



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan

Volume 17, No. 2

March/April 1990

To build a free world

by Virginia Cropsey

Can LPM take advantage of mass taxpayer anger, run 100 candidates, control balance of power in Michigan Senate?

The 1990 LPM nominating convention, "Building a Free World," will be held April 20-22 at the Ramada Inn in Southfield, Michigan. LPM activists are working hard to put over 100 candidates on fall election ballots to take advantage of massive grassroots outrage over Michigan's property tax assessment increases. Grassroots, limited government voters gave the GOP control of the Michigan Senate in 1983 after they recalled two Democrat state senators, Mastin and Serotkin, for voting for a 38% income tax increase. With William Sederburg giving up a GOP seat, probably to Democratic representative Debbie Stabenaw, Libertarians have a chance to hold balance of power over the State Senate in tight races in Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne counties.

Many grassroots voters feel the GOP has done nothing to control spending with the senate majority given them by recallers. As many as 2000 citizens have shown up at a time at seminars on property tax appeals held around the metro area. However, many of the seminars are conducted by Republican officeholders (great election-year PR) but, as one talk radio caller said to an "appealing" GOP rep, "We don't want to have to go in there one at a time year after year through this long drawn out appeal process; we elected you to clean up the mess in the legislature." To many taxpayers, this is appeasement.

Libertarians handed out "The Libertarian Party Represents You" literature and received enthusiastic response at several seminars. At one property tax appeal seminar attended by more than 300 furious citizens and conducted by Oakland County Taxpayer Association Chair and LPM member Dominick Vincentini, wallsigns and literature called for "VCR"—Vote, Cut, and Remove. The slogan means to vote for tax cut initiatives and vote to remove tax-and-spend incumbents at the primary and in the general election. We need libertarians to run to give thousands of fed-up voters alternatives. See articles on who the candidates may be and why you should run (page 5). Call Dan Day ((313) 853-5169), your local LCC rep, or an officer, to volunteer to run. YOU MUST BE NOMINATED BY THE CLOSE OF THE CONVENTION TO APPEAR ON THE FALL BALLOT AS A LIBERTARIAN. Be there or be taxed to death!

Miller, Barnett, Schimmel, Reed, Lundy, Dasbach, and Moss to address 10th anniversary celebration of Libertarian International

In addition to candidate nominations, the LPM convention features a Saturday-night 10th anniversary banquet celebration of the founding of the Libertarian International in Ann Arbor. A goal is to have the Big U eventually become best known as the place where Vince Miller, the International's founder and now president, took on the challenge of developing the International. (Currently, the University is known for John Kennedy's founding of the Peace Corps.; Jackson, Michigan, is recognized as the birthplace of the Republican Party.) The LPM is sending releases to state historical publications, organizations, and authors of state historical texts to have Ann Arbor recognized as the "cradle of international liberty." Miller will keynote the convention banquet with "Building a Free World," an update on international libertarian *electoral*, yes, *electoral*, successes. Bring friends to share some birthday cake and, if negotiations work out, buy a chip off the Berlin Wall at a rock-bottom price.

The convention kicks off with a Friday night book signing/presentation by libertarian legal scholar Randy Barnett on his book on the Ninth Amendment, *The Rights Retained by the People*. Heartland Michigan President David Littmann will introduce Mr. Barnett, who is an academic advisor to the Heartland Institute. Mr. Barnett is a leading proponent of principled judicial activism, the view that courts should review legislation to prevent violations of individual rights. Principled judicial activism theorists argue natural rights theory was the basis for the Constitution and disagree with Robert Bork's majoritarian theories. The Detroit News and state legal publications are reviewing the book, and invitations and flyers are being distributed at state law schools, to legal publications, and to groups such as the Federalist Society. Mr. Barnett's appearance is a fantastic opportunity to advance libertarian legal theory. Copies of the book are available now from Virginia Cropsey for \$25. They will be available at the autograph signing while they last.

(See *Convention*, page 4)

<i>Tax protest</i>	<i>Page 5</i>
<i>Prohibition II protest</i>	<i>Page 7</i>
<i>Ruwart to run</i>	<i>Page 9</i>

MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

Editor:

Brian Wright
(313) 681-1303

LPM correspondent:

Daniel L. Day
(313) 853-5168

Production:

Ben Bachrach, list maintenance
Dale Haviland, printing
Emily Salvette, mailing

Special contributors to this issue:

Gary Bradley, Virginia Cropsey
Charles Hahn, Kenneth Morris
Tim O'Brien

* * *

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Editor, *Michigan Libertarian*
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From the editor

History in the making

It seems I've been at this a long time, although others have surely worked harder at nurturing the seeds of liberty, and with more effectiveness, than I. A few years ago, a young man so full of fire and so ready to make his mark, to live up to ideals of the highest order—to think, to read, to write, to gather, to argue, to protest, to petition, to exhort, to campaign, to love when it felt safe, and, yes, occasionally to lead.

We've been riding a high trail all along, have we not, beckoning across canyons of ignorance to the many whom we feel must want to share our mountainous view. "Everything is so clear from up here. Why do you want to keep doing things that way?" You know? And more and more I understand the limits: theirs and, now, mine, with youthful energy having gone up countless times against them—the limits.

These darned old limits, bred of the debris of deep-dead ideas and the inertia built into the mind's biology in some way. Too, we mostly only have a *vision* of the highlands, being lowlanders, in fact, and closely tied to the lives and fortunes of our neighbors. Ah, to solve the riddle: love them, lead them, yet avoid the crush of bodies as their icons—both human and "divine"—duke it out.

Trying to do all three is tough. But all-three it needs be. Loving one's neighbors in this sense means caring about them. So being a member of the library board, the city council, the sex-drugs-and-rock-and-roll commission, etc. *is* an act of love. How is the LP going to make it without that?

Leadership? However you get it, it has to be there.

Finally, you gotta prepare for the worst. Maybe the broader society will succumb precipitously to antecedents we had nothing to do with. Would the Titanic have made it because a few more rational workers boarded the ship on the fateful voyage? We must hope, but we must also plan and become tactically flexible with our lives. If you don't survive, you don't win. And on another level, if life isn't going to be "fun," there's not much point in surviving.

So where are these perfect warriors? They have yet to join us, by and large, but the day is young. Eastern Europe, Africa, the Orient, many places around the globe, have produced freedom fighters. Their knowledge is limited by confinement yet their passion for freedom has been fed by the mass of their chains. They will grow and learn fast. Perfection? Maybe that's just another word for something left to do.

Our ranks will swell, I'm reasonably confident. The true warriors among us will continue to improve their inner game and carry the fight deeper and deeper into the enemy. I have

(See *Editor*, page 6)

From the chairman

The illusion of property ownership

The following letter appeared in the Detroit News on March 4, 1990.

The Feb. 14 editorial, "Property Makes a Comeback," accurately stated that a citizen's right to own private property is the basis of freedom. It's too bad that the majority of Americans are still blinded by the myth of private property ownership in the United States.

The state has effectively prohibited the people from property ownership through zoning ordinances and property taxes. With these implements in place, the state has assumed total control of all property—both public and private.

In Marxist jargon, the state allows us the privilege of property "stewardship." The state graciously allows us to reside on "their" property as tenants so long as we abide by the rules and regulations of their adopted zoning requirements.

Continued residency as "stewards" requires payment of rent (property taxes) to the state at whatever rate it deems necessary. Late or nonpayment of rent can result in state confiscation of the property and imprisonment for its tenants.

If we maintain the property or make improvements to it (with permission from the state), we're rewarded with higher rent payments. Higher rent payments also are extracted from the tenants when the state artificially inflates the supposed value of the property.

The practitioners of communist doctrine have always recognized that the expropriation and control of all property by the state must be absolute. They've done an excellent job on millions of unthinking, naive American citizens.

The Russians have the right idea in allowing their people to own property. It is hoped, someday, our people will wake up and demand the same right.

Richard Whitelock
Chairman, Libertarian Party of Michigan

The authorities increase the size and text of their laws. They pile up backbreaking burdens and lay them on other men's shoulders—Jesus of Nazareth, Matthew 23

Errata: . . . The editor expresses his sincere apologies for misspelling "four" as "dour" and "summonses" as "summons" in Tim O'Brien's Life in These United States column in the previous issue.

Libertarian Party of Michigan

Officers

Chair: Richard Whitelock (616) 527-9263 d
7058 S. State Road (517) 647-6252 h
Ionia, MI 48846

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
Monroe: Ken Morris Oakland: Emily Salvette
Ottawa: Dick Jacobs Washtenaw: David Hunt
Wayne: Evy Warmbier

National Committee Member

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

Michigan Membership Monitor

**National to date: (337?)
27 new instant members
Renewals in progress**

**State to date: (245?)
Renewals in progress**

**Michigan dues renewal is at hand,
so let's keep on truckin'
Remember: Grow or die**

Letters to the editor

With the 1990 LPM convention fast approaching I believe it is vitally important for members to give serious consideration to the consequences of our nominations for the next election.

Many of us remember what an arduous task it was petitioning to get our party on the ballot for the '88 presidential election (after losing ballot status in '84). Fortunately, the Ron Paul candidacy (and the corresponding good showing for US Senate candidate Dick Jacobs) was able to garner enough support to retain our ballot status. But, just barely. And that in a presidential election year in which we all had high hopes.

We are now facing an "off-year" election, as well as new legislation that has substantially increased the requisite number of signatures to return to the ballot if we fail to gain enough votes.

While I appreciate the enthusiasm that moves activists to want to run a candidate for governor against Diamond Jim, we must be realistic about the consequences that may (in fact, probably will) result from such an effort.

I strongly urge all LPM members to consider running candidates for the university boards as our "top of ticket" in order to protect our ballot status for the '92 presidential campaign. Our candidates for these positions received from nearly three times to more than four times the required number of votes in '88—compare: presidential candidate Ron Paul, 18,567; MSU Board of Trustees candidate Diane Szabla, 65,522; U of M Board of Regents candidates James Hudler, 54,497 and John Salvette, 47,588; WSU Board of Governors candidates Jack Freeman, 49,524 and Randy Szabla, 47,645.

Further, I suggest that any who are determined to run candidates for higher office demonstrate their commitment by pledging to collect the required number of signatures needed to get us back on the ballot should our candidate fail to garner the votes necessary to keep us on.

Let's give our '92 presidential candidate an early boost by ensuring that Michigan—one of the largest and most important states in the country—need not take up precious resources simply to qualify for inclusion on the ballot.

In liberty,

Tim O'Brien
Madison Heights

Convention, from page 1

Other convention highlights previously announced include a Saturday-morning candidate seminar with national committee representative Steve Dasbach and Michigan Libertarians in public office; Saturday luncheon with Louis Schimmel, Jr., director of the Municipal Advisory Council of Michigan; Saturday-afternoon candidate nominations; a presentation of international freedom travels by Larry Reed, president of the Mackinac Center; and a Sunday luncheon with state board of education member Marilyn Lundy, a supporter of educational choice. An added attraction, previously unannounced, will be a Sunday morning talk by Detroit News writer/humorist Chuck Moss. The charge for the Moss event is \$5, as is the charge for the Reed presentation. Friday night's showing of "The Killing Fields" is \$2. These charges apply for those who do not buy the complete convention package. The charge for all events and speakers is \$15.

The Southfield Ramada Inn has rooms available for \$50/night for two persons, \$55 for three or four. Mail room reservations to: Ramada Hotel, 28225 Telegraph Road, Southfield, Michigan 48034 (313) 355-2929. For convention questions, call Virginia Cropsy at (313) 977-6628. We have intentionally kept our prices low to encourage new-interested. Please bring friends to hear our great lineup of advocates for liberty! Foyer tables are available for related groups on a per-foot basis.

Enclosed is \$ _____ for:

- \$ _____ Complete package: three meals, Barnett event, all other speakers, events and business sessions—\$62
- \$ _____ Randy Barnett reception/presentation—\$10
- \$ _____ Saturday luncheon with Lou Schimmel—\$12
- \$ _____ Larry Reed "Indiana Jones" freedom tour—\$5
- \$ _____ Saturday evening 10th Anniversary Banquet with Vince Miller—\$25 per person (table of 8 for \$150)
 - _____ Chicken
 - _____ Beef
- \$ _____ Sunday luncheon with Marilyn Lundy (\$12)
- \$ _____ All events and speakers (\$15)
- \$ _____ Business sessions (2 for \$3 each—only members may vote)

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____

A wise and frugal government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, which shall leave them otherwise to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvements, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned—this is the sum of good government—T. Jefferson

(See Ed. page 6)

LPM targets four Michigan cities for income tax protests on deadline day

by Kenneth G. Morris

On April 16 the LPM will be conducting its annual demonstrations against the income tax at post offices in the Detroit, Lansing, Ann Arbor, and Grand Rapids areas. We've had good turnouts over the years, and we welcome interested newcomers to participate. In past years, almost all last-minute filers have enthusiastically accepted our literature (condemning the income tax) after *unenthusiastically* dropping off their annual tribute at the mail collection points. We expect the response will be even better this year as a growing number of people are becoming disenchanted with all types of taxes across the board.

We will also have large banners for the passing motorists to view. Some of the slogans include "Taxes: Just Say No" and "For a Free Country, This is Very Expensive." If you'd like to bring your own tasteful sign, please do.

We will be meeting at the following locations and times on April 16th:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Grand Rapids | Main post office, downtown, 7 p.m.-midnight—info (517) 647-6252 |
| Lansing | Collins Road post office, 7 p.m.-midnight—info (517) 394-4479 |
| Ann Arbor | Liberty Street and 4th post office, noon-5 p.m. (313) 475-9792 |
| Detroit area | Livonia (Merriman, n. of Plymouth Rd.) 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Dearborn (Greenfield, n. of Rotunda Dr.) 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
Royal Oak (Second and Washington) 7-9 p.m.
Detroit main (Fort and Trumbull) 10-11:30 p.m.
Sterling Heights (Metro Parkway, w. of Van Dyke) 7 p.m.-midnight |
- Info (313) 757-5085

Also as a PR gesture, a few of our more creative activists, are planning to pass out flyers expressing support in Redd Foxx'

battle with the IRS at Foxx' appearance that evening at the Westin Hotel in Detroit.

Incidentally, April 16 isn't the only day to protest the income tax. Use the enclosed master to copy petitions to collect names to send to Pennsylvania talk host Irv Homer, who is leading a national effort to repeal the income tax. Homer is collecting supporters' signatures. Mention Homer's efforts in your release to let the media know there is a national effort to repeal the income tax.

Libertarian Convention '90—Candidates

by Virginia Cropsey and Daniel L. Day

The Libertarian Party of Michigan will be nominating candidates for the November 6 general election at its annual state convention, April 21-22, in Southfield. According to the convention schedule, the nomination process for state elective offices will take place from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, April 21.

At stake for the LPM is our coveted ballot status. The LPM earned ballot status with a petition drive in 1987 that required a statewide effort of hard work and money to garner the necessary 20,000 signatures.

To keep ballot status, the Libertarian Party of Michigan's top of the ticket candidate must earn one percent of the secretary of state winner's vote tally from the prior election.

The top of the ticket is not the Libertarian with the highest position on the ballot but the Libertarian with the highest ballot position who is nominated by our state party.

Thus, in 1988, Ron Paul, the National Libertarian Party presidential candidate, was not our top of the ticket because he was nominated by the NLP; our top of ticket was Dick Jacobs, a US Senate candidate, the highest office nominated by the LPM in 1988.

Since Secretary of State Richard Austin won the 1986 election with 1,996,221 votes, and one percent of that is approximately 19,963, we would have lost our ballot status in 1988 if Ron Paul and been our top of the ticket candidate, because he only earned 18,336 votes—about 1600 short. We maintained our ballot status because Dick Jacobs earned 27,116 votes.

Therefore, our top candidate this year again needs to earn almost 20,000 votes or we will lose our ballot status. If we should lose our ballot status, the amount of signatures necessary—by petition—to regain our status will be equal to one percent of the total votes cast, this fall, for the office of governor. A rough estimate, based on prior gubernatorial vote totals, indicates we would have to petition for about 40,000 to 50,000 signatures.

Editor, from page 2

fought hard here, I feel, as editor, but am bogging down, not caring enough about the job, and the time has come to move on and redeploy elsewhere with more force and effect. In fact, I have a major project underway that will enhance our prospects for early victory, and I shall finish it soon.

Two recommendations as I ride on: 1) beware of using formal rules to create good behavior (because it doesn't work that way) and 2) remember that one's own achievements must be seen to enhance, not diminish, those achievements—even those less imposing—of others fighting for freedom. More succinctly: few regs and teamwork. Happy trails.

Libertarian Central Committee (LCC) meets

The LCC met on March 4, 1990, at the home of Bill Johnson in Livingston County. Secretary Lynn Bellair and Treasurer Jeff Hampton gave their respective reports; motions to approve carry (voice).

Motion for LCC to resolve to encourage the effort to have the radio talk show hosts discuss the income tax—by Virginia Cropsey, seconded by Jon Addiss, carries (voice).

Motion to read the proposed bylaws (from Charlie Hahn's bylaws committee) and to hold a meeting if one-half of the LCC members would like to—by Virginia Cropsey, seconded by Jeff Hampton, carries (voice).

Resolution: **The LCC of the LPM condemns the Patterson/Anderson proposal since its main purpose is to constitutionally guarantee funds for the nonproductive public schools**—by Lynn Bellair (Tom Jones is the writer), seconded by Keith Edwards, carries (voice).

Motion to form a committee to consider the three tax proposals—by Virginia Cropsey, seconded by Emily Salvette, carries (voice).

Motion that the Michigan Libertarian shall print all enacted LCC resolutions and treasurer's reports—by Lynn Bellair, seconded by Ken Morris, carries 8-2.

Motion to form an issues committee to pursue issues, contact groups, and so on—by Dale Dobberstein, seconded by Bill Johnson, is defeated.

Motion that the NCN phone group fundraising idea be referred to Jeff Hampton—by Jon Addiss, seconded by Dale Dobberstein, carries (voice).

Motion to close the meeting—by Dale Dobberstein, seconded by Jeff Hampton, carries (voice).

Treasurer's Report

Starting net worth (12/03/89) \$3,142.78

Current net worth \$2,698.24

Assets

DFCU checking \$1,664.60
DFCU savings 110.00
DFCU Camp. checking 205.00
DFCU Camp. savings 41.06
T-shirts (est.) 200.00
Lib. Week (advance) 500.00
Total assets \$2,720.74

Liabilities

National Party \$22.50

Loss in net worth \$444.54

Incoming revenue

Dues \$562.50
Pledges 770.00
Contributions 130.00
Literature 200.00
Miscellaneous 35.12
Total revenue \$1697.62

Expenditures

National dues \$330.00
Answering 216.00
800 number 47.85
Newsletter 786.98
Literature 400.00
Stationery 250.08
Cropsey 60.00
Bellair 51.25
Total expenditures \$2,142.16

Net shortfall \$444.54

This follows a net shortfall of \$346.25 in the last quarter.

Bylaws

Charles Hahn

The LCC has reviewed various amendments to the LPM Bylaws as drafted by the Bylaws Committee; however, it has not yet decided what, if anything, will be submitted to the convention for a vote. The two areas of proposed change involve the size of the LCC and the establishment of a Judiciary Committee.

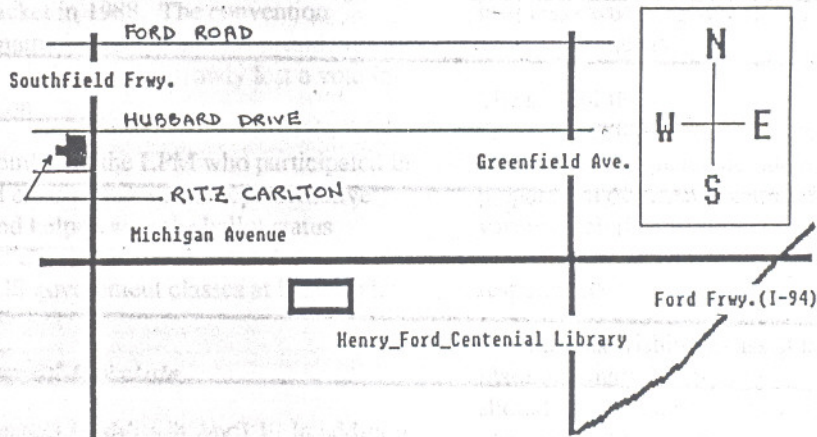
I won't play second fiddle to the beat of your honkytonk heart
—Tanya Tucker

**Participate in the 1st Rally to Personally
Tell President George Bush:
"No More Money for the WAR ON DRUGS!"**

Tuesday April 3, 1990 at 4 PM - 6 PM
Ritz Carlton Hotel
[SW Corner of Southfield Srv. Drive and Hubbard]

It is time to let President Bush know that we do not support the tactics or the logic behind the "WAR ON DRUGS". The Criminal Justice Approach does not work! The damage being done to our society by drug activity is tremendous. But most of the damage is the result of a drug policy which inadvertently rewards the criminal element for its participation. Because of this fact a number of very prominent Americans have recently come out in favor of decriminalizing or legalizing illegal drugs. Included are Former Secretary of State George P. Shultz; Federal Judge Sweet; and Representative George Crockett. Legalization is no panacea, however, it is certain that it will remove the profits and in turn eliminate the pushers, the crack houses, the corruption, the gangs and the bloodshed. Only when this has been accomplished can we treat drug addiction for what it is --- a Medical Problem.

We are staging this rally at the Ritz Carlton Hotel because President Bush will be there attending a Republican Fund Raising Dinner. Please join us to send the message that we don't want additional monies spent on sending more Americans to jail. In the last decade the money spent on State and Federal Prisons has risen 10-fold: from 2.5 to 25 Billion a Year! Please bring signs with appropriate slogans e.g. (No More Money for the "WAR on DRUGS"; Take a Bite out of Crime ... Legalize & Regulate Drugs; Support RDLER - Regulated Drug Legalization, Education and Rehabilitation). Please confirm date and location by calling the "NEW AGE PATRIOT" message line at 563-3192. Support this cause by contributing to: NEW AGE PATRIOT/ PO Box 419/ Dearborn Heights/ Michigan/ 48127.



Join the NAP "Blue Ribbon Committee"
and Show Your Support for RDLER"

We are encouraging supporters of RDLER to tie a blue ribbon around the rear view mirrors of their cars to symbolize their support for reforming the drug policies in this country.

Dr. Mary Ruwart to seek state education board nomination

by Daniel L. Day

Dr. Mary Ruwart (L-Kalamazoo) will seek the LPM's nomination at the state convention for one of the two state board of education candidate positions.

Since Dick Jacobs will not seek the LPM's nomination for governor, and reports indicate that no one else has sufficient support for a gubernatorial candidacy, it seems highly probable that the LPM's two state board of education nominees will be the party's top of the ticket and hope to maintain ballot status. (To see details about what is required to maintain our ballot status, please refer to page 5 of this issue.

Fortunately, Dr. Ruwart is a woman of exceptional ability who has excelled in her profession as a research scientist, gained experience as a candidate, been a party activist for more than eight years, and become well grounded in libertarian principles.

Dr. Ruwart's accomplishments have been recognized in various biographical publications such as *Community Leaders of America 1990*, *Who's Who of American Women 1990*, *International Leaders in Achievement 1990*, *World Who's Who of American Women 1989*, *2000 Notable American Women 1989*, and so on.

As a member of the national platform committee in 1983, she took the initiative to suggest to the national convention (in New York City) that libertarians consider nominating a minority candidate to the national ticket in 1988. The convention responded by placing her name in nomination for president. She came in a respectable 3d place and narrowly lost a vote for the vice-presidential position.

Dr. Ruwart is an active member of the LPM who participated in the 1984 and 1988 general elections as a state representative candidate (46th district) and helped with the ballot status petition drive in 1984. She also gives presentations about libertarian philosophy to US government classes at local high schools and colleges.

Around the state

Ann Arbor is holding its annual Hash Bash April 1. In addition, on April 2 it is holding an election where voters will decide if the fine for possession of marijuana will increase from \$5 to \$25—a symbolic event of national importance to the drug Nazis, and we who must defeat them.

In Grand Rapids, member Bill Hall was involved in a debate arguing against the recent US invasion of Panama. Bill also resigned as legal counsel to the LP National Committee, but reports have circulated that he will take a board position with the think-tank, Heartland Michigan. – VC

Ron Burcham to seek nomination for state representative

Ron Burcham of the Libertarian Party of Michigan will ask the Macomb County Libertarian Party for the nomination as candidate for state representative in the 25th district.

Last winter he ran for the same seat (resigned by the late Dennis Dutko (D) after being jailed for drunken driving charges) in the special election against Charles Busse (D) and the winner Roman Kulchitsky (R). (For a more in-depth look at that election, see the ML Jan/Feb issue.)

Although the January 16 election results were doubled from his previous outing, he has been working in the interim to improve his credibility as a candidate by attending Warren City Council meetings, joining two more local organizations, and attending toastmasters meetings to improve his ability as a speaker. Stan Gentry (L-Troy), who helped manage Ron Burcham's special election effort, has signed on as campaign manager. – DD

Volunteers sought for Libertarian marketing group

by Gary Bradley

For several years, the LPM has engaged in outreach activities by a relatively casual and random method. Several members of the Mid-Michigan Libertarian Alliance (M2LA) are interested in developing a well-defined marketing plan for outreach to one or more target groups thought to be receptive to libertarian ideas. We hope to analyze and suggest outreach approaches for the following target groups in the coming year: gun owners, small business owners and managers, education reform advocates, and environmentalists.

The goal of the project is to develop a detailed marketing plan for approaching each of these groups. Some of the expected elements of the plans include research on the target group, preparation of possible outreach materials, test marketing various materials to small groups, determination of best outreach media, and structure of follow-up procedures for respondents.

Libertarians wishing to assist in the preparation of outreach plans and materials for any or all of the groups mentioned should contact Gary Bradley or Dale Dobberstein at the state convention or write to Gary Bradley, 1001 E. Cass, St. Johns, MI 48879.

But whether the Constitution really be one thing or another, this much is certain: that it either has authorized such a government as we have had, or has been powerless to prevent it—
Lysander Spooner, 1870

Calendar

Date	Event
04/01	Hash Bash University of Michigan campus, Ann Arbor
04/03	Drug Re-Legalization Protest Dearborn, 4-6 p.m. See article elsewhere in this issue
04/04	AT ISSUE broadcast 8:30 a.m., Discovery Channel Ron Paul discussion of issues
04/06	Oakland County convention Zims Restaurant Lake Orion (on Baldwin Road just east of the I-75 Baldwin Road exit) Contact: Daniel L. Day at 589-2180
04/13	Tim O'Brien commentary 7:30 a.m. WDET-FM (101.9) Detroit area (These commentaries are performed by Tim biweekly)
04/16	Tax Protest See article elsewhere in this issue
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. Buddy's Pizza, 13 & Van Dyke, Warren Contact Virginia Cropsey 977-6628
04/18	Mid-Michigan Libertarian Alliance meeting 1542 Melrose East Lansing (south of Haggadom between Grand River and Haslett Road) Contact: Gary Bradley, 1001 E. Cass, St. Johns 48879
04/21	LPM Convention , Southfield Ramada Inn. Vince Miller will keynote, representing the 10th anniversary celebration of the founding of Libertarian International. Elections of LPM candidates, officers for 1990 Refer to article, page 1, for more information
05/21	MDL Supper Club "Drug Re-Legalization" Hon. Patrick J. O'Brien District Court Judge Soup Kitchen Saloon 1585 Franklin St. Detroit (2 blocks south of Jefferson, 4 blocks east of Ren Cen) Info: 259-2643

Libertarian leader guides Oakland County Taxpayers Association

by Daniel L. Day

On March 8 at the American Legion Hall in Oxford, the Oakland County Taxpayers Association held its spring membership meeting. Although it was a cold, rainy night, more than 250 irate taxpayers packed the hall, lining up against the walls and standing three rows deep in the back.

Despite the crowded conditions, the crowd was well behaved as it listened to Dominick Vincentini, member of the LPM and LPOC, explain methods to appeal their property tax assessments.

Mr. Vincentini is a long-time LPM member and activist who specializes in property taxes. At the March 5 LCC meeting, he gave a short presentation explaining loopholes in the Patterson-Anderson tax cut proposal and why he recommends Libertarians not support it.

Macomb County news

by Virginia Cropsey

The Macomb LP plans to run more than 20 candidates this fall, covering three Congressional, three state senate, and seven state representative races—and as many of the remaining 25 county commission seats as possible.

The tentative lineup is: Congress: Bob Roddis, Ken Morris, Joe Cote; State senate: Virginia Cropsey, Lynn Bellair (c'mon Lynn), Tom Sydlow; State representative: David Weidner, Keith Edwards, Stan Gentry, Pat Johnson, Paul Kaiser, Rudy Zornik, Ron Burcham; County commissioner: Bob Swartz, Maureen Vermeer, and assorted others yet to be convinced. Call 977-6628 to jump into the lineup. We have a good chance to hold balance of power in several Macomb County races.

Member Tom Sydlow purchased 2000 Fully Informed Jury Amendment (FIJA) brochures and has been handing them out in front of courthouses on days juries are being pulled to inform jurors of their right to nullify law as well as fact.

Jim McAbee arranged for Mackinac Center President Larry Reed to speak on his trip to Poland at the Romeo Rotary, to which Jim belongs, on March 20. Virginia Cropsey arranged for the Macomb Daily to interview Larry the next morning. This is a great way to get exposure for free market ideas locally. Maybe Larry will eventually be given a regular local column. He'd like to speak to your civic group. Call him at (517) 631-0900 or speak to him at the convention. Another great local resource is Charles Van Eaton (privatization). Get one of these folks into your outside group every six months to build credibility for Libertarian ideas. And remember, they're looking to find contributors for their projects.

Oakland County Libertarian Party prepares for state convention

by Daniel L. Day

On April 6, 7:00 p.m., the LPOC will hold a county convention in order to prepare for the state convention and to nominate candidates for the fall elections. The annual meeting will be at ZIMS Restaurant on Baldwin Road, just east of I-75 and the Baldwin Road exit in Lake Orion. There will be 52 offices open for contention in Oakland County this November:

Partisan offices:

State Senator: 4 offices, districts 8, 15, 16, 17
State Representative: 12 offices, districts 20, 24, 60-69
County Commission: 27 offices

Nonpartisan offices:

Independence Twp: Clerk
West Bloomfield Twp: Township supervisor
Lathrup Village city: 3 city council seats
Orchard Lake Village city: 1 city council seat

Wayne County Libertarian Party prepares for state convention

by Daniel L. Day

The Wayne County Libertarian Party held a county convention on February 22 to discuss fundraising and preparations for the state convention.

One idea for raising funds that received support was a proposal to hold public bingo games on a monthly basis. Fortunately, Michigan law permits bingo to be played for money as long as the games are sponsored and organized by a non-profit group.

Evy Warmbier, chairperson LPWC, is researching the suggestion and planned to place a concrete proposal before county members at their next convention on March 22—one week past our newsletter's deadline.

Other business conducted at the meeting included starting to gather a list of candidates for the state convention and the elections this fall. The November ballot in Wayne County will give voters a choice for more than fifty-six offices:

State Senator: 9 offices
State Representative: 30 offices
County Commission: 15 offices
City Executive: 2 offices

Life in These United States

by Tim O'Brien

Government plants

Texas. As part of a \$2.9 million federal Drug War grant, members of the Texas National Guard will position themselves along the Mexican border disguised as cactus plants.

Military intelligence

California. US Navy electronics engineer Timothy Reid was fired from his job at the Naval Electronics Systems Engineering Center by Captain Stephen Howard after blowing the whistle on wasteful practices at the San Diego installation. When Howard received a small package in the mail the following week bearing Reid's return address, the suspicious captain summoned Navy security.

According to the Center's newsletter, "The Naval Investigative Service and the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit arrived, took possession of the package, X-rayed it several times, and in their best judgement did not think that the package contained an explosive device." Nevertheless, the Navy "thought it was best to open it under controlled conditions." So they pulverized the package with a high-powered water cannon. It contained a copy of Engineering Contracts and Specifications—a handbook Reid had borrowed from the Center's library and was trying to return.

"If I wanted to send a bomb," Reid observed, "why in the world would I send it return-receipt requested?" Indeed. And why didn't the authorities bother to query the engineer before blasting his package to smithereens? Well, I guess we shouldn't be surprised at oxymoronic behavior from Naval Intelligence.

This land is our land

Michigan. A bill to name Kalkaska soil Michigan's official dirt passed the House of Representatives in early February 1990 by a vote of 86-14. This critical piece of legislation now goes to the Senate, which approved a similar bill last April.

"Without a state soil," observed the bill's sponsor, Rep. Richard Sofio (D-Bessemer), "we wouldn't have a state tree, we wouldn't have a state bird, we wouldn't have anything." In fact, without any land to stand on, we wouldn't even have a state.

Fax are fax

Maryland. The US Air Force has awarded a contract for 173 custom-made, heavy-duty fax machines to Litton Industries, Inc., based in College Park, for \$32.9 million, plus \$40 million for support and spare parts. That works out to more than \$421,000 apiece. But, if the fax machines are as durable as the USAF's coffee pots, they'll take enough G-forces to kill a human being several times over. And that means our fly-boys will still be able to drink coffee and fax each other messages even if they're dead.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN
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