



# MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan

Volume 16, No. 6

November/December 1989

## Taking it to the people

### Libertarians gather for candidates' night

When Libertarian Candidates' Night was announced in the previous issue of the *Michigan Libertarian*, there were three Libertarians holding public office in Michigan: Charles Congdon, vice-chair of the Midland Cable Commission; James Clifton, trustee of the Addison Village Council; and Jim McAbee, trustee of the Romeo Library Board. Now there are five!



*Libertarian public officials: (from l to r) Jim McAbee, Dick Whitelock, Chuck Congdon, and Larry Porzolt*

Dr. Larry Porzolt was appointed to the Stockbridge Community Schools Committee on AIDS and Sex Education in the schools, and LPM Chairman Dick Whitelock was picked as a member of the Corrections Advisory Committee of the Ionia County Board of Commissioners. In addition, LPM Treasurer Jeff Hampton has organized a local group called Citizens for a Better Northville, which has had success in presenting libertarian alternatives to political officials in that community.

With the exception of Reverend Clifton who was unable to attend, these individuals were on hand for the LPM Candidates Night, December 1, in Berkley, to share their experiences with an enthusiastic gathering of the party faithful. Their comments were inspiring, and elicited a desire among many in the audience to get involved locally and get results.

## INSIDE

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Larry Porzolt described how, as a physician, he was actually *implored* to join the AIDS and Sex Education committee in order to satisfy the requirement for representation by one member of the medical profession. Since he had only recently been appointed, he was still trying to discover the actual purpose of the committee and looks forward to presenting his libertarian views when the committee does eventually define itself.

Then Jim McAbee discussed how he has been able to raise the issue of library rental of commercially popular videos as being unfair, subsidized competition with local video businesses. In addition, Jim conducted research into the history of state and municipal authority and funding of libraries, which, in Michigan, were determined by the Library Acts of 1877. Jim voted against new Washington Township library leases, has brought up the idea of user fees, and has sought to take library funding and operations issues to the people of Romeo.

In Northville, local politicians have been treating Citizens for a Better Northville as a force to be reckoned with. The organization seeks to replace taxation with voluntary methods of financing government services, and, particularly with respect to privatizing Northville's parks and recreation facilities, has received extensive media coverage and popular respect.

Dick Whitelock said that his appointment to the Corrections Advisory Committee in Ionia has given him the opportunity to work for the idea of restitution and to challenge punishments for victimless crimes. Sentencing alternatives are important in Ionia, whose prison population exceeds that of Jackson Prison. Although the board is stacked with judges, the county prosecutor, the county sheriff, and others who would seemingly favor more coercive measures—Dick is the "businessperson" representative—it appears willing to listen to Whitelock. Part of the reason, Dick feels, is that he does not engage in negative campaigning for his ideas and positions.

Finally, Chuck Congdon, actively involved in municipal affairs since the early '80s when he started attending Midland City Council meetings, offered his perspectives. He said he first

(See *Candidates*, page 4)

# MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN



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## From the editor

### Hardheaded Benevolence

Occasionally one can become engaged in discussions with fellow libertarians who impugn the basic *morality* of some other libertarian(s). While most of us don't mind a little idle gossip now and then, when someone's basic character is damned it jars us and we hesitate. I mean, who could possibly *want* to see evil in an ostensible cause-mate, especially if one happens to like or respect the condemned person(s).

In such discussions, because one normally lacks interest in the subject matter (and thus knows little detail of the transgressions asserted), one often winds up offering wimpy counterpoint, e.g. "He may not have been aware of key facts," "Perhaps there's just a misunderstanding here," "She may have made an error in judgement but she's certainly innocent of wrongdoing," "I'm sure if you just sat down with him ...," and so on. Consequently, one can appear soft-minded and/or timidly compliant with flaming iniquity.

We do need to be vigilant about genuinely bad apples in the party, just as society at large must have mechanisms for dealing with its handful of real criminals. And just as society has certain legal standards for saying, "Yup, that's a bad one," we need to give some thought to developing objective criteria for judging a fellow libertarian "evil," meaning in this context, deceitful and maliciously intent on subverting party goals or principles.

Note, I'm not concerned here with fundamental *disagreement* (for which there is virtually always a straightforward political remedy). For example, many regarded moving the national LP office from Washington, D.C. to Houston in 1983 as significantly harmful to the Libertarian cause. I felt this way. Eventually, enough people were elected to Natcom who agreed, and the office was returned to DC. So whether or not the Houston fans were consciously anti-libertarian—and I don't believe any of them were—it was possible to take care of putative damage to the party in the normal course of political business.

So I wanted to try to at least sketch some criteria for objective determination of evil in a libertarian. The following are some preliminary benchmarks I came up with:

- **objectification** (whew!)—This criterion pertains to quality of case and evidence. If we get the goods on someone, the case should be capable of clear and thorough documentation (not that it should necessarily be published). This makes it easier to see if everything actually hangs together in a logical fashion.

(See *Editor*, page 12)

The *Michigan Libertarian* is published six times a year as the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan, and is sent to all members and subscribers. Subscriptions are available for \$10 per year. Two complimentary issues will be sent to interested persons.

Articles submitted for publication are welcome. They should be double-spaced and signed. All materials and information submitted for publication must be received by the middle of the first month indicated on the issue (e.g. Jan 15 for Jan/Feb issue).

Please submit all articles and editorial correspondence to:

Editor, *Michigan Libertarian*  
6689 Orchard Lake Road, #249  
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## *From the chairman*

### *Purist or Realist*

Over the years some controversy has been generated as to whether or not an individual must accept, on a one-hundred percent basis, the Libertarian philosophy of non-initiation of force as a requirement for membership in the LP.

Millions of people have been drifting in the sea of the political homeless because they have shunned the statist policies of the snacilbupеR and starcomeD. And many of these same people have been cast aside by libertarian purists who maintain that the principles of libertarianism must be accepted across the board or not at all.

Andre Marrou has stated repeatedly, "Grow or die."

The question then becomes "Can the LP grow by maintaining a rigid, purist attitude, or should a more realistic approach be used to attract people who are borderline libertarians?"

I must admit that when I joined the LP a number of years ago, I didn't fully comprehend the entire philosophy of libertarianism. But with the help and guidance of other activists and much research of libertarian publications, I have come to fully understand what the fight for freedom is all about.

While I now consider myself to be a purist by any measure of libertarian standards, I have also become enough of a realist to know that the LP will never reach its full potential unless we are willing to embrace others who seek political shelter. It then becomes our job to tutor them and help them fully understand the principles of liberty. ***Growth will never materialize until seeds are planted.***

In my humble opinion, the pledge, "I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of physical force as a means of achieving social or political goals," should be eliminated as a requirement for basic membership in the Libertarian Party. That's the realist in me.

The purist in me, however, would strongly insist that, as a safeguard to libertarian principles, the pledge be maintained and strictly adhered to by any LP member who chooses to run for office.

Political illiterates whose minds have been numbed by decades of propaganda from the two older parties must be rescued. Do we grow by educating them with the libertarian philosophy of individual rights, voluntary action, peace and freedom? Or do we die by insisting that they accept the responsibilities of freedom before they fully understand them.

If we are to grow, we cannot afford the luxury of expecting purism from prospective members. It is our job to educate them.

## **Libertarian Party of Michigan**

### **Officers**

**Chair:** Richard Whitelock (616) 527-9263 d  
7058 S. State Road (517) 647-6252 h  
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**Vice-Chair:** Virginia Cropsey (313) 977-6628  
PO Box 1355  
Sterling Heights, MI 48310

**Secretary:** Lynn Bellair (313) 774-7675  
24874 Valley  
East Detroit, MI 48021

**Treasurer:** Jeff Hampton (313) 348-2718  
44707 Cherry Ridge  
Northville, MI 48167

### **Central Committee**

Eaton: Jon Addiss	Ingham: Dale Dobberstein
Ionia: Keith Fox	Kzoo: Patrick Morrisey
Livingston: Bill Johnson	Macomb: Keith Edwards
Oakland: Emily Salvette	Ottawa: Dick Jacobs
Washtenaw: David Hunt	Wayne: Evy Warmbier

### **National Committee Member**

(Region 6) Steve Dabach (219) 432-7430  
4523 Morning Wind Pl.  
Ft. Wayne, IN 46804

## ***Michigan Membership Monitor***

***National to date: 332  
(vs. 277 last issue)***

***State to date: 244  
(vs. 220 last issue)***

***Keep up the good work. Tell a friend about the LPM.***

## *Under the boot in Vermont*

by Kenneth Morris

Libertarians nationwide should be thoroughly outraged at a court case currently underway in Bennington, Vermont. A Superior Court jury has ruled that 91-year-old Luella Wilson is liable for \$950,000 in damages to a Mark Vince. Vince was a passenger in a car who was paralyzed when the driver—under the influence of alcohol and marijuana—ran off a bridge.

Now for the punch line. Wilson was NOT the driver of the vehicle. She wasn't in it, didn't own it, and played no part whatsoever in providing the driver (her 18-year-old great-nephew, Willard Stuart) with the alcohol and marijuana. All she did was give Willard a gift of \$6300 THREE WEEKS EARLIER for his birthday, with which he bought the car.

The Court has ordered all her assets frozen except for what she needs to live adequately, according to Rolf Steinberg, the slick, sadistic lawyer who filed the suit on behalf of Vince. The Vermont Supreme Court, meanwhile, has ruled that the dealership that sold her great-nephew the vehicle may also be held partially liable. In fact, they're going after just about everybody except Willard Stuart—the one solely responsible—presumably because he has no money.

This is truly a despicable situation that not only threatens to destroy the remaining years of a 91-year-old woman (She was recently hospitalized after collapsing, due no doubt to the strain of the court case) but could open up a Pandora's box of similar lawsuits punishing people for their generosity. As for members of the Superior Court jury, they should be ashamed to show their faces in public.

*This could be your space, for a mere song – ED*

*But since no one has come forward to claim it, let me fill it with some late breaking news:*

*Drug Czar (could someone please explain to me why we have czars in America?) William Bennett has been feeling the heat of legalization lately, and has lashed out at those who propose it as traitors to his holy war. On December 16, Congressman George Crockett of Detroit issued a statement urging decriminalization. More "defections" are expected. On David Brinkley's show, Czar Bennett appeared vs. Milton Friedman et al. We may win this drug law war yet.*

*Candidates, from page 1*

spoke up at a council meeting to question use of city funds for an obvious political purpose in 1983, and was astonished by the amount of attention, both from city officials and the local media, he received.

One of his early successes was to get council meetings aired on local cable TV. "Look at it this way: If you can catch it [the meetings] on TV, then I won't be inclined to come down here and bother you guys all the time," he told them. Partly as a result of his continued presence, he was appointed to the Cable Commission, where he has had access to various studies (many of them by government agencies) that he has used to work for competitive access to cable broadcasting in Midland.

Chuck said his participation has been a lot more fun than one would expect: "These people don't have any idea what to do, because they don't have a consistent philosophy. They're presenting all the straight lines for us."

For the few times he has felt discouraged, he recalls the one night at a council meeting where the council was about to condemn a man's building for failure to conform to certain standards of appearance. Sensing a major "railroad" job that would stand to benefit a particular business interest, Chuck stood up saying he just couldn't believe it, that you could take a man's property in this country without due process. Most of the council hadn't even seen the property. The motion to condemn was defeated.

Little victories. Maybe that's what it's all about. Because they're big victories for the potential victims of government power, and on the local level Libertarians can actually accomplish something concrete by standing up for the rights of the individual. Actions do speak louder than words, and these admirable gentlemen gave everyone in the audience a libertarian civics lesson that will not be forgotten or ignored.

Congratulations to the participants and to Virginia, Stan and everyone else responsible for organizing such a watershed event.

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## *Libertarian News Around Michigan*

### *Burcham off and running for Warren district state representative*

by Virginia Cropsey

Ron Burcham of Warren became the first nominee, on November 6 by county caucus, for the 25th district Michigan House seat created by the resignation of Dennis Dutko. Libertarian Burcham will appear on the January 16 special election ballot along with Republican nominee, Roman Kulchitsky, and Democrat Charles Busse.



*25th district candidate Ron Burcham*

Ron's nomination was reported in the Free Press, the News, the Macomb Daily, the Warren Weekly, the Adviser, the Ann Arbor News, and radio stations WJR, WXYT, WWJ, and WBRB. The campaign organization has issued two news releases, responded to several questionnaires, and is now preparing Ron to face his opposition in candidates nights between now and the January 16 election. Media coverage has been extremely successful due to the special efforts of the Macomb activists.

The campaign has been heating up lately (this issue went to press shortly following the Republican and Democratic primaries in the district, Tuesday, December 12). According to Virginia Cropsey, who along with Stan Gentry is helping manage the campaign, 2000 pieces of literature have been produced and were distributed by enthusiastic campaign volunteers to voters as they exited the polls at the 12/12 primary.

The newswires have carried information of Ron's participation in the race twice now, which is worth thousands of dollars in coverage. We want to encourage everyone to call reporters and radio and TV-station management when media outlets omit Ron from consideration.

Ron Burcham, 46, was born and raised in Michigan, graduating from Detroit's Aero-Mechanics Vocational High School. A former Marine and veteran of Viet Nam where he served as an aircraft electrician, Ron is a member of the National Rifle Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Ukrainian American Veterans organization. He currently works as a sales representative for a Macomb County firm and lives in Warren with his wife, Maria, and two children, Steven and Raissa.

Ron is emphasizing educational funding alternatives and property tax relief in his campaign, stating, "The Defeat of Proposals A and B make it clear that the voters want spending cuts in other areas of the budget to provide the funds necessary for school funding."

The campaign is looking for volunteers, and if you can help please contact Virginia Cropsey, Stan Gentry, or Ron Burcham at 977-6628, 757-5085, or 573-9473, respectively. Donations should be made to The Committee to Elect Ron L. Burcham, in care of the Macomb County Libertarian Party, PO Box 416, Sterling Heights, MI 48077.

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## *Libertarian News Around Michigan, cont'd*

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### *Freedomworks in Macomb*

State LP Secretary Lynn Bellair represented the LP at a pro-choice rally at the state capitol; Lynn and Dar Tisdale had their anti-drug war letters to the editor printed in the Detroit News; Virginia Cropsey challenged Ficano's check lanes on WXYT's David Newman Show; she also attended an educational choice seminar featuring Marva Collins sponsored by the Detroit News, Free Press, and Channel 7. Oregon LP members who are petitioning for choice flew in for the conference.

The Macomb LP received at least three media articles on our national convention: the Macomb Daily, WBRB radio, and the Romeo Observer. Dave Weidner printed and distributed 1000 pieces of literature for the defeat of Proposals A and B. Jack and Jill Watts and Tom Fillbrook served as poll watchers, December 7, for Shelby Trustee Gil Parker who was being recalled in part for his refusal to increase the Shelby millage. – VC

### *Drug war in Macomb*

Would you like to have the best information to fight the war on drug laws—that is, the war to end Prohibition II? Send Virginia Cropsey \$3 and she will send you a copy of the Cato Institute's 50-page study. The Free Press quoted Cato's study at length in coming out (in a Feature section article) for legalization recently. More and more opinion leaders are advocating legalization, as the movement toward a police state becomes more and more apparent, so eventually the general population will get it. Help keep up the fight by having all the best arguments. – VC

### *International Institute Drug Debate*

LPM vice-chair Virginia Cropsey participated in a 4-person debate on drug policy sponsored by the Flint International Institute on October 26. Grand Rapids, Flint, and Ann Arbor radio stations aired the public debate which included a Genessee County prosecuting attorney and two other local attorneys. A circuit court judge moderated the debate. Approximately 100 citizens attended. Cropsey says the other panelists had very little factual material and most of their arguments were emotional and (and boring—Virginia got the only laughs). So even though her argument for legalization was controversial, it was well received. As she received an honorarium for her participation, she spent a fair amount of time on her presentation and would welcome the opportunity to argue drug legalization again. – VC

### *Principles of Liberty classes to begin in Macomb*

The intrepid Macomb activists will be starting Principles of Liberty classes in January. The week night and locations will be chosen to accommodate the most people. The five-week course sessions are approximately two hours. The Socratic-method course led by Virginia Cropsey and Keith Edwards will combine the traditional Principles of Liberty packets, Advocates for Self-Government videotapes, the LP platform and Orpheus Publications materials. Call 313-977-6628 to enroll or for more information. – VC

### *Plans made to organize on Macomb Community College campus*

The Macomb Party LP has contacted the Macomb County Community College (MCCC) and acquired a faculty sponsor, veteran LP activist Joe Cote, to obtain a meeting room. Macomb LPers plan to proceed to organize on the campus this term. Virginia Cropsey spoke to one class last month. – VC

### *Lansing area looking at '90*

According to Dale Dobberstein, the Libertarian who made it close in the August primary for Lansing City Council (ref. September/October *ML*), most local activists are in the TCOB mode for the time being. Nevertheless, Dale indicated he would like to run for County Commission during the general election in 1990. Meanwhile, Gwendoline Stillwell is watching legislative events at the Capitol and seeking ways to make Libertarians more aware of the damage being done to our freedoms statewide on a daily basis.

### *Kalamazoo activists present libertarianism to students*

Several Kzoo area high school and college government students are getting a one-hour exposure to libertarian philosophy. Dr. Mary J. Ruwart, senior research scientist at the Upjohn Co. in Kalamazoo, delivers two to three lectures per month. Names of interested students are sent to Pete Hendrickson in Bloomfield Hills for followup. Of students taking the political quiz put out by Advocates for Self-Government, 20% are libertarian while a whopping 60% are authoritarian. "Students seem to be more extreme in their views than they were years ago," Ruwart observes. "They are also much better informed." – MR

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## *Libertarian News Around Michigan, cont'd*

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### *Wayne County outreach*

Evy Warmbier reports that Wayne activists have talked to two high schools—Grosse Pointe Woods North and Divine Child in Dearborn—since beginning their High School outreach program. Lincoln Park High School is next on the list. More than 200 students have been addressed so far. Her judgement is that several exceptional students exist for whom the libertarian message is quite attractive, but, in general, the government schools have "been doing their job all too well."

### *Oakland County LP activities*

A meeting was held in Southfield on November 29 during which LPOC leaders laid out plans for the coming year. Principles of Liberty classes are being considered. Also, at the suggestion of Virginia Cropsey, a collection was taken up for two Soviet singers, Thomas and Tarmo Urb, who are seeking political asylum in the United States. \$150 was raised and delivered in person by Pete Hendrickson, Scott Scarborough, and Doreen Wright, who were privileged to also hear the Urbs perform on November 6 and meet with other concert attendees.

### *Larry Reed excited about recent Poland visit*

Larry Reed of the Mackinac Center has visited Poland for a second time in the last year (the first visit was reported in the *Freeman*). On this occasion—he returned last month—he became quite optimistic about the prospects for a free market in that country, stating that the Polish intelligentsia is heavily into von Mises, Hayek, and other major libertarian economists. The intellectual leadership is much further along toward liberty than previously imagined, and he hopes to be sharing his experience with Michigan libertarians over the next few months. – VC

### *Metro-Detroit Libertarians (MDL) on the air*

Every other Friday morning at 7:30 a.m., tune into WDET-FM (101.9) to hear Tim O'Brien deliver a four-minute libertarian commentary. At this writing, Tim has completed four perspectives including: drug relegalization, education and the now-defunct Proposals A and B, abortion, and a special welcome for Detroit's newly re-elected mayor, Coleman Young. Response to the public-radio spots has been exceptional, with his first broadcast drawing a station-record 24 requests for transcripts. The National LP is interested, and Tim is working toward a possible national feed to the network. Next broadcasts 12/22/89, 01/05/89, and so on, biweekly.

### *Littmann shines at 9th Annual Libertarian Week Banquet*

by Jack Elder

This year's banquet featured prominent Michigan economist (and fellow Libertarian) David Littmann. His presentation, "Perestroika on the Home Front," was insightful and enriching for the approximately 100 individuals who attended.

Mr. Littmann's speech dealt with the prospects for liberalization and economic reform here in light of the crumbling of socialist economies around the world: "...Our economy will thrive if the incentive system is kept strong.... The key components are price stability, low taxes, and the free movement of trade and resources."

He stated that before things can improve, the current programs and politicians must become laughable: "... blatant waste and obvious self-serving behavior among the governing elites and their staffs reinforce within the American electorate a radically new view—namely that it's safer to keep one's earnings and income in one's own pocket, rather than handing it over to incompetents or tainted folks on the banks of the Potomac or in the statehouse, city hall, or even a school district."

Mr. Littmann talked about the loss of credibility and the fragmented leadership of the major parties and questioned who and what would fill the resulting vacuum:

"If the late 1960s were characterized by the assertion of economic nonsense, then the 1970s represented a drunken binge, and the 1980s is our attempt to sober up and regain our equilibrium. By the same token, the 1990s should be the decade in which timeless economic disciplines are reasserted; there must be renewed emphasis on personal responsibility and individual choice; nonsense will be forsaken. Only with soberness and discipline can the '90s and the decades beyond the turn of the century be the kind of creative, growth era in which economic, social, and political freedoms are maximized. Only in such an environment can the US reestablish its leadership in matters of economy and security. Fortunately, to prod us along in this endeavor, we have ... competition."

(story continued on next page)

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## *Libertarian News Around Michigan, cont'd*

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Mr. Littmann foresees in the '90s a move toward global free markets with competition forcing federal, state, and local governments to reduce operations and privatize or perish. To stimulate economic growth, US tax laws will have to change to encourage saving:

"In terms of deposit size, the US in 1968 accounted for all 10 top banks; 10 years later, by 1978, the list of top 10 banks included just three US banks and only one Japanese bank. Last year, 1988, the entire list was Japanese."

Mr. Littmann stressed that one area badly needing domestic perestroika, which, unfortunately, will get it last, is education:

"The greatest resource possessed by an economy is its youth. Without a well-educated youth, an economy will decline; without a well-educated and independent population, freedom perishes."

He listed some of the badly needed public education reforms as economic incentives, parental choice, competition of schools, replacing tenure systems with competitive pay scales and removing dead weight.

"The war of the '90s has several battlefronts. At the local level, the battlefield is education. At the state level, the aggressor forces are the purveyors of industrial policy. And on the national level, federal stormtroopers will be thrusting mandated programs onto businesses in hopes of camouflaging and concealing the true costs from the public and obfuscating what are tantamount to new taxes."

Mr. Littmann closed on the concept that "The real beginnings of perestroika on the home front must occur, in fact, in the home. Morality, discipline, incentives, confidence, responsibility—all lessons to be instilled and inculcated on the homiest of home fronts, the family, ... before assigning them to the school, the church, the peer group, or the government."

The Libertarian Party of Michigan thanks David Littmann for his insightful presentation. And, of course, we all hope his optimistic assessment of the economy of the '90s comes to pass.

### *MDL Gray Sheet*

The MDL's *Gray Sheet* fall '89 newsletter features a lead article on Tim O'Brien's broadcasts; also covered in this issue: Dr. Peter Boettke's achievements at Oakland University (ref. Calendar 01/15), Hillsdale College's Dr. Charles Van Eaton's efforts, recently in Oscoda, for privatization of government

services, an article on ecology by Steve Silver, and a "point-counterpoint" on abortion between Mark Sellers and Nancy Gergosian, Chair of the Michigan Reproductive Rights Task Force. MDL, 322 Millington, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013

### *Walter Williams endorses LP*

Ending his September 28 syndicated column with "If Americans ever recapture the spirit of Thomas Paine and Patrick Henry, the Libertarian Party will be our ticket to restoration of constitutional and moral government," Walter Williams effectively made public his interest in the LP. The column is a ringing endorsement of Libertarian principles and, some would say, an indication that Williams will seek the LP nomination for president in '92.

### *Whitelock letter in Detroit News*

LPM chair, Richard Whitelock, wrote a letter to the Detroit News, which was published Monday, December 4. The letter dealt with the quickie pay raise self-accomplished by Congress during the last session. "...the politicians know what the job pays when they're campaigning for re-election. If they're not satisfied, then they should seek other forms of employment (if they can find anyone outside of government who would hire them)," Dick writes. Several other Libertarians have been published in the Free Press and News over the past couple of months, including Lynn Bellair, Brian Wright, Tim O'Brien, Kenneth Morris, Brett Bellmore, Jeff Hampton, and others.

### *Greens organize in Michigan*

From Tom Jones, as reported in the Detroit News, September 29, 1989, the Michigan Green Party met in convention at the end of September at a campground near Glen Harbor on the west side of the Leelanau Peninsula. To be eligible for party identification on the 1990 ballot, the Greens will have to collect nearly 24,000 petition signatures. Currently, there about 200 members statewide. As of the date of the News article, no money had been raised by the party. Jones feels the Greens can be a major threat to the LPM, and it is important for us to recognize the competition, expand our recruiting effort, and address environmental issues.



## Libertarian News Around Michigan, cont'd

### Heartland Institute launches Heartland Michigan

by Virginia Cropsey

"The states are the most important battlefield for competing visions of the proper role of government in American society. Liberal and leftist organizations have traditionally been well-organized at the state and local levels, and have used their superior organization to affect national policies and elections. Advocates of the traditional values of liberty, free enterprise, and personal responsibility are far less well-prepared to win in this arena."

The above statement represents the premise of one of America's brightest free market policy research institutions, the Chicago-based Heartland Institute, according to Executive Director Joseph Bast.

Since 1984 Heartland has released 24 studies on a wide range of state and local issues, including education reform, mass transit, tax policies, highway safety regulation, public housing, sports stadiums, and corrections. These studies are written by respected scholars at universities and colleges across the country and reviewed by a panel of 50 academic advisors.

Last month, after four years of prospecting groundwork, Heartland announced the opening of a Michigan affiliate, Heartland Michigan, designating David Littmann, senior economist and first vice-president of Manufacturer's National Bank, as its president.

At a dinner held at the Renaissance Club, November 16, 1989, Dr. Bast introduced Littmann and announced plans to open an office in Michigan within the next six months. Bast also outlined plans to launch an interstate branch banking study by Steven Horowitz, a former LPM member now working as assistant professor of economics at St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York. Littmann said Heartland Michigan would publish four policy studies and nine perspectives in its first year and mail them to donors, state legislators, and major news organizations.

For more information about Michigan's newest tool for fighting big government, contact the Heartland Institute, 634 South Wabash, Second Floor, Chicago, IL 60605 (312) 427-3060.

### ARE YOU A LIBERTARIAN?

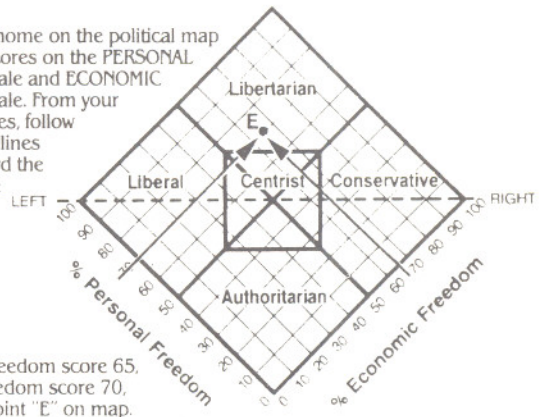
(For each question, check off your best answer.)

PERSONAL FREEDOM	Whose decision should it be whether or not you:	My Decision	Not Sure	Gov't Decides
	Wear a seatbelt or helmet? ..	___	___	___
	Own a gun? .....	___	___	___
	Become a soldier? .....	___	___	___
	Help the needy? .....	___	___	___
	Pay for sex? .....	___	___	___
	Have a baby? .....	___	___	___
	Smoke dope? .....	___	___	___
	Send your child to school? ..	___	___	___
	Swim nude? .....	___	___	___
Buy a pornographic book or video .....	___	___	___	
Count checkmarks: .....	___	___	___	
Multiply by:	×10	×5	×0	
Add multiplied totals for your PERSONAL FREEDOM SCORE:	___	+ ___	=	

ECONOMIC FREEDOM	Whose decision should it be whether or not you:	My Decision	Not Sure	Gov't Decides
	Work for \$2.00 an hour? ....	___	___	___
	Buy a Japanese car? .....	___	___	___
	Play cards for money? .....	___	___	___
	Hire an unlicensed contractor?	___	___	___
	Compete with the Post Office?	___	___	___
	Hire a minority worker? .....	___	___	___
	Invest in a risky business? ...	___	___	___
	Give to a needy corporation?	___	___	___
	Contribute to the defense of a foreign country? .....	___	___	___
Pay Taxes? .....	___	___	___	
Count checkmarks: .....	___	___	___	
Multiply by:	×10	×5	×0	
Add multiplied totals for your ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE:	___	+ ___	=	

**Government decides** = "There ought to be a law"

To find your home on the political map mark your scores on the PERSONAL FREEDOM scale and ECONOMIC FREEDOM scale. From your marked scores, follow the diagonal lines up and toward the center, to the point where they meet.



**Example:**  
Economic Freedom score 65,  
Personal Freedom score 70,  
Locates at point "E" on map.

## The Objectivist/Libertarian Question

### Part I: Can Objectivists be Libertarians?

by Brian Wright

In the excellent new LP outreach publication, "Liberty Today," Marshall Fritz, with some scriptural backup, argues that Christians are properly libertarian. Dean Ahmad argues likewise for Muslims. This is great, not only because it jibes with what the Great Pumpkin has been telling *me* all these years, but because the last thing the LP needs right now is an antagonistic deity.

But with various religions giving the green light to libertarianism, one might ask what's happening on the secular front? Particularly important, can we reach a rapprochement with partisans of Ayn Rand's philosophy of Objectivism? Let's start, in a fitting Aristotelian fashion, by defining some terms:

- **objectivist:** in the context of this article, an individual who holds that reality is absolute and objective, reason is thoroughly competent and imperative, self-interest is morally right and necessary, and individual rights are supreme and inviolate.
- **Objectivist:** an objectivist who defers to Ayn Rand and her designated promulgating hierarchy (DPH), currently headed by Dr. Leonard Peikoff, in determining what the above definition of objectivist entails.

For instance, an objectivist can hold that individual rights are best secured through market-based systems of law and protection, whereas an Objectivist must hold that individual rights are only obtained through a limited government in the form of a constitutional republic.

- **libertarian:** one who advocates the principle of individual rights, specifically holding that no one has the right to seek values *from*, or impose values *on*, others by initiation of physical force.
- **Libertarian:** a libertarian who belongs to the Libertarian Party. Qua political party, the LP strives to get candidates in public office who will work to eliminate government intervention in our economic and personal lives and, in the case of national government, in the internal affairs of other countries.

Can an Objectivist be a Libertarian? No. Ayn Rand forcefully condemned the Libertarian Party, stating that even voting Libertarian would be evil. (Evil, mainly because it would hurt electoral chances of Republicans, facilitating empowerment of—to her—comparatively monstrous Democrats.) On the other hand, an Objectivist *can* be a libertarian. Indeed, by the definition above, Objectivists are necessarily libertarians because Objectivists strongly uphold "the inviolate supremacy of individual rights."

Of course, if one wishes to define libertarians as nihilistic whim-worshippers, as new-Objectivist crusader Peter Schwartz seems fond of doing, then Objectivists can logically escape any libertarian association. But most people who respect ideas prefer definitions with a basis in the real world.

To summarize:

- Objectivists cannot be Libertarians
- Objectivists and objectivists are libertarians, by definition (Note: I did not say "libertarian activists")
- Some objectivists are Libertarians, the writer being a case in point

Q.E.D. Now many will realize that the important question lies downstream of first definitions: namely, something like "Should objectivists enter, support, cooperate with, or be tolerant of the modern libertarian movement?" This is an important question and will be addressed in the conclusion of my article, to appear in the next issue of *ML*.

# Liberty Digest

*A quick look at several movement publications and/or organizations*

## **Libertarian News**

(Nov/Dec '89). The lead article in the national LP newsletter is entitled "Libertarian holds commanding lead in 1990 Peruvian presidential contest." Vince Miller reports on an interview with libertarian Enrique Gherzi, major organizer of the campaign for Mario Vargas Llosa. Llosa currently holds a commanding 57% margin based on a recent poll. Llosa campaign literature is hard-core libertarian, including a Libertarian Statement of Principles and a SIL-styled package of 24 booklet/essays featuring Hayek, Friedman, von Mises, Hazlitt, Thoreau and several other prominent libertarian thinkers. The interview appears in Freedom Network News, the publication of the International Society for Individual Liberty (ISIL). LP News, c/o LP, 1528 Penns. Ave. S.E., D.C. 20003.

## **Freedom Network News**

(Nov/Dec '89). In addition to the interview with Enrique Gherzi described above, *FNN* carries an article, "China Update," describing a global "fax-in" coordinated by the French news magazine, *ACTUEL*. Scores of publications and thousands of individuals around the world have jumped on the bandwagon and have been inundating China with mountains of fax messages. The people of *ACTUEL* are also sponsoring a pirate radio station. *FNN* contains several other very encouraging stories around the world, and my mailing included a ISIL pamphlet by Jarret Wollstein, "Ending our Drug Nightmare." *FNN*, c/o ISIL, 9308 Farmington Drive, Richmond, VA 23229.

## **Cato Policy Report**

(Nov/Dec '89). The lead article by Doug Bandow discusses how federal aid raises state and local spending. According to Bandow, "...intergovernmental 'aid' causes jurisdictions to undertake projects that they would not undertake if they had to foot the bills. It also results in a larger, less efficient, and more meddlesome government." *Cato Policy Report*, c/o Cato, 224 Second Street, S.E., D.C. 20003.

## **The Free Market**

(Sept '89). Murray Rothbard, in "How to Desocialize," discusses the problems attending the end of Communist rule in much of Eastern Europe, as the reformists seek means of removing bureaucratic dead weight and moving to a market economy. *The Free Market*, c/o Ludwig von Mises Institute, 851 Burlway Road, Burlingame, CA 94010.

## **Civilian-Based Defense: News and Opinion**

(Sept '89). The lead article, by George Crowell, discusses nonviolent national defense in Canada. CBD Association is working with Project Ploughshares, a longstanding Canadian

## **Michigan Libertarian**

national peace organization with many local chapters and support from the churches, to develop a nonviolent civilian defense (NVCD) against external aggression. N&O, c/o CBD Assn, PO Box 31616, Omaha, NB 68131.

## **The Freeman**

(Dec. '89). Greg Kaza, vice president for policy research of the Mackinac Center of Midland, Mich., writes in "Ecorse's Grand Experiment," that three years ago the city of Ecorse, Michigan faced bankruptcy as a result of a \$6 million deficit caused by wasteful local spending. "Today, the deficit has virtually disappeared, along with most of the Ecorse city government, which has been privatized to the point of extinction." *The Freeman*, c/o F.E.E., 30 South Broadway, Irvington-on-Hudson, NY 10533.

## **CRTL Newsletter**

(Nov/Dec '89) This is the newsletter of Citizens for Rational Traffic Laws, Inc., a feisty organization dedicated to "advocating, protecting, and representing the interests of North American motorists" (against the safety Nazis). It argues for reasonable speed limits, the right to use radar detectors, choice in helmet and seatbelt use, and so on. This issue featured a letter from William Hickman who made a pitch for the Libertarian Party. *CRTL*, 6678 Pertzborn Road, Dane, WI 53529.

## **Index on Liberty**

For information on dozens more periodicals and organizations of interest to advocates of reason and liberty, obtain *Index on Liberty*, c/o ISIL, 9308 Farmington Drive, Richmond, VA 23229. – BW

## **EXPRESSIONS OF GRACE**

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Further, if (most) hearsay is unacceptable in a court of law, it has to be especially questionable in politics.

Finally, I think, unless the circumstances are quite unusual—e.g. the accused is actually dangerous, innocents may be emotionally hurt, etc.—the person or persons making the case must pass the strength-of-conviction hurdle of bringing it up directly with the person being condemned. If one thinks a person is pond scum, one ought to be able to tell that person directly, though tactfully, of course.

- **relevance**—The relevance issue deals with whether or not the transgression is close enough in time, place, or substance to be important to Libertarians. For instance, I have fairly reliable hearsay that an eminent national LP man got inebriated and started playing "grab-ass" with some ladies on the dance floor after the banquet at the Seattle convention in '87. This may be a negative maturity data point on the guy, but fails the relevance test for libertarian evil.
- **reward**—This parallels the motivation question in criminal cases. Small incentive equals small chance of libertarian evil. For example, When a libertarian is alleged to have committed a dire act that nets him or his friends maybe a hundred bucks, it hardly seems worth enough to willingly risk wholesale damnation by his peers. It is much more likely a case of mistaken judgement or a minor lapse in scruples—if, indeed, anything untoward can be demonstrated. Let's face it, if a person is cravenly after power or money, the chances of him/her joining the LP are practically nil. The popular alternatives (Dems and Reps) are infinitely more inviting.
- **effect**—This standard is related to relevancy, but concerns the extent of damage to the organization caused by an alleged transgression. (It might be noted that inaction or imperfection of action, by themselves, cannot be considered transgressions, i.e., it does not follow that a person is causing the world to go to hell because a person is *not* John Galt)

Another consideration that needs to be applied is number of offenses per unit time. In the absence of a long train or pattern of abuses, the probability is high that evil is absent.

So perhaps the above criteria can give someone more interested in this subject a reasonable start on developing elaborate and systematic standards for determining the existence of bona-fide libertarian evil. Hopefully they can give us all a preliminary tool to ensure our natural benevolence toward others is not exploited by malefactors.

\*\*\*

LPM correspondent Dan Day has been in the hospital for a month and a half due to a knee problem, and is now home recuperating. He will continue to be the correspondent, and local party leaders should contact him with information of their activities. We wish you a speedy recovery, Dan.

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Speaking of "all your material," please understand that this newsletter is supposed to be an outlet for the entire membership. Which means, send me stuff. This is particularly desirable with respect to the Digest section, which is necessarily abbreviated this month due to lack of submittals and my own brain numbness at the task of condensing important information from the stacks of LP-relevant material I get every month. If you read a great article in *Reason*, or even *Faith*, that you want to share with other libertarians, this is a good place for that.

### LPM Proposed Operating Budget, 1989-90

At the suggestion of several members, the LPM budget is being published. Members having specific questions on the budget or wanting more detail should contact LPM Treasurer Jeff Hampton.

#### Revenue

Dues and subscriptions . . . . .	\$2250
Contributions . . . . .	1500
Pledges . . . . .	4250
Convention(net) . . . . .	1000
Libertarian Week(net) . . . . .	300
Sales—Literature, tapes, etc. . . . .	50
Other fundraising . . . . .	50
Newsletter advertising . . . . .	60
Bank interest . . . . .	10
<b>Total revenue . . . . .</b>	<b>\$9470</b>

#### Expenses

##### Finance

Dues renewal . . . . .	\$500
Treasurer's expenses . . . . .	100
Pledge program . . . . .	300
Uncollectible pledges . . . . .	500

##### Membership

Telephone and Sec. Expenses . . . . .	\$2000
Membership recruitment . . . . .	1000
Literature/supplies . . . . .	300

##### Miscellaneous Expenses

News releases . . . . .	\$500
Chair/Vice-Chair expenses . . . . .	200
Miscellaneous . . . . .	100

##### Newsletter Operating Fund

Dues to newsletter . . . . .	\$1500
Newsletter subsidy . . . . .	1400
Newsletter enhancement . . . . .	60
Copies to interested . . . . .	750

<b>Total expenses . . . . .</b>	<b>\$9210</b>
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## Calendar of Events

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Date 1990 Event

- 01/15 **MDL Supper Club**  
Dr. Peter Boettke of Oakland University's Department of Economics will present "Prospects for Liberty in the Eastern Bloc."  
Mr. L's Bootlegger Dining and Spirits, 3364 Rochester Road, Troy (1/4 mile north of 16 Mile Road on east side of Rochester Road, pick from three dinners: lasagna, chicken Parmesan, or broiled or batter-fried scrod—at \$10.50. 6:00 drinks, 6:30 dinner, 8:00 presentation.  
Please make reservations with Stan Gentry (313) 757-5085 by 12 January.
- 01/16 **Election day for Ron Burcham** in the special election being held for David Dutko's seat, 25th district rep.
- 02/11 **LPM Bylaws Committee meeting**  
1:00 p.m., contact Charles Hahn,  
1 Hanover, Pleasant Ridge, 313-548-5865
- 03/04 **LCC Meeting**, @ Bill Johnson's
- 04/18 **Macomb County convention**  
The Macomb County LP will hold its county convention for the purpose of nominating all Michigan LP candidates for offices districted solely within Macomb County.
- 04/21 **LPM Convention**, Southfield Ramada Inn.  
Vince Miller will keynote, representing the 10th anniversary celebration of the founding of Libertarian International.  
Theme of convention: **Building a Free World**  
Also confirmed: Larry Reed, President of the Mackinac Institute, who will brief us on his recent trips to Poland and Cambodia.  
Invitations will be extended to Veterans groups for this event.  
Louis Schimmel, Jr. is scheduled for the Saturday luncheon, discussing his efforts to privatize the bankruptcy-bound city of Ecorse.  
National committee rep and candidacy coordinator Steve Dasbach will coordinate a candidate/officeholder session on Saturday morning.  
Also planned: input from representatives of the educational choice movement in Michigan.  
The convention's business includes nomination of LPM candidates for 1990, election of LPM officers and LCC representatives, as well as bylaws and platform considerations (depending on committee reports and LCC recommendations).

# The Libertarian Party



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## Represents You!

## Libertarian Questionnaire

from State Chair Richard Whitelock

For quite some time, you've been receiving information or mailings about the Libertarian Party, educational functions, and other freedom movement activities. We'd like to know just where you stand. Would you please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed survey to help us bring our records up to date? Thank you.

- 1) I am  , am not  interested in the libertarian movement to regain freedom.
- 2) I am  , am not  concerned about the future of my children, grandchildren, and future generations of Americans.
- 3) I am  , am not  content to sit back and let government control my life.
- 4) I do  , do not believe  that government is protecting my rights according to the US Constitution and its Bill of Rights.
- 5) I am  , am not  willing to let someone else fight to get government off my back and out of my pockets.
- 6) I believe  , do not believe  that big, bad government will eventually go away if something is not done.
- 7) I am  , am not  content to let government make my decisions for me.
- 8) I believe  , do not believe  that our government is the best and that it can get no better.
- 9) I believe  , do not believe  that the Democrat and Republican politicians are doing everything they can to let me live my life in peace and make the world a better place.
- 10) I can  , cannot  be counted on to fight for the cause of liberty and my individual rights.
- 11) I do  , do not  wish to receive further information from the Libertarian Party or any of its freedom-fighter affiliate organizations.
- 12) I would  , would not  like to be included in the fight for liberty.
- 13) I will  , will not  enlist as a:
  - a member of the Libertarian Party
  - a volunteer activist
  - a subscriber to the State party newsletter (\$10 yearly donation)
- 14) I do  , do not  believe in beating up li'l old ladies. (*Sorry, Dick, couldn't resist it—ED*)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State, zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return all questionnaires to:

Richard Whitelock, State Chair  
7058 S. State Road  
Ionia, MI 48846

### Libertarian literature available

David Bergland's "America's Libertarian Heritage" may be purchased from the state office at 50 cents each in quantities of 50 or more (newstand price \$1.00).

Attractive LPM fliers, including an enhanced version of Marshall Fritz' questionnaire, are available at 5 cents each.

Make checks payable to LPM, 11700 Merriman, Livonia, MI 48150.

### Tapes available

The State LP has invested in a complete set of video outreach tapes that can be used as a tremendous tool in attracting new members. The "Free to Choose" series features libertarian economist Dr. Milton Friedman and is of extremely high production quality. The series consists of ten tapes of VHS format, and each tape is a full color, 60-minute presentation. The titles are as follows:

1. Who Protects the Worker?
2. Who Protects the Consumer?
3. What's Wrong With our Schools?
4. Created Equal
5. From Cradle to Grave
6. Anatomy of a Crisis
7. Power of the Market
8. How to Cure Inflation
9. The Tyranny of Control
10. How to Stay Free

These tapes can be obtained by contacting LPM Secretary Lynn Bellair at 24874 Valley, E. Detroit, MI 48021. Phone (313) 774-7675. Each tape may be rented at a cost of \$5 per tape to cover costs of postage and handling. Duration of rental will be one week.

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## Life in These United States

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by Tim O'Brien

### Stamp Act

Texas. Harkening back to the days of British occupation of the American colonies, the state government here became the second to create a "tax stamp." In the contemporary version, however, the purpose is not to generate revenue but rather to provide the Drug Warriors with yet another method to harass people buying and selling prohibited commodities—tax evasion charges.

The law, which took effect in September, requires dealers to buy tax stamps costing \$3.50 per gram of marijuana and \$200.00 per gram of cocaine. Possession of taxable substances without the required stamps carries a maximum penalty of ten years in prison and a \$5000.00 fine.

Since the statistis seem to be following the lead of King George, maybe freedom fighters should take a cue from our Founding Fathers. Tar and feathers, anyone?

### Lady Liberty weeps

New York. In what has to be one of the greatest ironies of all time, the state government here is fighting with neighboring New Jersey over sales tax revenues from concessions sold on Liberty Island. Jurisdiction over the symbol of freedom has long been disputed by the two states. Despite a 1986 agreement supposedly settling the matter, New York has thus far failed to share the loot with New Jersey. The 8.25% tax on souvenirs and snacks generates about \$100,000 per year.

### Congressional garbage

Washington, D.C. Representative Bill Green (R-NY) has come up with a way for the US Congress to actually make some money. He is proposing a recycling project for Capitol Hill that would raise as much as \$80 per ton for the garbage they put out every day. And, as we all know, Congress puts out a lot of garbage—20 tons per day from the House of Representatives alone. Let's see. If we assume that the Senate puts out an equal amount of trash and that both houses are session 200 days per year and that all of their garbage is first class, that would amount to \$640,000 per year, or approximately .001 B2 Stealth Bomber.

### I expect you to do something, Attila!

Florida. A mother who says she can't get her 15-year-old daughter out of bed in the morning has filed a lawsuit against Deerfield Beach High School and five associated government officials because of the girl's truancy.

Peggy Gibbs, 40, is asking for \$2500 in damages from the school and from the officials of the school in her suit, which she typed herself and submitted in small claims court. "I'm tired of parents taking the blame," she said. "The school is not doing their (sic) job and they are breaking the law by not *forcing* (editors emphasis) [my daughter] Cherie to go to school."



## RONALD L. BURCHAM

State Representative —  
25th District

- ★ Reduce property taxes - cut special interest spending programs.
- ★ Restore excellence to Michigan schools.
- ★ Keep violent criminals off the streets.

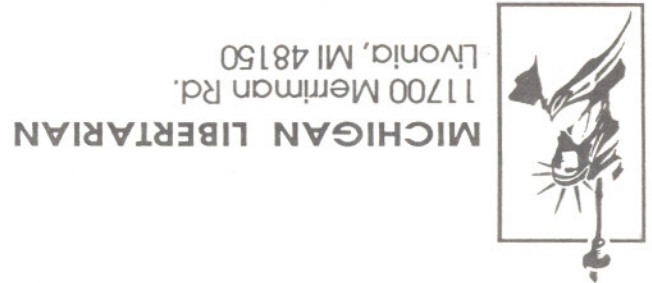
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- \$10 Subscription to *Michigan Libertarian* only

Note:

All memberships include the state newsletter, *Michigan Libertarian*.  
National membership includes a subscription to *Libertarian Party News*.

I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation  
of physical force as a means of achieving political or social goals:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:  
Libertarian Party of Michigan  
11700 Merriman Road  
Livonia, MI 48150