



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.

May-June, 2001

Corliss Elected Chair

Mike Corliss of Westland was elected Chair of the Libertarian Party of Michigan at its Annual Convention on May 5 in Frankenmuth. He had no opposition and was elected by acclamation. He ran for U.S. Senator in 2000.

Clare-Gladwin LP Chair Ghazey Aleck edged out incumbent Diane Barnes for Vice Chair, 39-37. He will be Affiliates Coordinator.

Keith Edwards of St. Clair Shores was reelected to his third term as Secretary over Tim Campbell of Holland, 39-35.

Assistant Treasurer Trafton Jean of Owosso moved up to Treasurer with a 52-25 victory over Bill Gelineau of Grandville.

Rounding out the Libertarian Executive Committee are five At-Large Members. Four were elected on the first ballot, Nancy O'Brien of Allen Park, Leonard Schwartz of Oak Park, Greg Dirasian of West Bloomfield and Diane Barnes of Eastpointe. Ben Steele III of Corunna won on the third ballot. The other candidates were Bruce Hoepner of Royal Oak, James Hudler of Chelsea and Tim Miley of Kalamazoo.

Only three of the nine elected were incumbents, Barnes, Edwards and O'Brien.

The Judicial Committee election had only three candidates so all were elected by acclamation, incumbents Bill Hall of Rockford and Jon Coon of Carsonville, and James Hudler.

Ballot Access Petition Drive Under Way

The ballot access petition drive of the Libertarian Party of Michigan had its kickoff meeting at the Annual Convention on May 5 in Frankenmuth. BARC Chair Nancy O'Brien advised those present how the petition should be filled out and answered questions.

On May 15, the Board of State Canvassers met and ruled that our petition is substantially in legally specified form. Nancy O'Brien and Leonard Schwartz attended the meeting and Schwartz argued the case for the LPM.

There is a big mailing of petitions going out the week of May 14 including instructions on how to fill them out. You should start getting signatures right away.

The Elections Bureau had raised some objections to our petition form and although the Board of Canvassers ruled in our favor, we are revising the form and will use the revision as soon as possible. However, you may circulate either the original or revised form. We have just 180 days to get the required number of valid signatures and are shooting for 50,000! DO NOT WAIT until the perfected form is available. Circulate whichever form you have!

This will be a big job and *everyone's* help is essential. Get your family and friends to sign to sign right away and then move on to co-workers and others. Be sure to have them sign with the address at which they are registered.

Remember that each petition sheet must be signed by voters who are registered in the *same county*! Do not mix counties on the same sheet.

DIRECTORY**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chair	Mike Corliss	734-326-5406
Vice Chair	Ghazey Aleck	989-386-5407
Secretary	Keith Edwards	810-777-7468
Treasurer	Trafton Jean	517-723-1964
At-large	Diane Barnes	

Greg Dirasian
Nancy O'Brien
Leonard Schwartz
Ben Steele III

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

Jon Coon
Bill Hall
James Hudler

Executive Director	Tim O'Brien	313-562-5778
Database	Ben Bachrach	313-322-7096
Editor	Keith Edwards	810-777-7468
Pledge Program	Dan LaFavers	313-483-5978
Membership	Mark Heil	810-468-0509
Speakers	Keith Edwards	810-777-7468
Affiliates Coordinator	Ghazey Aleck	989-386-5407
Outreach	Bruce Hoepner	248-414-7094
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	Marnie Edwards	810-777-7468

LOCAL AFFILIATE REPRESENTATIVES

Allegan County	Krystal Dutkiewicz	616-673-5503
Berrien County	Ray Kirkus	616-460-5856
Branch-Hillsdale	James Parker	517-439-2460
Clare-Gladwin	Ghazey Aleck	517-386-2699
Ionia County	TBA	
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	Chris Pellerito	248-373-9411
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.	Mike Dickson	616-637-1788
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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U. of Detroit-Mercy	David Collver	248-542-9274
Univ. of Mich.	Charles Goodman	734-564-8633
	cgoodman@umich.edu	
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	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!

From the Chair

By Mike Corliss

Please let me begin by saying how grateful I am that the membership of the Libertarian Party of Michigan has allowed me to assume the role of State Chair. I am looking forward to an exciting year, as we work together to promote Liberty.

The Libertarian Executive Committee for 2001-2002 contains an excellent mix of newer activists and experienced leaders. Working together with our ever-expanding membership, there is almost nothing the LPM cannot accomplish, once we set our minds to it.

We face several challenges in the months ahead. Of course, our first priority is to regain our ballot status. The Ballot Access Restoration Committee has already made a lot of progress on this crucial goal, and with the help of every Michigan Libertarian, they are sure to be successful. I have no doubt that all of us will do our part, and we will prevail.

Additionally, the LPM is lobbying our representatives in Lansing to alter the Top-of-Ticket rule that stripped us of ballot status last fall. Hopefully, every Michigan lawmaker will see how unfair this was, especially when seven of our eight state-wide candidates garnered the requisite number of votes. We expect that legislation will soon be introduced to allow the vote total for *any* state-wide candidate to meet this requirement. As soon as that happens, each of us needs to contact our representative and state senator and ask them to support, even co-sponsor, this important legislation.

I believe that the next step in bringing Liberty back into vogue, and to expanding the influence and the public's awareness of the Libertarian Party, is to elect more candidates to office. That's why our Just One concept is so exciting. Focusing the resources of each affiliate behind one candidate this year, and doing everything possible to elect him or her, could result in a huge number of elected Libertarians in Michigan. All of your hard work will pay huge dividends as the LPM becomes a force to be reckoned with.

In closing, let me thank all of those who have gone

beyond the minimum, contributing your precious time and money to promote liberty. I promise all of you that I will work very hard to promote the aims and ideals of the Libertarian Party of Michigan. I firmly believe that by working together, 2001-2002 will be among the most successful years we have ever seen.

Thank You

A great, big **THANK YOU** to all Libertarians who organized and attended the Karin Corliss Fundraiser on April 19. I would also like to thank those of you who could not attend, but who have sent your generous donations. It was a fun-filled evening of good food and camaraderie. Angelo's Restaurant in Wayne generously provided the room and the pizza and many businesses and organizations donated items for door prizes and raffles. Diane Barnes was her usual entertaining self at the microphone, and Fred Collins made out quite well, winning several raffle prizes.

Thanks to Jeannie Sherman for making a cake and some wonderful desserts, and special thanks to Stacy Van Oast, Pam Collins, Heather Pauli, Betty Hodges, Ann Rowe and Joann Karpinski for putting the whole event together.

The evening was a shining example of how a Libertarian society functions, where we don't need Big Government handouts for those in need. People who are free will freely share what they have. I'm extremely proud of you all, and my family is grateful for the generosity of the Michigan Libertarians.

Karin Corliss



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

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

Convention Features Fun and Work

By Keith Edwards

Michigan Libertarians gathered at the Bavarian Motor Inn in Frankenmuth on Friday, May 4, for the start of the three day 2001 State Convention. By the time they left on Sunday, they had partied, reviewed the platform and by-laws, attended meetings, voted, listened to some excellent speakers, enjoyed great food, and partied again. Who could ask for more?

Hypnotist Jim Hoke started things off at the Friday night welcoming party which loosened up the delegates and guests.

On Saturday, things started with a fine address by Washtenaw's Charles Goodman speaking on Community Interaction. He stressed the importance of Libertarian candidates getting local people to trust them by engaging in local community projects, before they even run.

Platform and By-laws debate followed along with the annual election of the Executive and Judicial committees as described elsewhere in this issue. There were also breakout sessions with Diane Barnes speaking on Interaction for the Introvert and Ghazey Aleck on Winning Elections. Nancy O'Brien gave instructions on how to get ballot access petitions signed.

At lunch, Larry Reed, President of Mackinac Center for Public Policy spoke on Settled Truths, seven principles of politics.

One was "Free people are not equal and equal people are not free." Talent, industriousness and willingness to save are qualities that differ in individuals. The only way to make people equal is to deprive some people of these qualities.

Next was "What's yours you tend to take care of, what belongs to no one tends to fall into disrepair. The incentives are always greater if private property rights are respected.

Third was the point made by Bastiat and Henry Hazlitt. Sound economics always means considering

the long run effects of actions and their effects on all people, not just the short run and the effect on some people.

Fourth, encourage something and you get more of it. Discourage something and you get less of it.

Fifth, no one spends someone else's money as he would spend his own. (Private citizens do not buy \$600 toilet seats, but the Defense Department does.)

Sixth, Government has nothing it can give someone that it has not first taken from someone else.

Finally, a government that is big enough to give you everything you want is big enough to take everything you've got.

In 1900, government took 5-7% of the income in the U.S. In 2000, it took over 40%.

It was a simple speech, but profound (and funny.)

At the Banquet, Bill Bradford, Publisher and Editor of Liberty (over half the audience subscribes) reviewed some of the problems that Libertarians have in campaigning. He said that according to the FEC reports, the 1996 presidential campaign took in \$3 million, but spent only \$8,800 on advertising. In 2000, it took in \$5million but spent only \$323,000 on running TV ads (according to Browne. The FEC reports were made in such a fashion as to make classification of expenses difficult to understand.)

Bill's point is that we know how to raise money, but don't always know how to spend it. There is not enough market research done and because of high turnover in membership and positions, there is little institutional memory. Bradford advocates that more market research be done to test on issues, media, etc.

At the Sunday Brunch, Cameron Knowles, a talk show host on WSGW (790 AM at 3-6 PM) spoke. He talked of the media's superiority complex and some things we need to do. Call talk radio (he limits callers to once per week.) Write letters to the editor. Stay involved in off-election years. On issues, he advocates ending income tax withholding in favor of quarterly filing to make

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Attracting Youth in 2002

By Leonard Schwartz

According to the Rasmussen survey last year, 16% of voters support libertarian positions on political issues. But few of these libertarians vote for Libertarian candidates.

My own experience and recent articles in Libertarian Party News and Liberty indicate that our biggest problem is the "wasted vote doctrine." Even at our election night victory party there were LPM members who admitted that they voted for the lesser of two evils rather than for Harry Browne and Michael Corliss. We need to find good ways of encouraging libertarians to vote for Libertarians.

Last year the LPM spent over \$40,000 on radio ads. Although the ads were brilliant, Harry Browne got only 0.4%, Michael Corliss got only 0.7% and only one of our 16 congressional candidates got more than 2% of the votes.

My analysis: The ads were the wrong medium (radio) directed at the wrong audience (persons who listen to talk radio.)

My proposal on how we can best use our limited funds: We should focus on persons who are most likely to agree with libertarian positions and who are least likely to think that voting for a small party is a waste. Specifically, we should focus on young persons.

1. Young persons are naturally rebellious and anti-authoritarian.
2. They are more open-minded than are older persons.
3. They are not addicted to voting for Democrats or Republicans.
4. They are not so accustomed to Democratic and broken promises that they are no longer outraged.

Specifically, we should pass out fliers at colleges and community colleges and place ads in student newspapers.

The best time for student outreach is not a few weeks

before the election when students are busy with mid-term exams and term papers. Rather, student outreach should be at the beginning of each semester when students have more free time.

We should start test-marketing our fliers and newspaper ads in September, 2001, to attract students to help with our petition drive. This will also help us create new campus affiliates and strengthen existing ones well in advance of the 2002 election.

Richard Whitelock, Patriot

Former Chair of the Libertarian Party of Michigan Dick Whitelock died of kidney and heart disease on March 26 at Sperry Hospital in Lansing. He was 70.

Whitelock was a member of the LPM for over 20 years, serving several terms on the Executive Committee and as State Chair for two terms, 1988-90. He was interim editor of this publication in 1990. He was a frequent candidate for public office, including Congress, Michigan Senate, Michigan House and County Commissioner.

He was founder and long time Chair of the Ionia County Libertarian Party and its spark plug.

Dick was a prolific writer of letters to the editor, probably having more of them published than any other member. He originated, designed and often presented his "Screwball Award" to the Michigan legislator who authored the dumbest bill for the year, a mounted, 12 inch softball with a large screw protruding.

"He was the Libertarian Party in this area," said Ionia Mayor Dan Balice. "I always admired the fact that he had his principles and tried to act on them."

Whitelock said, "I am dedicated to the abolishment of all laws and regulations that prohibit people from making peaceful and honest decisions for themselves without interference from the government." He set the standard for activism.

Dick is survived by his wife Gloria, daughter Sheila Ricketts, sons Steve and Kelly, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

2001 State Convention Minutes

The 2001 Convention of the Libertarian Party of Michigan was called to order by Chair Stacy Van Oast at 10:02 a.m. at the Bavarian Inn Lodge in Frankenmuth, Michigan.

Registered delegates were 58, quorum 29.

Convention rules were approved by voice vote. A motion by Bill Gelineau and Jeff Steinport to end Bylaws debate 5 minutes prior to the time limit to vote on all remaining original submissions to the Bylaws Committee was defeated 20-26.

Motion by Dan Lafavers and Al Titran that following the convention the Chair shall appoint a committee to resolve necessary changes of grammar, punctuation, numbering and other unsubstantial issues of language to properly implement the accepted changes to the Bylaws and Platform was passed by voice vote.

Platform discussion: A proposal to change Article II, Section 3, Elections, to read: We support the addition of the alternative "None of the above is acceptable" to all ballots. We further propose that in the event that "none of the above is acceptable" receives a plurality of votes in any election, A NEW ELECTION SHALL BE HELD FOR WHICH NONE OF THE LOSING CANDIDATES SHALL BE ELIGIBLE. New wording is in capital letters. Passed in committee 5-0, passed convention by voice vote.

Article VI, Section 6, Taxes: We call for the elimination of the double taxation that results when no allowance is made for previously paid sales tax on MERCHANDISE RESALES OR trade-ins toward new purchases. Passed 5-0 and by voice vote.

Article VI, Section 7 Taxes: WE CALL FOR AN END TO THE PRACTICE OF ADDING SALES TAX TO PRODUCTS ALREADY SUBJECTED TO SPECIFIC STATE TAXES, SUCH AS GASOLINE AND CIGARETS, WHICH RESULTS IN CONSUMERS PAYING TAX ON A TAX. Passed by committee 5-0, Convention by voice vote.

Article IX, Section 4:, Education: We support the restoration of local control and oppose federal and

state regulations and funding with respect to local curricula. (including out-come-based education, Goals 2000 and school-to-work legislation.) Wording in parentheses is deleted. Passed committee 5-0 and Convention by voice vote.

Article VII, Section 4, Economy: Add the following sentence to appear before the final sentence. WE ALSO CALL ON THE LEGISLATURE TO END THE STATE MONOPOLY ON LOTTERIES. Passed in committee, 4-1 and at Convention by voice vote.

Bylaws discussion: Article VII, Section 1, Conventions: The Party shall hold an annual convention each year between April 1 and JULY 31, performing such business as required herein. Passed in committee 4-0 and at Convention by voice vote.

Article VII, Section 7, Conventions: A person who has never been a member of the Libertarian Party (of Michigan) must become a member at least 60 (30) days prior to State Convention before being allowed to vote at that Convention. Passed in committee, 4-0. Issue divided at Convention. 60 (30) failed by voice vote, deletion of (of Michigan failed 19-22.

Article IV, Libertarian Advisory Council repealed. Passed 4-0 in committee, in Convention by voice vote. Article VII, Section 2, Conventions: The Party shall hold a convention WITHIN 45 DAYS upon the call of the COMMITTEE (Council) OR WHEN PETITIONS ARE SUBMITTED BY 10% OF THE CURRENT MEMBERSHIP. Passed committee 4-0, in Convention by voice vote.

Article X, Fiscal Year: The fiscal year of the Party shall end May 31. Passed committee 4-0, in Convention by voice vote.

A proposal to mail to members a report on funds raised, spent and on hand annually failed in committee 2-3 and at Convention by voice vote.

A proposal to consider By-laws in odd-numbered years only failed committee 1-3 and in Convention by voice.

A proposal to create a membership growth committee failed in committee 1-3 and in Convention by voice vote.

2001 Convention Minutes (Continued)

A proposal to extend the terms of office for the LEC members failed in committee 1-3 and in Convention by voice vote.

A proposal to keep local candidate caucuses open until Michigan's legal deadline failed in committee 1-3 and in Convention by voice vote.

A proposal that the LPM would collect an additional \$10 in dues and send it to the county groups failed in committee 1-3 and in Convention by voice vote.

Time expired before the two final proposals submitted to the committee could be voted upon.

Elections:

Registered delegates 90, quorum 46.

Chair: Michael Corliss was the only person nominated, elected by acclamation.

Vice Chair: Ghazey Aleck 39, elected
Diane Barnes 37
Total 76

Secretary: Keith Edwards 39, elected
Tim Campbell 35
Nota 2
Total 76

Treasurer: Trafton Jean 52, elected
Bill Gelineau 25
Total 77

At-large: Nancy O'Brien 54, elected
Leonard Schwartz 50, elected
Greg Dirasian 48, elected
Diane Barnes 43, elected
Ben Steele III 34
Bruce Hoepner 30
James Hudler 29
Tim Miley 28
Nota 11
Tim Campbell 1 write-in

Total ballots 81, needed to elect 41.
Second ballot required.

Second ballot, nominated person with lowest vote eliminated.

At-large: Ben Steele III 32
James Hudler 25
Bruce Hoepner 22
Nota 6

Total ballots 85, needed to elect, 43. Third ballot required.

Third ballot, one eliminated.

At-large: Ben Steele III 49, elected
James Hudler 23
Nota 5

Total ballots 77, needed to elect 39

Judicial Committee:

Bill Hall
John Coon
James Hudler

Only three nominated, elected by acclamation.

Convention adjourned on Sunday, May 6.

Arizona Libertarian Appointed Judge

By Keith Edwards

Governor of Arizona Jane Hull has appointed Libertarian attorney John Buttrick to the position of Superior Court Judge. Buttrick, 53, is a long time Libertarian Party activist and was the Party's candidate for Governor of Arizona in 1994.

He served as Chairman of the Platform Committee at the Libertarian Party National Convention in 1998 and 2000. As such he conducted the meetings with solid parliamentary procedure, common sense, consideration for all members and plenty of humor. He granted respect and received it in return. As members of those two committees, both Tim O'Brien and I admired him a great deal. I enjoyed several conversations with him.

His name had been often presented to the Governor by the selection committee and finally made it. Persistence pays. Congratulations to John and wife, Mary Ann.

Convention Features Fun and Work

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taxpayers more aware of how high taxes really are. Knowles says that he is not opposed to taxes, one of a few issues with which he disagrees with Libertarians. He says he has always been a contrarian and likes the LP better than any of the other parties.

He advises those who call in to make their point promptly to retain the audience's attention. Be prepared.

It was another instructive and fun Convention, with excellent facilities and fine food at the Bavarian Motor Inn. If you missed it, try to attend next year.

Executive Committee Minutes

The meeting was called to order by new Chair Mike Corliss at 12:34 on May 6 at the Bavarian Motor Inn following adjournment of the Convention. Present were the Committee: Mike Corliss, Ghazey Aleck, Keith Edwards, Trafton Jean, Diane Barnes, Greg Dirasian, Nancy O'Brien, Leonard Schwartz and Ben Steele III. Also present were Tim O'Brien, Stacy Van Oast, Bob Van Oast, Marnie Edwards, Lynn Fitzpatrick, Dick Jozwiak, Rae Jozwiak, Jamie Lewis, Rosemary Racchi, Al Titran, Jeff Steinport, Steve Townsend, Dave Nagy (later) and possibly others.

Corliss began to announce appointments to committees starting with Newsletter. Greg Dirasian moved, Nancy O'Brien seconded, that we spend \$1,000 for new software and hardware to produce new graphics for the newsletter and that a committee be appointed to run the newsletter. A debate followed as to what the purpose of the newsletter was and whether the current format was good enough. Nancy O'Brien said the current format was not good enough for outreach. Keith Edwards said the purpose was primarily to provide information to our members and contributors and only secondarily for outreach. He suggested we do a special, more glitzy outreach publication. Information for members is not always

consistent with what we would use for outreach. Corliss then asked Dirasian who would be Editor and Dirasian replied that he, Dirasian, wanted to be editor. (No written copy of the motion was received by the Secretary.) A lengthy discussion followed. Motions to call the question and to table failed.

It was observed that there would be other increased costs in connection with this proposal, including cost of printing. Further details on the proposal would be needed before any decision. More discussion followed. A second motion to table, until the next meeting, passed 5-4.

Corliss then appointed Edwards Editor.

Other appointments were made: Ghazey Aleck to Affiliates Coordinator, Nancy O'Brien to BARC Director, Keith Edwards to Parliamentarian and Speakers Chair. Ghazey Aleck will be responsible for Affiliate News for the Newsletter. Other announcements of appointments will be made as the Chair is able to contact interested members.

Copies of the proposed Executive Director Contract were passed out. It was moved that discussion be tabled until the next LEC meeting so that Committee members would have time to review it. Passed by voice vote.

Dates for future LEC meetings were set. They are: June 3, August 5, October 7, December 2, February 3, and April 7. All are Sundays at 1:00 P.M. at Headquarters.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Keith Edwards, Secretary

Transition Meeting Held

By Keith Edwards

A meeting to discuss changes in procedures in connection with the centralizing of work at LPM Headquarters. These included the pledge program, financial reporting and other matters. Marnie Edwards was appointed Assistant Treasurer to do the day to day work and to report to Treasurer Trafton Jean.

Liberty Leadership Council

Making Freedom Ring!



A Michigan Political Action Committee

Announcing!

www.makingfreedomring.com

Designed by Trevor Peck of Pecktec, Official Webmaster

When you become a member of the Liberty Leadership Council, you are making an investment in leadership, an investment that will help lead the Libertarian Party to becoming Michigan's third major political party. Making the Libertarian Party a third major political party in Michigan is the most important thing you will ever do and when it happens, it will reverberate through every State in the Union. Because we guarantee that no one associated with the LLC will receive any salary or compensation, your contributions will go immediately to candidates, literature, radio, television and other needed promotional activities. All money raised stays right here in the State of Michigan! Help do the things never done before!

Join Us Today!

☐ \$25 Annual Member ☐ \$45 2 Year Election Cycle Member ☐ \$100 2 Year Sustaining Member
☐ \$250 4 Year Sustaining Member ☐ \$1,000 Bell Ringer Lifetime Member ☐ Other Donation

Make checks or money orders payable to the Liberty Leadership Council, 2623 S. Clare Avenue, Clare, Michigan 48617. We cannot accept cash or corporate checks. Donations are not tax deductible. The following personal information is required for the LLC to comply with Michigan Campaign Finance Laws and to properly record your membership.

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Affiliate Awards Presented at Convention

By Ben Steele III

At the Saturday night Banquet at the 2001LPM Convention in Frankenmuth, I had the honor of presenting the 2000 LPM Outstanding Affiliate Award. This year we awarded three prizes: a Membership prize to the affiliate that showed the largest increase in membership, a Political Activity prize to the affiliate that demonstrated the greatest involvement in political activities, and an Overall Winner prize.

Seven affiliates entered the contest; The Libertarian Party of Livingston County, Libertarians of Macomb County, Libertarian Party of Oakland County, Ottawa County Libertarian County, Libertarian Party of Shiawassee County, Upper Peninsula Libertarian Party and Libertarian Party of West Michigan. Thank you to each of these affiliates for its participation in the contest.

The Membership Prize, for which a \$40 gift certificate from Advocates for Self-Government was awarded, was won by the Ottawa County Libertarian Party. The Political Activity Prize of a \$40 gift certificate from Advocates was won by the Libertarian Party of West Michigan. The Overall Winner was the Libertarian Party of Oakland County for the second consecutive year! They were awarded a \$100 Advocates certificate.

All of the affiliates that entered this contest should be commended for their outstanding efforts toward Liberty. As far as I am concerned, they are all winners!

Thanks to the Advocates for Self-Government for their generosity in making the Awards possible. We appreciate it.

Special thanks go to our judges: Fred Collins, Marnie Edwards, George Sise, Violet Steele, and Jeff Steinport. I know it was not an easy job.

Introducing the New Affiliate Contest

By Ben Steele III

We have completely revamped the Affiliate Contest for 2001. Here's how it works now.

1. Pick your goal! Each Affiliate that wishes to participate will pick one achievable, yet challenging goal (or more if you really want to challenge yourselves) for the period July 1, 2001-April 15, 2002. Your goal may be to increase your membership by 10%, or to elect one person to a local office, or to have a member at every meeting of a local governing body (e.g. a County Board.) Your affiliate can tailor its challenge to its unique set of circumstances and resources; you're making the rules! Your goal should be achievable, but challenging. Pick a goal that will leave your affiliate better off once it is achieved. Each affiliate must report its goal to Ben Steele III, P.O. Box 1072, Owosso, MI 48867, 517-288-5616, or bsteele1@tir.com by July 1, 2001. *No exceptions!* Every affiliate that reports a goal by the deadline will be considered entered into the contest. The Affiliate Goals will be published in this newsletter. Then, the fun begins.
2. Achieve your goal! Get to Work and have Fun! Keep Ben apprised of your progress; let him know what are your plans for achieving your goals, what is working for you and what isn't, who's gone "the extra mile" to meet your goal, etc. That way, we can all learn from your efforts and the whole Party benefits. Updates will be printed here. Once you've achieved your goal, provide evidence to Ben (the evidence will be left to the discretion of the affiliates and should be considered when making your goal. For instance, if your goal is to attract a certain number of people to an event, sign-in sheets or a photograph will do.) All goals must be achieved by April 15, 2002! *No exceptions!*
3. And the Winner is...All of us! We will all benefit from the increased visibility and credibility of Libertarian Party of Michigan Affiliates getting

involved in their communities and advancing the cause of Liberty. Your affiliate benefits by increased membership, a winning campaign, press coverage, all these things and more, depending on your goal and what it takes to achieve it. At the 2002 State Convention, the names of all affiliates that meet their goals will be placed in a drawing and one affiliate will win a \$150 certificate from the Advocates for Self-Government, which can be used for further outreach and improvement. Of course, every affiliate that participates will benefit from the experience of pursuing, and hopefully achieving, a worthwhile Goal. So...

What's Your Goal?

Remember these deadlines: AC Entry (Pick Your Goal) by July 1, 2001. ACDeadline Show Your Evidence) by April 15, 2002.

Allegan Fights Millage

By Rick Dutkiewicz

The Libertarians of Allegan County have a great chance to educate their community about libertarian values. The affiliate is gearing up for a fight against a county wide 2.9 mill increase in property values to provide funds for a branch of Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

So far, with the date for the millage election still undecided, the LAC got a letter to the editor published in the Allegan News challenging the Republicans for raising taxes and preempting the emerging free market of educational choices. LAC member James Joyce attended a recent County Commission meeting and talked personally to some of the commissioners to let them know that there are groups organizing to oppose their plan. Our man James was interviewed by a Grand Rapids Press reporter covering the meeting and was quoted in a Press article.

Arriving hand-in-hand with this opportunity is the LAC's first chance at forming a coalition with a like-minded group to oppose this KVCC millage increase. Those attending the LAC's February 20 meeting got to hear from Ray Wilson of the locally based "Citizens for School Accountability," a conservative anti-tax

group which has fought against higher school taxes ever since Proposal A promised to keep our property taxes low in exchange for a 6% state sales tax.

Kalamazoo Cranks Up

By Tim Miley

Three members of the Kalamazoo Libertarian Party attended the Convention in Frankenmuth, bringing back a greater appreciation for liberty, many blank petitions for Kalamazoo voters to sign, \$184 from sales of the famed "Asses and Elephants" T-shirts, and a very nice rifle.

Tim Miley and Carol and Sean Nunnemaker attended the Convention. Tim ran for the LEC and lost amid tough competition from all over the state.

For future projects, the Kalamazoo Libertarians plan to circulate petitions to get the LP back on the ballot. Also, several Kalamazoo Libertarians are planning to attend the Second Amendment Sisters rally on Mother's Day in Lansing. Some of us are also planning on attending the Campaign Manager's Training in Hazel Park on the 19th and 20th.

People interested in buying an "Asses and Elephants" T-shirt can call Mickey Hall at (616) 345-2455 or Tim Miley at (616) 668-3951.

Mid-West Michigan Creates Discussion List

By Trevor Peck

The Libertarian Party of Mid-West Michigan has created an email list for Libertarians interested in the events and activities of the affiliate. You can subscribe to this discussion-announcement list by sending an email to lpmwm-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Currently we are working on a project to curtail zoning regulations and a project to increase our attendance by holding meetings in more areas.

Peck-Tec-Bushel and a Peck Acres-Amateur Radio Call KC8PGZ.

Ottawa Trashes Monopoly

By Jason Miller

Hudsonville – Ottawa County Libertarians have helped defeat a proposal by members of Hudsonville's City Commission to change the way trash is picked up. Currently there is a free market system where consumers contract with any of the dozen local providers. The commissioners proposed either granting a single contract for the entire city to one carrier or purchasing equipment and having the city haul waste.

A group of local residents and the waste-hauling companies took city hall by storm. The meeting was packed with angry residents and the phone calls to commission members had their heads spinning. The voice of the people was clear: leave us alone.

Charles Miller was particularly effective when he addressed the commission. His lecture to them about American principles received cheers from the crowd. The mayor of Hudsonville stated, "We were floating a trial balloon...it's pretty clear it was shot down." Libertarians were proud to be a part of the firing squad.

The city is still looking for ways to meddle and is now considering licensing and regulating waste haulers. Except for one commissioner, nobody else has complained or asked for this interference. The Ottawa County Libertarian Party will continue to monitor the situation and stick up for the free market.

Visit your local government meetings!

District 2 Libertarians Protest High Taxes

By Jason Miller

On April 16, Libertarians from Kent, Kalamazoo, Allegan and Ottawa counties assembled to protest high taxes and big government. They rallied outside the Holland post office from 4 to 6 P.M. while last minute filers turned in their forms. At 6:00, the group assembled for a rally in support of less government.

The protest generated one protest-specific article and one protest-specific TV news story. An additional print story and additional TV news story mentioned the event when discussing tax day in general.

Bouwman Runs for School Board

Newly elected Ottawa County Libertarian Party Chair Roger Bouwman has filed petitions to run for a seat on the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District. These positions are usually uncontested, but in this case, one incumbent did not file for reelection.

Steinport Gets Endorsement

The Jeff Steinport for Grand Rapids Board of Education campaign is gaining steam. Jeff just received a major endorsement from a community group composed of former board members and citizens who are very active in the school district. Jeff is the only candidate supporting decentralizing control, cutting administration, outsourcing services and opposing tax increases. He is running a very active campaign with mass direct mail, door to door canvassing and speaking with community groups to build consensus.

Jeff Steinport's election to the Grand Rapids Board of Education would be a major victory due to the sheer size of the district with 180,000 constituents and 27,000 students served.

You can find out more and help out by going online to www.ElectJeff.com, or calling Jeff at 616-447-0721.

Washtenaw Buries Rec Center

Washtenaw County Libertarians were a major factor in defeating a proposal to build a \$28 million Recreation Center in Ypsilanti Township. The measure went down by more than a 2-1 vote.

Libertarians Richard Clark and Geoff Foster led the way in shooting down this particular boondoggle. This sort of victory is important as it gives other responsible citizens the incentive to fight the next one that comes along.

Barnes Leads Eastpointe Referendum

By Keith Edwards

Libertarians of Macomb County Chair Diane Barnes is leading a petition drive to overturn Eastpointe's new "Living Wage" law. This law provides that companies that receive tax incentives or do business with the city must pay their employees at least \$8.23 per hour if they do not provide benefits or \$10 if they do not. About 60 cities in the U.S. have such laws including Detroit and Warren.

The law is the typical ploy of labor unions to jack up wages or to cut non-union companies out of the bidding. Of course, companies that do not meet the law do not get the contract and their lower skilled employees, who need it most, are not paid at all.

Sadly, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce representative is no help at all. He exhibited his ignorance by saying in opposition to the law, "If you agree the minimum wage is too low, then the solution is to lobby Congress to raise the minimum wage." But the COC supposedly fights against such raises. With "support" like that, who needs opposition!

Fortunately, Diane has no need of such incompetent "help." With a motivated band of very competent libertarians, she went after the 286 valid petitions to put the law on the ballot and they collected nearly 500! They were quickly approved and the City Council now needs to vote on repeal. If it fails, the issue goes on the ballot this fall. Diane reports that hardly anyone refused to sign. With a City Council that passes such a law while the city is under investigation for sweetheart contracts, payoffs, wasteful spending and a school board that is its equal in scandal, one wonders why they don't just change the city name back to East Detroit.

That doesn't bother the feisty Diane one bit. She just moves ahead with a plan to publicize the issue with the help of stalwarts like Kevin Grand, Jim Miller, Erin Stahl, Al Titran and Vicki and Rick Beeman.

The campaign has been closely covered by the Detroit News and Macomb Daily with major spreads and pictures on April 26 and May 11 respectively.

Andy LeCureaux Runs for Hazel Park Council

By Keith Edwards

Oakland County's Andrew LeCureaux has announced his candidacy for the Hazel Park City Council. At a meeting of Libertarians of Macomb County, Andy tried out his campaign speech and answered questions on his stands on the issues, including a tough devil's advocate question from Al Titran. His responses were excellent. Andy is a very attractive candidate and should do well.

In 2000, he ran for the 12th District Congressional seat, getting the fourth highest vote percentage of the LPM's 16 Congressional candidates.

To help, call Andy at 248-414-7372 or email him at andrew-7@webtv.com.

His campaign manager is David Collver, who can be reached at DCCollver@aol.com or 248-542-9274.

Oops!

In the last issue of the Michigan Libertarian, I stated that the Browne campaign "produced commercials, but didn't run them." That was not accurate. The Browne campaign did run commercials and I did see one of them, once, on late night cable TV. As an inveterate viewer of that media, and the amount of money going into the campaign, I just expected to see more. I apologize to Harry.

The remark was in no way a hatchet job on Harry Browne. He was an excellent spokesman for the LP and worked hard. The comment was made in the context of the subject of allocating scarce resources and the point was that one must not overdo the production of campaign material if its distribution is in doubt. One can never be sure that projected donations will occur and it is best to produce fewer pieces of campaign material and distribute it more widely, at least until the dough rolls in. I used this decision on the Browne campaign as an example, but they probably made a hundred good decisions as well. And I'm sure they had projected more income than they eventually received. That is always one of the tough things to decide in a campaign.

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 third Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at Sila's Restaurant, 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, 1503 11th St., 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 Restaurant 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 M-140 & Blue Star Hwy 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.

Tips for Speakers

By Keith Edwards

On page 5 of this issue of Michigan Libertarian Leonard Schwartz writes of the need to attract youth to the Libertarian Party by passing out fliers at colleges and placing ads in college newspapers. This could lead to the formation of college Libertarian affiliates. That's a great idea.

I think we can do even more. I have been speaking at high schools and colleges since 1992 and have found that young people are becoming more receptive to libertarian ideas each year. I would like to expand this function.

At the State Convention this month, I asked affiliates to look for some members who are free to speak to schools during school hours, generally from 7:15 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. Not too many of us can meet that schedule. I've been lucky because my boss over these years has been very supportive. Leonard Schwartz of Oakland County immediately volunteered. Some professional people like Leonard have that sort of flexibility. I can do Macomb and Wayne County, but we need help in other counties.

I would like to hold an audition-training session for potential speakers. If you have a good understanding of libertarianism, can meet the schedule requirement and can handle tough questions from uninhibited young people, let me know and I'll set up a training session. There is more to being a good speaker than meets the eye (or ear.) Just spouting boring libertarian cliches is not enough. Most of the time spent in a classroom appearance is in the Q and A, deriving an answer to a question you've never heard before from basic libertarian principles in seconds while maintaining poise and assurance.

Here's an example. If you say that the LP is opposed to intervening in wars, some kid is going to ask, "But what about World War II? We were attacked by the Japanese and had to fight back!" And from his standpoint it's a good question based on faulty teaching at school and home.

If you know that in the 1920's Japan was moving

toward a free market and international trade as well as universal suffrage and liberty, but was economically devastated by the Smoot-Hawley tariff of 1930 which destroyed the silk trade, you can show how our bad tariff policy helped create the great depression that gave the military a chance take over and retard Japan's progress. You add that when President Franklin Roosevelt placed the oil embargo on Japan in July, 1941, and froze its assets, Japan was forced to attack as it looked elsewhere for oil. So, you have to know your history as well as principle.

None of that helps, however, if you come across as a superior know-it-all, talking down to them. You have to be unflappable. You have to be "on stage" as they walk into the room without appearing to do so, looking relaxed, friendly and confident without getting mushy about it. Making eye contact with those individuals who look at you as they sit down and looking at everyone at some time during the class rather than staring at the back wall are important techniques, especially while you're trying to remember your introductory remarks or trying to answer that tricky new question.

It's not as easy as it looks. The first time I went to one particular school, I was told by the teacher after the class that he liked my presentation and added, "The last time we had a Libertarian in here, he was a real flake!" No doubt that guy knew all the libertarian cliches ("the market will take care of that!") but had no idea of how to speak in terms his audience could understand. I've been back every year since.

Incidentally, these remarks apply not only to speakers in classrooms, but also to candidates on the stump.

So, if you're interested, let me know. If you're a bit shy in public, don't let that stop you. I'm a recovering introvert myself and I love talking with college and high school kids.

Flash! Eastpointe Update

As we go to press, the Eastpointe City Council just voted 5-0 not to rescind the "Living Wage" Law, so it goes on the ballot. Diane Barnes, Al Titran, Erin Stahl, Jim Miller, Dave Wejrandt, and Keith and Marnie Edwards attended the meeting.



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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 or 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