

MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

Volume 7 Number 9

December 1979

"Our Lives, Our Fortunes, and Our Sacred Honor (or at least a few hours on the weekend)

The current movement toward a social order based on individual liberty continues to summon thoughts on the parallels between our age and that watershed period of history which provided the Declaration of Independence. Perhaps a natural tendency exists to romanticize or magnify these struggles of bygone days which confirm our chosen values; indeed, what is perceived as a glorious historical tradition often *renders* these values. In any case, it seems appropriate now to comment upon our ties to the past as we stand poised to catch the future.

It is admittedly difficult for modern American libertarians, engaged as we are in the rituals of petitioning, the logistics of seeking public office, and the rigors of developing and spreading our ideas, to see the connection between these activities and the revolutionary exploits of our spiritual ancestors. But it does exist, and not simply by virtue of the similarity between our present efforts and the colonists' peaceful agitations which preceded their bold split. The crucial link is one of attitude, motivation, consciousness. In essence: "spirit."

Children of liberty arise not by birth or circumstance but by choice, by a primary act of the soul which at once embraces its own supreme value and seeks freedom as the breath of life. The signers of the Declaration of Independence put their lives on the line with their signatures; today, our petitioning for the signatures of others carries the same sense of commitment. Whether we so engage this activity or another of life purpose, victory is only ours for the price of devotion. Our great reward is to yield the final fruit of the eternal Liberty Tree.

And ladies and gentlemen, we are winning. We are winning just as surely as these words are penned. Even in this vast Midwest wasteland of the corporate state, amidst the power-hungry ravings of local hacks and union chieftains, under the stale bromides of the managed media and the mind-crippling bludgeon of the public schools, we are winning. You can see it in the eyes of the people signing our petitions: the decency, the intelligence, and the anguished hope for an honest society.

Libertarians are making that hope a reality. As one advocate put it, "The socialists are going to wake up one morning and never know what hit them." Currently our valiant forces blanket the state with petitions, gathering signatures for primary ballot access. Soon thereafter we shall mount campaigns giving people the opportunity to choose between principles and the status quo, between individual freedom and collective slavery. Our arguments are secure, our lines are forming, our enthusiasm is boundless, and our ship is coming in. Liberty is, *in fact*, mankind's only alternative.

MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN
308 1/2 S. State Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

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"Our Business is Making Good Impressions"

Libertarian Party of Michigan Activities

By far the most significant activity of this month is the ballot drive. Hundreds of libertarians are approaching John Q. Citizen across the state for signatures to allow us the opportunity to appear on the August primary ballot. We need approximately 23,000 signatures to obtain this status, then depending upon our vote in the primary, candidates of the LP will appear on the general election ballot in November. If we get over 1% of the total vote in the 1980 election we shall have obtained *permanent* ballot status. We shall.

Special appreciation is extended to Michael Shipe and Steve O'Keefe at MSU in E. Lansing for their efforts in this regard, whose minions are out on campus in great numbers. In addition the A²L² group at U. of M. and the contingent of petitions headed up by Rose Wright in the Birmingham area are hard at it. It appears our immediate goal of primary

LPM OFFICERS 1979-80

Chairman.....Jim Hudler
 Vice Chairman.....Greg Clark
 Secretary.....Ray Warner
 Treasurer.....Ann Bilinski

* * *

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All letters to the editor and articles will be considered for publication unless otherwise requested.

Please submit all contributions typewritten. They will be edited only for length, grammar and spelling.

Editor: Brian Wright
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ADVERTISING RATES

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ballot access will be more than satisfied thanks to the efforts of these high-minded individuals.

The 18 November SCC meeting at Judy Steinberger's home in Troy raised a number of significant issues. As of that date 3235 signatures had been obtained around the state. It was decided to hold the issue petitions somewhat in abeyance until the primary ballot petitioning had been completed, and the suggestion was made that we integrate our anti-property tax issue petition effort with National Taxpayer's Union proposals for private school tax credits. Action will await future meetings. The state party convention was tentatively scheduled for May 17, 18 in the metro Detroit area. A tentative date was established for purposes of integrating it with a visit by Ed Clark and David Koch.

The 20 November Metro Detroit Libertarians meeting showed two films, one a short treatment of the general problem of inflation produced in 1952 by U. of M. This film
(Continued on Page 7)

TREASURER'S REPORT

ASSETS
 General Fund.....\$ 138.48
 Newsletter Fund..... 15.62
 Fund Raising & Membership Fund 52.69
 Total Assets \$ 205.79

LIABILITIES
 Ingham County LP.....\$ 326.00
 Flying Dutchman Motor Inn..... 850.00
Total Liabilities \$ 1,176.00

NET WORTH - \$ 970.00

We have reduced our indebtedness over \$700.00 since May of this year. We still need all previous members, subscribers, contributors to renew their support and anyone else who finds our message refreshing and healthful to help. We are on a winning course and nothing can replace the feeling of participating in our movement with time and/or money. Please consider it.

—Ann Belinski

FROM THE CHAIR

JAMES L. HUDLER



Over the past month I have witnessed a true resurrection of the LPM. There has been a rebirth of Michigan libertarians' optimism, interest in the LPM, and in activism. Nevertheless, we have a long way to go!! We need more activism, especially in the following areas:

BALLOT DRIVE

The petition drive to get on the ballot is proceeding well. But we still need nearly 19,000 more signatures. Any petitioning that you can accomplish during November and December is much needed.

CANDIDATES

Once we accomplish our signature goal and turn over our petitions to the Secretary of State's office, we need to hold a nominating convention for a full slate of candidates for the 1980 November general election. We need Congressional, State Representatives, Regent, County Clerk, County Treasurer, County Sheriff, Drain Commissioner, etc. candidates. Think about an office for which you would like to run. In 1976 we had over 80 candidates on the state-wide ballot. Let's try for over 150 in 1980. If you are interested in becoming a candidate, please contact me and try to attend a State Central Committee meeting in the future.

FUND RAISING

We now have a fund-raising chairman in Mr. William Krebaum. His first fund-raising attempt, the U. of M. - Ohio State football game raffle, was quite successful (netting nearly \$200.00). But we need more money to pay off our debts and run a campaign in 1980. Any help that you can give — whether time or money — is still appreciated and needed.

NATIONAL LP NEWS:

LIBERTARIAN WEEKEND IN IOWA

In Des Moines, Iowa, on November 10 and 11, a successful meeting of the National Committee of the Libertarian Party was held. Other activities were planned in conjunction with this meeting. Ed Clark visited several Iowa cities, appearing on a television talk show and obtaining other television and press coverage. About two hundred people attended a Saturday night reception highlighted by an Ed Clark speech and a question and answer session with Ed. Ed Crane and Chris Hocker also spoke at the event. It was the largest gathering of libertarians in Iowa's history.

I learned some general information in Des Moines, not directly related to the Natcom meeting. First, the national Clark for President Committee has prepared letters to the state LP chairpersons requesting information on the scheduling of state party conventions. It is important that this information be accurately provided at an early date so that itineraries for Ed Clark and David Koch can be created and coordinated for the spring of 1980.

Also, Julie Herbert, the Treasurer of the Clark Committee told me that he is preparing a letter to inform the state parties that the Clark Committee wants all contributions to state Clark campaigns to be funneled through the national Clark headquarters. The national Clark Committee has a computer, which will greatly facilitate record keeping to comply with the obstacle course of Federal Election Commission regulations. The money will be returned to the state committees to which it was donated. Watch for the letter from the Clark Committee for more details.

Following is a report on the activities of the National Committee:

Although in Los Angeles in September it appeared that a non-business convention would be held by the national Libertarian Party in Chicago in 1980, the idea ran into overwhelming opposition in Des Moines. Representatives of some of the strongest state parties said that they couldn't ask their fellow libertarians to take an expensive trip in the middle of an election campaign. After a brief discussion, only two people, including me, were supporters of the Chicago convention idea. Instead of a national convention, the Natcom suggested to the Clark Committee that it consider holding four regional rallies in the late summer of 1980. This idea was favorably received by Ed Clark.

It was decided to hold the 1981 convention in Denver, Colorado. Once again, Chicago was given short shrift. Supporters of a tenth anniversary convention in Denver had done a good job preparing and circulating a report on the advantages of such a convention, and the strong Colorado party was eager to do a significant amount of the work on the convention. I would have preferred to see Chicago more seriously considered for the 1981 convention, but now the matter is settled. I am confident that the Colorado LP will do an excellent job hosting the convention.

An advertising-Communications Committee was created with David Koch as chairman. This committee will design and prepare advertising

for television, radio, newspapers, and magazines. Dave Nolan is a communications expert, and the committee should give him an opportunity to implement his plans for a mass appeal advertising campaign for the Libertarian Party which he was promoting at the Los Angeles convention.

Chris Hocker, current National Director of the Libertarian Party, is changing jobs; he will be National Coordinator for the Clark Committee for the coming year. Bill Burt was selected by David Bergland, with approval by the Natcom, to replace Hocker as National Director until Chris's anticipated return in one year.

Bill Burt is leaving his current position as Director of the National Taxpayers Union western office. He has been orchestrating a drive to place a proposed constitutional amendment on California's 1980 general election ballot. The proposal would implement some of the ideas promoted by Ed Clark in his 1978 gubernatorial race. It would allow tuition tax credits for the education of minors at schools or other places. These credits would apply to any taxpaying person or corporation.

Bill is the author of the LP publication "Local Problems, Libertarian Solutions."

The Natcom unanimously expressed appreciation for the work done by Chris Hocker in recent years, and wished him well in the Clark Committee.

Rich Kenney was in Des Moines lobbying for the creation of a Standing Platform Committee, along with additional revisions in the procedure of dealing with the platform. One of the major problems with the platform has been insufficient time to deal with it, both in committee and on the convention floor. The proposed Standing Committee would have no authority to make its positions be adopted, but it could submit a fairly well polished document as a recommendation to the traditional platform committee. Rich would also have the Standing Committee prepare an explanatory pamphlet, with a glossary, to make the platform more accessible to the general public. Rich has worked closely with Mike Grossberg on these proposals, and has also discussed them with his proposed committee of ten people.

The Natcom received the proposals favorably, although it voted to change the committee size to five. But the majority of the Natcom members thought that Rich Kenney's very important proposals should be carefully considered, and that we should receive ideas from the state parties, and take more time to deliberate on it. The Natcom therefore deferred action on the proposals until the next meeting, and directed the national office to assist Rich in disseminating his ideas to the state chairpersons and others.

It was decided to hold the next National Committee meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, on the first weekend in February. The meeting after that will be in Texas on the first weekend in May.

If you have any questions, comments, or criticisms concerning the National Committee, I will be happy to receive and consider them.

—Eric O'Keefe, Region XII Natcom Representative
6415 Gladys, Detroit, MI 48210. (313) 898-3616

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS DECEMBER 1979

DECEMBER 1979							NEXT MONTH												
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	JANUARY												
☉	☾	☉	☾			1	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						
	LQ 11	NM 19	FQ 26				1	2	3	4	5								
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26						
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31								

December 6, Thursday
ANN ARBOR LIBERTARIAN LEAGUE
 (A²L²)
 Lecture
Dr. Bette Erwin
 "Biocentric Psychology"
 7:30 p.m.
 Michigan Union, U. of M. Campus
 Ann Arbor

14 December
Hudler's
TRIUMPH OF THE WILL
PARTY
8 p.m.

17165 Fahrner Rd, Chelsea, MI
 Food and non-alcoholic beverages provided; bring your own alcohol. Private showing of political historic masterpiece:

Triumph of the Will
 There will also be a Risk tournament with prizes for the conquerers of world!
 Reservations will be made for you at a local motel if you wish to stay late and drive home the next day!

\$5.00 DONATION REQUESTED

Contact
JAMES HUDLER
(313) 475-9792

18 December
Metro Detroit Libertarians
 Meeting 7:30 P.M.
 Howard Johnson's Restaurant
 14 mi rd. & Stephenson Hi-way
 Troy
 Event to be announced
 For info contact Greg Clark
 313-652-7223

6 January
LPM State Central Meeting
 2:00 PM
 Michigan League
 Henderson Room
 Ann Arbor

10 January
A²L²
 Nathaniel Branden Tape
 "Logic vs. Mysticism"
 7:00 PM
 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor

15 January
Metro Detroit Libertarians
 Meeting 7:30 P.M.
 Film: "Inflation File"
 (Address on this page)

17 January
A²L²
 Film: "Inflation File"
 7:00 PM
 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor

Libertarian Party of Michigan Activities

(Continued from Page 2)

was interesting if only for its historical content and for the observation that the state's propoganda on the subject has not changed significantly in 27 years. The second film was the staple of libertarian docudramas "The Incredible Bread Machine," and for this libertarian — one of the few individuals who had not seen it — it was an extremely rewarding experience. It put the government problem in concrete perspective of coercion in an outstandingly effective fashion. It will be a classic.

All in all, it has become apparent that liberty is on the move. A tremendously excitement fills the air as we move onward toward our ideals.

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