Secretary. J.P. Denoyer continues to serve on the LPWC budget committee, joined this year by James Hudler, Larry Johnson, Angela Kantz, and Jason Kantz. Dan Sheill will continue as head of UM-College Libertarians. LPWC officers are elected annually.

Thumb Area

Paul Hitch for Lapeer School Board

Here is some local news from the Thumb Area. John and Renae Coon continue their efforts to make the public aware of the loss of private property rights associated with the Farmland Preservation Program. Paul Hitch is a candidate in a non-partisan local race for the Lapeer Community School Board of Directors in the June 2003 upcoming election.

Affiliate News

New Southwestern Michigan Libertarian Coalition

by Bill Bradley

You may be interested to know that the Van Buren County Libertarian Party is taking the lead in defending personal liberty and property rights in southwestern Michigan. We are organizing a tri-county Libertarian Caucus covering Berrien, Cass and Van Buren Counties. The caucus will have three purposes. The first is to promote larger and therefore more effective Libertarian Parties in each of the counties. The second is to establish a coordinated working group to defend against government attacks on persona and property rights. And the third is to begin the process of regaining those rights already taken from us.

Over the next couple of months we will hold meetings in all three counties to give people the opportunity to get together and discuss issues and share information on what we can do to stop, and then reverse the trend toward greater and greater government control over our lives and property. But first a little history.

For many years now, federal, state, and even local governments have been gradually chipping away at our individual liberty, and our property rights as well. Where once "a man's home was his castle," today your name on a property deed simply means you are the person who must pay the taxes. Almost anything else you want to do with your property requires government permission first, presuming you can even get it.

Although to the best of my knowledge, this is not yet happening in southwestern Michigan, in other parts of the country, state and local governments are taking homesteads from private citizens and giving, or selling them at low prices, to large corporations to be developed "for the public good." You can guess who's good is really being taken care of, and it isn't the little guy. Just follow the money.

Another tactic used by government at all levels is to put arbitrary limits on the use own-

ers may make of their property, without actually requiring the owner to turn over title to the property. The owner's name remains on the deed, but the right to control the property goes to the government. It is no wonder that many property owners in more socialistic states, such as New York, have abandoned their property because they cannot afford to comply with government requirements and cannot sell it for the same reason.

Just recently here in Michigan, Governor Granholm has established an advisory group consisting primarily of current and former politicians to come up with ways to



frighten us into turning over to government what few property rights we have left, all in the name of "the good of society."

Well, maybe it is good for the socialist politicians in our society, but we individual citizens are part of society too, and this move toward ever-greater government control is bad for us.

We will be contacting you in the near future to let you know when and where the first meeting in your area will be. In the meantime, if you would like to help us get this movement underway, please write, call or send an e-mail to: Bill Bradley, Chairman, Van Buren County Libertarian Party, 746 Lee Street, South Haven, MI 49090-1837, Telephone: 269-637-4525, Fax: 269-639-8003, E-mail: bbradley@cybersol.com.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope you will join with us in defending our rights against an over-bearing and arrogant government.

Dianne Szabla Awarded "The Oakie"

by Leonard Schwartz

The Libertarian Party of Oakland County awarded its annual prize, The Oakie, to Dianne Szabla for meritorious service.

Dianne has been the LPOC treasurer for ten years. For many years she has also been the treasurer of the Libertarian Party of Michigan Campaign Fund. She joined the party nearly 30 years ago.

The "Oakie" has taken many forms over the years. This year, it was a bonsai tree, symbolizing Oakland County's oak tree. This was particularly appropriate for Dianne, who is an avid gardener.

Past recipients include Lloyd Sherman (1998), Lorna Tate (1999), L. Brooks Patterson, Oakland County Executive (2000), and Councilman David Eisenbacher (2001).

L. Brooks Patterson is the only non-LPOC member to ever receive an "Oakie" in recognition of his work to make libertarian-leaning Republicans unwelcome in his own party.

Bill of Rights T-Shirts

by Ottawa County Libertarians

Ottawa County Libertarians currently have Bill of Rights T-Shirts for sale! Only \$15 and are available in XL or Large sizes.

The money will go to help fund the Ottawa County Libertarians outreach. Ottawa County Libertarians are currently not an affiliate yet of state as they are just getting started. They have been meeting monthly since January 2003 and have already organized well. The proof comes by a member already getting and donating these t-shirts!

If you are interested you can see a picture of the shirt and order instructions here: http://www.oclp.org/Events/liberty_store/liberty_store.html

Affiliate News

Macomb County Report

by Todd Andrew Barnett

Macomb Libertarians continued their brainstorming session they started in February for ideas to push issues from a libertarian standpoint at the local level at the March 12th meeting held at Miles World Restaurant in Fraser. The sessions, which were started and headed by LMC Vice Chair Diane Barnes, were a way to get local members to devise ideas and strategies when addressing issues at the county level. The February session was a huge success, and the second session was truly no different. Diane did a superb job with this event, as it is not an easy job to do. Macomb Libertarians are proud to have accomplished something within those two months, as we came up with some nifty ideas.

LMC officer elections were held at the March meeting as well. Keith Edwards was re-elected to his position as Chair, Diane was re-elected to her Vice-Chair seat, and his wife Marni Edwards was re-elected to the Treasurer seat. The races for those seats were uncontested, so they were re-elected by voice vote. Erin Stahl, who served her term as LMC Secretary, had announced in February that she was not running for the seat again because of her city council race. Wendi Morisi, who served as an At-Large Representative, bid for the seat and won it unopposed.

There were four At-Large candidates: LMC At-Large Rep. Jim Miller, Laurel Pietrangelo, Jim Allison, and me – Todd Andrew Barnett. Thirty-four votes were cast, with Jim Miller, Laurel, and Jim Allison winning the top votes

for the seats. I only received about 6 percent of the vote.

Another highlights of the meeting include a discussion about organizing a College Libertarian group at Macomb Community College and arranging speaking engagement at other universities. The enthusiasm at the meeting was terrific when these ideas were presented.

The April meeting produced some activity as well. LMC member discussed whether we should be continuing the Adopt-A-Road cleanup. It was mutually agreed that we would. LMC board members voted to adopt using a new server to host the county affiliate's new website that was launched in February, considering the old site had not been updated and used in quite a long time. It was agreed that the new site would be now hosted on Geocities, although we would be using the Bravenet server for its services on polls, web trafficking, etc. Members agreed to give it its own domain name. In order to do this, the LMC decided to pay for the elimination of the pop-up ads on our website. Members were also encouraged to write letters to the editor, and if they are published, bring them to the meetings. Keith agreed to help train our speakers.

If LPM members are interested in seeing our new site, you can see it at <http://www.macomblp.com>. Jim Allison has done a spectacular job with the site, and the Macomb Libertarians thank him for his tireless efforts to produce a professional site for our county affiliate.

Two City Council Races Feature Libertarians in Wayne County

Two Libertarian Party members will be running for local office this year in Wayne County. In Dearborn Heights, Christopher Gonzalez, a two-time LP candidate for State Representative will be seeking a seat on City Council, and in Grosse Pointe, John Stempfle, a newcomer to LP politics will be running for the City Council in that city.

The Dearborn Heights race is unusual in that there are two vacancies on the council this year. One council member was elected to the State House and another resigned to become assistant to Mayor Ruth Canfield. There are three other council members are up for re-election this year for a total of five spots on the ballot. The primary election is in September. Christopher is a life-long resident of Dearborn Heights and his campaign will be managed by Greg Stempfle who recently moved into the city.

John Stempfle who recently joined the LP has taken out paperwork to be on the Grosse Pointe council ballot in November. There is no primary in that city. John has lived in Grosse Pointe for most of his life and has been active in politics in Wayne County for years. John and his wife Mary Ellen, have worked on several campaigns in the Pointes area for both non-partisan and Republican offices.

Both of these races offer great opportunities for libertarians to get active on the local level and help bring about smaller governments within their own communities. We have two excellent candidates actively running for offices who stand a very good chance of getting elected. Let's get behind them and come November, Wayne County could be basking in the glory of finally having elected libertarians.

Erin Stahl Seeking Manager for Saint Clair Shores City Council Race

Wanted: Organized, confident, & energized person excited about being a Campaign Manager for my City Council race in St. Clair Shores. Apply over the phone to Erin Stahl (586)524-6289. Campaign officially starts June 17th when I turn in ballot signatures. Primary September 9th, General Election November 4th. Previous experience not necessary but you do need to be familiar with the campaign process (or be a very quick study).

State Legislative Watch

by Greg Stempfle

Now that the state legislature has passed a budget for the next year, it's time for them to get down to the dirty job of making more laws and regulations. While there have been hundreds of laws proposed so far, every once in a while a bill is introduced into the legislature that actually increases liberty, repeals a law, or cuts a government program.

With the help of the michiganvotes.org, I have compiled a list of pro-liberty bills and resolutions currently working their way through the system. Michiganvotes.org is a site run by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy that tracks the actions of the State House and Senate.

Another site with good information on the State Legislature is their own site michiganlegislature.org. Not surprisingly, it's more difficult to use, but it does offer more information.

TREATMENT OVER PRISON SB 197
Introduced by Sen. Burton Leland on February 19, 2003, to require probation and drug treatment, rather than imprisonment, for first-offense non-violent drug possession violators. Current law allows this as an option; the bill would make it mandatory.
Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

REPEAL ADULT HELMET LAWS
HB 4325
Introduced by Rep. Leon Drolet on March 11, 2003, to allow exemptions to the motorcycle helmet requirement for persons 21 years old or older who have been licensed to operate a motorcycle for at least two years, and who have successfully completed a motorcycle safety course, for motorcycle passengers 21 years old or older if the driver meets the age, licensure, and safety training requirements, and for persons operating or riding in an "autocycle" if the vehicle is equipped with a roof that meets or exceeds standards for a crash helmet.
Referred to the House Transportation Committee on.

EXTEND CCW TO STATE EMPLOYEES
HB 4446
Introduced by Rep. Leon Drolet on March 25,

2003, to allow state inspectors with carry concealed weapon (CCW) permits to carry a concealed firearm when doing off-site inspections on private property as part of their duties. Under current law, CCW holders doing inspections for the state (such as Family Independence Agency workers making home visits) are not permitted to carry while on duty.
Referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

SECESSION FROM COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICTS HB 4228
Introduced by Rep. Edward Gaffney on February 13, 2003, to authorize the withdrawal of a school district, city, village, or township from a community college taxing district upon a vote of the electors.

PROHIBIT SSN COLLECTION BY STATE
HB 4451
Introduced by Rep. Jacob Hoogendyk, Jr. on March 25, 2003, to prohibit the collection of social security numbers by state agencies for purposes other than employment or where required by law.
Referred to the House Government Operations Committee.

BAN RACIAL PROFILING
SB 87
Introduced by Sen. Samuel B. Thomas, III on January 28, 2003, to define and prohibit racial profiling by law enforcement, which is defined as the disparate treatment of an individual on the basis of the racial or ethnic status of that individual.
Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

REPEAL 911 TAX
HB 4439
Introduced by Rep. Ken Bradstreet on March 25, 2003, to repeal a 55-cent per-month cell phone "911" tax, effective July 1, 2004.
Referred to the House Energy and Technology Committee.

REPEAL USE TAX ON MOBILE HOME SALES HB 4205
Introduced by Rep. RuthAnn Jamnick on Feb-

ruary 12, 2003, to eliminate the use tax on mobile home sales.

ASSET FORFEITURE REFORM
SB 259-264
Introduced by Sen. Burton Leland on March 6, 2003, to require that a vehicle impounded by police under the state Penal Code must be returned within seven days if the owner is not charged with a crime, is found innocent, or is found not liable for a civil infraction. The owner could not be assessed any impound or forfeiture fees in these cases. The legislation is part of a package comprised of Senate Bills 259 to 264.
Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, 3/5 FOR TAX INCREASES
HJR B
Introduced by Rep. Glenn Steil, Jr. on February 4, 2003, to place before voters in the next general election a Constitutional amendment to require a three-fifths vote in the House and Senate to increase taxes.

BETTER STATE WEBSITE INFORMATION
HB 4116
Introduced by Rep. Stephen Adamini on January 29, 2003, to require the state to provide a website with organizational descriptions of all departments and agencies.

PART TIME LEGISLATURE
SJR C
Introduced by Sen. Mike Bishop on March 5, 2003, an amendment to the state constitution of 1963, by amending section 13 of article IV, to give Michigan a part time legislature (as was the case before the creation of the State Officers Compensation Commission in 1968).

EASE ABSENTEE VOTING REQUIREMENTS
HB 4275
Introduced by Rep. Marc Shulman on February 25, 2003, to eliminate the requirement that a person give a specific reason for requesting an absentee ballot.

LPM Annual Chair's Report

By James Hudler

The Libertarian Party of Michigan continues to run candidates and get them elected. Our current strategy of running candidates for local, mostly non-partisan offices has succeeded in placing truly capable and dedicated libertarian public servants in positions which will give them the experience and recognition that will allow them, we hope, subsequently to get elected to higher county and state government positions. These local officials represent the LPM's first real electoral success in the history of the Party. These folks are shining lights for American Freedom, and we've got them right here in Michigan. We increasingly utilize our Metro Detroit headquarters office for LPM business and for the benefit of allied organizations such as Brass Roots, NORML, and the LP of Oakland County. We currently have a volunteer staffing our office five days a week. Our HQ office is funded by dedicated, earmarked contributions that are off-budget from other Party business, and are essentially a gift from activists who want to see the LPM have a real headquarters location. I believe maintaining a physical office (or offices!), wherever located in the state, is essential to our public identity as a real political party. Our recent Farm Team program, designed to

raise funds to hire a state party Field Director, will eventually, as we hope, provide an employed administrator to provide day-to-day continuity in membership building and aid to affiliates. We have currently raised some \$6000. Other midwest states have paid administrators, and Michigan needs one too. The LPM's membership has declined since the Browne campaign, reflecting a national trend. Membership needs to be rebuilt, not only by outreach to new people, but by contacting lapsed former members. Volunteer help on the state level, local affiliate efforts and a hired Field Director are our main avenues for this effort. We currently are using volunteer help and are doing direct fund-raising for the LPM with the aid of commission-compensated fund-raisers. The mission of the LPM should include support for our financially strapped national LP. The LPM has so far continued to participate in the Unified Membership Program (UMP) with national, despite national's current inability to reimburse our UMP funds to us on a timely basis. So far, the LPM has been able to manage in the face of national's tardy payments to us and we have not bolted from the UMP. Two technical improvements have contributed to the professionalization of the LPM: (1) our

new capability to accept online credit card payments and donations; and (2) our new NIDUS membership database, a powerful recordkeeping and information tool available for the use of both the LPM and local affiliates.

Convention 2003

(continued from page 1)

if a super-majority of the delegates wish to debate them. This will allow for more time to nominate candidates and work on their paperwork during the hectic election year conventions. Another proposal clarifying the relationship between the LEC and Judicial Committee passed as well. This will make official the procedure for disciplining members and the appeal process. The language of the proposal conforms to past practice. A proposal to increase the number of at-large directors from 5 to 7 failed to gain the necessary two-thirds required for passing.

Early in the morning, several roundtable discussions took place covering a wide range of topics from the War in Iraq to land use policies to activities of the national party. To coincide with the convention theme of ending the drug war, many delegates took shuttles over to Ann Arbor to participate in the Hash Bash during a two-hour lunch break. Once back from the rally, each LPM affiliate presented their annual report before beginning official business.

Hazel Park councilmen Andy LeCureaux served as Master of Ceremonies at the evening banquet. Several guest speakers were present including Libertarian Party Director of Communications Ron Crickenberger, Debra Wright, Ron Kampia from the Marijuana Policy Project, and Clifford Thorton. The highlight of the evening came when Thorton gave a very emotional speech about how the drug war disproportionately effects the lives of African-American men.

This years convention was condensed into a one day format which ran very smoothly thanks to the excellent planning on the part of Emily Salvette, Stacey Van Oast, and Jim Fitzpatrick.

The New Libertarian Executive Committee



The 2003-2004 Libertarian Executive Committee. From left to right; Ray Warner, Secretary; Lloyd Sherman, at-large; Mike Donahue, at-large; Paul Hitch, Vice-Chair; Keith Wesselmann, Treasurer; Bill Gelineau, Chair; Lenoard Schwartz, at-large; and Jerry Bloom, at-large. Photo by Erin Stahl.

2003 LPM Convention Minutes

Libertarian Party of Michigan Convention

April 5, 2003

Called to order by Chairman James Hudler at 1:30pm.

JH-Thanked Convention Committee & Volunteers, LNC Chair Geoff Neale & wife Nancy, LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger, LEC from past year, and all public officials. Addressed upcoming re-election of Martin Howrylak. Spoke of the progress of the LPM from essentially a debating society 30 years ago to an effective political organization that gets people elected.

JH-Affiliate Reports

Nathan Allen, Oakland County. Acknowledged Barb Goushaw's contributions at the affiliate level. Spoke of the Howrylak campaign, participation in the Troy Days parade last October, LPOC lawsuit against Cristina Pappageorge. Leonard Schwartz ran a very active campaign for Circuit Court Judge. LPOC is working on Speakers' Bureau. Jim Runestad was appointed to Oakland County Friend Of Court Review Board, and we still have 4 elected City Councilmen throughout Oakland County.

Paul Hitch, Thumb Area. Acknowledged Jon & Renae Coon for their activism, and announced Mr. Hitch's upcoming run for the local school board.

Bill Bradley, Van Buren. Lady Liberty float has been used in several parades. Mr. Bradley himself serves as City Councilman and on Planning Commission. A list of activists from a recent recall ballot initiative (not initiated by Libertarians) will be used for outreach/recruitment. Currently attempting to start an affiliate in Cass County. Participation in Michigan Municipal League has been productive.

Jeff Steinport, West Michigan. Continuing to publish newsletter, recently ran a series of radio ads, ran candidates for every house & senate seat last November, ran Operation Politically Homeless at a recent gun show. Mr. Steinport has been appointed to Downtown Development Authority.

Gerald Phillips, Kalamazoo. Ran 4 candidates for County Board; 2 candidates received 15% of vote. LPKC opposed construction of a new jail, and the proposal was defeated 60% to 40%. Merged affiliate with St. Joseph County.

Will White, Mid-Michigan. Recently protested in a peace march in Lansing wearing Revolutionary War-era attire. TV show on local cable access continues to run and serve as a successful outreach tool. 4 candidates ran for public office. Mark Owen, Shiawassee. Have lost some activists in the county in the last year. Proposed idea of merging with a larger, nearby affiliate. Mr. Owen plans to run for re-election to City Council in Owosso.

James Parker, South Central. Mr. Parker is currently the only member of the affiliate. 2 candidates ran for Hillsdale County Commission. Had table at the County Fair last summer. Began Web site, attended Labor Day memorial. A group of constitutionalists in the area has become active



recently, especially concerning land use rights.

Larry Johnson, Washtenaw. Just returned from Hash Bash in Ann Arbor, where a lot of literature was distributed and well-received. Participated in Art Fair and Heritage Festival last year, and will again this year.

Greg Stempfle, Wayne. Building

membership is a top priority. Helping Monroe County in their effort to form an affiliate. John Stempfle will run for City Council in Grosse Pointe. Chuck Kainz was recently elected new chair of the affiliate.

Mark Byrne, St. Clair. Recently moved to the county, where there are few members at this time. Hoping to build up membership.

Keith Edwards, Macomb. Ran several candidates for elected office. Membership has been declining, consistent with the national and statewide trend. Actively sending letters to the editor, getting several published. Began book club to help existing members build a stronger philosophical foundation, speakers' bureaus has been formed.

JH-Motion by David Raaflaub, second by Tom

Jones, to amend the agenda for the business session. Failed by voice vote.

BB-At this time 101 delegates are registered and present. (Eventually a total of 114 were recognized).

Motion by Fred Collins, second by Keith Edwards, to appoint Tom Jones as Parliamentary. Carried by voice vote.

JB-Platform Committee Proposals submitted (attached).

Vote on Proposal 1 carried by voice vote.

Vote on Proposal 2 passed in division count.

Vote on Proposal 4

Motion to amend by David Raaflaub, second by Tom Jones, to remove brackets. Failed by voice vote.

Proposal failed by voice vote.

Vote on Proposal 5 failed by voice vote.

Motion by Tom Jones, second by David Raaflaub, to consider Proposal 6, which was not recommended by the committee. Failed by voice vote.

Motion by Fred Collins, second by Jim Miller, to close agenda item. Carried by voice vote.

GS-Bylaws Committee Proposals submitted (attached).

Vote on Proposal 9 (increase at-large from 5 to 7 members) failed by voice vote.

Voted on Proposal 4 (election procedures) carried by voice vote.

Vote on proposal 7 (bylaw debates in odd-years only)

Motion by Mike Corliss, second by Nancy O'Brien, to amend, striking last sentence. Carried by voice vote.

Proposal carried by voice vote.

Motion by Tom Jones, second by Mike Wilson, to add to Article VIII: "Such dues shall not be more than 25 dollars per year." Failed by voice vote.

Motion by Andy LeCureaux, second by Fred Collins, to close agenda item. Carried by voice vote.

JH-Officer Elections.

Chair

Nomination by Ben Bachrach, second by Fred Collins, for James Hudler.

Nomination by Jeff Steinport, second by Lynn Fitzpatrick, for Bill Gelineau.

2003 LPM Convention Minutes

First ballot: Gelineau 49, Hudler 48, NOTA 3,
Total ballots 100. No majority

Motion by Jeff Steinport, second by David
Raaflaub, to elect Bill Gelineau by acclamation.
Carried by voice vote.

Vice Chair

Nomination by Jon Coon, second by Erin Stahl,
for Paul Hitch.

Motion by Bill Gelineau, second by David
Raaflaub, to elect Paul Hitch by acclamation.
Carried by voice vote.

Secretary

Nomination by Barb Goushaw, second by Scott
Boman, for Ray Warner.

Motion by David Raaflaub, second by Jeff
Steinport, to elect Ray Warner by acclamation.
Carried by voice vote.

Treasurer

Nomination by Ben Bachrach, second by Nathan
Allen, for Keith Wesselmann.

Motion by David Raaflaub, second by Tom
Jones, to elect Keith Wesselmann by acclama-
tion. Carried by voice vote.

At-Large

Nomination by Mark Owen, second by Bob
Broda, for Will White.

Nomination by Tim O'Brien, second by Bill
Detlieb, for Leonard Schwartz.

Nomination by Keith Edwards, second by Jim
Allison, for Jim Miller.

Nomination by Dave Collver, second by Paul
Hitch, for Jerry Bloom.

Nomination by Andy LeCureaux, second by
Bob Van Oast, for Lloyd Sherman.

Nomination by Ben Bachrach, second by Greg
Stempfle, for Mike Donahue.

Nomination by JP Denoyer, second Tom Horan,
for David Raaflaub.

Nomination by Mickey Hall, Bill Gelineau, for
Jerry Phillips.

Nomination by Tom Jones, second by David
Raaflaub, for Todd Barnett.

First Ballot: White 44, Schwartz 66, Miller 41,
Bloom 56, Sherman 43, Donahue 79, Raaflaub
22, Phillips 33, Barnett 10, NOTA not counted,
Total ballots 94. Leonard Schwartz, Jerry Bloom,
and Mike Donahue elected, Barnett removed
from ballot.

Second Ballot: White 32, Miller 40, Sherman
54, Raaflaub 8, Phillips 25, NOTA not counted,

Total ballots 86. Lloyd Sherman elected,
Raaflaub removed from ballot.

Third Ballot: White 26, Miller 43, Phillips 6,
NOTA 6, Total ballots 81. Jim Miller elected.
Judicial Committee

Nomination by Bill Gelineau, second by Jeff
Steinport, for Bill Hall.

Nomination by Greg Stempfle, second by Tim
O'Brien, for Mike Corliss.

Nomination by Renae Coon, second by Fred
Collins, for Jon Coon.

Motion by Fred Collins, second by Tom Jones,
to elect Bill Hall, Mike Corliss, and Jon Coon.
Carried by voice vote.

Recap of election results:

Chair Bill Gelineau

Vice Chair Paul Hitch

Secretary Ray Warner

Treasurer Keith Wesselmann

At-Large Directors Mike Donahue, Leonard
Schwartz, Jerry Bloom, Lloyd Sherman, Jim
Miller

Judicial Committee

Bill Hall, Mike Corliss, Jon Coon

Motion by Lloyd Sherman, second by Scott
Boman, to adjourn. Carried by voice vote at
5:18pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Keith Wesselmann LPM Secretary

2003 LPM Platform Report

Chair Jerry Bloom

1 Committee Vote: Yes = 5 No = 0

2001 Grammar Committee Changes

At the 2001 LPM convention a motion was
passed that "the chair shall appoint a committee
to resolve necessary changes of grammar, punc-
tuation, numbering and other unsubstantial is-
sues of language to properly implement the ac-
cepted changes to the bylaws and platform" (the
Language Committee).

The officers of the Party recommend that the
delegates at the convention make the following
changes:

·Preamble, last paragraph. Uncapitalize "State."

·Section I-1. Delete "State."

·Section I-2. Delete "of our State."

·Section I-3. Change "official" to "government-
sponsored."

·Section I-5. Uncapitalize "State."

·Section I-6. Uncapitalize "State."

·Section I-9. Change "State" to "government."

·Section II-2. Change "State" to "the."

·Section IV-2. Delete "State."

·Section IV-3. Change "holds that the state" to "
holds that the government."

·Section VI-2. Change "State" to "government."

·Section VI-4. Change "state" to "government."

·Section VI-5. Change "State of Michigan" to
"state."

·Section VII-4. Change "state" to "government."

·Section VII-5. Delete "State."

·Section VII-6. Change "State" to "government."

·Section X-4. Uncapitalize "State."

·Section XII-1. Change "state" to "government."

·Section XII-4. Uncapitalize "State."

2 Committee Vote: Yes = 5 No = 0

Art. III, sec. 8: We call for the abolition of so-
called "administrative law" with its mixture of
legislative, executive and judicial powers.

Change to:

We support the separation of powers. There-
fore, no government agency should have a com-
bination of legislative, executive, and judicial
powers.

4 Committee Vote: Yes = 5 No = 0

Transfer existing I-10 to II-8.

We advocate a constitutional amendment re-
quiring a system of proportional representation
in the state legislature and all other legislative
bodies in the state. We further advocate return-
ing to a part-time legislature [and local legisla-
tive bodies].

5 Committee Vote: Yes = 3 No = 2

Add: I-13. We call for the abolition of the
state senate (i.e. to have a one house legislature).

2003 Bylaw Committee Report

Chair-Greg Stempfle

BYLAW PROPOSAL 9 (increase at-large from
5 to 7 members)

Proposed by Keith Edwards
(Committee Vote 4-0-1)

Current Article III, section 1

Replace "five" with "seven"

BYLAW PROPOSAL 4 (election procedures)

Convention Banquet: Q & A with Drug Policy Reform Panel



Rob Kampia is co-founder and Executive Director of the Marijuana Policy Project, a non-profit advocacy group based in Washington DC dedicated to ending the war on marijuana users.

Kampia spoke about his organizations efforts to get a medical marijuana bill passed in Maryland. His ten year game plan is to move such bills through state legislatures and Congress as well as statewide ballot initiatives and public education campaigns for full decriminalization.

His advice for us in Michigan is to work on local initiatives such as those in Ann Arbor and Detroit followed by one on a state level.



Ron Crickenberger is National Political Director for the Libertarian Party. Drug prohibition is not the worst problem facing our country but it is the worst problem that we can really do something about in a short period of time. This is why the national LP has focused on drug prohibition so heavily in the last couple of years. Drug decriminalization is already sweeping Europe.

Their strategy do far has brought in hundreds of new members, defeated Congressman, and drug war hawk, Bob Barr in Georgia, and running full page ads in USA Today. His advice for Libertarians to gain leverage on these issues is to run for office.



Clifford Thorton is President of Efficacy, a non-profit organization based in Hartford, Connecticut advocating peaceful responses to social problems. One of the focuses of Efficacy is promoting alternatives to the war on drugs.

Thorton explained how the war on drugs is the modern continuation of the repression of African-Americans. Black men are much more likely to be convicted of drug crimes which then makes it more difficult to seek employment.



Photos by Lou Vierling



Debra Wright of Ann Arbor is co-founder and co-chair of the Drug Policy Forum. Debra, a social worker, works with people who are HIV positive. She describes herself as a casualty of the drug war. A former addict who once spent time in prison as a young woman. From first-hand experience, she described how people get caught up in the legal system. It's difficult to escape from the system because of a lack of rehabilitation and treatment. Once out, it's hard to seek employment with a felony conviction. Our prisons are filled with drug addicts rather than criminals.

Bigots Out of the LPM

by Greg Stempfle

What began as an otherwise civil state convention ended with an ugly act of aggression against former LPM Chair James Hudler. After the close of convention business, James went upstairs to unlock the Washtenaw County hospitality suite. Upon returning to the floor he found that the doors had locked with his bag inside. Hotel staff told him that a party member had taken the bag from them after assuring them that it would be returned to the proper owner. No such luck.

Several days later, the hotel called James to let him know the bag was found. However, it was missing his cell phone and prescription glasses and tucked inside the bag was a convention flyer. Scribbled on the flyer in black marker was the message "FAGS OUT OF THE L.P.M."

In response, the LEC passed the resolution printed in this newsletter condemning this act and calling for the expulsion of the perpetrator. If anybody has any information on this incident, please get in touch with a member of the Judicial committee. Whomever did has no right to call themselves a libertarian and it's frightening that somebody in our party is capable of such ugliness. Linguistic dehumanization precedes aggression.

One of the most basic principles of libertarianism is people should be allowed to chose their own lifestyle. Unfortunately, gays are left with few political options as neither of the major parties are willing to extend to them basic human rights.

Only the Libertarian Party supports true equal rights for homosexuals; the right to marriage, inheritance, and adoption. Only libertarians support eliminating laws against consensual adult sexual activity, including sodomy; laws which are used exclusively to harass homosexuals.

Libertarians are also the only party calling for the legalization of medical marijuana which is proven to help ease the suffering of HIV patients, which unfortunately effect a

Howrylak Victory

(continued from page 1)

the silly charges, highlight Martin's record on the council, and communicate his goals for the future.

And the voters of Troy Michigan decided that keeping their first Libertarian on the council was just exactly what they wanted and needed. Hopefully they will remember this when their second Libertarian, David Eisenbacher, comes up in 2 years. On behalf of the Howrylak campaign team, I would like to thank everyone from the LP that helped us out. It's a great day for Liberty in Michigan!

Final vote totals: Howrylak - 5365, Stine - 3360, Pappageorge - 3204

Convention Minutes

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Proposed by Leonard Schwartz

(Committee Vote 3-2)

Current Art. VII, sec. 3:

Delete "after the third vote" from the second sentence.

BYLAW PROPOSAL 7 (bylaw debates in odd-years only)

Proposed by Greg Stempfle

(Committee Vote 3-2)

Current Article XI. AMENDMENTS
These bylaws may be amended by a two thirds vote of the delegates present at a convention, {"occurring in an odd-numbered year only. This rule may be waived in an even-numbered year convention by a two-thirds vote."}

New text in brackets.

LEC Resolution

Approved by LEC at April 27, 2003 Meeting

WHEREAS The most fundamental precept of libertarianism and the Libertarian party is the rejection of aggression - including theft, and...

WHEREAS The 2003 LPM convention was marred by the theft of the chairman's personal property, specifically a pair of prescription glasses and a cell phone, and...

WHEREAS There can be no doubt that the thief was a party member because he or she left in place of the stolen property a bigoted, handwritten note, and...

WHEREAS This kind of bigotry and aggression are unprecedented in the 30 year history of the Libertarian Party of Michigan, antithetical to its purpose, and intolerable to its members, now and therefore be it...

RESOLVED That the Libertarian Party of Michigan officially repudiates and condemns this ugly act of aggression, and be it further...

RESOLVED That the party and its officials shall use what party resources are reasonably necessary, including but not limited to the state party newsletter to report this incident to the membership in a diligent effort to discover the identity of the thief, and be it further...

RESOLVED If the identity of the thief can be established beyond a reasonable doubt, he or she shall be expelled from the Libertarian Party of Michigan and shall become ineligible for membership in the party.

higher percentage of gay men. Many people in the party have left the Republicans because of their stands on "moral values" Gays are not only openly accepted into the Libertarian Party, but are strongly encouraged to join. We are your political home.

James has served as chair several times over the past thirty years and was a founder of the very party he was told to leave. James Hudler has been with the LPM from the beginning and we certainly hope he stays around. We're better off with him in the party.

World's Smallest Political Quiz

Personal Issues

Y M N

Military service should be voluntary. (No draft) 0 0 0
Govt. should not control radio, TV, the press or the Internet 0 0 0
Repeal regulations on sex for consenting adults 0 0 0
Drug laws do more harm than good. Repeal them. 0 0 0
Let peaceful people cross borders freely. 0 0 0

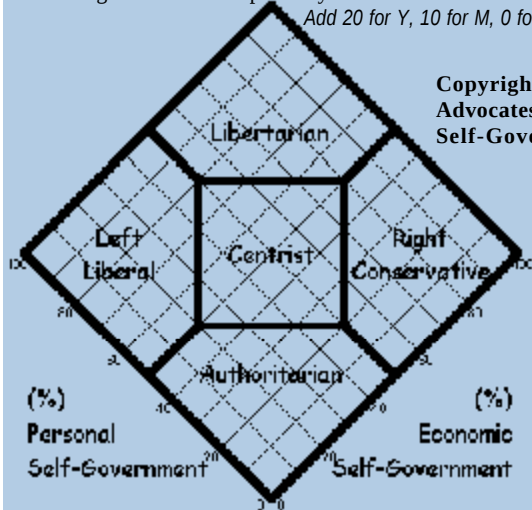
Add 20 for Y, 10 for M, 0 for N

Economic Issues

Y M N

Businesses and farms should operate without govt subsidies 0 0 0
People are better off with free trade than with tariffs. 0 0 0
Minimum wage laws cause unemployment. Repeal them. 0 0 0
End taxes. Pay for services with user fees. 0 0 0
All foreign aid should be privately funded. 0 0 0

Add 20 for Y, 10 for M, 0 for N

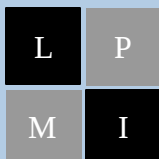


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Libertarian Party of Michigan
619 E. 9 Mile Rd.
Hazel Park, Michigan 48030

Address Service Requested



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619 E. 9 Mile Rd
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Tel: (248) 591-FREE
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<http://www.lpmich.org>

Michigan Libertarian

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

ZIP Code: _____ Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

☐ \$25 Michigan & National

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

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

Signature: _____
(Signature required for national membership)

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

Card #: _____ Exp Date: _____

Signature: _____

☐ My check or money order (payable to LPM) is enclosed.

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