



# MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

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## NEWS LETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN

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*Michigan Constitution Article I, Sec. 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.*

**November-December, 2000**

### **LPM Loses Ballot Status (For Now)**

The Libertarian Party of Michigan lost its position on the ballot as a result of the November 7 election as the Presidential ticket won only 16,853 votes, 82% of the 20,500 needed and only 60% of the 27,892 votes received in 1996. The result was a surprise as Harry Browne needed only 74% of his '96 total, ran a better campaign than before and received tremendous support from the Ballot Access Retention Committee headed by Barbara Goushaw.

The cause was clearly the defection of many independent voters to vote for the Bush ticket out of fear of Gore, the well-known "wasted vote" syndrome. Thus the "Party of Betrayal" was to be given another opportunity to collude with the Democrats to maintain the status quo. Every other Libertarian on the ballot won a higher percentage of the vote than Browne-Olivier's 0.40. The Michael Corliss US Senate campaign suffered much the same fate, getting only 0.70% (29,552) due to the closeness of the Abraham-Stabenow race.

Most other Libertarians did better. Diane Barnes took 127,508 for the State Board of Education, which is the usual LPM top-of-ticket race in non-presidential years. That is 3.01%. Scott Boman did even better for Wayne State Board of Governors with 147,142, votes, 3.48%.

In Michigan, ballot status is determined by the candidate at the top of the ticket getting at least 1% of the last winning Secretary of State. Major party status requires 5%. Even more embarrassing was the fifth place finish behind the Green and Reform parties.

Our Supreme Court candidates did quite well with Jerry Kaufman getting 311,033 votes (7.35%), Bob Roddis 237,077, 5.60%, and David Raaflaub 199,680, 4.72%. Although nominated by political parties, these positions appear in the non-partisan section.

There were two winners for the LPM. Brett Cashman was re-elected to a four year term as Superior Township Parks Commissioner. Gary Bora won a non-partisan race for Lyon Township Library Board.

Other statewide results were: U of M Board of Regents, Tim Maull 75,746 votes, 1.79% and Marvin Surowitz 57,832, 1.37%; MSU Board of Trustees, Mike Miller 123,652, 2.92% and Violet Steele 115,300, 2.72%. Tom Jones was the other Wayne State candidate, getting 77,523, 1.83%. Obviously there was a lot of ticket splitting and jumping, depending on which parties were involved. Other race results are on page 8.

The vote has already stimulated a debate among party members as to whether we should run candidates for President, Governor and Senator. The Presidential candidate has failed to win ballot status in 1976, 1984, 1992 and 2000, while preserving it in 1980, 1988 and 1996. Browne did so last time, but failed this time. Corliss' Senate vote would have been enough this time, but is not much more than Browne's '96 total and could erode as much depending on who the other candidates were. State Board has been a safe bet each year with Mary Ruwart having enough votes in 1990 and 1992, Erwin Haas in 1994, and Diane Barnes in 1996, 1998, and 2000. We are also discussing whether to mount a campaign to drop the top of ticket rule. The petition drive to regain ballot status starts in April.



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Treasurer	Dave Nagy	
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Assistant Treasurer	Trafton Jean	

### LOCAL AFFILIATE REPRESENTATIVES

Allegan County	Krystal Dutkiewicz	616-673-5503
Berrien County	Scott Beavers	616-944-1852
Calhoun County	Organizer needed!	
Clare-Gladwin	Ghazey Aleck	517-386-2699
Ionia County	Dick Whitelock	616-527-9263
Kalamazoo County	Tim Miley	616-668-3951
Lansing area	Mark Owen	517-351-0514
Lapeer-Genesee	Trish Marie	810-742-7268
Livingston County	Matt Dickinson	810-231-1254
Macomb County	Diane Barnes	810-774-1625
Midland-Bay-Saginaw	Clint Foster	517-671-8257
Midwest Michigan	Brian Kluesner	616-723-7087
Northeast Mich	Rich Binkley	517-379-4219
Oakland County	Gary Bora	248-446-9095
Ottawa County	Jason Miller	616-669-2851
St. Clair County	Richard Friend	810-982-7178
Shiawassee Co.	Ben Steele	517-288-5616
South Central	Albert McCallum	517-857-2531
Traverse Bay	Jim Anderson	231-334-3037
Upper Peninsula	John Loosemore	906-334-2922
Van Buren Co.	Bill Bradley	616-637-4525
Washtenaw Co.	James Hudler	734-475-9792
Wayne Co.	Joann Karpinski	313-925-6917
West Michigan	Joe Bommarito	616-249-0848

## MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

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We encourage the formation of college libertarian clubs. Each school has its own policies and rules for setting up such groups. Check your school's rules (you may need a faculty advisor) and give Greg Stempfle a call. Affiliates are encouraged to help start or maintain college libertarian clubs in their areas. If you have a son or daughter in college, you might encourage them to start a club. This age group will be voting for the next 60 years!



## Four Libby Winners Chosen

By Keith Edwards

The Libertarian Party of Michigan honored four Defenders of Liberty at its Liberty Fest Awards Banquet at Mile's World Restaurant in Fraser on November 11.

Producer of Liberty Awards were given to Joann Karpinski and Bill Shotey, both of Wayne County. This award is for a dedicated behind-the-scenes Libertarian whose quiet labors over the years exemplify the backbone of the Libertarian Party. Joann has been an inspiration for her hard work and especially this year, forging ahead despite serious illness. Bill is a veteran fundraiser and media contact person who is responsible for the appearances of Libertarian speakers at the Economic Club.

A Promoter of Liberty Award was given to Van Buren County organizer and Chair Bill Bradley, who could have also qualified for the Producer category. A promoter of Liberty is a Libertarian whose efforts have done the most to promote the LP and Libertarian principles.

The Spokesperson for Liberty Award goes to a member of the community whose patriotism and conviction have inspired contributions to the cause of liberty. The winner was journalist Tom Shull, until recently a member of the editorial staff of the Detroit News.

This was the fifth annual Liberty Fest Banquet and the second one that featured Jacob "Bumper" Hornberger as speaker. He spoke on "Libertarianism: Hope for America's Future." Pointing out that nothing will change regardless of whether Bush or Gore is elected, (he calls it "electing our daddy") he said that this is our opportunity to reformulate the debate in view of the philosophical closeness of the two major parties. Government "owns our incomes" and dictates how much we may keep. "We are really slaves." Vouchers are welfare. He said we should talk about ballot access laws as censorship.

Hornberger called on Libertarians to attack this slavery philosophically, attacking the immorality of these

government actions, rather than just the consequentialist arguments of economic cause and effect. He quoted Hillsdale Professor Richard Ebeling; "No one ever went to the barricades to fight for a cost-benefit analysis." Hornberger said, "The strongest Libertarian Party assets are our principles."

Bumper went on to recommend that the LP re-group and build the base at the local level and change the focus to a target group of hispanics and blacks, pointing out that the Rasmussen Quiz identified 16% of the people as libertarians, but that blacks scored 21%.

Attendance was 109, up from 78 last year, the fourth time in five years over the century mark, and included guests from Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The event was organized and hosted by Libertarians of Macomb County for the third time in five years. While some had protested the choice of Hornberger because of his battles with Harry Browne and the LP's National Committee, the crowd was friendly and enthusiastic and Bumper made no direct mention of the controversy. Only a handful boycotted the event.

Macomb Chair Diane Barnes was the organizer, spark plug and emcee of the event. Her introduction of Bumper was a fiery one, calling us "outlaws in the defense of liberty."

State Chair Stacy Van Oast presented the awards. Marnie Edwards and Sharlene Strik handled the registration efficiently under the stress of about 25 who showed up at the last minute without pre-registering. The brochure and program were designed by George Weiss again, a beautiful job. Rosemary Racchi and Al Titran did the decorations and Dave Wejrandt and Keith Edwards also helped.

The Awards Committee consisted of Stacy Van Oast, Dianne Barnes and James Bovard, a winner last year.

Special thanks go to Mile's World Restaurant and waiter extraordinaire Wyl and his assistants for coping so well with the sudden influx of people. The food (there were five entrée choices) was excellent as it always is. It is the regular meeting place of the Macomb LP.

All in all, a great evening. Don't miss it next year!



## From the Chair

By Stacy Van Oast

While talking with a good friend last week, she asked (not entirely innocently), “Why doesn’t Harry Browne just take federal matching funds so the Libertarian Party can get some attention and maybe you’ll win some elections.”

“That’s not who we are and that’s not what we’re about,” I explained.

How do you explain to a Democrat that there are some things we Libertarians just won’t do? And what do principles mean to someone who thinks Clinton has been a great president? Obviously politics has nothing to do with our friendship, but core values, those few values that are so fundamental and deeply held that they will seldom change, do. Values that I’m sure most of us Libertarians share, like honesty, integrity, hard work and respect for others.

Just what are we trying to do then, if not “whatever it takes to win elections?” What is our core purpose, our reason for being? Goals can be achieved, but a purpose is never entirely fulfilled; it’s like your guiding star on the horizon, always out there leading you onward.

Is the Libertarian Party’s core purpose to win elections? To keep a presidential candidate on the ballot? To get more members? To raise more money? NO! Those are all perfect examples of strategies and goals-vehicles which will help us achieve our core purpose.

The core purpose of the LPM is spelled out clearly in our platform: “Our ultimate goal is nothing less than a State . . . in which all individuals control their own lives and property free from coercion of any sort.”

As I talked to my friend, I realized that these core values and our core purpose are important only to people within the LP, they’re not inspiring to outsiders, especially Democrats. It’s the people inside that need to commit to the core ideology that determines who joins the Party and they, in turn, determine the course the party will take to reach our star.

Do we want to win elections? The answer is a resounding YES! Of course we Libertarians want to win elections. As Libertarians, our ultimate goal is to make our state a better place to live by reducing the interfering control by governments and by showing people how much better freedom works in their personal and economic lives. In other words, there are some things that are more important than just winning. And that’s precisely what inspires and motivates me to be a Libertarian.

As the Party grows and our members expect more results, we must keep in mind exactly who we are and why we are doing what we are doing. It is crucial to all that we are that we never abandon our core values or forget our core purpose.

After all, electing a bunch of Libertarians who don’t share the same values only takes us farther away from ever reaching that star on the horizon. We all have our eyes on the same star. There are lots of vehicles that can help carry us toward that star called Freedom. Let’s keep the discussion going and let’s focus on those things we can effect. Together we’ll get there, I know we will.

## The LPM is Here to Stay

By Stacy Van Oast

The Libertarian Party of Michigan may not be legally recognized by the State of Michigan as a political party that is qualified to place candidates on the ballot in 2002, but that does not mean we no longer exist!

In fact, we just renewed the lease on our Headquarters for another two years! Thanks again to our monthly Pledgers for making the headquarters dream a reality. If you are not currently donating through our Pledge Program, please consider how much your \$10 a month (or more!) can help. While the number of donors continues to grow, we are just covering office expenses, rent, utilities and phones.

And thanks again to Dan Lafavers for setting up the Pledge Program and to Marnie Edwards and Sharlene Strick for taking it over.

And thanks to all of you the Libertarian Party of Michigan is in great shape and we are here to stay!

## Liberty Week Follow-up

By Stacy Van Oast.

In the last issue of the Michigan Libertarian, I asked you to let me know what you had done to create more interest in liberty, so that we could share your ideas with everyone else.

Our 14<sup>th</sup> District Congressional candidate, Connie Catalfio wrote to share her Halloween idea of distributing "Call the Libertarian Party stickers. "I put them on my Halloween candy to pass out. They'll come to me, you can't beat that!"

At her son's back-to-school night, Connie noticed that the sociology teacher had Democrat and Republican bumper stickers on his bulletin board, "so I had my son give him a Libertarian one, which he gladly accepted."

LPM Executive Director Tim O'Brien convinced his Allen Park City Council that it was ridiculous to spend \$27,000 on throwaway Christmas lights that would last only one season. Instead, they found a \$5,000 three year alternative that would still enjoy Christmas lights while saving the taxpayers \$76,000 over the three years!

I called a radio talk show where the topic was a bill proposing licenses for beer kegs that a Republican state legislator had introduced. I stated that "we have given up too many of our rights, we are faced with too much ridiculous legislation, and that's why I vote Libertarian and everyone else should too." (I never call talk radio and was listening only in hopes of hearing our LPM ads.) Certainly people who heard my call and the ads thought about liberty.

I'm sure many of you did similar things or perhaps you were even more creative. Thank you for helping create some Liberty Awareness and keep it up. You can make a difference!

## Curfew Victory in Hudsonville

By Jason Miller

On October 10 a group of students, Libertarian candidate for District 90 State Rep Tim Campbell and I presented arguments and a petition before the Hudsonville City Commission. We called for the repeal of Hudsonville's curfew law. This generated a ton of media coverage

The City Commission returned November 14 with their answer. They would not admit that they were wrong, but they did decide to shut us up. They added a long list of exceptions to the curfew law that made it useless and unenforceable. The new provisions included Parental exemption of their kids, it does not apply to anyone in an automobile or who are from another city, or who claims to be heading for their home. This is the first time the Ottawa County LP has changed public policy, but it will not be the last!

## Candidates are the Heroes of the LPM

By Stacy Van Oast

I want to offer a special thanks to all of our 115 Libertarian candidates who ran for public office in the past election. You made this one of the best years in the history of the Libertarian Party of Michigan.

More candidates than ever before answered voter surveys, distributed customized brochures, put up lawn signs, went door to door and participated in candidate forums.

Our candidates are building the foundation upon which future Libertarian successes will be built. Your efforts were noticed and greatly appreciated!

And with this experience, think how much easier it will be next time!



## Where to from Here?

By Keith Edwards

Well, it happened again. Despite the improved Harry Browne campaign and the valiant efforts of the Ballot Access Retention Committee, the LPM has lost ballot status because of the November election. It's a darned shame because Barb Goushaw and BARC did an outstanding job, doing all the things you're supposed to do. The "wasted vote" syndrome raised its ugly head and swamped all other factors. What to do?

I always allow myself five days of depression after election day and then on Monday it's back to work. E-mails have been flying with ideas from both the Young Turks and us stodgy old timers and we will be kicking them around for a while. The debate will do us good. No one has a monopoly on wisdom and it's fun besides. And it kills depression!

As I e-mailed one of our good active candidates, perspective is important. The socialists took from 1848 to 1933 to get their way in the United States, 85 years from Marx to Roosevelt, and it wasn't easy. There is not only a political war to fight, but also a philosophical one. Collectivism has captured politics and individualism has to fight right back and undo the damage.

The modern libertarian movement started in 1943 and the LP began in 1971-72. The movement is growing fast and has a way to go, but the fallacies of collectivism have become obvious. The word "libertarian" is being used often in public debate as our ideas spread. Electoral politics is just one of the ways to make ideas popular.

Our first job is to regain ballot status, which should be much easier this time because there are more of us to spread the work. Then we will have to set priorities. Major races provide more visibility. Minor races provide a better chance to elect candidates. Finding a balance can be tricky and will be debated fully.

The nature of human beings is to use our ability to solve problems, survive and prosper. The definition of a libertarian is "a person who values freedom of thought and action." That's *what* we are and *why* we

are. And the only political party that has a consistent philosophy of freedom is the Libertarian Party. As such it must survive and thrive.

The entire libertarian movement, the think tanks, the magazines and books, the speakers and the Party are absolutely vital to the restoration of freedom and to avoid a repeat of the brutality of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. We must be consistent in our philosophy, no short cut short circuits to contradict our message. We must be articulate in our expression of the message so no one misunderstands or readily distorts it. And we must be persistent in our efforts so that we miss no opportunities and are always there to help others see what we have seen.

Losing battles happens in every war. George Washington lost action after action, beset by the world's greatest army, an incompetent Congress, desertion, disease and treachery, but he won the big one. He proved that you can lose a lot of battles, but still win the BIG ONE. Well, we just lost another one, but the BIG ONE is still in the future and probably a long way off. We are not yet at Trenton, and Yorktown is still far away in the future.

So let's maintain our perspective and get back to work.

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Membership in the Libertarian Party of Michigan reached 1,701 in November, a record. Since the last newsletter, we have received about 1,300 inquiries. This issue will be mailed out to over 3,100 people. If you haven't joined the Libertarian Party of Michigan, this is your chance to join the new patriots. Or, if your renewal notice is just sitting there, send it in. Our most exciting days are still ahead.

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"These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly." Tom Paine, Crisis No. 1



## National LP Chair to Speak at Leadership Conference

By Diane Barnes

Mark your calendar for Sunday, February 4. That's the date for the Libertarian Party of Michigan's annual Leadership Conference. Get out from behind the keyboard and join other libertarian activists who want to change the world (or at least their corner of the world!) Everyone interested in party organizing is invited to participate.

The event will be hosted by Jason Miller and the Ottawa County affiliate and will take place in Grand Rapids. Our National Libertarian Party Chair Jim Lark will offer his advice and experience on organizing affiliates and political activism. Lark has been successful in establishing college affiliates for several years.

Chairs will receive an announcement by snail mail within a couple of weeks about the conference. CHAIRS: Please pass on this information to your membership.

For more information on the Leadership Conference contact: Jason Miller at [jcmiller@triton.net](mailto:jcmiller@triton.net) or Ben Steele at [Bsteele@tir.com](mailto:Bsteele@tir.com).

## Chairs Meeting Held

By Diane Barnes

On November 12, the LPM held our first chairs meeting at Party Headquarters in Hazel Park. Several affiliate chairs, past chairs and activists were in attendance. The discussion encompassed such issues as how to get members more involved, what's next for the LP after this election, and general discussion about organizing affiliates.

State Chair Stacy Van Oast expressed her thoughts about defining the LP's Core Values and Core Purpose in order to set goals for affiliates.

Bruce Hoepner presented his "Just One" idea of

Picking one winnable race in each affiliate to work on during the campaign season.

Greg Dirasian provided us with a "tour" of the new on-line database. This database will include each county's members and will be available for affiliates to access for mailing lists, fundraising, membership renewals, printing labels and the like.

There was also discussion of the ballot access restoration effort that will begin sometime in April.

If you missed this one, we are planning another chairs meeting in the future. Until then, I hope affiliate chairs and others who are interested on organizing affiliates will attend the Leadership Conference. Contact me at [Dbarnes98@aol.cm](mailto:Dbarnes98@aol.cm) for information.

## Affiliate Contest Entries Due Feb.4

By Diane Barnes

The Michigan LP Affiliates Contest will accept affiliate entries up to the Leadership Conference Sunday, February 4 in Grand Rapids.

The contest has changed a bit from last year. The judges will pick three winners instead of one. Categories are:

1. Over-all Best Affiliate. The winner will be judged in several categories. Does the affiliate have a professional newsletter, regular meetings, a media plan, fundraising goals and a PR plan.
2. Political Activities. Petition drives, fighting local laws, appointments to county/local boards, and protests should be included in your affiliate submission.
3. Membership Growth.

Gift Certificate from the Advocates for Self-Government will be awarded:

Over-all winner gets a \$100 Gift Certificate.  
Political Activities gets a \$40 Gift Certificate.  
Membership Growth winner gets a \$40 Gift Certificate.

Each affiliate can submit one entry in any format, video, scrapbook, web-site, etc. If you have any questions, contact Ben Steele at [BSteele@tir.com](mailto:BSteele@tir.com).

## Election Results

### US House of Representatives

Dist.	Candidate	Votes	Pct.
1	John Loosemore	1,754	0.60
2	Bruce Smith	2,468	0.91
3	Erwin Haas	2,403	0.87
4	Richard Whilelock	2,118	0.79
5	Clint Foster	3,067	1.24
6	William Bradley	3,575	1.53
7	Robert Broda Jr.	2,158	0.90
8	James Eyster	2,442	0.82
9	Laurie Martin	5,336	2.06
10	Richard Friend	4,399	1.57
11	Richard Gach	3,339	1.10
12	Andrew Lecureaux	3,630	1.48
13	Karin Corliss	4,575	1.85
14	Constance Catalfio	2,029	1.16
15	Ray Warner	1,605	1.10
16	Edward Hlavac	3,211	1.37

### Michigan House of Representatives

1	Craig Hodges	903	2.22
3	Joann Karpinski	325	1.69
9	Kenneth Vojtech	188	1.02
12	Michael Donohue	377	1.24
15	Greg Stempfle	1,065	2.89
16	Christopher Gonzalez	1,133	3.27
18	David Nagy	926	3.02
19	John Tatar	1,238	3.29
22	Ken Reyes	926	3.47
23	Rick Secula	588	1.38
24	Eric Gordon	964	3.08
25	John Morgan	1,063	3.42
26	Keith Edwards	971	2.49
27	Dave Wejrandt	937	2.81
29	Dean Sahutske	307	0.75
31	Jim Miller	1,498	4.16
32	Bob Van Oast	1,306	2.70
33	Joe Zemens	1,334	2.37
35	Magdalene Boleyn	1,077	3.00
38	Anne Bora	1,095	2.41
39	Ray Kozara	1,195	2.41
41	Jeffrey Hampton	1,125	2.87
47	Trish Marie	605	1.38
50	James Shollemberger	671	1.69
61	Sean Nunemaker	627	1.30
63	Albert McCallum	985	2.49

### Michigan House of Representatives

Dist.	Candidate	Votes	Pct.
67	Yepram Dervahanian	816	1.93
74	Bill Gelineau	1,399	3.15
76	Paul Mastin	743	2.51
80	Timothy Miley	342	1.00
85	Trafton Jean	1,321	3.73
86	David Brown	951	2.48
88	Richard Dutkiewicz *	4,774	12.67
89	James Lopez		
90	Tim Campbell	640	1.26
96	Scott Carter	677	1.64
102	Gregory Willis	1,486	3.78
Other		Votes	Pct.
Kent Co. Comm. #4	William Hall		6.34
Kent Co. Clerk	Jamie Lewis	7,197	3.08
Plainfield Twp Trustee	Derek Hollemans		4.65
Livingston Co. Comm. 7	George Sise*	1,126	20.61
Livingston Co. Clerk	Richard Samul *	7,215	12.42
Macomb Co. Comm 7	Paul Soyk	357	2.69
Macomb Co. Comm 18	Mark Heil	335	2.97
Macomb Co. Comm.22	Rosemary Racchi	1,363#	16.56
Macomb Co. Sheriff	Al Titran	4,064	1.25
Oakland Co Comm 1	Mark Carney*	2,276	10.67
Oakland Co. Comm 5	Fred Martin	1,199	6.09
Oakland Co. Comm 16	David Eisenbacher	2,890*	18.54
Oakland Co. Comm 22	Steve Afton *	358	16.99
Oakland Co. Comm 23	Steven Schulte	531	3.04
Oakland Co. Executive	Paul Champion	16,936	3.15
Oakland Co. Clerk	Lisa Kozora	24,421	4.83
Oakland Co. Drain	Robert Schubring	20,208	3.99
Oakland Co. Sheriff	Michael Carson	75,198*	17.60
Oakland Co. Prosecutor	Leonard Schwartz	19,273	3.63

\* No Democrat in race.

# No Republican in race

These were the only results received at press time. Some may be unofficial



## The Next Couple of Years

By Stacy Van Oast

The Libertarian Party of Michigan's strategy over the next two-year election cycle has to be two fold, and we have to concentrate our resources on those things we can really impact.

Obviously, getting the LPM back on the ballot is our first priority. Nancy O'Brien will coordinate this effort from the state level, utilizing affiliates and members to canvass the state and collect the necessary 30,272 signatures (plus safety net-goal currently is 40,000 total.)

Everything else that the Libertarian Party accomplishes over the next couple of years has to come from the local/affiliate level. The LPM needs to assist in any way possible, but where we'll make a real difference, whether in collecting petition signatures or electing city council candidates, or changing laws, is at the local level.

I'll take Bruce Hoepner's idea of "Just One" (encouraging affiliates to focus on running and electing just one candidate for city council next year – non-partisan) a step further, and suggest that affiliates and individual members alike focus on making a libertarian impact in JUST ONE way. For example, Jason Miller and gang who changed their curfew law.

In the meantime, the discussion on how to best move the Party forward must continue. Running candidates, getting more members, raising more money, etc., are all strategies for achieving our ultimate goal. There are other strategies as well and there are some strategies that have proven not to be effective at this time.

Running a president and/or governor takes a lot of resources and does nothing to make us free from coercion. In fact, so far those races have been counter-productive to helping us achieve our shorter-term strategies of running and winning local elections, as now we have to focus and spend precious resources getting back on the ballot.

If the "prize" we're focusing on is getting members or Getting money, then we are basically floating around

without real purpose. Our purpose is to improve the quality of people's lives in the state of Michigan! As we do that, in any little way we can, then we will attract new members, we will raise more money, and we will stay on the ballot!

We have a challenge ahead of us: to work together combining the best of the energy, passion, creativity, and enthusiasm of our newer members with the wisdom and experience of our older members. This is a terrific time in the LPM's history. Let's be sure to remember that we are all on the same side and that there's more than one way to skin a cat.

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## The Mainstream

During an interview, novelist-philosopher Ayn Rand responded to the usual question of how she could accomplish anything by being to far out of the mainstream. She answered, "The mainstream is a stagnant swamp!"

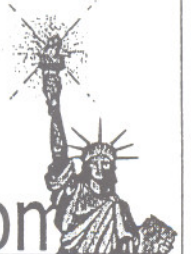
So why swim in it? The thinking people, the ones who we can persuade are on the shore or inland. The ones who are on their own feet and moving are our market, not the ones who are still clinging to the flotsam of New Deal socialism and Republican cowardice amid the alligators of power.

The LP was created to drain the swamp and we cannot do that while stepping into it. Our principles are the higher ground and it is self-defeating to turn it into the slippery slope of compromise.

Keith Edwards

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## Random Thoughts

By Keith Edwards

From Carl, age 73, a co-worker of mine: "You mean that those Florida senior citizens can keep track of six Bingo cards at once, but can't figure out who they're voting for?"

The Arizona LP split into two factions some time back. One, the long-established official LP with ballot status and a "purist" approach who were not Harry Browne fans fought with a more crafty "pragmatic" group over the question of how much control the state government has over political parties (among other issues.) The LP National Committee picked the latter group to be the official affiliate of National and thus lost 50-state ballot status when the group with ballot status picked sci-fi writer L. Neil Smith as its Presidential candidate (Harry declined to campaign for the nomination.) An attempt to get Harry on the ballot failed because the papers were filed late.

The result? Smith got 5,181 votes, the worst ever LP showing in Arizona, the Natcom backed the wrong horse, blowing 50 state status, and both sides got nasty making any chance for unity next to impossible. That's what happens when egotrippers get involved. Possible solutions: 1-restore the AZLP affiliation; 2-get a new Natcom; 3-stop running presidential candidates; or 4-cede Arizona back to Mexico and then we would only need 49-state status. Most likely, given the personalities involved: number 4.

Columnist Dave Barry: "I argue very well. Ask any of my remaining friends. I can win an argument on any topic. People know this and steer clear of me at parties. Often, as a sign of their great respect, they don't even invite me."

James Barnes, author: "You can always tell a Harvard man, but you can't tell him much."

Lily Tomlin, actress: "I always wanted to be somebody, but I should have been more specific."

Henry Ward Beecher, clergyman: "Expedients are for the hour, principles for the ages."

## Bylaws and Platform Committee

By Stacy Van Oast

Proposals for the bylaws and the platform are among the business of the State Convention, which will be held the last week of April, in 2001. For those considering making proposals for either, here is some information.

Once again, the Platform Committee will be headed up by Tim O'Brien and will consist officially of one representative from each affiliate. Submit Platform proposals to Tim O'Brien at [TObrien@aol.com](mailto:TObrien@aol.com).

The Bylaws Committee will be chaired by Emily Salvette and will consist officially of one representative from each of the five largest affiliates. Send proposed changes to the bylaws to Emily at [Salvette@aol.com](mailto:Salvette@aol.com).

Proposals to either document can also be mailed to the LPM Headquarters, 619 E. Nine Mile Rd., Hazel Park, MI 48030, to the attention of the appropriate committee. As always any LPM member may attend all meetings of either committee.

Committees will meet the Friday night of the Convention. If either committee receives enough proposals far enough in advance, they will meet earlier.

Proposals made on the floor of the Convention will be considered after the earlier proposals have been considered, time permitting.

## Thanks from Stacy

Many thanks to Steve Dornbos of Taylor Printing Co. in Traverse City for the creative talent and printing capabilities that he provided to so many of our candidates over the recent campaign cycle. For a very generous price, Mr. Dornbos customized, printed and shipped brochures to candidates. He printed our Tweedle slate and the Harry Browne brochures, both of which were distributed all over the state. It is thanks to the ease of working with Steve and the ready access he provided that so many candidates put out their own brochures this year. I declare Mr. Dornbos and Taylor Printing the official printers of the Libertarian Party of Michigan!





Above: Liberty Fest speaker Jacob “Bumper” Hornberger flanked by State Chair Stacy Van Oast (left) and Macomb County Chair and Liberty Fest organizer Diane Barnes. Below: Esther Littmann, Ann Rowe and David Littmann (a Libby winner last year) enjoy a laugh, of which there were many.





## How to Start Your Day

By Karen Minto

Read this. Let it sink in. Then choose how you start your day tomorrow.

Michael is the kind of guy you love to love. He is always in a good mood and always has something positive to say. When someone would ask him how he was doing, he would reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!" He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, Michael was there telling the person how to look on the positive side of the situation.

Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up to Michael and asked him, "I don't get it! You can't be a positive person all the time. How do you do it?" Michael replied, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself, 'you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or you can be in a bad mood.' I choose to be in a good mood. Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or I can choose to learn from it. I choose to learn. Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or I can point out the positive side of life. I choose the positive side of life."

"Yeah, right, it's not that easy," I protested.

"Yes it is," Michael said. "Life is all about choices. When you cut away all that junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose to be in a good mood or a bad mood. The bottom line: It's your choice how you live life."

I reflected on what Michael said. Soon thereafter, I left the Tower Industry to start my own business. We lost touch, but I often thought about him when I made a choice about life instead of reacting to it.

Several years later, I heard that Michael was involved in a serious accident, falling some 60 feet from a communications tower. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, Michael was released from the hospital with rods placed in his back. I saw him about six months after the accident. When I asked him how he was, he replied, "If I were any better, I'd be

twins. Wanna see my scars?" I declined to see his wounds, but I did ask him what had gone through his mind as the accident took place. "The first thing that went through my mind was the well being of my soon to be born daughter," Michael replied. "Then, as I lay on the ground, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live or I could choose to die. I chose to live."

"Weren't you scared? Did you lose consciousness?" I asked.

Michael continued, "The paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into ER and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read, 'He's a dead man.' I knew I had to take action."

"What did you do?"

"Well, there was a big, burly nurse shouting questions at me. She asked me if I was allergic to anything. I said, 'Yes.' The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a breath and yelled, 'Gravity!'"

"Over their laughter, I told them, 'I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead.'"

Michael lived, thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude. I learned from him that everyday we have the choice that we have the choice to live fully.

Attitude, after all is everything.

"Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. After all, today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday."

You have two choices now:

1. Forget about this.
2. Forward it to the people you care about. I did!

---

"Yesterday is a cancelled check. Tomorrow is a promissory note. Today is cash on the line."

Hank Stram, football coach



## Nick Hamilton, 1930-2000

By Jerry Coon

I regret to inform the LPM that the long time member and champion of freedom Nick Hamilton passed away November 14, 2000, at Munson Medical Center, Traverse City at age 70.

Nick was a veteran of the United States Navy. He worked as a typesetter and owner-operator of Multi-Copy Service in Traverse City from 1960 to 1984. He then worked for several local newspapers. He was active in scouting and achieved the Order of the Arrow and served as chief of the lodge of the order. His accomplishments included being a drummer with the Intercollegiate Stompers, a Dixie Land band that won Arthur Murray's Talent Scouts in 1952. He was a Traverse City Commissioner and a delegate to LP national conventions including the one in Anaheim this year. Nick loved politics, bowling, golf, movies and wearing his Bermuda shorts.

Memorials may be directed to Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools.

His friendship, wisdom and generosity will be greatly missed by the Traverse Bay Libertarian Party and all who knew him.

## The Newest Libertarian

By Keith Edwards

As promised in the last issue of the Michigan Libertarian in his dad's article on recruiting, Patrick Henry Bora was born "in time to work the polls," on October 22, 2000. At 7 pounds, 13 ounces, Patrick is not yet a political heavyweight, but like all Libertarians, he has frequently expressed his views on a variety of topics with no hesitation whatsoever.

He joins his brother, Thomas Jefferson Bora. Who is next, Betsy Ross Bora?

Congratulations to Anne and Gary.

Patrick is pictured below, happily unaware of the existence of Democrats and Republicans.

---

## James Bilski

Richard Ask has reported that James Bilski, a retired military officer and active libertarian for many years has died. His funeral was November 18.





## Affiliate Meeting Schedules

See Page 2 for Contact Person

**Allegan** meets third Tuesday at 6 p.m. at Blue Heron, corner Hubbard and Chestnut, Allegan.

**Berrien** to be announced.

**Clare-Gladwin** meets second Monday at 7p.m. at Mid-Michigan Community College.

**Ionia** meets third Wednesday at 7p.m. at Bluewater Café, E. M-21, Ionia.

**Kalamazoo** meets first Tuesday at 7p.m. at TGI Fridays, 5650 W. Main, Oshtemo.

**Lapeer-Genesee** meets second Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Whitey's Rest., M-15, 1 mile N of I-69, Davison.

**Livingston** meets second Monday at 6:30 p.m. at Mexican Jones Rest., 675 Grand River, Brighton.

**Macomb** meets second Wednesday at 6 pm at Miles' World Rest., 17689 Masonic & Groesbeck, Fraser.

**Mid-Michigan** meets second Thursday at 7p.m. at La Senorita Rest., 2706 Lake Lansing Rd., Lansing.

**Mid-West** meets second Saturday at 7p.m. at Kounty Kitchen, 1920 N. Mitchell, Cadillac, 6 pm for dinner.

**Northeast** is not meeting currently due to the illness of its contact, Rich Binkley. Best wishes, Rich.

**Oakland** meets fourth Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at Sila's Rest., 4033 W. 12 Mile Rd., Berkley.

**Ottawa** meets fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Yellow Jacket Inn, 12011 Lake Michigan Dr., Holland.

**St. Clair** meets third Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Armbruster's Sports Bar & Grill, 1211 Griswold, Port Huron.

**Shiawassee** meets third Saturday 7 p.m. at Brenda's Bistro, 230 W. Main St., Durand. There are also weekly business meetings. Call Ben @ 517-288-5616 for details on the business meetings.

**South Central** meets second Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Tom's Grill and Pub, 3705 Ann Arbor, Jackson, ½ mile from Michigan Ave. exit from US-127. There is a Hillsdale-Branch Co. meeting second Monday at 7p.m. at Fillmore's Rest. On US-12, ½ mile west of M-99, west side of Jonesville at the railroad crossing.

**Traverse Bay** meets third Thursday at 6 p.m. at Sleder's Tavern, 717 Randolph, Traverse City.

**Tri-Cities** meets third Monday at 6:30 at Howard Johnson Rest., M-84 at I-75, N. of Saginaw.

**Van Buren** meets third Thursday (except August & December) at 6:30 dinner, 7:30 meeting at CT's Restaurant in South Haven.

**Washtenaw** meets every Thursday at 7:30 at Dominick's, 812 Monroe St., Ann Arbor.

**Wayne** meets first Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at La Trattoria Rest., 13736 Michigan Ave., Dearborn.

**West Michigan** meets second Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at Brann's Rest., Leonard and US-131, Grand Rapids.

**Upper Peninsula** to be announced.

### Libertarian Party of Michigan Campaign

**Headquarters** is open Monday-Friday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. It is located at 619 E. Nine Mile Rd., Hazel Park, a few blocks east of both I-75 and John R. It is open for campaign work at other hours as needed. The telephone is 248-591-FREE. Feel free to drop in and help. There is always something to do. **Oakland Co.** LP is renting a room there from the LPM. Any member of the LPM in good standing may use the facility for any Libertarian Party related activity, e.g. meetings, mailings, fundraisers, campaign events, etc. Space is available on a first come first served basis.



## LEC Minutes for October 22, 2000

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 PM at HQ. Present were LEC members Stacy Van Oast, Diane Barnes, Keith Edwards, Dave Nagy, Bill Gelineau, Mark Heil, Bruce Hoepner and Nancy O'Brien (Jim Fitzpatrick absent) and Tim O'Brien, Marnie Edwards, Leonard Schwartz, Rosemary Racchi, Al Titran and (later) Paul Soyk.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted.

Chair Stacy Van Oast stressed the importance of volunteers from the website being referred to local groups.

Vice Chair Diane Barnes reported on Liberty Fest progress. Nominations for awards were overdue. Affiliate chairs meeting will be the morning after. There were 90 present at the Clare-Gladwin meeting.

Keith Edwards set the newsletter deadline for Nov.12.

Dave Nagy gave the Treasurer's Report. Pledge program bringing in \$2,000 per month. Moved by Nagy that LEC members and others travelling on LEC business may be reimbursed at 32 cents per mile. Seconded by Nancy O'Brien. Passed 8-0.

Mark Heil reported on the membership mailings and website activity hits.

Campaign Chair Nancy O'Brien reported that Wayne Co. LP paid late fees for late filing of candidate forms due to procedure changes. We need Libertarian 101 classes for the new interested, possibly the second week of January.

Bruce Hoepner recommended that we focus on one local race for full support next year.

There will be an election night party at Headquarters.

Jim Fitzpatrick has made the deposit on the Bay Plaza Hotel for the State Convention the last weekend in April. He is consulting with Emily Salvette and Nancy O'Brien. Plans are progressing well.

The question of whether and how to comply with the new law on 527 organizations was taken from the table. The law requires that political organizations whose primary function is to support candidates must file certain forms with the IRS or FEC. It was agreed that the LPM Campaign Fund was such an organization and files properly with the FEC. A lengthy debate followed as to whether the LPM itself qualifies. Failure to file could mean interest and penalties for the LPM and/or LEC members. The Republican Party has already filed suit against the law. Some political organizations have filed, others have declined. Presentations were made to the effect that the law does not apply. It was also contended by counsel that the possibility of financial penalty was real.

It was moved and seconded that we comply with the new law and file the necessary papers with the IRS. Edwards, Gelineau and Heil voted yes. Barnes, Hoepner, Nagy, O'Brien and Van Oast voted no. Motion failed.

It was agreed to offer to continue the HQ lease for two years, expiring 11-1-02 at \$1230 per month. Stacy Van Oast will present our proposal for the two year lease rather than the one year lease proposed by the landlord.

The pledge program credit card processing procedure was discussed. Moved by Nagy, seconded by Barnes to authorize \$75 for a credit card machine. Passed 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM.

**Note:** On October 23, Barnes moved via Email to reconsider the vote on filing with the IRS. Seconded by Edwards. Barnes, Edwards, Gelineau, Hoepner, Nagy and O'Brien voted yes. No opposition. Reconsideration passed 6-0. Before a new vote was completed on the question, it was learned that an injunction has been filed. The motion was tabled pending a court ruling on the injunction. Voting to table were Edwards, Heil, Hoepner, Nagy and O'Brien. Tabled 5-0, on October 26.

The motions to reconsider and table are included in the minutes although conducted after the meeting to provide an up-to-date report on the issue.

Respectfully submitted, Keith Edwards, Secretary





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## Libertarian Party of Michigan Membership Application / Monthly Pledge Program Sign-up

☐ Start or ☐ Extend Your LP Membership

☐ Join the LPM Pledge Program

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ \$35 Tri-Level - National, Michigan, and County \_\_\_\_\_

☐ \$25 Only National and Michigan

☐ \$25 I want to learn more before I join,  
please send National and Michigan Newsletters for one year

☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ additional donation for the operating fund

☐ I have enclosed a check payable to: Libertarian Party of Michigan  
Charge my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

☐ I want to make a Monthly Pledge of  
\$\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Send a reminder each month

☐ Charge my credit card

Your annual Tri-level dues will be automatically  
renewed as long as you remain in the Pledge Program

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Card Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicants for membership must indicate concurrence with the following statement by signing below:

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

What does the above statement mean? We ask our members to disavow the initiation of force. This does not mean that you cannot defend yourself; you have the right to defend your life, liberty and property. This commitment provides us with a core value to judge our political and personal actions to determine if we stay true to our common goal: a society where all relationships are based on voluntary cooperation.

Mail to: Libertarian Party of Michigan, 21835 Cherry Hill St., Dearborn MI 48124-1149