

# Michigan Libertarian

Volume 38 Issue 1

Winter 2009



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### *Michigan Constitution* ARTICLE I, SECTION 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*

**Libertarian Party of Michigan**  
**Columbia Center II**  
**101 West Big Beaver Road**  
**Suite 1400**  
**Troy, MI 48084**

## LPM Convention in Jackson on May 23

by Bill Hall

We have important work to do at the Libertarian Party of Michigan convention in Jackson on May 23. In a mostly non-election year, Libertarian activists from across Michigan will gather to focus their efforts on organizing and charting our course for the future.

We've done well the past couple of years, professionalizing our operations, and running a full slate of candidates in the 2008 election. We won several elections and racked up historic vote totals for Libertarian candidates in many others. Now we need to plan how to keep up the momentum we gained.

The political situation is ripe for action. In recent months we received inquiries and requests to volunteer from hundreds of formerly-apatetic voters, scared to action by the spectacle of both the Democratic and Republican parties openly embracing socialism. Politicians using the predictably harmful results of their long-time economic policies to justify even worse economic "fixes". Politicians bailing out politically-connected financial institutions, automakers, the UAW and other special interests. Politicians providing "stimulus" to government employees at all levels, and those special interests who want to socialize our health care system, subsidize some businesses over others, and are insisting on a kick back for funding this past election's win-

ners. Politicians preparing to fund it all by dramatically increasing taxes and inflation on us, our children and grandchildren.

In Jackson, we need enthusiastic activists to step forward, run for the Libertarian Executive Committee, and lead our party forward into the future. Do you have what it takes to join the LEC? A commitment to work hard and actively with our volunteers to build the party is essential. An ability to get along well with others and build consensus is required. Business, professional and/or accounting skills are important, as are organizational and people skills. Experience on a board of directors and in management is valuable. The LEC is charged with running the day-to-day business of the party, in order to give our regional affiliates and candidates the support they need to pursue the party's goal of electing Libertarian candidates.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your Chair these past two years. I believe that together we have accomplished a lot, both for the cause of freedom and the Libertarian Party of Michigan. While I don't plan to run for reelection as your Chair, I do commit to stay active, involved and serve the LPM in other roles where I feel I can make a difference. Please join me. We accomplished a lot, and we have so much more to do.

w w w . m i . l p . o r g

# LPM Officers and Directors

Chair	Bill Hall	whall@wnj.com
Vice Chair	Erin Stahl	vicechair.lec@earthlink.net
Secretary	Emily Salvette	salvette@umich.edu
Treasurer	Nicole Michalak	lpmtreasurer@gmail.com
At-Large Director	Jim Allison	jim.e.allison@gmail.com
At-Large Director	Greg Stempfle	stempfle@hotmail.com
At-Large Director	Bob Jackson	bob@bobjackson.org
At-Large Director	Greg Creswell	i.am4_gcreswell@yahoo.com
At-Large Director	Dan Grow	grow.daniel@gmail.com
Judicial Committee	Bill Gelineau	wgelineau@firstam.com
Judicial Committee	Will White	whitewi5@msu.edu
Judicial Committee	Tom Bagwell	lpwccchair@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Greg Stempfle	stempfle@hotmail.com
Database	Ben Bachrach	BenBachrach@gmail.com
Affiliates	Erin Stahl	vicechair.lec@earthlink.net
Speakers Bureau	Jim Allison	jim.e.allison@gmail.com
Media	Mark Norrod	media@michiganlp.org

# Last Newsletter?

by Greg Stempfle

When I took over as editor of the Michigan Libertarian two years ago, there was a lot of discussion on the LEC as to whether or not we would continue to send out a hard copy newsletter or switch to an exclusive online newsletter. I was amongst those who felt that a mailed newsletter was a sign of a more legitimate organization with resources behind it, especially since these days anyone and any organization can easily put out an email or online newsletter. I have recently had a change of heart when the Detroit News and Free Press (among other Michigan based dailies) cut back on delivery and began to publish more content on the web. The newsletter is the single biggest budget item the LPM incurs each year. I have made the newsletter available as a .pdf immediately upon its completion and allowed members to opt out of the mailed copy to save money which met with limited success.

Most of us on the LEC have reached the conclusion that the time is right to make the transition to an exclusive digital newsletter, which could be printed and mailed to members who are not online or who request it. This will save the LPM (and myself) a lot of time and money and would allow for more timely dissemination of news and events. The money saved from printing and mailing costs could be used for upgrading the monthly online newsletter and other party building activities. However, this will ultimately be the decision of the next LEC and next editor as I will be stepping down after this term expires to devote time to other projects. I also edited the Michigan Libertarian from 2002-2003 which makes me the Grover Cleveland of editors of the ML. Party history and continuity are important to me, which is why I have made an effort to track down and upload older editions of this newsletter at <http://www.mi.lp.org/Shared%20Documents/PastNewsletters.aspx> I hope to complete this project later in the year.

Let us know what you think about the transition to a digital newsletter either at the upcoming state convention in Jackson or via email. It has been a privilege to serve you in this capacity and to work with a wonderful group of volunteers on the LEC.

If you would like to receive this newsletter in your email as a pdf instead of in the mail, please send an email to [MichiganLibertarian@gmail.com](mailto:MichiganLibertarian@gmail.com). This will bring you the news in a more timely manner and save the LPM money.

## Newsletter Information

The *Michigan Libertarian* is published bimonthly as the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan  
Phone: (888) FREE-NOW

**Submissions:** Please email articles and advertising to [MichiganLibertarian@Gmail.com](mailto:MichiganLibertarian@Gmail.com)

or mail payment to:

Libertarian Party of Michigan  
Columbia Center II  
101 West Big Beaver Road  
Suite 1400  
Troy, MI 48084

**Deadline:** The next deadline for submission of articles and advertising is June 1, 2009.

**Advertising Rates:** Full Pg \$100, Half Pg \$50, Quarter Pg \$25. 25% discount for LPM Candidates, 50% discount for LPM Affiliates. No personal ads.

# Affiliate Events and News

## Affiliate Contacts

### Tri-Cities

Clint Foster, 989-714-5566, clintthedj@gmail.com

### Washtenaw County

James Hudler, 734-475-9792, aguli@provide.net

### South West Michigan

Daniel Grow, 269-921-4157, chairman@lpswmich.org

### Capital Area

Robert Broda, bob-broda@comcast.net

### Macomb County

James Allison, 586-817-0395, jim.e.allison@gmail.com

### Oakland County

Jim Fulner, jim.fulner@parrot.com

### St. Clair County

Mark Byrne, 810-987-9856, iwantska@hotmail.com

### Wayne County

Raymond Warner, raymondrand@yahoo.com

### West Michigan

Bill Gelineau, 616-254-2878, freedomlover59@hotmail.com

## Michigan State Senate District 19 to Caucus at May 23 Convention

This past November, State Senator Mark Schauer defeated Congressman Timothy Wahlberg. As a consequence, Schauer vacated his State Senate seat and this coming November voters will select his replacement.

District 19 stretches from Battle Creek to Jackson, and also includes the cities of Marshall and Albion and 15 townships in Calhoun and Jackson Counties. The Libertarian Party of Michigan is looking to field a candidate in this race. In the past this was a competitive district, and thus the Libertarian candidate has the potential to decide the outcome of this race.

If you live in District 19 and are interested in running, or know a Libertarian who resides in the District who would make a good candidate, please contact Bill Hall at chair@michiganlp.org or 616-460-9516. At our State Convention in Jackson on May 23, 19th District members will caucus to select a nominee. We want to give the voters in District 19 the opportunity to vote for more freedom and less government!

## Upcoming Events

### May 23, 2009 LPM State Convention

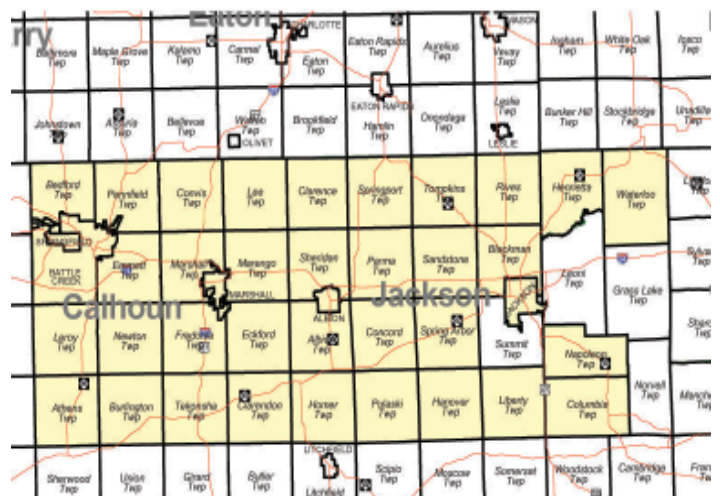
Holiday Inn, Jackson (see page 7 for schedule and registration)

visit [mi.lp.org](http://mi.lp.org)

- Upcoming affiliate meetings and events
- Libertarians in the news
- Subscribe to online newsletter
- Past issues of the Michigan Libertarian



### MICHIGAN STATE SENATE DISTRICT 19





# LibertyFest 2009 - A Stellar Evening

by Scotty Boman

The Libertarian Party of Michigan's annual Liberty Fest banquet, which was organized by the LP of Wayne County, was held Saturday night, January 24 at Dimitri's on the Avenue in Dearborn. The event was in 2009 but awards were for work in 2008. Leon Drolet, Executive Director of Michigan Taxpayers Alliance, spoke on his history supporting Libertarian causes and his recent efforts fighting the Republican and Democratic tax-raisers in Lansing. Charles Snyder, III, of the Michigan Coalition for Compassionate Care, spoke of his personal struggles to legalize medical marijuana, first in Flint, then statewide

The winners of the 2008 Defender of Liberty Awards were:

**Spokesperson for Liberty** - a member of the community whose patriotism and conviction have inspired contributions to the cause of Liberty. Two of these awards were given this year.

Krystal Martinez served as the State-wide petition organizer and treasurer of the Michigan Coalition for Compassionate Care. In this role, she traveled the state to organize regional petitioners. The petition effort involved the training and employment of professional petitioners. To successfully put the initiative on the November 2008 ballot, the MCCC had to produce a minimum of 304,101 valid signatures within a span of six months. With Ms. Martinez's leadership they exceeded this goal by collecting about 496,000 signatures of which almost 378,000 were validated by the state. The initiative known as Proposal 1 passed with almost 2/3 of the votes cast in the November election.



*Award Winner Krystal Martinez*

was also Treasurer of Michigan Recalls who sought the recalls of several state legislators for their vote in favor of a tax increase during Michigan's spending crisis in 2007.

In 2008 Mr. Drolet spearheaded an effort to recall Michigan Speaker of the Michigan house Andy Dillon. While Dillon survived November's recall vote, the effort put Michigan's lawmakers on notice. They now know that any tax increase will be noticed, and there will be political consequences.

Martinez also serves as campaigns analyst for the Marijuana Policy Project. Since she could not attend Charles Snyder III accepted the award on her behalf.

Leon Drolet is chair of the Michigan Taxpayer's Alliance as well as recently being County Commissioner for Macomb County, Michigan. He

From 2000 to 2006 Drolet served in the Michigan House of Representatives. Drolet also served as a Macomb County, Michigan county commissioner from 1999-2000.

During his final term in the state legislature, Drolet co-authored a state constitutional amendment that prohibited governments in Michigan from using their power of eminent domain to seize citizens private property and turn it over to new owners for their private use. This proposed amendment was Proposal 4 in the November, 2006 election and was overwhelmingly adopted by voters.

But Mr. Drolet is best known among Libertarians for introducing HB5237 on October 16th, 2001. This bill made it easier for a party to remain on the ballot. Prior law required it to poll the needed number of votes for its candidate who was listed closest to the top of the ballot (president in presidential election years, and governor in mid-term years, are the offices closest to the top of the ballot). The bill now lets a party meet the vote test by the vote for any of its statewide candidates. The bill became law on May 30th 2002.

**Promoter of Liberty** - A Libertarian whose efforts have done the most to promote the LP and Libertarian principles

David Eisenbacher has shown that an openly Libertarian candidate can get re-elected in one of Michigan's larger cities. He was first elected to the Troy City Council in 2002 and served until 2005.

Prior to being elected to City Council in 2002, David served the City of Troy on the Historic District Commission. David is also a member of the Troy Charter Revision Committee and recently served as Co-Chair of Troy Futures Vision 2020. Councilman Eisenbacher returned to the Troy city council in 2007 to a term that ends this year. He remains openly Libertarian.

**Producer of Liberty** - a dedicated, behind-the-scenes Libertarian whose quiet labors over the years exemplifies the backbone of the LP.

Gregory Stempfle has been a dedicated, behind-the-scenes Libertarian since 1995 when he got involved with the Libertarian organization at Michigan State University. When he started attending Wayne State University, he reactivated the Student organization there. As campaign manager for Scotty Boman in several elections, and for Greg Creswell in 2006, he has been the man behind the candidates.

He has also produced multiple issues of the Michigan Libertarian having served as its editor in 2002-03 and 2007-09. Mr. Stempfle located, catalogued and scanned many of the back issues of the Michigan Libertarian, making some of the oldest issues available online. Last year Greg and Erin Stahl organized the LPM Campaign Conference. When Bob Barr made a surprise appearance, Greg found a venue for him on short notice.

# Welcome New Volunteers

by Emily Salvette

As the government makes an obvious mess of our economy and trades away our liberty, it's no wonder the Libertarian Party is experiencing a surge in interest. Since last summer, we've introduced the LPM to over 60 new inquiries and identified almost 150 new volunteers and potential candidates. We extend a hearty welcome to these new folks and encourage their active participation at the local and state level. We held two activist conferences, in Grand Rapids in March and in Troy in April, where these potential volunteers could learn about the party and be introduced to local leaders. I'm happy to report that there are efforts to start new affiliates in northern Michigan, Calhoun County, and to reactivate the dormant Livingston County affiliate. Thanks to everyone who is volunteering time to help make the affiliates and the Libertarian Party of Michigan stronger.

Right now we have an unprecedented opportunity to successfully sell our message of limited government and personal freedom and responsibility. To do that, we need everyone to get involved. Depending on your interest or skills, there's a volunteer job for you in the LPM:

- **Campaigning** – as a candidate or helping on a campaign
- **Clerical** – typing, mailings, scheduling, thank-you notes
- **Financial** – bookkeeping, financial & campaign reporting
- **Managing** – volunteers, projects, campaigns, conventions
- **Photography** – videos, photos, cable TV, commercials
- **Sales** – fundraising, advertising, branding
- **Speaking** – outreach, training, TV hosting, media

- **Technology** – websites, database, social networks, etc.
- **Writing** – newsletter editing, articles, news releases

Please attend your local affiliate meeting and find out how you can help, or attend the state convention on May 23rd in Jackson to get involved at the state level. I would be happy to talk to you about making a difference. Contact me at [secretary@mi.lp.org](mailto:secretary@mi.lp.org) or call 734-645-5809.

## VOLUNTEER THANKS

Thanks to the following new volunteers who are making a difference:

- Scotty Boman** – developing social networking site
- Jay Gilotte** – speakers' bureau
- Bill Hall and Daniel Grow** – Agreed to serve as Michigan's national LP Platform Committee representative and alternate respectively
- Ann Johnson** – Web content and social networking
- Larry Johnson** – database maintenance
- Timothy Keirnan** – speakers' bureau
- Chuck Schaeffer** – starting a new group in northwest Michigan
- Johnny Skosnik** – technology help
- Michael Whetstone** – inquiry processing
- Jack Worsham** – starting a new group in Calhoun County

Other volunteers who should be thanked? Contact [secretary@mi.lp.org](mailto:secretary@mi.lp.org)



From left to right they are: David Eisenbacher (Promoter of Liberty), Leon Drolet (spokesperson for Liberty), Greg Stempfle (Producer of Liberty), and Charles Snyder III on behalf of Krystal Martinez (spokesperson for Liberty).

## Libertarian Running for Mt. Clemens School Board

In a recent email update, Campaign for Liberty activist, and LP member John Cruz told supporters "I'm pleased to report that things are going great!" In reference to his run for Mt. Clemens School Board.

His first mailing went out on April 11th to the absentee voters to deliver his message of common sense education. A general mailing to the general election voters will go out soon, depending on how much money he can still raise. He also completed his lit drop today.

Cruz announced that his campaign is the only campaign committee for Mt. Clemens School Board to no longer have a waiver: meaning They are the only campaign out of all the board members to raise and spend over \$1,000!

He is still accepting donations at: <http://www.electjohncruz.com/>

Cruz also has signs available for Mt. Clemens voters. In his update he reported,



*Mt. Clemens Libertarian John Cruz*

"I'm ecstatic with the way they look. Thanks to the people at [www.signs365.com](http://www.signs365.com) in Macomb Township for doing such an awesome job, we're going to really PAINT THE TOWN RED with these."

Those interested in a sign, can let John know either by email [john@electjohncruz.com](mailto:john@electjohncruz.com) with your address or call him at 586 354 8735 so

he can make a drop. He had 50 at last count, but he can always order more if he (hopefully) runs out.

## Other Libertarians Running for Office in 09

**Mark Byrne** is up for re-election to the Port Huron City Council this year. See the article on the left for more on his council activities. Another of our councilmen, **Andy LeCureaux** is running for re-election for Hazel Park City Council.

**Bruce Gosling** is running for re-election to the Glen Oak Community College Trustee and **Thomas Hren** is running for Big Rapids City Council.

## Libertarians Have an Impact in Port Huron

The Libertarian Party of St. Clair and Sanilac counties was able to register a victory for fairness at the March 23rd Port Huron City Council Meeting. Libertarian Councilman Mark Byrne reintroduced a resolution directing the City Manager to make the appropriate ordinance changes so that businesses or residents using city water for a process that does not return the water to the sewer system would no longer pay sewer charges on that portion of their water. The resolution passed after a 1/2 hour debate by a 4-3 vote.

The resolution was originally introduced in December and received just enough support to turn it into a request for a report from the administration on the impact of such a change. The report was issued at a February city council meeting and raised concerns that it could cost the city millions in higher interest rates by no longer qualifying for low interest State Revolving Fund loans used for Port Huron's \$185 million sewer separation project and lost revenue of \$1 million if all 990 commercial businesses took advantage of the change. In addition the report raised a concern that this change would run against the Bolt vs. the City of Lansing State Supreme court decision.

It took some time to gather the information to answer the concerns raised, but in the end there were 4 votes to take the step. The discussion can be seen on the city's website where each city council meeting is available. The discussion takes place conveniently at the start of part two of the meeting. The city website is <http://www.porthuron.org/> and the video file is under the city council section.



*Port Huron Libertarian Mark Byrne*





**LPM 2009 State Convention**  
**Saturday, May 23, 2009 — 9:00am-8:00pm**

**Commonwealth Commerce Center**  
**209 E. Washington — Jackson, MI 49201**

**8:00am- 8:55**   **Registration** (\$10 packet waived if pre-registered)    \$10.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Membership Dues** (NEW members by April 23rd)    \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please circle:**   National or LPM   NEW or Renewal  
(National members automatically qualify as LPM members)

**TO VOTE,** NEW membership dues must be paid by **April 23rd.** Either National or LPM \$25.00

**9:00—12:00**   **Welcome, Chair & Treasurer Reports**  
**Bylaws Consideration**  
**Senate District 19 Caucus**  
**Workshops from Activists Conference**

**12:00—1:00**   **Lunch** — 12:30pm Speaker:    \$15.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mr. Pat Clawson**   Topic: **Garnering Positive Press**

**1:30pm-5:00**   **LPM Officer Elections & Announcements**

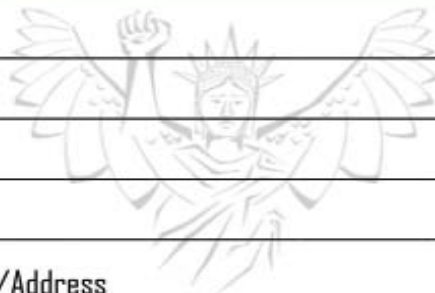
**6:30—8:00**   **Dinner Banquet** — 7:00pm Speaker:    \$33.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Prof. Harry Veryser**   LPM: Past, Present, and Future    \$-4.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(If order lunch & dinner)

**8:15—9:00pm**   **Meeting of New LPM Officers**

**Tickets available at [www.mi.lp.org](http://www.mi.lp.org) or mail the form below to:**  
**LPM, Columbia Center II, 101 W. Big Beaver Rd. Suite 1400, Troy, MI 48084**  
**Checks Payable to: Libertarian Party of Michigan**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone/E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



Subtotal: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
# of People: x \_\_\_\_\_  
Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \*  
Grand Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*For \$100+ Donations: Employer/Address \_\_\_\_\_



registration inside

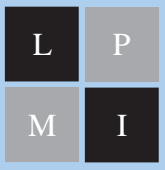
May 23, 2009 Jackson

Libertarian Party of Michigan  
State Convention

# Michigan Libertarian



Libertarian Party of Michigan  
Columbia Center II  
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