

# MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

Volume 34, Issue 3

November - December, 2005

## The Importance Of Electronic Communications

By Andrew Wrenbeck

At the LEC meeting in October, I put forward a motion to add a new line to all new LPM joining and renewal forms that reads, "Prefers electronic mail to US Mail." I also motioned that we make a concentrated effort to move our communications to an electronic format. The motion passed, and I believe we need to improve our communications network if we want to compete.

Email and other forms of on-line communication can save the LPM thousands of dollars. This money could be spent on making Michigan a place to be free. As we move away from The LP (national) as an income source, the state party will have added contact with its members, and the more we do this via electronic methods, the more efficient we become.

I recently did a search of one of the larger counties in the state's member database to see where we stood with email addresses. 1.5% of the members of that county had registered their email with the state party. We need to bring that number up to 75%. If we can do 75% of our newsletters, donation drives, information drives and promotions via the Internet, the savings would be astronomical. The savings are just the start!

When the campaign season is in full swing, the ability to contact members and candidate supporters via email

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**The Libertarian Party  
Of Michigan  
P.O. Box 27065  
Lansing, MI 48909-7065  
(888) FREE-NOW**

## Appeals Court Orders Canvassers To Certify M.C.R.I. Proposal

The Board of State Canvassers "breached its clear legal duty" to certify ballot petitions for a proposal that would bar some forms of affirmative action at state colleges and community colleges, the Court of Appeals ruled on October 31 in ordering that the canvassers certify the petitions for the 2006 election.

Jennifer Gratz, spokesperson for the MCRI, said she was "very happy" with the decision. The duty of the canvassers is limited and the court has ordered them to stick to their duties, she said.

The canvassers refused to certify the group's petitions last August, saying there were questions about the methods the group used to collect those signatures.

The organization By Any Means Necessary (BAMN) had argued MCRI had committed fraud in getting signatures, telling signatories the proposal would in fact promote affirmative action.

A spokesperson for BAMN said the organization would appeal the decision to the Supreme Court.

"What this says in practical terms is that black persons can be defrauded and no one can do anything about it," said Luke Massie, national vice-chair of the organization.

In an opinion issued in the name of the Court (rather than specific justices), Judges Henry Saad, Mark Cavanagh and Kathleen Jansen rejected the claims of the intervenors in the case, BAMN, who argued that the Legislature had given the canvassers broad authority to hold hearings or investigations on any matter regarding petitions.

"It is clear to us that the Legislature has conferred upon the board the authority to canvass the petition to ascertain if the petitions have been signed by the requisite number of qualified and registered electors," the court said.

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## Liberty Fest '05 Complete Coverage

Who won the Libbie Awards?

Who nominated the winners?

Who attended?

What did you miss if you didn't party with the party?

For the answers to those questions and other Liberty Fest info

**continued on Page 6**

## Victories for Marijuana and LeCureaux

by Leonard Schwartz

In the November election, Ferndale voters approved a medical marijuana proposal. Ferndale became the third city in Michigan that allows medical marijuana. The others are Detroit and Ann Arbor. Libertarians played a major role in these victories.

Andy LeCureaux was re-elected to his third term on the Hazel Park City Council. He was first elected in 2001.

Unfortunately, other Libertarian candidates were unsuccessful. Lloyd Sherman lost his bid for the Hazel Park Library Board. David Nagy lost the race for councilman in Garden City (by twelve votes). This was Lloyd's and David's first attempt in non-partisan elections.

In the race for mayor of Berkley, City Councilman Fred Collins lost to a city councilwoman. Fred had served eight years on the City Council.

In Ward 3 of Ann Arbor, one of the few Michigan cities that has partisan elections, Rich Birkett was defeated by the Democratic incumbent.



Candidate David Nagy

## Wayne County Launches A New Web Site

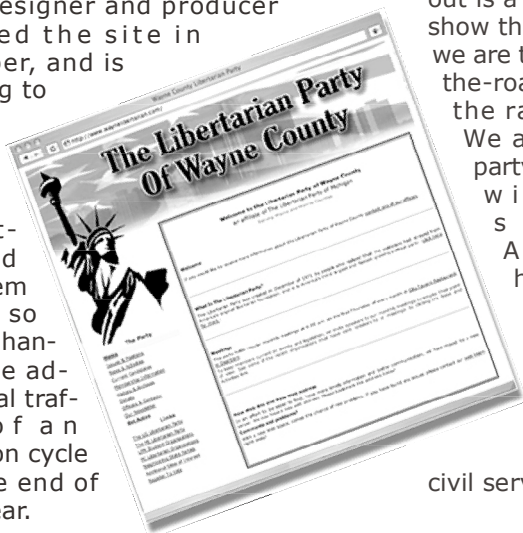
The Wayne County Libertarian Party has published their new web site. The affiliate has a new address or URL: [www.WayneLibertarian.com](http://www.WayneLibertarian.com).

The new web space features a "Get Active" section that gives contact information for politicians and radio, TV and newspaper contacts.

The "Get Active" section was specifically added to make getting the Libertarian viewpoint into the press and minds of politicians faster and easier.

The "current candidates" section featured a link to Dave Nagy's web site. Dave is a candidate for Garden City City Council for the month leading up to the election.

Andrew Wrenbeck, the web site designer and producer posted the site in October, and is hoping to be done troubleshooting and problem fixing so it can handle the additional traffic of an election cycle by the end of the year.



Visit [www.WayneLibertarian.com](http://www.WayneLibertarian.com)

## New LPM Racial Preferences Handouts

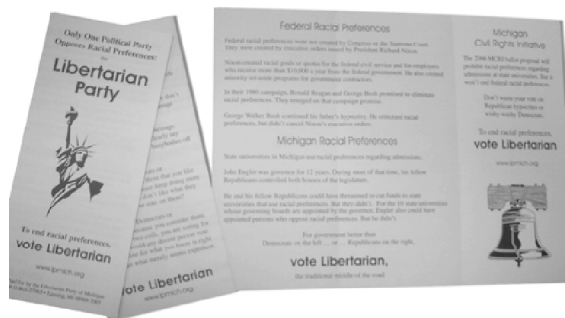
Only one political party opposes racial preferences. The Libertarian Party. The Democrats, Republicans, Greens and others all believe that the government should "award" some races financially, with jobs or by allowing access to some programs while leaving other races to pay for it.

Even though most Americans, and most Michigan residents oppose a government that treats people different base on their race, the other major political parties have taken the opposing viewpoint on this issue. To take advantage of the extreme position that the Democrats, Greens and Republicans have taken on this issue, the Libertarian Party of Michigan has put together some 3-fold handouts.

The "Racial Preferences" handout is a great tool to show the public that we are the middle-of-the-road party, not the radical party. We are the only party that agrees with mainstream America. It highlights some of the

history of racial preferences:

- Racial preferences were created by Richard Nixon
- Nixon also created "quotas" for civil service employees
- Reagan and Bush I reneged on campaign promises to end the racism



The New LPM Racial Preferences Handout

## Michigan Libertarian Can Deliver Your Message

The *Michigan Libertarian* newsletter could be getting your business or campaign message to Libertarians across the state right now. It is the perfect vehicle to reach Libertarians in Michigan.

**Rates:** Full Pg \$200.00 Half Pg \$100.00 Quarter Pg \$50.00. **25% discount** for LPM Candidates, **50% discount** for LPM Affiliates. Contact: [newsdir@lpmich.org](mailto:newsdir@lpmich.org)

- Bush II has criticized the racism, but has done nothing about it

• 12 years of Gov. Engler and a Republican legislature in Michigan let racial preferences

stay in place at our 10 state universities

To pick up some copies of the hand out, please contact Leonard Schwartz at [poldir@lpmich.org](mailto:poldir@lpmich.org). Let's end government sponsored racism and show mainstream America that we are the only party on their side.

## Libertarian Party of Michigan Affiliate Contacts

Affiliate Name	Contact Name	Website/E-mail
Capital Area LP	Bob Broda	<a href="http://www.calparty.org">www.calparty.org</a>
Kalamazoo Valley LP	Matt Umlor	<a href="http://www.kalamazoolp.org">www.kalamazoolp.org</a>
LP of Livingston Co.	David Buck	Not Available
Libertarians of Macomb Co.	Jim Allison	<a href="http://www.macomblp.com">www.macomblp.com</a>
Midwest Michigan LP	Brian Kluesner	<a href="http://www.pecktec.com/lpmwm/">www.pecktec.com/lpmwm/</a>
LP of Oakland Co.	Leonard Schwartz	<a href="http://www.lpocmi.org">www.lpocmi.org</a>
LP of South Central MI	James Parker	<a href="mailto:jamesp@hillsdale.epcorp.com">jamesp@hillsdale.epcorp.com</a>
Saint Clair Co. LP	Mark Byrne	<a href="mailto:iwantska@hotmail.com">iwantska@hotmail.com</a>
LP of Southwest MI	Jason Gatties	<a href="http://www.lpswmich.org">www.lpswmich.org</a>
LP of Washtenaw Co.	Lawrence Johnson	<a href="http://www.lpwash.org">www.lpwash.org</a>
Thumb Area LP	Paul Hitch	<a href="mailto:phitch@intouchmi.com">phitch@intouchmi.com</a>
Traverse Bay LP	Jerry Coon	<a href="mailto:jtcoon@gtii.com">jtcoon@gtii.com</a>
Tri-City LP	Richard Jozwiak	<a href="http://www.TriCityLibertarianParty.org">www.TriCityLibertarianParty.org</a>
LP of Wayne Co.	Loel Gnadt	<a href="mailto:cynical_bob@juno.com">cynical_bob@juno.com</a>
West MI LP	Jamie Lewis	<a href="http://www.lpwm.org">www.lpwm.org</a>
Kettering University	Adam Hogan	<a href="mailto:hoga4008@kettering.edu">hoga4008@kettering.edu</a>
Hillsdale College	Heidi Morris	<a href="mailto:hcmorris@hillsdale.edu">hcmorris@hillsdale.edu</a>
NMU Libertarians	Michael Brown	<a href="mailto:docbrown_77@yahoo.com">docbrown_77@yahoo.com</a>
U of M College Libertarians	Andrew Moylan	<a href="mailto:admoylan@umich.edu">admoylan@umich.edu</a>
MSU Libertarian Club	Brendan Dennis	<a href="mailto:dennisb3@msu.edu">dennisb3@msu.edu</a>
WMU Libertarians	Brian Harris	<a href="mailto:bharris5781@vipmail.kvcc.edu">bharris5781@vipmail.kvcc.edu</a>

## The Michigan Libertarian Newsletter

The *Michigan Libertarian* is published bimonthly as the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan, 913 W. Holmes Rd., Lansing, MI 48910.

**Phone:** (888) FREE-NOW

**Submissions:** Please email articles to [newsletter@lpmich.org](mailto:newsletter@lpmich.org). Only electronic submission will be accepted. Acceptable formats are plain text, MS Word, HTML, Freehand.

Any other formats, please ask first.

**Deadline:** The next deadline for submission of articles and advertising is January 15, 2005.

## LPM Officers and Directors

Chair:	Nathan Allen	<a href="mailto:chair@lpmich.org">chair@lpmich.org</a>
Vice Chair:	Scotty Boman	<a href="mailto:vicechair@lpmich.org">vicechair@lpmich.org</a>
Secretary:	James Hudler	<a href="mailto:secretary@lpmich.org">secretary@lpmich.org</a>
Treasurer:	Will White	<a href="mailto:treasurer@lpmich.org">treasurer@lpmich.org</a>
Political Director:	Leonard Schwartz	<a href="mailto:poldir@lpmich.org">poldir@lpmich.org</a>
Newsletter Director:	Andrew Wrenbeck	<a href="mailto:newsdir@lpmich.org">newsdir@lpmich.org</a>
Judicial Committee:	Jerry Bloom	<a href="mailto:jerryliberty@hotmail.com">jerryliberty@hotmail.com</a>
	Mike Corliss	
	Bill Hall	

# Leonard Schwartz for United States Senator

Leonard Schwartz is seeking the Libertarian Party of Michigan nomination for United States senator. He plans to make this a big campaign.

Leonard plans to use the same strategy that Jon Coon used in his U.S. senate campaign in 1994 (which was the last time any LPM member had a big campaign for a statewide office): Emphasize an issue that will draw support from many non-libertarians.

Jon's campaign showed that non-libertarians will support a Libertarian Party candidate if (1) the Libertarian candidate's stance on an issue differs from that of the Democratic and Republican candidates and (2) they greatly prefer the Libertarian stance. (In 1994, Jon emphasized reform of Michigan's concealed weapons law. Non-libertarians who supported the right to carry concealed weapons contributed time and money to his campaign. He raised nearly \$250,000 and got nearly 5 percent of the vote).

Leonard's tentative plan is to emphasize racial preferences. Because there will be a ballot initiative on this issue in 2006, everyone will be talking about it. Democrats support racial preferences. The leadership of the Republican Party of Michigan, including the two front-runners in the primary for U.S. senator, likewise support racial preferences. Other Republicans have been hypocritical or evasive on this issue. The Libertarian

## Webmaster Wanted

The Libertarian Party Of Michigan is looking to upgrade the official party website and it's capabilities. Do you have what it takes?

The LPM web site contains many tools and scripts and much of the recent history of our party. It is currently comprised of over 1,400 files. The appropriate webmaster must be capable of organizing these files, maintaining the organization already in place, expanding upon it, and understand how this preservation benefits the party. This contractor position will be approximately six hours per week for a prescribed term.

The ideal webmaster has the following skills:

HTML, PHP (or a willingness to learn a few basic commands), JavaScript, MySQL, Capable of using CPANEL (or willing to learn), Some knowledge of working with SSL, credit card processing and merchant accounts, Experience working with Apache web servers, basic authentication, URL rewriting and possibly other Apache features.

Applications will be accepted until January 15, 2005. Please include compensation requirements.

Respond electronically to: [chair@lpmich.org](mailto:chair@lpmich.org)

Respond via snail mail to:

Libertarian Party Of Michigan

PO Box 27065, Lansing, MI 48909-7065

Attn: Webmaster Position

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Candidate Leonard Schwartz

Party unequivocally opposes racial preferences.

To make this a big campaign, Leonard will need much support.

First, he will need a campaign manager, a webmaster, a fundraising director, a treasurer, a communications director, outreach coordinators, research assistants, and other volunteers. To volunteer, contact

Leonard at 248-546-3569 or [leonard@schwartz45.com](mailto:leonard@schwartz45.com).

Second, he will need much money. Every U.S. citizen can contribute \$2100. To contribute money, send a personal check, payable to "Schwartz for Senate," to Leonard Schwartz, 13711 Victoria, Oak Park, MI 48237-1409.

Leonard ran for state Supreme Court justice in 2004 and received over 7 percent of the votes. He ran for a district court judgeship in 2002 and for Oakland County prosecutor in 2000.

Leonard is the political director of the state party and chair of the Oakland County party. He has been a member of the Libertarian Party since 1980.



# EVENTS CALENDAR



**November 23, 2005 - 7:30 PM**

Libertarian Party of Oakland County general membership meeting. Non-members are welcome. Meeting starts at 7:30. Optional dinner starting at 6:30.

Location: Sila's Restaurant, 4033 W. 12 Mile, 2 blocks east of Greenfield, in Berkley.

Contact: Leonard Schwartz Phone: 248-546-3569 Email: Leonard@Schwartz45.com

**December 1, 2005 - 6:30 PM**

Monthly meeting of the Libertarians of Wayne County. Optional dinner starts at 6:30, meeting at 7:00.

To keep members current on events and legislation, we invite speakers to our monthly meetings to employ their point of view. Visit [www.WayneLibertarian.com](http://www.WayneLibertarian.com).

**December 10, 2005 - 6:00 PM**

Libertarian Party of Oakland County Holiday Party. Potluck dinner. BYOB. Please go to [www.lpocmi.org](http://www.lpocmi.org) to see what food others are bringing and tell what food you will bring.

Location: Sara Sjoberg's house, 3215 N. Altadena, south of 13 Mile, in Royal Oak. Contact: Sara Sjoberg Phone: 248-307-0278 Email: [sara@sarasjoberg.com](mailto:sara@sarasjoberg.com)

**December 14, 2005 - 7:30 PM**

Monthly meeting of the Libertarians of Macomb County. All members and non-members are welcome to attend. Optional dinner starts at 6:30.

Location: The Cutting Board Restaurant, 28655 Schoenherr Road, Warren, MI 48093 (just south of 12 Mile). Contact: Jim Allison Phone: (248) 548-2500 ext 2003

## MCRI from Page 1

"Here, the challengers and intervenors seek an investigation that goes beyond the four corners of the petition itself, into the circumstances by which the signatures were obtained. Such an investigation is clearly beyond the scope of the board's authority," the court said.

Doyle O'Connor, a Democratic member of the canvassers, said the ruling does not answer the question of what one does with potential fraud in petitions. "I would hate to think this would allow for fraud of this sort, somebody should be in a position of addressing this," he said.



The MCRI's Jennifer Gratz

# A Retrospect on The 2005 Affiliate Leadership Conference

by Scott'y Boman

At the first of two leadership conferences (this term), hosted by the LPM, affiliate officers and activists had a chance to learn from seasoned organizers and activists.

LEC Political Director and Oakland County affiliate chair Leonard Schwartz spoke to us about marketing the Libertarian Party, importance of recruiting candidates, and the importance of the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (MCRI). He suggested ways to describe libertarians that would position us as mainstream thinkers to be contrasted with major parties that were in many respects on the fringe. He suggested the we describe ourselves as not being "busybodies" that spend their time meddling in other peoples affairs. He described the MCRI as an issue where we stand with the majority in opposing racial preferences by state institutions. The Macomb County affiliate leads the state in "Letters to the Editor"

Macomb County affiliate Chair Jim Allison spoke to attendees about the value of organizing affiliates for promoting Libertarianism via letters to the editor. He suggested ways in which one could organize content to increase the chances of a letter being published. The Macomb County affiliate leads the state in letters to the editor. There is a standing challenge to other affiliates, as well as the whole state (outside Macomb County) to exceed their accomplishment.

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# LEC October Meeting Minutes

*These minutes have not yet been approved by the committee. It is possible that there will additions or corrections at the next committee meeting. If so, they will be published here.*

## Minutes of the Libertarian Party of Michigan

October 2, 2005

913 W. Holmes Rd., Lansing MI  
48910

Present were LEC Members: Nathan Allen, Leonard Schwartz, Will White, and Andrew Wrenbeck, Scott'y Boman. Also present (as attendees to the State affiliate leadership conference) were: Bob Broda, Richard Jozwiak, Rosemarie Jozwiak, Nancy O'Brien, Tim O'Brien, Jamie Lewis, Gilbert Meyers, and James Allison.

Scott Boman took minutes since Secretary James Hudler was absent. The minutes from the last meeting were approved. The Meeting was called to order at 1:07 PM. Will White suggested that we make announcements at the end of the meeting, as time permitted.

Scott'y Boman made a motion that "the Appointment of Kai Phillips, to the post of Communications Director, be officially recognized as null and void (Due to lack of membership)." Leonard Schwartz seconded the motion. Boman, Allen, Schwartz and Wrenbeck passed the motion. Will White abstained.

Leonard Schwartz made a motion that "a motion made at a previous meeting, modifying membership requirements, be officially recognized as null and void (Due to a conflict with

LPM bylaws)."

Scott'y Boman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Leonard Schwartz delivered the Political Committee Report. He commented on the campaigns of Brian Kelly (lost election for Pontiac Mayor), Incumbent councilman Fred Collins (Running for mayor of Berkley), Incumbent Mayor Pro-tem Andy LaCureaux (Running for re-election in Hazel Park), Lloyd Sherman (Running for Hazel Park Library Board), and David Nagy (Running for the Garden City Council, keeping his Libertarian affiliation in the for-front). State Chair Nathan Allen is managing The Andy LaCureaux campaign.

Andrew Wrenbeck said the current Newsletter was at the printer and was also out on the Internet. It was sent out to 1,070 current and lapsed members. Mr. Wrenbeck suggested a new field in the existing database, or the establishment of a separate database to distinguish email (electronic in-

ternet mail) vs. snail-mail (United States Postal) forms of preferred delivery.

Andrew Wrenbeck made a motion that "All forms for joining the Party, or renewing membership shall contain a space for including an email address, and an option to receive the Newsletter electronically (on a voluntary basis)." Second (after he mentioned that there was probably no need for a motion, as we can simply direct the Newsletter editor and Membership Director to do so). There was discussion during which Richard Jozwiak expressed concern about choosing people to manage the database. Motion carried. Mr. Wrenbeck also said the deadline to submit articles to the next newsletter will be November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Will White delivered the treasurers report. The balance was reported to be at \$32,424.56. The LEC accepted the report.

Andrew Wrenbeck moved that "The LEC acquire two URLs that will be the sole property of the Libertarian Party of Michigan Executive Committee Inc., and that the specific addresses be approved by email. The motion was seconded by Leonard Schwartz, and was approved by the attending LEC members.

Jim Allison delivered the Liberty Fest Report: He announced the up-coming mailing for "Liberty Fest," and welcomed nominations for award recipients.

Will White announced the availability of a DVD on the history of the Constitution.

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 PM. by Will White.



## Libertarian Strategy: Candidates First or Candidates Last?

### by Leonard Schwartz

What is the best way to foster the growth and influence of the Libertarian Party?

Some Libertarians say that we should encourage libertarians to join the Libertarian Party. They say that we shouldn't spend much time or money supporting Libertarian candidates until the LP has many members. This strategy puts candidates last.

Other Libertarians say that we should first spend much time and money supporting Libertarian candidates.

They say that Libertarian candidates are the best way to promote libertarianism and encourage libertarians to join the LP. This strategy puts candidates first.

Evidence shows that the candidates first strategy is the best way to foster the growth and influence of the Libertarian Party.

1. Non-libertarians will vote for Libertarian candidates.

Many voters are fed up with the Democrats and the Republicans. But they often know little about the small parties and their candidates. They tend to vote randomly or for whichever

er candidate receives the most news coverage. For example, exit polls in the 2000 presidential election showed that over a third of the persons who voted for the Green Party candidate, Ralph Nader, said that their second choice was George Bush, not Al Gore.

These voters either didn't know or didn't care that Nader and the Greens were ultra-liberal.

2. Non-libertarians will contribute time and money to Libertarian candidates and eventually join the Libertarian Party

**continued on Page 7**

# Liberty Fest



Leonard Schwartz with the MCRI pamphlet



Barb Collins nominates Leonard Schwartz



Fred Collins nominates Sheldon Rose



Suzie LaCureaux nominates Andy LaCureaux

The Annual Liberty-Fest was again a great time. An event that in my book toppled even the great time that was had in 2004. Sajo's Restaurant prepared Libertarians from across the state some out of this world food, which was only outdone by Nicole Michalak's desserts.

Fine dining was just the beginning. Nicole and James Allison shared the Master of Ceremonies chore with class, and they sure deserve a round of applause for the work they did. Macomb sure can hold an event.

After dinner, things got started with the annual Libbie awards being handed out by the persons who nominated the winners. There are three categories: The Spokesman; The Promoter; and The Producer.

The Spokesman for Liberty Award is given to a member of the community whose patriotism and conviction have inspired contributions to the cause of Liberty. The mic was handed over to Fred Collins who nominated Sheldon Rose for the award. Sheldon did not attend, Mr. Collins accepted the award on his behalf.

The Promoter of Liberty honor is awarded to a Libertarian whose efforts have done the most to promote the LP and Libertarian principles. Suzie LaCureaux nominated her husband, Andy for the award in an emotional presentation that resulted in a standing ovation. Andy commented that his door to door campaigning not only promoted the Libertarian Party and the cause of liberty, but it is also how he met his wife Suzie.

The final award, the Producer of Liberty was nominated by Barb Collins. Leonard

Schwartz earned the distinction by being a dedicated, behind-the-scenes Libertarian whose quiet labors over the years exemplify the backbone of the party.

After the Awards, the floor was handed over to LPM Chairman Nathan Allen. Allen stressed the importance of getting names on the ballot across the state for the coming year. The '06 season will be upon us soon and the more holes on the ballot that are filled with Libertarian names, the more name recognition we can build. Nathan also reminded attendees that the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (MCRI) is a very Libertarian and very important proposal that will appear on the statewide ballot this coming year. Using it to catapult election returns for our candidates would allow for potentially unprecedented vote counts.

Leonard Schwartz again took the stage to bring this message home, and show us again why he is the Producer of Liberty. He also offered pamphlets (see page 2) for distribution by the party covering the issue.

Then came time for Tim Slagle. His unique brand of Libertarian humor fit well with the evening and was highly entertaining.

As the evening came to a close, I found I am already looking forward to the 2006 event. Macomb did a great job. The room was packed. The food and entertainment was great, and they pulled off an impeccable event.

We owe the affiliate a huge thank you.



MC James Allison



MC Nicole Michalak



Andy LaCureaux accepting his Libbie from Suzie LaCureaux



Leonard Schwartz accepting his Libbie from Barb Collins



### Communication from Page 1

will be smoother. We will be able to "rally the troops" faster. This will pay off with more votes, more activism and a better image.

The best part about this plan is all of the money savings and other benefits of doing our communication via the Internet is that our members can do it FREE. You can make the money you already send to the party stretch farther than it currently does, by simply adding your email address to your renewal forms and checking the "prefers electronic mail to US Mail" box.

set up an email account specifically for collecting and adding email to the database. Just email your first & last name and zip code to TOWC@mac.com. Please do it today.



### Conference from Page 4

MCRI organizer Tim O'Brien gave us an update on the status of the initiative. While the MCRI and the state-wide organization which supports it, is fully non-partisan, the failure of most major party politicians to support it gives Libertarians a chance to be the only political party with broad-based support for this very popular initiative.

This conference was sparsely attended. The other leadership conference will (tentatively) be on the weekend of March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26th. I had also hoped to see larger numbers of Libertarians at the last state convention.

The next state convention will be a nominating convention for Libertarians running in partisan elections. So I

## I strongly urge all aspiring candidates and campaign managers to organize now

hope for better attendance. However, campaigns must start much earlier than the convention if they are to be successful. I strongly urge all aspiring candidates and campaign managers to organize now. Furthermore, they should plan on participating in the next leadership conference. We will feature some of our finest candidates and candidate managers. I am open to suggestions pertaining to the length of the conference, as well as to other input.

### Candidates First from Page 5

Consider the history of the Libertarian Party of Michigan. Before Jon Coon ran for US senator in 1994, LPM had fewer than 400 members. He ran an active campaign that stressed one issue (concealed weapons law) that the Democrats and Republicans ignored. Non-libertarians who supported the right to carry concealed weapons contributed time and money to his campaign. He got nearly 5 percent of the vote.

By the end of 1994, LPM still had fewer than 500 members. But non-libertarians who contributed time to Jon's campaign met Libertarians who talked about other issues. These non-libertarians also learned that Libertarians are ordinary middle class Americans. They learned that Libertarians are not bizarre radicals, although they have unconventional views. Through contact with Libertarians, many of these non-libertarians became libertarians and contributed time and money to other Libertarian candidates. Some eventually joined the Libertarian Party.

3. The news media give free coverage to small party candidates who run active campaigns. Libertarian candidates thus can get the news media to help pay the cost of promoting libertarianism.

The total number of Libertarian candidates also is important, even if the vast majority are merely nominal candidates. Having many candidates on the ballot gives the impression that the Libertarian Party has broad grass roots support. This will increase the respect

that reporters and the general public have toward the Libertarian Party.

Whenever a small party candidate gets more votes than the dif-

ference between the Democrat and Republican, the news media give extra coverage in post-election articles.

This is especially true when that candidate is a Libertarian. Reporters know that candidates from ultra-liberal parties take votes primarily away from Democrats and that candidates from ultra-conservative parties take votes primarily away from Republicans. But the Libertarian Party is a middle of the road party.



'94 Senate Candidate  
Jon Coon

It is unclear whether a Libertarian candidate took more votes away from the Democrat or the Republican. This gives reporters an additional topic for speculation and analysis.

4. Libertarian candidates can influence the political system and affect government policy, even if they lose elections.

The most important thing to most Democrats and Republicans is winning. If they think that a Libertarian opponent might get many votes in a close race, the Democrat and Republican candidates might try to get votes from libertarians by taking a libertarian stance on issues.

This is great. To convince voters that the Libertarian Party is a mainstream party, we don't need to water-down libertarianism. We merely need to encourage Democrats and Republicans to become more libertarian. If libertarian-talking Democrats and Republicans get elected and try to make government policy more libertarian, that promotes libertarianism. If they get elected, but renege on their libertarian campaign promises, in the next election Libertarian candidates can brand them for hypocrisy.

5. Encouraging libertarianism, by itself, doesn't promote the growth of the Libertarian Party. Without candidates running active campaigns, the Libertarian Party is just a social club, a debating society, a lobbying group, or an educational organization.

The Rasmussen survey in 2000, using the "World's Smallest Political Quiz," showed that 15-20 percent of Americans already are libertarians. Only candidates running active campaigns will encourage libertarians to vote Libertarian, contribute time and money to Libertarian candidates, and join the Libertarian Party.

6. The goal of the Libertarian Party is making government policy more libertarian. Having many members is one way of fostering this goal, but is not a goal in itself. The extent to which people support LP candidates is more important than the number who join the LP.

There are many reasons why many libertarians will never join the LP. (1) Some are worried that they will be harassed if the confidentiality of LP membership rolls is compromised. (2) Some don't want to sign the LP non-aggression pledge. (3) Some individualists maintain that joining any group compromises their individuality.



**Where do you stand politically? To find out, take the World's Smallest Political Quiz!**

How do you stand on

**PERSONAL ISSUES?**

- Government should not censor speech, press, media or Internet. 20 10 0 A M D
- Military service should be voluntary. There should be no draft. A M D
- There should be no laws regarding sex between consenting adults. A M D
- Repeal laws prohibiting adult possession and use of drugs. A M D
- There should be no national ID card. A M D

**SCORING:** 20 for every A, 10 for every M and 0 for every D: \_\_\_\_\_

How do you stand on

**ECONOMIC ISSUES?**

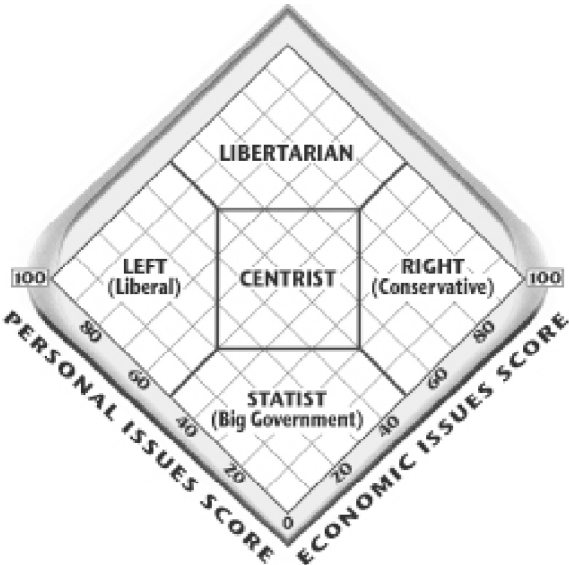
- End "corporate welfare." No government handouts for big business. 20 10 0 A M D
- End government borders on international free trade. A M D
- Let people control their own retirements: privatize Social Security. A M D
- Replace government welfare with private charity. A M D
- Cut taxes and government spending by 50% or more. A M D

**SCORING:** 20 for every A, 10 for every M and 0 for every D: \_\_\_\_\_

**Now find your place on the chart**

Mark your PERSONAL score on the lower-left scale; your ECONOMIC score on the lower-right.

Then follow the grid lines until they meet at your political position. The chart shows the political group that you agree with most.



**We invite you to join the  
Libertarian Party of Michigan**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual dues for the Libertarian Party of Michigan are \$25

- ☐ I Prefer email communications over US Mail
- ☐ Occasionally we make our list available to other groups that wish to offer products or services to our members. Check here to be EXCLUDED from additional mailings
- ☐ I certify that I do not advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving social or political goals
- Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
(signature required for membership)

Please charge my credit card (Visa or M/C only:)  
Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expires / /20  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I have enclosed a check or money order  
(Payable to the Libertarian Party Of Michigan)  
Mail To:

Libertarian Party Of Michigan  
PO Box 27065, Lansing, MI 48909-7065  
Political contributions are not tax deductible.

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