



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

NEWS LETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN

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.

March-April, 2001

Election Battle Looms at Convention

For the first time since 1994, a battle looms over the election of officers at the State Convention of the Libertarian Party of Michigan at Frankenmuth on May 4-6.

Bill Gelineau of the West Michigan affiliate has promised a slate of candidates for the Libertarian Executive Committee that will be opposed to the incumbents. He will run for Treasurer. He made the announcement at the LEC meeting on February 18.

Chair Stacy Van Oast has declined to run for a third term, but will run for an At-large position. She wants to lighten her load of two to three hours a day on LPM matters after two years. Mike Corliss of Wayne County is the only announced candidate at press time, but is not believed to be a part of the "slate."

Vice Chair Diane Barnes will run for a second term and will be challenged by young Jason Miller of Ottawa County, a member of the slate.

Secretary Keith Edwards announced he will run for a third term at the LEC meeting. By then, Gelineau had left the meeting without disclosing any other slate candidates.

Treasurer Dave Nagy will not be a candidate for his tenth term due to health problems. Gelineau is the only candidate at press time.

At-large incumbents Mark Heil and Jim Fitzpatrick have said they will not run for re-election. Bruce Hoepner and Nancy O'Brien have said they will run

again. The only other announced candidates for At-large LEC spots are Van Oast and Todd Barnett. It's not known if he is on the slate. Gelineau is the other incumbent.

Proposals for Liberty Fest and Convention

By Diane Barnes

Proposals for hosting Liberty Fest 2001 and the State Convention 2002 will be due before long.

Affiliates should submit proposals for hosting this year's Liberty Fest in November, by June 1. Bids for the State Convention in 2002 should be submitted by August 1.

Proposals should include the name and background of the potential Convention Committee Chair, proposed location, speakers, program theme, costs, etc.

Please submit your proposal to the Vice Chair who will bring all proposals to the LEC for approval/selection. Send to Diane Barnes at Headquarters.

West Michigan Liberty Banquet

The annual Liberty Banquet for West Michigan will be held on April 7 at the Highlander on Lake Michigan Drive in Walker. Watch for a separate invitation that will be sent.

Contact Bill Gelineau at 616-249-9735 for further details.

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

Jon Coon
Bill Hall
Jerry Kaufman

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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
Branch-Hillsdale	James Parker	517-439-2460
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	Jeff Steinport	616-447-0721

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!

From the Chair (Final)

By Stacy Van Oast

Final thoughts of a lame duck (quack, quack!)

Or. . .

Still lots to do!

Or. . .

So long, and thanks for everything!

Make more efficient use of HQ. Hire (evil profiteering?) Director of Operations or administrative type person to organize and oversee mailings, bookkeeping, correspondence, etc. Let Tim stay home and write—it's what he does best. ☺

Get more involved in the community. We must have a libertarian at every government meeting; get involved in community events, make a libertarian difference at home; action=results: more media attention, more members, more freedom!

LPM get more involved in state legislature and issues: lobbying, better use of SpeakOutMichigan; action=results: more media, more members, more freedom!

The Party is a tool. HQ is a tool. Freedom is what it's all about. Never let commitment to any tool take priority over the end goal. Support goals and projects that help us achieve a freer, more responsible society of individuals with time and/or money.

We're special, we libertarians. And, no, not everyone can be one!

Thank you for a terrific two years, stimulating, fun, rewarding, challenging and most memorable. Fellow Libertarians are incredibly inspiring!

And, as my favorite parrot is fond of saying, "Peeple of zee wur! Relax!" Have fun, enjoy life and be free.

See you around!

Thanks

And, thanks to you Stacy, for being one of the most effective Chairs in LPM history. Great job!

Shirley Chirota, R. I. P.

Longtime LPM volunteer Shirley Chirota passed away on the morning of February 12, 2001. She had devoted countless hours to doing the tedious work of preparing LPM mailings, but had not been as active in recent years both because the mailing preparations have increasingly become group efforts and because of her own declining health.

No funeral was held. She is survived by her husband, Bill.

Affiliate News

Branch-Hillsdale, the new spinoff from South Central has elected new officers. The Chair is James Parker of Hillsdale. Vice Chair is Keith Brumley of Hillsdale. Secretary (Acting) is Al McCallum of Springport. Parker is also Acting Treasurer. See page 14 for time and place of meetings.

South Central elected the following officers at its January meeting. The Chair is Todd Combs. Vice Chair and Acting Secretary is Michael Karazim. The Treasurer is John A. Kopplin. They have had enthusiastic first-time participants at the last five meetings. They are writing press releases, letters to the editor, community event listings and paid advertising. They are planning to have tables and booths at as many community events as possible, beginning with the next Jackson Gun Show. Dues revenue is up sharply and they have one announced candidate for County Commissioner in Jackson County.

Oakland has elected the following officers: Chair Chris Pellerito, Vice Chair Nathan Allen, Secretary Keith Wesselmann, Treasurer Diane Szabla, At-large Scott Maczuga, Fred Martin and Sara Sjoberg, and Alternates Andy Lecureaux and Steven Schulte.

Libertarians in **Ottawa** and **Allegan** counties have organized the District 2 Libertarian Fund. This will be their local and regional campaign fund for the 2002 election cycle. It will be used to raise money and put directly toward supporting individual candidates. There will be a caucus to be held before the February OCLP meeting to make committee assignments.

Leadership Conference a HIT!

By Ben Steele III

If you missed the 2001 LPM Winter Leadership Conference on February 4, you missed one of the most well-planned, well-executed and well-attended such conferences to date at the Comfort Inn in Plainwell. Nearly 80 Libertarian activists came to gain knowledge and network in the search for organizational excellence.

LP National Chair Jim Lark kicked off the event with a short address in which he stressed that Leadership means asking, "What can I do?" rather than "What should you be doing?"

Mr. Lark feels that the National party needs to do a better job of welcoming new members and retaining members. He believes that we can all do a better job of analyzing what we've done and what does and doesn't work and why. Finally, he advanced the idea of National using more paid professionals, although he admitted that the idea seems to cause some tension and conflict with volunteers.

Lark opened the floor for questions and we used the opportunity to create an open dialog on a wide variety of topics, during which Lark was heard to mutter more than once, "I hadn't thought of that!" before jotting down an idea. One attendee commented, "Jim strikes me as an intelligent, accomplished speaker and Chair. He makes me feel comfortable about the National Libertarian Party."

Ballot Access Restoration Committee Chair Nancy O'Brien outlined the LPM strategy for getting the 50,000 signatures in 180 days that we will need to regain ballot status, using only volunteers from the state of Michigan.

The room was then split in two with a divider and we were given a choice of three of six sessions divided into two categories, Basic and Advanced, giving both new activists and veterans the opportunity to get the information and ideas they needed. The only complaint was that some of us would have liked to attend all six sessions.

The split session topics were: "FreeBasing-using the Online Membership Database by Greg Dirasian; "Running Local Campaigns" and "Just One" by Barb Goushaw and Bruce Hoepner, respectively; "How Do We Do That, Anyway?- Basic Procedures (Treasury/Membership/Fundraising, etc.)" by Ben Bachrach and Stacy Van Oast; "Outreach to Youth" by Jim Lark; "A Media Strategy" by Jason Miller; and "Local Activism" by Tim O'Brien. These were paired in that order.

Then, we re-assembled to hear a highly inspirational address by our own LPM Chair, Stacy Van Oast. Stacy reminded us to always keep our "Eyes on the Prize." To remember our "Core Values of Individual Freedom and Personal Responsibility." She also announced the LPM's "Big, Hairy, Audacious Goal" of having a Libertarian at every local government meeting. She also stressed the need for the Libertarian Party of Michigan to get more involved in Lansing and the workings of our state's government, starting with replacing the "Top of Ticket" rule which caused our current ballot access difficulties.

Jim Fitzpatrick updated us on the progress of preparations for the State Convention and we finished the afternoon off with the popular Affiliate Update, in which each affiliate got a chance to share its ideas, goals and victories with us. This year, each affiliate was asked to answer three questions. "What has been your greatest accomplishment?" "What are your current goals?" and, "Define the term Success." Each affiliate was given two minutes to answer, which proved to be entertaining and thought provoking, as each answer was given the unique twist that you come to expect when among Libertarians. It was a fun and yet thoughtful way to wrap up a great Leadership Conference.

It was no accident that it went off seamlessly, but the result of many hours of planning and preparation by the Affiliate Committee and the hosting affiliate. Besides keynote speaker Jim Lark, and all the dedicated presenters mentioned above, we need to thank Jason Miller and the members of LP of Ottawa County who planned and executed the event. We also need to thank Rick and Krystal Dutkiewicz, who did much of the footwork and provided the excellent sound system. Last, but not least, thanks to LPM Vice Chair and Affiliates

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Civility and Integrity

By Keith Edwards

Justice Clarence Thomas delivered another outstanding speech on February 13 at the American Enterprise Institute. It's been on CSPAN several times. I can't improve on it, so here are some quotes.

Citing a case in which he wrote that a prisoner who had suffered minor injuries in a beating was not a victim of cruel and unusual punishment, he said, "I was widely denounced for advocating the beating of prisoners, which is ridiculous. When a wrong is done, justice requires that it be weighed impartially. The critics were not content to argue that I was analytically wrong-that I had misinterpreted the law in making my decision-rather they sought my conformity, or in the alternative, my silence.

"When one observes the pitched battles that rage around persons of strong convictions, who do not accept the prevailing beliefs of others, it is no wonder that those who might otherwise wish to participate find more hospitable outlets for their civic interests. . ."

"I do believe that we are required to wade into those things that matter to our country and our culture, no matter what the disincentives are, and no matter the personal cost. . . If we think that something is dreadfully wrong, then someone has to do something."

"None of us should be uncivil in our manner as we debate issues of consequence. No matter how difficult it is, good manners should be routine. However, in the effort to be civil in conduct, many who know better actually dilute firmly held views to avoid appearing 'judgmental.' They curb their tongues not only in form but also in substance. The insistence on civility in the form of our debates has the perverse effect of cannibalizing our principles, the very essence of a civil society. . ."

"By yielding to a false form of 'civility' we sometimes allow our critics to intimidate us. . . we censor ourselves. This is not civility. It is cowardice, or well intentioned self-deception at best."

Thomas closed by referring to Franklin's famous statement in answer to the question of what kind of government this was to be, "A Republic, if you can keep it." The Justice concluded by saying, "Today, as in the past, we will need a brave 'civic virtue,' not a timid civility to keep our republic. So, this evening, I leave you with the simple exhortation: "Be not afraid."

Liberals, out of illiteracy or dishonesty accused Thomas of promoting incivility, thereby proving his thesis. No surprise, many liberals are philosophically illiterate and morally dishonest, more so than conservatives. Most of us who speak in public have encountered this type of intimidation. We should never let it get to us. We should always stick to our principles and positions.

The Wall Street Journal printed excerpts of Thomas' speech on February 16. The entire text is available at OpinionJournal.com. CSPAN may repeat it.

Asides

By Keith Edwards

Obviously I am an admirer of Justice Thomas and agree with the speech. There is the opposite problem from that which Thomas identifies. Sometimes among Libertarians, there is a tendency to get so immersed in our own proposals that we tend to get a bit abusive of our fellow freedom fighters, questioning motives if we do not get immediate agreement. Integrity and persistence are important, but we need to respect our comrades. "No matter how difficult it is, good manners should be routine."

On the brighter side, I just saw the History Channel program on "Sex and the Civil War," which told of the extent of prostitution during that conflict. One amazing young woman had great success in cheering up quite a few Union generals. The best line was toward the end of the program in a review of the exact locations of many of the brothels in Washington, DC. The narrator pointed out that a major area of the oldest profession was on the site of what is now the IRS building and he concluded, "So today, the same thing is happening to people in that location as back then."

Counter-point

By Ghazey H. Aleck II

I have been a member of the Libertarian Party for one year. This fact alone does not make me an amateur. Prior to joining the Libertarian Party, I had been directly involved in politics for 25 years winning campaigns for myself and others. During those 25 years, the Libertarian Party was barely a blip on my radar screen, if that. So why did I join?

I joined the Libertarian Party because the Democratic Party left me behind. I had been a Democrat because I believed that Democrats represented the protection of civil liberties. I had to work hard in my mind to justify their promotion of social programs, conveniently believing that our society was more important than the individual, *just in financial matters*, and that we needed to help the less fortunate in our society. The Democrats' attack on the right to bear arms was the straw that sent me looking for a new political home, but I was fed up with more than that, particularly their structure of "political hacks" (old time party regulars and party officers) that perpetuated and clung to the socialist agenda.

When I joined the Libertarian Party, I like to say I was 50% Libertarian. My strong stance for civil liberties made the first 50% easy, but I was wavering a bit over the social programs and taxes. The Libertarian Party quickly took care of that and I can tell you without hesitation that I am now 100% Libertarian. I haven't read everything yet, but I have read a lot by any standard and now I feel comfortable pitting my knowledge and understanding about libertarianism against anyone else. This phenomenon of becoming more Libertarian over time is well known in party circles, but for me it meant that we need to get more people throughout Michigan going down this path.

This brings me to the counter-point that I want to make. I have heard a lot about maintaining our principle. I have heard a lot about writing letters to the editor, going to government meetings and running for non-partisan offices. I have also heard a lot about it being more important to maintain our principles than winning elections (so let's write off winning elections? --I don't think so!) Lastly, I keep hearing how the

wasted vote syndrome has doomed any chance of Libertarians winning elections. These sentiments appear correct when standing alone, but for me they are only a part of the picture.

The missing part is that *partisan* politics is war and that it takes a massive effort to win any election. Does anyone really think that you win *partisan* elections by writing letters to the editor, going to government meetings and running for non-partisan offices? If so, I must respectfully disagree strongly. Every *partisan* election I had a part in winning had nothing to do with any of these three things. Instead, I won *partisan* elections with a well planned massive distribution of literature and with well planned massive advertising.

Furthermore, the Republicans and Democrats each enjoy a base of support of about 30% each, leaving about 40% of the voting public independent. The Libertarian Party typically gets 1-3% for their base of support. Is it a wasted vote syndrome? Or is it a lack of support syndrome? For me, it is clearly the lack of support that hurts us. Despite what you may think, most people have no idea what we are about and don't support us.

We need to build our base of support and this is accomplished through massive literature distribution and advertising. Our goal must be to put everything we can afford into as massive an effort as possible. If we do it right, we should grow and grow consistent with our effort that will also perpetuate it as well, a snowball effect.

Libertarian principles do not need to be coddled and protected. There is a way to merge principle with a well thought out marketing plan. Instead of saying we need to "Abolish Social Security" we can say "We Have a Better Plan than Social Security" and we can conclude by advocating its privatization. Merging principles with marketing does not equal "watering Libertarian principles down." It means using smart persuasion. After all, I needed to be de-programmed some and so will others.

Let's attack the problem by starting in their world as it exists today and then bring them into ours. To do this there must be a massive distribution of well thought out information. Once we expose people to our message, we

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Counter-point

(Continued from page 6)

start their deprogramming. Many will respond immediately, but remember it took me 6 months before I found myself being 100% on board so we must get the ball rolling soon to avoid ballot access problems in 2002. Ballot access problems can be a thing of the past.

During the general election in 2000, I lit dropped every piece of Libertarian literature I could get my hands on all over Clare County, hitting about 70% of the county. In that election, Clare County had the highest *percentage* of voters voting for Harry Browne in Michigan. No other organized county came close.

It was the massive nature that worked. My affiliate was formed only 6 months before the election and had little time to influence voters! I intend to hit the whole county with lit drops again and again, at least two more times before the next general election. I hope to raise the Libertarian Party's base of support to 10-15%. Just imagine what we can do with a massive statewide effort of the same nature prior to 2002.

Comments on the Above

By Keith Edwards

There is a lot in Ghazey Aleck's article that I can agree with. I am a big fan of literature drops, the bigger the better, subject to financial and manpower resources. We spent a lot of money on radio talk show ads in 2000 and I doubt that it worked. Such ads only get to a couple of percentage points of the radio audience, which is only a small part of the electorate. The talk show audience already leans libertarian, is concentrated in the Detroit metro area and that will shrink due to the demise of WXYT-AM and the resulting loss of Mark Scott and John McCulloch. Aside from David Newman, there's not much left. I propose that we put that money (over \$30,000) into a lit program *if* we can get Libertarians away from their keyboards long enough to wear out their Nikes! It would get us more coverage outstate, away from the

former city known as Detroit.

I also like Ghazey's enthusiasm and drive and his willingness to think outside the square. That's one of the benefits of newer members. However, I think he misunderstands the values of the things he criticizes.

One is letters to the editor. This is another (free!) tool to get our ideas out there. Social Security and education are two hot issues we have influenced and we have the only good solutions. Why not publicize them, reap the credit and gain experience in expressing ourselves?

Another is going to government meetings and running non-partisan campaigns in the off years. Attending local meetings helps in learning about local issues and what people want as well as publicizing our positions. Running non-partisan races is good training for candidates and campaign managers, builds candidate visibility and gives the winners experience in governing. Many State Reps, including mine, started their political careers that way. Why not we?

As for principles, I agree that we need to formulate our positions better. I am bored beyond belief by Libertarians who spout libertarian cliches instead of finding more meaningful ways of getting our ideas out. ("The free market will take care of this." Or, "You own your own body.") Yuk! And, as soon as I hear a Libertarian confess that he can't win, my wallet snaps shut along with my enthusiasm. Did Jesse Ventura ever say that? Our presidential and senatorial candidates *both* did that last year. Yuk again!

Contrary to Ghazey's implication, we have never said "so we write off winning elections." We *have* said that we will not compromise our principles to win. Our principles are our top asset and motivation. And if the voters can't accept them, we'll just have to try harder to convince them. It got Ghazey to 100% status!

The wasted vote syndrome has not "doomed any chance of Libertarians winning elections." It had no such effect in 1980, 1988 or 1996, but killed us in 2000. It might in 2002 if Bonior runs for Governor and we run someone.

But if we are going to print lit, we'd better be sure we can deliver it, or we'll be like the Browne campaign, which produced commercials, but didn't run them!



THE FRIENDS OF KARIN CORLISS

Cordially invite you to join us in celebrating the life and health of fellow Patriot and Libertarian

KARIN CORLISS

A Call for Help

In April of 1999 I was hit with a diagnosis of breast cancer. At age 39, with a young family to care for, it was quite a shock. With the help of family and friends, we weathered the storms of surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation. My recovery seemed to be progressing well until October 2000 when it was discovered that the cancer had spread to my liver. Conventional medicine does not consider breast cancer that has returned to be curable.

I could not accept that this was all that could be done. I received treatment from a clinic in California, run by medical doctors, that used several immune-building therapies to treat cancer. The clinic cost over \$13,000 for three weeks, which included all services. Considering that three days in a hospital can cost more than that, it was a relative bargain. However, most of it was not covered by insurance, and there are added costs of supplements that I will need for at least a year. This will put an incredible strain on our family's finances. We have already seen first-hand the generosity of spirit that most people will show in a crisis. Any kind of contribution that you may be moved to give would be most gratefully appreciated. Thank you very much.

--Karin Corliss

Benefit Dinner
Thursday, April 19, 2001
6:00 to 10:00 p.m.
Patriot's Day!

Open-house style
at **Angelo Brothers Restaurant**
33550 Ford Rd.
(between Venoy and Wayne)
Westland

\$15 ADMISSION

includes pizza, salad, bread, coffee, tea, and pop.
Cash bar available.

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Tickets available in advance
(look for a "Friend of Karin"
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or at the door the evening of the event.

Raffle tickets available for \$1.00 or 3 for \$2.00.

For further information, call
Heather Pauli at (313) 538-8208 evenings
or e-mail at heatherpauli@hotmail.com.

Donations may be sent to Karin Corliss
c/o Phillip Rathbun (Karin's father)
25800 Buckminster, Novi, MI 48375
or bring your checkbook to the event!

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Raffle Prizes

Gift Basket--Valued at \$90
Donated by Whole Foods--
West Bloomfield

Papa Romano's Gift Certificates—
Valued at \$80—
Donated by Papa Romano's--
Hazel Park

Entertainment Book—
Valued at \$40
Donated by I.B.E.W.
Local 58 Credit Union

One Month Dojo Membership--
Valued at \$100
Donated by A.C.E. Martial Arts--
Saline/Ann Arbor

Massage Certificate—
Valued at \$65
Donated by Ann Rowe,
masseuse/physical therapist

Farmer Jack Gift Certificate—
Valued at \$30
Donated by Farmer Jack

Red Lobster Gift Certificate—
Valued at \$15
Donated by Heather Pauli

Pizza Gift Cards—
Donated by Papa John's--
Hazel Park

And more prizes to be announced!

In addition, numerous door prizes
will be awarded the evening of the
event. Must be present at the time of
the drawings on **April 19th** to qualify
for door prizes!

Michigan Libertarian Convention 2001

Visit Us At Our Booth
Starting May 4th, 2001 In Frankenmuth

Liberty Leadership Council
"Making Freedom Ring!"



The Liberty Leadership Council is a Michigan Political Action Committee co-founded in December of 2000 by Ghazey H. Aleck II and Stephen M. Townsend. All money raised will be used to support the Libertarian Party and worthy Libertarian candidates. No member of this PAC will receive any salary or compensation. No profiteers here only tough, hard hitting Libertarian marketing muscle! Join Us!

1 Day Gun Raffle, \$5.00 per ticket or 6 for \$20.00

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Liberty Leadership Council Annual Membership \$25.00

Paid for by the Liberty Leadership Council, 2623 S. Clare Avenue, Clare, MI 48617, not authorized by any candidate.

Interview With Keith Edwards

(Continued from last issue)

By Diane Barnes

BARNES: How does the Party maintain its moral base. *Can* we maintain it?

EDWARDS: We fight over the platform every two years, but the central purpose is common to everyone. We all agree that Social Security is bad, taxes should be abolished. It's a question of which do we get rid of first, how fast to proceed. Again, it's consistency. We agree on the moral base, whether we are Objectivists or religious. We are all people who believe that morality is important. The question is not so much purism or pragmatism because pragmatism is at the fringe of the libertarian movement. It's never taken over the movement or the Party. It's more a question of abolitionism vs. gradualism. I think that we all should be abolitionist in nature, but we can understand where gradualism can play a part. The important thing as far as the moral base is concerned is keeping the gradualism from becoming too gradual. Once you say it's all right to keep taxing people over a period of time, it can become "It's OK to tax people." That's the danger. That's where we have to be vigilant.

There are the "ends justify the means" people. They want to win at all costs. They call themselves libertarian, but the philosophy means nothing to them.

BARNES: Do you see that as a problem?

EDWARDS: No, I don't. People who have done that in the past have disappeared. They are instant gratification folks. They are compromisers who want quick results, but politics is a long haul proposition. When they don't get quick results, they leave. They don't hang around too long.

BARNES: Do you think that libertarianism is a philosophy?

EDWARDS: It's not a complete philosophy, but it is a political philosophy that is based on ethics. It has some ethical connotations to it as opposed to Objectivism or religion, which proceed from metaphysics to epistemology to ethics and imply politics. The GOP

had no discernable philosophy whatever. Their purpose was to beat the Democrats on election day. The Democrats have an implied collectivist-socialist basis. They believe that man must exist for the state, not the other way around as we do. The Republicans have swung toward the Democrats on philosophy. Dubya, despite some of his rhetoric, agrees. That's why he's boosting federal spending on education instead of abolishing the whole Ed Department, as Reagan wanted.

BARNES: Several years ago the Party focused on professionalizing the Party. Having accomplished that, what's the next step?

EDWARDS: There are three things you must have to be successful in politics. The first is good organization. All through the 1990s we focused on that and have succeeded. We built the affiliates, trained them and they are capable of planning, financing and executing their own projects. National has too, and many of the other states have.

The next is good candidates and campaigning techniques. We are in that process, but are not doing it fast enough. One of the problems is that a large percentage of libertarians are not the type that wants to run for office. Some are introverts (that's OK, I'm a recovering introvert) some don't like the nastiness of their opponents (but Gore lost to Bush by being nastier) and some are too busy with a real life. We still have a shortage of serious candidates.

Third, the philosophy that we are espousing has to become popular. That's the biggest problem we have. We believe in individualism over collectivism. Collectivism has dominated the world as well as the US throughout the 20th century. The results are obvious, but not enough people see the fallacy in the philosophy and translate that into political understanding. We are still a little way from the time we are going to have real political success, but the movement is growing fast. It takes a couple of generations of people passing along ideas to others. I think the modern libertarian movement began in the 1940s and we've only gone a couple of generations since. Rand, Mises, Hayek, Rothbard, Hazlitt and others have created an irrefutable philosophical approach to politics. We've gone from

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Interview With Keith Edwards

(Continued from page 10)

a handful of people talking about freedom in the 1940s to hundreds in the 1950s to thousands in the 1960s to tens or hundreds of thousands now. What's not to be optimistic about? But we also need to be patient. In Michigan, we have the organization, we are training candidates and campaign managers, and the philosophy is growing. We're way ahead of where we were 10 years ago.

BARNES: Is the goal to win or is success multifaceted?

EDWARDS: The purpose is to regain and expand freedom. This can be done by electing people to public office directly. It can be done by influencing other political parties to adopt our ideas. It can be done by persuading the general population to insist on freedom. I don't think we can ignore any of these possibilities.

There are groups like Cato, Mackinac and Reason Foundation that try to influence public figures. For example, no one ever talked about doing away with Social Security until libertarians did. Same with legalizing drugs. Now there are judges who refuse drug cases because of mandatory minimums. You hear the pundits talking about ending the drug war, the Governor of New Mexico, a Mayor of Baltimore a former police commissioner from Oakland County. They are less afraid to speak out. Every election cycle we go through we have less and less objection to our views. We are winning.

BARNES: Do you think that the libertarian message of personal responsibility and freedom resonates to minorities?

EDWARDS: Well, that depends on what you mean by minorities. I don't think race has anything to do with it. Culture does. There are cultures that resist personal responsibility. People who came here in the 19th century from Germany and Ireland expected to work hard because they always had to. The "Protestant Ethics" also applied to Catholics and Jews. They had a moral basis to their lives. Mexicans, Vietnamese and Arabs in the 20th century do much the same. It's been tougher for many Afro-Americans because slavery

interposed a barrier between work and reward. That must have devastated self-confidence in many people. If you have no rights at all, how can you feel a sense of control? You still see it in Russia. The post Civil War South was no big help nor was the New Deal. Roosevelt tried to keep them "on the plantation." It's instructive to see how much more successful so many blacks are now that they have freedom. The personal responsibility is there and we need to appeal to that in them as well as Indians and recent immigrants.

BARNES: What are the internal dangers to the movement?

EDWARDS: There is always the danger of factions and personal battles. We need to be very careful and not let them happen. We will always have disagreements and need to be objective in internal disputes, perhaps examine our own personal motives when at an impasse. We need to look at allied groups, exchange ideas. The old Objectivist-Libertarian split is fading. I would like to see more Libertarians reading *The Fountainhead* and *Atlas Shrugged*. I'd like to see more Objectivists become more "objective" in assessing libertarian positions. The more rational approach we take in examining ethics and understanding what human nature really is, the faster we will win advocates for freedom.

BARNES: What do you think history books will say about the Libertarian Party in 200 years? What do you hope they will say?

I hope (and think) that they will say, "Wow! All this freedom we have now is due to those libertarian freedom fighters of the 21st century who were willing to fight against that massive collectivism of the 20th century with truth, logic and an unswerving integrity. It was a tough battle, but they persevered and won. We owe them a lot."

I also hope they are saying, "They've been running the country (or world) for over 150 years and have stuck to their principles. They proved that, contrary to Lord Acton, power does not always corrupt, not if they are always looking for ways to divest power rather than expanding it.

"But we'd better keep an eye on them, Just in case. You never know about politicians!"

LEC Minutes for February 18, 2001

The meeting of the Libertarian Executive Committee was called to order at 1:02 p.m. at Headquarters. Present were the committee: Stacy Van Oast, Diane Barnes, Keith Edwards, David Nagy, Jim Fitzpatrick, Bill Gelineau, Mark Heil, Bruce Hoepner and Nancy O'Brien. Others: Tim O'Brien, Marnie Edwards, Al Titran, Greg Dirasian, Leonard Schwartz and Barbara Goushaw.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

Chair Stacy Van Oast reported on the vision session. At the State Chairs meeting in Indianapolis, many of the other Chairs commented favorably on how well the LPM is organized and some have switched to our LEC system which operates by a functional At-large system rather than by district. They have picked up a lot of ideas from us and we seem to be setting a good example. Stacy and Tim both gave presentations at seminars. Both have started the lobbying process to get rid of the top of ticket rule via legislation. This is less dangerous than a lawsuit that might get the whole law thrown out, leading to perhaps a worse law. Jason Miller is working on a plan to better utilize the internet and the Speak Out Michigan project.

Executive Director Tim O'Brien expanded on the lobbying effort, reported on the fundraising plan, the HQ report and the Jon Coon lawsuit.

Diane Barnes reported on the Leadership Conference in Plainwell, which drew 82 members. It was very productive. A small group in Battle Creek is meeting and working on local projects, but has decided not to start an official Calhoun affiliate at this time. Branch-Hillsdale has split off from the South Central affiliate and has passed bylaws.

Keith Edwards set the newsletter deadline for Saturday, March 10. He also asked for reports from all officers and committee chairs on their functions for the new Procedures Guide. This is intended to increase understanding of important functions so that in case of illness or inability to perform, another person can take over, as well as a training device for new officers and chairs.

Dave Nagy gave the Treasurers Report.

Bruce Hoepner gave the Campaign/Just One report. The Just One project was introduced at the Leadership Conference. He will organize a "Top Gun" school, a tough training program for Candidates.

Mark Heil reported that the new web site is in operation. He passed out the membership report from Ben Bachrach. There are 1,596 national members, 2 non-resident members and 184 donors.

Nancy O'Brien reported that the Petitioning Committee is on schedule. Erin Stahl is designing the petition for approval by the Elections Bureau and it will be ready for the State Convention, at which training will be provided.

Barbara Goushaw gave the final BARC report on the election, which follows. Valuable lessons were learned in the campaign and changes will be made.

Jim Fitzpatrick gave the Convention report.

Stacy passed around a copy of Jason Miller's student outreach project/essay contest. All were impressed with it. Stacy brought up the idea of the LPM sponsoring the contest by setting aside \$700 for prizes and to make the packet available to all affiliates. She asked for a motion, but Bill Gelineau spoke against making a statewide contest at this time, suggesting that the Ottawa group try it out first.

There is no hearing date set yet on the Federation of Republican Assemblies lawsuit on the IRS 527 problem. No injunction has been issued. Florida LP contacted the IRS which reported that they did not think the law was intended to apply to political parties, but is planning a special filing form for parties for next year! That was not an official ruling, however. The danger of fines remains, but seems less urgent.

Convention rules were unchanged although Bill Gelineau suggested cutting the quorum to 25%. Keith Edwards objected that this was undemocratic.

Bruce Hoepner moved for appropriation of \$500 expense for Don Gorman's candidate training seminar. Seconded by Nancy O'Brien. Passed 8-0.

LEC Minutes (Continued)

Diane Barnes moved to recognize the Branch-Hillsdale affiliate. Seconded by Keith Edwards. Passed 8-0

A discussion was held regarding the setting of standards for mail list swapping but no action was taken.

A Tri-County Libertarian 101 class was suggested by Nancy O'Brien with LPM funding. Keith Edwards objected that funding should be by the three affiliates. The idea will be proposed to the Macomb, Oakland and Wayne affiliates.

Nancy O'Brien moved to buy carpeting for the main room at HQ. Seconded by Bruce Hoepner. Keith Edwards objected that the cost was too much and that we have greater priorities. Failed 2-3.

Meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Keith Edwards, Secretary

Ballot Access Retention Committee 2000

Raised	\$65,464.61
Spent	63,964.57
Balance	1,500.04

Expenditures:

Loans accepted and repaid	\$ 5,900.00
Outreach	51,958.00
Fundraising expense	7,606.80

(12.8%. Please note that this includes the CD mailing which was clearly also an outreach tool and may still be persuading people to join the LP right now!)

Radio	\$30,500.00
Billboards	13,731.01
Banners	1,378.00
Literature	3,142.45
Newspaper	541.80
Auto stickers	1,086.50
Misc.	78.01

Obvious successes: 12.8 cents on the dollar for fundraising is unprecedented. More voter out-

reach than any previous campaign for President in MI.

Obvious failures: Did not achieve goal and ballot status.

Analysis: In spite of raising and spending a record amount, we failed to achieve the goal. Numerous factors came into play, most notably the closeness of the race and the constant media barrage on how Michigan would be one of the deciding states. We should have made a serious strategy change at that point, but we were unable to do so due to lack of resources. Perhaps a change in the thrust of radio ad might have helped, but there was simply not the money or manpower to do a complete strategic change at the last minute.

Manpower: Fully half of the people who originally committed to be a part of the BARC planning team bailed out. This stretched the abilities of the remaining team excessively. This was in part due to unforeseen illnesses of key players, in part due to key players running campaigns for themselves and in part due to disillusionment with the Browne campaign in general. Failure to recruit replacements for fallout may be attributable to the latter. Future efforts should make certain that the team is larger to accommodate the inevitable fallout. A larger, active membership would help!

Resources: There was no provision made for the need for a strategic change. Lit, billboards, radio, all voter outreach materials were planned and purchased in advance. Normally, this is a good thing. In this case it left no funds to make the 11th hour change required. Future campaigns should leave funds in reserve to respond to this.

The original plan called for a statewide distribution of literature, lawn signs and outreach activities. Every single person who attempted to head up this committee dropped the ball at some point. Last minute scrambling to get the stuff out was not effective and caused material to be wasted, unused and undistributed. Future campaigns need to make this a priority and be certain this is in place much earlier, and with an effective fall back plan if the key players drop out.

The National Browne campaign expended very little effort in Michigan. I believe that this was a result of

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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.

Branch-Hillsdale meets first Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Fillmore's for Steaks, 394 W. Chicago Rd., Jonesville.

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 due to the illness of 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.

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.

Ballot Access Retention Committee 2000

(Continued from page 13)

overconfidence in our local abilities. Perhaps future campaigns should keep plans a bit quieter to prevent this from happening. (Assumes a lot about the resources of the national president campaign's resources.)

This overconfidence was not limited to the national campaign. Frankly, it never even occurred to me or any member of the team, until two weeks before the actual election, that this unprecedented level of activity would fail to secure ballot status. There were people, actual members of the Party, who came to the HQ victory party who acknowledged that they had not voted for Harry because of the closeness of the race. This shocking realization should have been anticipated and pre-empted. At the bare minimum, a last minute mailing to the entire database, explaining the situation should have been made. Once again, funds were not available to do this.

In the final analysis, we failed to respond to the change in the political climate due to lack of resources and manpower. Our candidate was ignored and dismissed by the national media in a way that was unconscionable even by typical media standards. Both the national and local efforts were totally ineffective in counteracting this. Additional paid advertising and additional volunteer activities may have helped.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Goushaw.

Leadership Conference a HIT!

(Continued from page 4)

Director Diane Barnes, who got the unenviable job of running the show. Diane did a great job of making us all feel welcome and comfortable, keeping us on track and "on agenda," announcing each speaker and "herding the squirrels."

Another leadership conference is already in the works for this fall, possibly September. If your affiliate wants to host the event and has questions, contact me at 517-288-5616 or bsteede1@tir.com.

Oops!

On page 5 of the January-February issue of the Michigan Libertarian, the names in the caption on the group picture should read, left to right, Al Titran, Stacy and Peter Van Oast, Greg Dirasian, Barbara Goushaw, Tim O'Brien and Diane Barnes. Barb's name was omitted despite the fact that she is unforgettable!

Are Things Getting You Down?

"The only disability in life is a bad attitude." Figure skating champion Scott Hamilton talking about his battle with cancer (successful so far.)

New Web Site

LPM webmeister Mark Heil has announced our new web site after losing the host of the previous one. Here 'tis.



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on the *World Wide Web*

<http://www.MI.LP.org>

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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: _____

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