



# 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.*

**January-February, 2001**

### Convention Is Now Inter-ACTIVE

By Jim Fitzpatrick

With the elections and holidays now behind for every LPMer, it's time to focus on the real fun. Convention!

This year's State Convention will be held in beautiful Frankenmuth, Michigan on May 4-6. Good friends, good food and good times await all who attend!

Now it's my job to shoot down any excuses you have for not attending, so here it goes.

First, the LPM is putting on a great Convention. New officers will be elected, bylaws and platform will be addressed, and many seminars and panel discussions will take place. We will find more ways to be interACTIVE with ourselves, the media and the public.

Nancy O'Brien and her BARC team will kick off our all-important petition drive at this Convention. If you want to know how to do it, where to do it and when to do it, you should come and participate. We will not only be learning to gather signatures, we will be learning to be interACTIVE with the public.

Our speakers will include Bill Bradford, editor and publisher of Liberty Magazine (and a native of Michigan) and Lawrence Reed, President of Mackinac Center for Public Policy. Self-proclaimed libertarian talk show host Cameron Knowles will also address us.

Not enough? Well then, I'll have to divide and conquer!

Men, do you want the best chicken dinner you've ever had? Then get to Frankenmuth. The food is absolutely fabulous. And nothing beats a Frankenmuth beer!

Women, want to have a great weekend for a change? Come and enjoy the gorgeous hotel located right next to the river. How about a springtime walk through Frankenmuth's downtown? Unique shopping all within walking distance? Or a horse-drawn carriage? How about Bronners Christmas Wonderland or the Prime Outlet Mall 15 miles away?

Kids, bug the heck out of your parents. There is a three-level family fun center which includes an 18 hole putt-putt golf course and FIVE pools and a waterfall! Enough said.

Penny-pinchers, all registration prices and dinner prices remain the same as last year, so come on up and join us!

Those wishing to take advantage of early-bird price discounts, take note:

	Before April 7	After April 7
Welcome Party (Friday)	\$15	\$20
Saturday Lunch	17	20
Saturday Night Banquet	35	50
Sunday Brunch	18	25
Registration Packet	20	30
Total	105	145

The host hotel is the Bavarian Inn Lodge. Personal room reservations can be made by calling them at 517-652-7200. They fill up very fast, so please make early arrangements. Fairfield Inn is within walking distance,

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## DIRECTORY

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair	Stacy Van Oast	810-784-8783
Vice Chair	Diane Barnes	810-774-1625
Secretary	Keith Edwards	810-777-7468
Treasurer	Dave Nagy	
At-large	Mark Heil	

Bruce Hoepner  
Nancy O'Brien  
Jim Fitzpatrick  
Bill Gelineau

### JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

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Bill Hall  
Jerry Kaufman

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Campaign Mgrs.	Barbara Goushaw	248-355-5058
Campaign Fund	Diane Szabla	248-626-6322
Campaigns Coord	Nancy O'Brien	313-562-4243
College Organizing	Greg Stempfle	313-565-4407
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

The Michigan Libertarian is published bimonthly as the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan, 619 E. Nine Mile Rd., Hazel Park, MI 48030. Telephone 1-248-591-FREE. Scheduled publication is January, March, May, July, September and November.

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Articles, letters and ad copy should be sent to the editor at:

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Michigan Tech	Tim Mapley	906-483-5138
		tjmapley@mtu.edu
U. of Detroit-Mercy	David Collver	248-542-9274
Univ. of Mich.	Charles Goodman	734-564-8633
		cgoodman@umich.edu
Wayne State U.	Greg Stempfle	313-565-4407
	Gstempfl@sun.science.wayne.edu	
Western Michigan	Brian Carnell	616-345-8671
Youth Contact	Greg Stempfle	313-565-4407

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!



## The State of the State

By Stacy Van Oast

We are the Libertarian Party of Michigan and we are focused on freedom!

The Libertarian Party is fundamentally different from other political parties because we have a much larger and more important goal than they do, we want to do more than just win elections. We are superior!

Libertarians share a vision of a world where individuals are free to take care of themselves and to be responsible for their own lives and their own actions, a world in which we are all free to make our own choices and the only role of government is to protect our opportunity to enjoy that freedom.

Libertarians do not buy into the European model where government assumes responsibility for individual choice in exchange for our money, rights and freedom.

We are also superior to other political parties because Libertarians share the same core values of independence, integrity, honesty, competitiveness and respect for the equal rights of others. And we won't give those values up, even if it means not being competitive in the marketplace.

The Libertarian Party of Michigan's most fundamental reason for existence is: *To create a society based on individual freedom and responsibility by participating in the political process in Michigan specifically by entering into political information activities and by electing candidates to public office.*

Several questions come to mind. How will we create that society? How will we achieve less government and more personal freedom at every level of Michigan government? How will we create a Libertarian Party that is respected and regarded as a major force in politics. How will we educate people about the Libertarian Party and our ideals? How will we attract and keep more members? How will we elect candidates who are not typical politicians and who will focus on our freedom?

As we begin this new year, we must reorient our efforts to achieving progress in all of these areas. Some of the strategies the LPM is working on currently include:

Implementing and promoting a new Just One program that will encourage and support affiliates in directing all of their resources, volunteer and financial, into electing "just one" local Libertarian this year. (Having a Libertarian attending each local government meeting would certainly help this effort;)

Providing training and communication tools to our affiliates and members for better communicating our ideas at local government meetings;

Doing a better job of sharing news, tips and successes in the state newsletter;

Striving for more youth outreach by advertising at colleges and starting and supporting more college affiliates;

And, of course, we'll get started this year by making sure the LPM gets back on the ballot in time for the partisan elections in 2002.

Implementing these strategies is the hard part. However, thanks to the dedicated generous effort of our passionate and concerned members, we are sure to accomplish all of this and more.

We will have a Libertarian standing up at every local government meeting in Michigan, promoting Libertarian ideals and actually creating that free society that is our vision. More and more people will become aware of the Libertarian Party, voting Libertarian and joining us. Communities around Michigan will move closer and closer to a free society because we will have that dedicated Libertarian showing the way. More and more Libertarians will be elected to public office where they will reduce our immense and intimidating government.

Just look at the libertarian impact that Jason Miller had in changing his community's curfew laws and that Tim O'Brien had in cutting Allen Park's Christmas tree lighting budget from \$75,000 over three years to just \$5,000!

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## The State of the State

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All members of the Libertarian Party of Michigan need to embrace this goal of having one Libertarian at every local government meeting so that these dreams will become a reality.

We can do this. *You can do this! Imagine what you can do!* You don't need to be elected to anything in order to make this world a better, freer place. You just need to help us get one Libertarian to every local government meeting. Stand up and suggest Libertarian solutions, ask questions, question priorities, and then take credit as a Libertarian who has helped change the world and made your community a better place to live.

The Libertarian Party is the only political party that offers a principled message and provides a means for moving the country toward more freedom, not more government.

We will succeed in establishing a society based on freedom and responsibility because we have such active, devoted leadership and because we have members who encourage and support the efforts of the LPM who will play a part in making our vision a reality.

Thank you for making the Libertarian Party of Michigan more than just another political party. I am excited about the future of the LPM and am looking forward to working with everyone so that we will have a libertarian at every local government meeting. Together we will keep the Libertarian Party of Michigan focused on freedom!

"Success is going from failure to failure without losing your enthusiasm."

Winston Churchill, Prime Minister

"If the winds of fortune are temporarily blowing against you, remember that you can harness them and make them carry you toward your definite purpose through the use of your imagination."

Napoleon Hill, writer

## LPM Offices Up and Running, Volunteer Staff Needed

By Tim O'Brien

Our efforts to shift party operations to our offices in Hazel Park are going well.

All routine party business including Executive Committee and other meetings are now held in our spacious headquarters. Our telephone communications system, including the 800 number and voice mail have been installed and are fully functional

With Ben Bachrach's good help we have shifted all mail operations, both incoming and outgoing, from our old Dearborn address. We already have new stationery, reply envelopes and so forth reflecting this change.

Dan Lafavers, Marnie Edwards and Sharlene Strick have set up pledge program operations, using a new credit card processing system arranged by Diane Barnes.

As Executive Director, I regularly work out of HQ and am there most afternoons. We also have some volunteers who come in during our regular 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. weekday business hours to answer phones, process mail and help out with whatever projects happen to be in the works.

In order to keep this regular staffing from becoming too much of a burden, we are asking that each volunteer commit to just one afternoon a week. Joann Karpinski has taken on Tuesdays, and Al Titran and Rosemary Racchi haven taken on Fridays.

If you can volunteer four hours of your time one afternoon a week to help out at the offices, call Tim O'Brien at 248-591-FREE.

## Wanted

**A microwave oven and full size refrigerator for our Headquarters. If you can donate either, please call (248) 591-3733, weekday afternoon, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.**





**Above: Al Titran, Stacy and Peter Van Oast, Greg Dirasian, Tim O'Brien and Diane Barnes at the opening of LPM Headquarters last April. Below: Headquarters volunteer and Wayne County LP Chair, Joann Karpinski in front of Nancy O'Brien who found the Headquarters and oversaw it's furnishing.**





## Precinct Organizing

By Scott Maczuga

Recently I attended the Republican Executive Committee meeting in Oakland County, Michigan. Attending this meeting were all Precinct Delegates and State Representatives from our county. After the meeting was called to order, all 250 attendees heard announcements and an overview of the party's short-term goals. Then mini caucuses were formed to discuss the business of their communities and how to improve and handle any challenges that they were facing. The meeting was filled with professionally dressed politicians and Republican voters. It was run as a corporate board of directors meeting; the organization and presentation were very impressive.

In becoming far more politically active and educated this year and in changing from the Republican to the Libertarian Party, I found some fundamental differences in how the two parties get things done.

One way that the Republicans have success is through the use of precinct delegates. I have served as a precinct delegate volunteer in the past. Precinct delegates are voted in, but if there are none, volunteers can fill in. These people are in charge of organizing literature drops at homes in their areas. These lit drops are done to educate the citizens about the party and inform them of upcoming bills. They are also used to inform the community whom to vote for when the absentee ballots are sent out, and again just before the polls open. There are MANY ways to utilize the efforts of a precinct delegate.

This in-your-face continuous outreach has helped to keep Oakland County a shining star for the Republican party. I would love nothing more than to see that change, but without better organization, the LPM will continue to come in third instead of first at the polls. We already face economic challenges that the older parties do not face, but we need not face them organizationally.

I strongly urge all LP affiliates to organize by precinct now and use them. For more information or to volunteer as a precinct delegate in Oakland County, call Scott Maczuga at 248-866-1766.

## Editor's Notebook

By Keith Edwards

Scott Maczuga's article on this page points up some of the differences in political organization between the LPM and both the Republicans and Democrats. The precinct delegate system must be used by major parties by state law. Precinct delegates are elected by the public and subsequently vote at district conventions to elect their leaders. Some delegates are selected to go to state conventions where some candidates are nominated for public office. The LPM, like other minor parties, does not nominate candidates by primary election, but rather by local caucus and has no legal need for precinct delegates.

However, Scott is on to something here. Some local LPM affiliates have recruited members to serve as local representatives for cities, townships, etc., Macomb and Wayne among them. The representatives are supposed to maintain contact with local government to determine what offices are up for election, among other things. Most of them have failed to do so.

One way to get better organized is for all affiliates to recruit local representatives and give them the names of other LPM members in their city, township, etc. The local reps could recruit some of these members to act as precinct representatives. It takes only a few hours to do a lit drop in a precinct and that both spreads the work around and establishes clear responsibility. It also prepares us for the day when we become a major party and acquire a legal need to have precinct delegates. They would already be performing many of the functions of a precinct delegate and the transition would be easier than starting from scratch under the stress of reorganizing.

We have 1,611 LPM members as of December 31. We appreciate their vote, contributions and support. However, only a few hundred are really active in the Party. If you are not, becoming a local representative or precinct rep would help us spread the work, make us much more effective and enable you to get to spend some time with some of the smartest, nicest people you will ever meet. I personally treasure the friends I have made in the Libertarian Party of Michigan and I'll bet you will too.



## New Year Resolutions

By Diane Barnes

Here are some interesting New Year Resolutions of Libertarian Party of Michigan activists.

"The Ottawa County LP wants more action to be taken at the local level! How do we get more action? More people taking action! To date we have had a 50% membership growth. By the end of our first year we anticipate 100% membership growth. That is our goal, to double membership." Jason Miller.

"Clare-Gladwin LP's New Years Resolution is to really saturate our population with the libertarian message." Ghazey Aleck

"My personal Liberty Agenda is to show people what they can do on the local level to be more free in their daily lives. I think one of the most daunting things to the average person is the idea of taking on 'The President' or 'Washington, D.C.' in the fight for personal liberty. People need to realize that if they make a point of electing people with integrity to local offices, eventually some of them will make their way up the ladder to higher office. I want to point out to people how laws like the mandatory seatbelt law and mandatory arrests on domestic violence calls violate our personal liberties. So many people are distracted by all the national press pre-fab issues, they do not realize how severely their personal rights are eroded on the local level by unethical officials. You don't have to look all the way to Washington for socialist behavior." I also plan to encourage as many people as possible to apply for a CCW, provided they don't appear mentally unstable" Dave Wejrandt, Macomb County.

"I will be working with the Mackinac Center, creating and promoting a national organization of teachers who are in favor of parental choice in education, called Teachers for Choice ([www.teachersforchoice.org](http://www.teachersforchoice.org)). I will also collect at least 100 signatures to place the LPM back on the ballot. (If just a quarter of our membership makes this same commitment, we won't have to 'buy' any signatures!) I will also explore the possibility of running for Governor in 2002." Mike Corliss, Wayne County.

"As Bill Bradford put it in January 'Liberty', I think we do need to reorient ourselves, focusing toward one long term future goal that will help us achieve a less governmentally-burdened society; something we can all get behind and work together to accomplish.

"I want to work on making sure that the LP and especially the LPM remain principled and operate with integrity in both the outside world and internally within the organization." Stacy Van Oast

"I resolve to move back to Michigan some day! Seriously, Karin and I miss all our friends in Michigan and that we welcome overnight visitors this summer." Mark Tuniewicz, National LP Treasurer, Massachusetts.

"My resolution is to raise children that can think for themselves." Anne Bora, Oakland County.

"My resolution is to collect 500 signatures for our ballot access petition." Ben Steele III.

"I will watch for opportunities to promote libertarian ideas outside of the obvious ones such as letters to the editor or city council meetings. For example, the other day I remarked to the person standing next to me in a long line at the post office, 'Geez, only a government monopoly can afford to leave so many customers standing in line like this.' The lady at first looked a bit puzzled. So, I added, 'I mean, its not like we can take our business elsewhere.' At that point a look of understanding spread over her face, she smiled, nodded and launched into her own story about poor service by a government agency, in that case having to do with a building permit. My New Years resolution is to be more conscious of these situations and take advantage of the opportunity they present." Tim O'Brien, LPM Executive Director.

"Obvious or not, my New Year resolution is to get at least 12 letters to the editor published this year. I'll let you know whether I met that quota next year at this time. That way I don't dare get lazy, it's too embarrassing!" Keith Edwards, Editor.

So, what's your resolution? Email it to me at [DBarnes98](mailto:DBarnes98) and I'll pass it along to Keith for the next issue of Michigan Libertarian. Now I have to think of one for myself! Diane, Macomb County



## Just One

By Bruce Hoepner

Libertarian thought is the moral pinnacle of the political pyramid. The purist principles, that still do exist in the hearts of liberals and conservatives both, rise to the top at a simple and final point, human freedom.

Statistics that I have heard bantered about indicate that 16% of the population is libertarian in thought. That adds up to 42,000,000 people (give or take a few) that believe that, in most ways, the government should leave them the hell alone. 42 million is a respectable number of folks. With that kind of figure to work with, you can see why the people at LP National can get so ambitious and hopeful. If you get the attention of 1% of that, that's 420,000 citizens with money. If you can get \$100 per year from them, well that's \$42,000,000 and one heck of a presidential campaign. Look at the noise Ross Perot made with only \$19 million. It is easy to see why some of the more visionary souls in the party stay so enthusiastic.

Of course, 218 or so million people is a good sized crowd too, and that's the number of folks that are satisfied with the status quo. I don't know what percentage of them are active, vote and contribute but I am sure that there are enough to cough up some real money. This can be daunting, but you have to have confidence in our message.

The message of liberty sells. On TV and in the print media Pat Buchanan received 60 to 70 mentions for every one of Harry Browne, yet Harry stayed at the same percentage as Pat in national polls and lost to him by a small margin. That means that our message is sixty times more effective than Buchanan's with potential voters. It is exciting to think what the response will be when we are getting the same level attention. But that's the trick.

Getting attention, for Libertarians, is no simple endeavor. Even the highest-profile campaign in LP history got Harry occasional national TV mentions or interviews. The big print outfits like NEWSWEEK, TIME and USA TODAY are also cursory in their coverage. There are a few reasons for this.

We've been around for a long time. Familiarity breeds contempt and these reporters look at us and first, laugh at our zeal and then look at our record. Aside from a little noise from the Ed Clark campaign in 1980 and a little flicker from Browne in '96 there hasn't been much to look

at on the national scene. The local level isn't a lot better. Just 240+ Libertarians in elected **and appointed** office. Nationwide? They're supposed to be impressed with that? Not from their perspective.

So if we need the attention, and we do, and the only thing that will get it is numbers, then we have to get the numbers. We have to elect a lot of people to office. We've now got 13 elected and appointed positions in the state of Michigan. They are all local level offices where our Party members are interacting with their constituents and learning to govern. This is out of several thousand such offices in this state. That's pretty good, for us. But we need more.

These local positions are the training ground for higher offices. Libertarians learn to work with officials from both older parties. They learn about coalition and consensus building. They get to examine the structure of power from the inside. If they learn well, then they start to inject the principles of liberty into the process. This way, at the most intimate level, the voters get a tangible example of how Libertarian thought works for them. Those voters will then be more inclined to vote for the next Libertarian they see on the ballot regardless of the status of the race.

We've got thirteen people doing that now. They have already brought us votes and should continue to do so. Now imagine we had thirty. How many votes will they bring in? How many more of our fellow citizens will become familiar with what Libertarians can do for them? How many more folks will have their taxes reduced, or at least held steady? How many will notice that local government seems to be working at bit smoother. "Not so much frivolous spending anymore and that stupid ordinance repealed."

There will be many. They will vote for the next Libertarian, or the same one if they run for higher office. A few years down the road they won't have the slightest problem with electing a Libertarian State Representative. Four or five of those and the Older parties will have to come to us if they want to get anything passed. Sooner or later one of those Reps will make a big enough splash to make it to Congress. If every other state party picks up the ball then we could have several voices in Washington. Liberty becomes part of mainstream thought.

Then, we cannot be ignored. The political pundits in print and on the TV screen, local and national, will need to know the Libertarian view on every bill and issue. With 5 or 6 seats in the state house and 20 or 30 in Congress we could be the balance of power on most legislation proposed. Our opinion



on every aspect of government will be crucial to any newsworthy analysis. Which, in turn, gets the message of freedom and personal responsibility more widely spread. And as we already know, the message sells.

The future looks bright for the Libertarian Party. We need only to do the work and make this happen. As the most effective third party in this state, the LP has already built the momentum to achieve our goal. The Libertarian Party of Michigan has won the respect of many political pundits and the competition in the older parties. Importantly, we have won the respect of many voters. So let's give them somebody to elect in 2001.

This will be called an off-election year. Since most of the races are non-partisan and run for local seats there is not as much importance placed by the media. But these are the most important races of all for Libertarians. Some of them, all over the state, are winnable. It's quite likely that there is at least one seat, in each affiliate's area, that could be won by us. So this is the challenge.....Just One.

I propose that each affiliate target a single, non-partisan race in its area and put all of its resources together to elect one of its own to that seat. It could be any seat; county commission, city council, mayor, clerk or school board. Just make sure that it's winnable then bring it in.

This sounds simple, to any of you who haven't worked on a campaign before. But actually, the process is simple, organization, attention to detail and perseverance. Use the skills acquired from past campaigns. Attend the Campaign Training Seminars held by the State Party. Call on the State Campaign Coordinator to help with targeting, paperwork and other resources. Find a good issue or look for opportunities presented by the incumbents, themselves, to bring the winning Libertarian message to the voters. Bring your family, friends and neighbors into the process by asking for help on the campaign. Make it work.

Since all of us are going to be working on restoring our ballot access, 18 separate campaigns, across the state, will be an excellent vehicle for voter contact. Campaign events, lit drops and door-to-door outreach can all be tools for getting our candidates elected and collecting the necessary signatures to regain our ballot status.

The full details of the Just One challenge will be presented at the Leadership Conference in February. Any one who wishes to volunteer for the Campaign Coordinating Committee should call me at 248-414-7094 evenings, 313-983-4332 days or e-mail [Hoeptner@plunkettlaw.com](mailto:Hoeptner@plunkettlaw.com).

## State Chairs to Meet

National Director Steve Dasbach has announced that the Libertarian National Committee is sponsoring a conference of State Chairs and State Executive Directors to be held February 10-11, 2001, in Indianapolis, Indiana. The conference will be held in conjunction with the first meeting of the LNC's Strategic Planning Committee, which has been charged with developing a multi-year strategic plan for the LP.

The conference will begin at 8:30 each morning. That session will consist of sharing of best practices. The presenters and panelists will be state chairs, executive directors and other local activists with proven records of success in the areas they are addressing. There will be plenty of time allotted for discussion.

On Saturday afternoon, the participants will join the Strategic Planning Committee for a freewheeling brainstorming session about the future of the LP.

At the vision conference on January 7, Bruce Hoepner moved that the LPM reimburse State Chair Stacy Van Oast and Executive Director Tim O'Brien for their hotel room for Friday and Saturday nights, Feb. 9-10. Seconded by Jim Fitzpatrick. The rooms are \$99 plus tax. The LNC is reimbursing for airfare or mileage. An e-mail vote of the LEC passed the motion.

The LPM has some success stories to tell, and Stacy and Tim are expected to be forthright about suggestions for National. The meeting should be very productive.



Check out the *LPM*  
on the *World Wide Web*

<http://www.coast.net/~lpm/>



## Convention Is Now InterACTIVE

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and is accepting reservations at 517-652-5000 or 800-228-2800. Bargain hunters, Bridgeport is only six miles away (next to the Highway) and has extremely cheap rooms available.

Keep an eye on that mailbox. More information will be coming soon. You can reserve Convention registration by telephone at LPM Headquarters, 248-591-FREE. Credit cards are accepted.

Can't wait to see everyone there. Let's put down those keyboards and really become interACTIVE!

### LPM Elections May See Turnover

LPM Elections have been predictable, if not downright dull in recent years, with little turnover and few contested seats. This year may be different with perhaps five of the nine seats without an incumbent. Treasurer Dave Nagy has announced that he will not run for his tenth term as the money man. After his heart attack and bypass surgery before last year's Convention, Dave plunged right back in, but has decide to lighten his load this time, though he'll still be active.

Chair Stacy Van Oast has indicated she will not run for a third term, continuing the two-term tradition in place since 1995. The position has been contested only once since 1988.

Secretary Keith Edwards has not yet decided whether to run for a third term, but Vice Chair Diane Barnes has said she will run for her second term. At least two at-large members have expressed doubt about running.

It is uncertain whether the IRS 527 problem is discouraging incumbents in view of the possible heavy fines that may be levied if the LEC does not comply if the court case filed by Republicans against the new rules loses. It is hoped the matter will be decided before the Convention.

## Platform and By-laws Procedure

By Stacy Van Oast

The Libertarian Party of Michigan By-laws and Platform are the governing documents of our organization. Each year at Convention these crucial documents are debated and revised as the delegates deem necessary.

In order that as wide a representation of our membership as possible can become actively involved in our future, all affiliates that are organized and officially recognized on or before April 5, 2001, will have the opportunity to appoint one member to the Platform Committee. The largest five affiliates may appoint one member to the By-laws Committee. As of December 31, 2000, the five largest are:

Oakland	359
Wayne	274
Macomb	183
Washtenaw	99
Kent	72

Both Committees will meet on Friday, May 4, 2001, the first day of the Convention, to begin debate. The Committees will discuss and prioritize proposed amendments, determining which are to be brought to the Convention floor and in what order. All proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the appropriate Committee Chair as soon as possible, so that additional meetings may be scheduled if needed.

Platform Committee Chair is Tim O'Brien. Affiliates should submit names of their committee representative to him at LPM HQ, 619 E. Nine Mile Rd., Hazel Park, MI 48030 or E-mail to [TOBrien321@aol.com](mailto:TOBrien321@aol.com). Submit amendments in the same manner.

Emily Salvette will serve as Chair of the By-laws Committee. Submit proposed By-laws changes, and the five largest affiliates should send committee representative names to her at Headquarters, or E-mail to [salvette@aol.com](mailto:salvette@aol.com).

Please speak to your affiliate Chair if you are interested in serving on one of these committees.



## Interview With Keith Edwards

By Diane Barnes

One of the most debated topics of on-line discussions in the LP is the debate over “purity” and what constitutes principles. These discussions often dissolve into acrimony and little gets resolved. I have always thought that the best way to learn about an organization is to talk to its founding members. We have one in Keith Edwards

Keith has served four terms as State Chair, two as Secretary and on the LEC at various times since 1972. He remains optimistic about the Party and the movement. He was born and raised in the Detroit area during the great depression. His mom encouraged him to see the movie “The Fountainhead” when he was 19. He was active in the Objectivist movement of author Ayn Rand in the 1960’s, serving as Detroit area Representative for Nathaniel Branden Institute (NBI) which gave taped lectures on Objectivism.

BARNES: What was it that interested you about The Fountainhead?

EDWARDS: It was the whole message of sticking to your ideals and not violating them, not compromising them away. I ran out and bought the book and read it about a half a dozen times before “Atlas Shrugged” came out.

BARNES: How did Objectivism evolve into interest in the Libertarian Party?

EDWARDS: The LP started in Colorado in 1971, thanks to Nixon’s wage and price controls. That stimulated a bunch of Objectivists and libertarian-leaning Republicans to form the Party. In 1972 some of the former NBI students were in contact with David Nolan. They decided to start the Party here in Michigan. I was contacted and we got together for an organizational meeting. We formed the Party right then and there. We ran a write in candidate for President, John Hospers. He was on the ballot in three or four states and got over 3,000 votes nationally.

BARNES: It doesn’t seem like an easy transition, using a philosophy like Objectivism as a base for a political party.

EDWARDS: Well, it isn’t, but the majority of the people at the founding meeting were people who were familiar with Ayn Rand. James Hudler was one. We had a definite idea of combining economic freedom

and personal liberties. It was strictly the result of Ayn Rand, at least in Michigan. How it developed in other states, I don’t know. I do know that a lot of the founders and activist elsewhere were heavily influenced by Rand. BARNES: From what I have read, Rand was not supportive of the idea of formulating a political party. Why?

EDWARDS: Rand thought it was much too early to have a political party based on her philosophy or anything close to it. She said that the philosophy had to start spreading through society before a political party could get anywhere. In that case she turned out to be right. We haven’t made anywhere near the progress we thought we would.

BARNES: Initially, were there more anarchist types in the Party?

EDWARDS: No, the anarchist thing was just getting started in the early 70’s. Most of the people believe in a limited form of government, Jeffersonians or Randians. When they did come in, the anarchists expected a lot of progress in a hurry. They had unrealistic expectations. By the mid 80’s, the anarchist element was fading away.

BARNES: What was the purpose or vision of the early Libertarian Party?

EDWARDS: Obviously, we wanted to spread the message about libertarianism, but we also wanted to elect people. There were a lot of young people who lacked political experience, so the movement didn’t expand too fast. It wasn’t until the late 70’s and early 80’s that the party matured as we drew in more individuals with experience in business and politics.

BARNES: As each election season went by and few Libertarians were elected to office, was there a sense of dejection in the membership as is common today?

EDWARDS: There was always a big turnover of people after an election, except between 1980 and 1984. Ed Clark ran for President in ‘80 and received almost a million votes. It was a well-financed campaign. They bombarded the TV networks with ads the last two weeks of the campaign. There was a rush of enthusiasm. We had a lot of state candidates too, 100 in 1982.

BARNES: “Tell me why you remain optimistic about the libertarian movement.

EDWARDS: Large L, the Party has had its ups and downs. The advantage I see is the philosophy. We have a very consistent, easy to defend philosophy of government which derives out of very firm moralistic ethics which other parties simply do not have. We have

(Continued on Page 12)



## Interview With Keith Edwards

(Continued from Page 11)

enthusiasm among our people because we are idealists. Not “head in the clouds” type of idealism, but a good, practical, rational-based idealism Members see how logical our arguments are, how they fit together so well, and that retains their enthusiasm.

BARNES: About those ups and downs you mentioned, is there a split in the Party over what some have called the purists vs. the pragmatists? Where do you fit in that spectrum?

EDWARDS: I have always been a purist. I think our message has to be extreme. Ethics is ethics, truth is truth and integrity is integrity. One of the things we have to sell as a political party is that we have a logical philosophy that is based on human nature and human needs. One thing anyone needs in order to prosper is the freedom to use the power of his own mind to solve his own problems. No one knows you better than yourself. That is what we have to sell. We have to preach abolition of the drug war and social security because they violate our nature as thinking, independent beings. They are immoral.

At the same time, while we are absolutists and abolitionist in our rhetoric, if we have the opportunity to get a *short-term* gradualist program we should negotiate. I don't think we should start up front with a halfway proposal. We should always state up front what we intend and look for principled ways to bring it about.

For example, Jacob Hornberger believes that the Social Security system should be abolished because it is immoral and illogical. I agree. I don't agree with Republicans who want to modify it over many years to such a degree that it would be very easy to reverse the whole thing somewhere along the line. The immorality continues. On the other hand, we could negotiate a Harry Browne approach of a 5-8 year phase out that guarantees current and near-future retirees annuities funded by sales of government assets and get younger people off the program entirely right away. No more theft, but a quick conclusion. Not perfect, but a solution that does not perpetuate or increase invasion of our rights, all the while keeping in mind that we do want the abolition of Social Security.

If you're inconsistent in your arguments, we lose the fight. Compromise destroys truth. Democrats have been successful in getting their programs in for 70 years, because they are consistent in their arguments. They have taken a definite socialistic approach. They don't deviate. They will compromise in negotiation, but they stick to their principles, even if most of them are wrong-headed. Republicans have no central philosophy, just the urge to win, so they punt on first down. We are at the opposite end of the political spectrum and have to be uncompromising in getting our message out, especially to young people who, being skeptical, look for contradiction.

BARNES: Back to the philosophical issue, you said once that you thought all libertarians should be operating on Objectivist ethics. What are those?

EDWARDS: The ethical conclusion of Objectivism is that no one has the right to initiate the use of physical force against someone else. That is the basic principle of the Libertarian Party. So we took the ethical conclusion of the Objectivist ethics and translated that into a political principle. That's what guides the libertarian movement and the Party in particular.

BARNES: Do you think the Party has a moral or ethical base?

EDWARDS: Most people have gravitated to the Party because of Objectivism or because they naturally have come to a lot of similar conclusions. The basic virtues of Objectivism are rationality, independence, integrity, honesty, justice, productiveness and pride. That's how most libertarians act! I have never been in an organization in which there are so many honest people, who deal with each other with principle. There may be a little political infighting and power struggles, but nothing like you see in other parties. The majority of folks in this country want to be like that. That's the Libertarian market! We should be able to appeal to that majority.

BARNES: As the Party grows, do you think that moral or ethical base will be watered down?

EDWARDS: It could. I have not seen it to any great extent. I have observed some that are less than honest and have acted with less than full integrity. They are a small minority and they don't stick around too long, usually. The problem we have with the party today is a result of people being a little too “pragmatic.” As Lord Acton said, “Power corrupts.” Even Libertarians can slip. Some of those in the past are now Republicans.

(More in the next issue of Michigan Libertarian)



## LEC Minutes for December 3, 2000

The meeting of the Libertarian Executive Committee was called to order at 1:02 p.m. at Headquarters by Chair Stacy Van Oast. Present were Committee members Stacy Van Oast, Keith Edwards, Dave Nagy, Jim Fitzpatrick, Bill Gelineau, Bruce Hoepner and Nancy O'Brien. Diane Barnes and Mark Heil were absent. Also present were Tim O'Brien, Marnie Edwards, Greg Dirasian, Lynn Fitzpatrick, Leonard Schwartz, Rosemary Racchi and Al Titan.

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as corrected. Expiration of the HQ lease is 12/1/02, not 11/1/02.

Stacy Van Oast thanked all the candidates for their efforts. They have received certificates in recognition. Harry Browne received 16,711 votes in Michigan. This was insufficient to maintain ballot status. Nancy O'Brien will head the petitioning committee to regain ballot status. Ways to repeal the "top of ticket" rule will be researched. We need volunteers to help staff the HQ Monday through Friday, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Mail distribution procedure will be set up as our official address is changed to HQ. Glada Moss, daughter of Trina, died in a house fire. Leonard Schwartz said that we can still run candidates as Libertarians in local elections, but not statewide. This will be double-checked.

Tim O'Brien reported that the next fundraising letter mailing will be Dec. 6. National will contribute \$15,000 for the petition drive. The fax distribution system will operate out of HQ.

Jim Fitzpatrick gave the Affiliates Committee report. The leadership meeting preparations are progressing. We may have a new affiliate in Delta County. There will be a mailing to affiliates. They need to coordinate event dates and assure volunteer availability.

Keith Edwards reported that the newsletter was mailed on Thursday, Nov. 30, about nine days late due to late submission of articles because of Liberty Fest. Now using the bulk mail center, instead of Troy PO. Next deadline for articles is January 10, mailing by Jan. 23.

Dave Nagy gave the Treasurer's report. No progress

on the budget update as Trafton Jean was focusing on his campaign. Dave will not be running for re-election as Treasurer due to his health. Each person performing a LPM job should get his/her procedures in writing in case of emergencies and send them to Keith Edwards who will assemble and distribute the procedures guide.

We need a campaign committee chair.

The big membership mailing was successful in getting renewals, updating our database and was profitable.

Nancy O'Brien reported that the first meeting of the Petitioning Committee will be on January 4 at 7 p.m. at HQ. Each affiliate is to have a petitioning coordinator to maintain lists of petitioners. There will be petitioning seminars to insure accuracy. Kickoff of the drive will be the State Convention. We have 180 days from the start to complete the drive.

Liberty Fest was a big success. The final report will be done as soon as the last expense reports are in. Oakland County wants to host the 2001 event.

Jim Fitzpatrick reported that the State Convention will be held at the Bavarian Motor Inn in Frankenmuth. The original location is being renovated.

Stacy Van Oast reported that she has signed and returned the HQ lease. Brass Roots will continue to rent and Oakland Co. LP expects to renew.

The pledge program credit card system was discussed.

Nothing new has happened on the IRS 527 lawsuit, but a ruling on the injunction is expected soon.

There will be a meeting on January 7 to set a more clear vision for the LPM. Suggestions were made regarding a membership poll.

Bruce Hoepner will prepare a Just One package for the affiliates.

The next Libertarian Advisory Council /LEC meeting will be held February 11 at HQ.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted, Keith Edwards, Secretary.



## 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** meets second Thursday. Call Glenn Whitt at 616-473-2764 for location, which varies.

**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 Figaro's, Port Huron.

**Shiawassee** meets first and third Sundays at 7 p.m. at 701 S. Chipman, Owosso. Call Ben @ 517-288-5616 for details on the business meetings.

**South Central** meets second Saturday at 7 p.m. at 8001 South Jackson Rd., Jackson. There is a Hillsdale-Branch Co. meeting first Tuesday at 7p.m. at Fillmore's Restaurant 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 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.



## Leadership Conference

The Libertarian Party of Michigan will hold its annual Leadership Conference on Sunday, February 4, at the Comfort Inn, 622 Allegan St. in Plainwell, just north of Kalamazoo. The Ottawa LP is the sponsor. Registration and coffee is at 10 a.m. and the meeting starts at 10:30.

Although this is called a leadership conference, all Libertarian Party activists are welcome.

Topics include. Petitioning by Nancy O'Brien, Online Database by Greg Dirasian, Local Campaigning by Barbara Goushaw, Outreach to Youth by Jim Lark, Local Activism by Tim O'Brien and State of the State LP by Stacy Van Oast.

Each affiliate is also invited to choose one representative to take two minutes to answer these questions:

1. What has been your affiliate's greatest accomplishment?
2. What are your affiliate's current goals?
3. Define the term "success."

National LP Chair Jim Lark will be the Keynote Speaker.

For more information call Ben Steele at 517-288-5616 or E-mail at [bsteale@tir.com](mailto:bsteale@tir.com)

## LEC Meeting Rescheduled

The February meeting of the Libertarian Advisory Council/ Libertarian Executive Committee will be held on February 18 at LPM Headquarters, 619 East Nine Mile Rd., Hazel Park. The meeting was rescheduled from February 11 because of the State Chairs meeting in Indianapolis on that date.

The postponement will allow Stacy Van Oast and Tim O'Brien not only to attend but also to prepare a report on the event for the LEC. That should make for a very interesting meeting. Any LPM member may attend the LEC meeting.

## Silver Linings

By Keith Edwards

The Wall Street Journal reported on December 5 that by 2004, 32% of current federal employees will either have retired or be eligible for regular retirement. In addition, 21% will be eligible for early retirement. This adds up to over 900,000 out of the total bureaucracy of 1,800,000.

Ohio Republican Senator George Voinovich lamented that the exodus "threatens to leave the government without the experience or know-how necessary to meet the expectations of the American taxpayer." What expectations? The only one I can think of is that we expect the government to screw up. That's expertise worth losing!

Sounds like an opportune time to quickly close up about 10 cabinet departments, before they can hire any replacements.

Janet Reno is gone! Hopefully she'll retire to Little Havana in Miami. Or Big Havana.

Republican Rick Lazio lost the Senate race in New York! (Well, maybe I *am* stretching that one a bit.)

The next Libertarian National Convention will be in Indianapolis. We don't have to go to Metro Airport!!! (The Wall Street Journal just rated most of the big US airports for service, convenience, competence, etc. Guess which was rated as the worst.)

Is Algore still punching out chads?

Here it is late January and Bill Clinton hasn't bombed any countries yet.

Commissar of Money Alan Greenspan panicked and cut interest rates to save the market, thus cagily providing more evidence for his 1960's view that the gold standard is far superior to government-managed money. Way to go, Alan! Very clever of you to show that even the brightest of central bankers has no idea of how to regulate as well as the free market would.

And you thought there were no silver linings!





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

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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, 619 E. Nine Mile Rd., Hazel Park, MI 48030-1836