



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

All Libertarian Party of Michigan memberships and subscriptions expire in February. To continue receiving the newsletter please renew, join or subscribe immediately. Use the form on the last page of this newsletter.

Those wishing to be both Michigan and National members save \$15 by joining the National through Michigan.

LPM NOMINATING CONVENTION

by James L. Hudler

The 1992 LPM State Convention, April 10-12, should be one of the most exciting, educational, and productive libertarian events in Michigan in several years. First of all, it will be a nominating convention at which electors will be nominated for Andre Marrou. Secondly, the National Committee of the Libertarian Party will be meeting concurrently with the LPM Convention. There will also be many renowned speakers at the convention and at the Libertarian Freedom Conference being held on the University of Michigan campus, sponsored by the Ann Arbor Libertarian League just prior to the convention.

The three days of libertarian activities can be grouped into four areas both spatially, and in substance. Below I have outlined these four groups of activities so that you will attend them and be a part of the great Michigan Libertarian event of 1992.

The four centers of activity are (1) the LPM Convention; (2) the LPM Administrative Headquarters; (3) the National Committee; and (4) the Michigan Libertarian Freedom Conference.

(1) LPM Convention

Location:

Courtyard Inn/Marriott Ann Arbor, 3205 Boardwalk Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48108.

Phone: 313-995-5900, Fax: 313-995-2937.

Room rates - \$55 for a single/double/triple/quad. Please reserve your room as soon as possible. We have reserved

a fixed number (65) of room nights which will be held until March 24, 1992. Since the National Committee will be using at least 40 room nights, the remaining rooms may be gone before you know it. Also note that the hotel was recently purchased by Marriott and used to be a Ramada Inn.

Candidate Nomination

During the 1992 LPM convention, we will be nominating candidates for federal, and state offices. These are:

- 19 Presidential Electors
- 17 House of Representatives
- 102 State Representatives
- 2 U of M Regents
- 2 MSU Trustees
- 2 Wayne State Governors
- 2 State Board of Education Representatives
- 2 Michigan Supreme Court Justices

If you would like to be a candidate for one of these offices (and we encourage it) please contact any of the following people on the Campaign Committee:

James Hudler 313-475-9792

Dale Dobberstein 517-394-4479

Gary Bradley 517-224-4784.

Andre Marrou will attend the convention on Friday night, and Saturday. He will be the guest speaker at the Saturday evening banquet.

(2) The LPM Administrative Headquarters

In order to help Libertarian Candidates with their honorable quest for public office, we have reserved a room at the Courtyard Inn during the convention for processing nominating and campaign financing forms, and providing candidate services and information.

We have engaged a professional photographer who will take pictures (black and white) for candidates to use for their brochures and/or press releases. Mr. Michael Hough, Vice President of Ivory Photo will provide a number of photos for a nominal charge of \$25.

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LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN

The Libertarian Party of Michigan is a statewide organization of individuals dedicated to the preservation of individual rights and the advancement of freedom through political action and education.

OFFICERS

Chair: Dale Dobberstein
 Vice Chair: James Hudler
 Secretary: Jon Addiss
 Treasurer: Jeffery Hampton

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Voting

Power

7	Ben Bachrach	2	Charles Hahn
5	Keith Edwards	2	James McAbee
5	Tim Schrodell	2	Brian Wright
4	David Gillie	1	Gary Bradley
4	William Shotey	1	Thomas Jones
3	David Raaflaub		

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William Hall Timothy O'Brien Donald Warmbier

MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

Benjamin I. Bachrach, Editor
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The Michigan Libertarian is the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan. News, articles and letters are welcome. Text should be typewritten double-spaced and signed, or preferably submitted on an IBM compatible disk.

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 additional volunteers welcome

FROM THE CHAIR - DALE B. DOBBERSTEIN

THE STATE OF THE LPM - THE PARTY CONTINUES

This year, I urge all REAL Libertarians to AIM92. It is imperative for the LP to achieve a new dimension.

If we are unable to obtain 3-5% of the vote, after 20 years, we have no business being a political party. Our credibility declines when we do not demonstrate momentum.

Since being Vice-Chair in 1990 my focus was to stabilize the party. As Chair in 1992 my focus will be to advance the party.

However a pat on the back is in order to those who made the party happen in Michigan the past few months.

Ben Bachrach - Newsletter Editor, Bill Shotey - Chair Membership Committee and Marrou/Lord Campaign Coordinator, Jim Hudler - Convention Organizer, Jim McAbee, Keith Edwards, and Helen Weaver - Inquiry Follow-up, Jeff Hampton - Treasurer.

One major concern as chair is to address the problems of party organization. The transfer of leadership types from demanding to demonstrating has revived the spirit of cooperation and has established a solid foundation for development.

For the LP to move forward, the membership needs to be involved. I request your support by committing your time, and energy, and/or by contributing your money.

We are challenged by overwhelming forces perpetuating governmental control over everyone's person and property.

Considering global events, we are at a crucial stage for the survival of freedom. The LP is the world's best hope for peace and prosperity.

LETS JUST DO IT --- CARPE DIEM

ANN ARBOR LIBERTARIANS BOWL FOR LOCAL CANDIDATES

Ann Arbor will elect a new City Council April 6, using the usual voting methods. However on January 30, the Libertarian candidates were selected based on scores of a bowling match. The results are as follows:

2nd Ward - Tim Schrodell
 3rd Ward - Mark Hiselman
 4th Ward - Nick Contaxes
 5th Ward - David Raaflaub

LPM CONVENTION PLANS

Continued from page one

Candidate workshops on writing news releases, videotaping TV commercials, and campaigning door to door will be held.

(3) The National Committee

At the end of the National Libertarian Convention in Chicago during September 1991, Emily Salvette and I made a concerted effort to get the National Committee of the Libertarian Party to meet in Ann Arbor during our 1992 convention. You will be able to attend the National Committee meeting as an observer.

By having the National Committee meeting in Ann Arbor, we will have many excellent speakers for our convention. Among these are Mary Gingell (LP Chair), Steve Givot (At-Large Rep), Ron Crickenberger (Region 4 Rep, and political commercial expert), Don Ernsberger (At-Large Rep, and one of the founders of the Society of Individual Liberty).

(4) The Michigan Libertarian Freedom Conference

It is the firm conviction of this political junkie that the most important purpose of the Libertarian Party for the near future is to educate the public in the absolute correctness of the Libertarian philosophy. For our LPM candidates to do this, we must ensure that they are well versed in libertarianism and libertarian answers to current issues. To help do this, I have organized a Freedom conference to run concurrently with the convention.. This event will be co-sponsored by the Ann Arbor Libertarian League (the over 20 year old U of M student organization).

Some highlights of this event are:

a) Libertarian Freedom Conference - April 10th 1-4pm, location is the Michigan Union on the University of Michigan Campus. The program will be a panel of three distinguished libertarians:

Dr. David Friedman from the University of Chicago Law School will speak on "Should we abolish criminal law?"

Jarret B. Wollstein, one of the founders of the Society for Individual Liberty, and the modern libertarian movement, will speak on "The Bill of Rights - 200 years later".

Dr. Mary Ruwart will speak on the government's stranglehold over the health care industry.

b) During the LPM convention, there will be panel discussions on economics, civil liberties, and foreign policy. These panels will feature: Dr. David Friedman, Dr. Mary Ruwart, Dr. Bette Erwin, Jarret Wollstein, Don Ernsberger, and a representative of the Mackinac Institute.

c) Outside the convention meeting rooms will tables of books, pamphlets and tapes for sale.

(5) The last enticement

On the night of Friday, April 10, the LPM and the A2L2 will host a reception and party for the speakers and National Committee. Also Emily Salvette and I are hosting a talent show for libertarian musicians, comedienne, comedians, and amateur actors. Those interested in participating in the talent show should call James Hudler.

I'M MORE HELPLESS THAN YOU ARE (na nana na na)

by Brian Wright

In case you missed it, Congress, under pressure from the "differently abled" lobby (and, just a thought, encouraged by key suppliers of equipment for the differently abled), passed a zinger in 1990: the Americans with Disabilities Act. As a consequence, some collectivizers of the needy are being hoist on their own petard.

According to a recent Free Press article, complying with this act is going to cost SMART (Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation, Smooth Maneuver for Another Rape of the Taxpayers) an additional \$5 million this year and additional millions after that. No problem, except SMART is already \$8 million in hock and, in any case, will probably go under if it can't merge with Detroit's bus system.

The city of Detroit started taking over privately provided bus service decades ago on the altruistic premise "we all have a responsibility to help the poor." Then not to be outdone, the governing bodies that launched SMART made it provide special subsidized services, such as dial-a-ride, that are designed to transport the less-mobile elderly, as well.

Now the politics of impairment imposes new requirements that transit systems with fixed, scheduled routes have wheelchair lifts on all buses and provide special transportation service to disabled people 3/4 of a mile either side of a main route. Such service normally uses specially equipped vehicles and is expensive. Although Congress wrote the law, it didn't much concern itself with who was going to get the bill. Anyone care to guess?

If, for some strange reason, SMART can't get any more money from taxpayers or users, then it will have to cut back on services to the nondisabled, including dial-a-ride for the elderly and main-route buses principally serving poorer communities. What's wrong with this picture? Fundamentally, I see it as the perversion of charity by altruism. Altruism, as a historical moral precept, fosters the idea that the less-capable should have a blank check on the resources of the more-capable.

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WRIGHT COMMENTARY

Continued from page three

Give a politician such a need-based pecking order, he'll play it deuces wild. As of this five minutes in Washington, the disabled outrank the elderly who may or may not outrank the poor. Whatever happened to "women and children, first"? Victims of a poor lobbying effort no doubt.

There's also a reality factor. A major premise of the disabilities act was to enable the disabled to "shop, work, and travel" like people without disabilities. I'm reminded of the scene in Monty Python's Life of Brian where a young male revolutionary demands the right to be pregnant.

But practically, taxpayers should resent being forced to keep government in the transportation business. It doesn't do anything else well. Why expect transportation to be different. Regardless of one's condition in life.

THE HEART OF MICHIGAN CONTINUES TO AIM92

by Dale Dobberstein

Thirteen people attend the first monthly Libertarian Alliance of Mid-Michigan supper club meeting on January 24. Former Lansing Mayor Gerald Graves addressed the group concerning local political issues. Mr Graves scored 85 for personal freedom and 75 for economic freedom on the political quiz which placed him squarely in the libertarian quadrant. He also supported Dale Dobberstein in his race for the city council.

Six episodes have been produced for the program Lansing Insight for broadcast on the local public access channel. Topics included censorship, the drug war, the future of Lansing, and interviews with Andre Marrou and Nancy Lord. Fifteen phone calls have been received in response to the broadcasts.

The Libertarian Students of MSU continue to meet every Thursday.

CALENDAR

Everyday

Ask someone to join the Libertarian Party of Michigan. Copy the last page of this newsletter or have them call our inquiry number: 1-800-343-1364

Every Thursday Night - 6:30pm

Washtenaw Libertarians Dinner Meeting
Dominick's Restaurant, 812 Monroe, Ann Arbor
contact James Hudler at 313-475-9792.

Monthly

Metro-Detroit Libertarians hold supper club meetings in the Tri-County area. Contact Sue Brian at 313-542-9230.

February 13, 1992 - 7:30pm

Ann Arbor Libertarian League Lecture Series
Dominick's Restaurant, 812 Monroe, Ann Arbor
"Practical Free Banking" by Mark Hiselman (a libertarian investment counselor).

February 20, 1992 - 6:30pm

Business meeting of the Ann Arbor Libertarian League and the Libertarian Party of Washtenaw County. Dominick's Restaurant 812 Monroe, Ann Arbor

February 21, 1992

Libertarian Alliance of Mid-Michigan Monthly Meeting
Golden Gate Restaurant, 6435 South Cedar, Lansing, MI
Cocktails at 6:00pm, meal 6:30, program 7:00.
Speaker Gary Bradley "The Second Great Depression - What's Causing It and Can It Be Stopped".
For further information contact Dale Dobberstein at 517-394-4479.

February 27, 1992 7:00pm

Libertarian Game Tournament at SylHudGuk.
For more information contact James Hudler.

March 1, 1992 - 1:00pm

Libertarian Central Committee meeting at Gillie's Restaurant, Mt. Morris

March 12, 1992

Ann Arbor Libertarian League Lecture
Ralph Mullinger speaking - "Oil Economics".

March 26, 1992 - 6:30pm

Michigan Union, Ann Arbor
Debate - Objectivism vs. Libertarianism,
Paul Szpunar (Students of Objectivism) and Keith Edwards (past Chair LPM)

April 4, 1992

International Drug Policy Day
For more information contact: Bruce Cain
New Age Patriot Newsletter,
PO BOX 419
Dearborn Heights, MI 48127
313-563-3192

April 10, 1992 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Libertarian Freedom Conference
Michigan Union, University of Michigan
Contacts: Fritz Weihe 313-481-1289
Michael Grigg 313-764-0765

April 10-12, 1992

Libertarian Party of Michigan Nominating Convention, Courtyard Inn, Ann Arbor (near Briarwood).

STATE OF STATE RESPONSE

The following statement was prepared by Party Chair Dale Dobberstein with assistance of members of the Libertarian Alliance of Mid-Michigan in response to Governor Engler's "State of the State Address". It reflects the views of Mr. Dobberstein though not necessarily those of the Central Committee of the Party or of any Libertarian candidate. The text was sent to more than 200 news outlets in Michigan.

As 1992 begins the state of the State is miserable. Michigan faces continued high unemployment, decaying infrastructure and housing stocks, high crime, high taxes, and increasing flight of the business sector. The Libertarian message remains the same: government is not the solution to these problems so much as the cause of them.

While the Libertarian Party acknowledges that Governor Engler has done an extraordinary job in balancing a budget awash in red ink without resorting to a tax increase, we agree with the Democrats that he accomplished this in a heavy-handed and insensitive manner. We contend, however, that the Democratic plan of raising taxes until prosperity returns is a recipe for a complete collapse of the economy. We propose an alternative solution. Instead of sacrificing either the economy or the poor on the altar of fiscal responsibility, perhaps we should sacrifice the political special interests.

At a time when people are living in tents on the Capitol lawn, our legislators are increasing their pay and refurbishing their quarters with \$5000 antique chairs and gold leaf ornaments. Budget cuts in civil service remove low pay grade state employees, while the ratio of chiefs to indians increases further. In Lansing, the major growth industry continues to be political fund raising. The old political parties remain too wedded to their special interest constituencies to contemplate real reform. We wish to remind the people that there are more than two political parties in Michigan and that one of them, the Libertarian Party is not afraid to propose unpopular programs in desperate times.

Both the major parties agree that the state needs property tax reform. The Democrats propose to reduce residential property tax by increasing the taxes on business. It makes one wonder if the Indian Chamber of Commerce is the secret backer of Michigan Democrats. The Republicans also plan to reduce property tax but they are less specific about how to pay for it. They mostly talk of increased revenues from economic recovery. Maybe they have a secret plan to sell the entire state to Japan.

The Libertarian Party has a modest proposal to reduce the property tax. We suggest capping it at no more than 50 mills and making local governments live within their means. When a Ecourse went broke and was placed in receivership, the court-appointed administrator cut the city budget by over a third with an improvement in most city services. Across the state, local officials maintain lavish offices, enjoy special privileges, and engage in expensive travel while continually threatening to close schools and lay off policemen if voters don't pay for even more of the same. This extortion must end.

The Governor supports parental choice in education but has not produced specific legislation. The state constitution should be amended to direct the entire revenues from the sales tax into a voucher fund to allow the parent(s) of any child in the state to choose the school best suited to their child's needs. Based on no more than fifteen percent of revenues devoted to administration, the voucher would provide around \$1700 per child. This would not completely replace local aid to schools but would be sufficient to let families find alternatives to those public schools which are grossly inadequate.

The Governor calls for more support to small business which creates the majority of new jobs. We note that he eliminated the Department of Licensing and Regulation without getting rid of any of the licenses and regulations. The small business community needs to be left alone by the state bureaucrats who force them to produce paperwork instead of goods and services. We think the state has to go even further by creating an office in the Commerce Department to represent small Michigan businesses against federal regulators. The federal government is conducting a war against small business. In the rural areas of this state nearly every mom and pop general store has been put out of business by EPA underground tank regulations. For about every three that have disappeared, a minimart run by a large oil distribution company has gone up. This is blatant economic discrimination and is only possible because federal agencies are exempt from restraint of trade prosecution. Every day the federal government creates more regulations to favor big business. This state should be forcing them to justify themselves in the federal courts.

Regulation also adds to the homeless crisis. We saw late last year how

regulators kept people out of apartments in Detroit because the heat and hot water were not functioning. This is the bureaucrat's mindset. They don't try to fix the problem, they just kick the people out of a secure, dry building to sleep in the streets. Building regulations and special arrangements to restrict competition in the building trades have almost doubled the cost of no frills new housing in this state. We call for an end to government regulation and inspection and the establishment of construction insurance common in Europe. In many countries the builder's insurance company does a better and fairer job of inspection than government officials because the insurers are liable for any defects for ten to fifteen years.

We notice that the single largest category of employment ads in the Lansing State Journal on the Sunday following the State of the State message is for legal secretaries. We agree with the Governor that we must reform the liability system to stop enriching lawyers who seem to be able to make anyone liable for any tragedy on the face of the earth. We reluctantly support a cap on awards as an interim measure because reform of liability precedent may be beyond the scope of a single state legislature. The ultimate solution lies in a return to standards of active damage or indisputable gross negligence to prove liability, a system similar to the industrial countries which consistently outperform American industry.

We wish to adamantly dispute the assumption of the Democratic Party that only government action can provide a safety net for the poor, the handicapped, the mentally ill, and other people in unfortunate circumstances. The facts are that government is historically the poorest of providers to people in need. Private charities generally spend no more than 20% of the funds collected on administration. Virtually every government agency created to aid the poor spends over 65% of its budget on administration. The solution to restoring the social safety net is to put the net in the hands of motivated volunteers, not overpaid bureaucrats. We regret that the Governor did not encourage private alternatives to government aid before forcing many people long accustomed to depend on the state to fend for themselves.

Reforms advocated by Libertarians are numerous and for brevity we will summarize just a few. We support repeal of legislation allowing localities to assess property tax on office or manufacturing equipment. We propose an end to property on woodlands, wetlands, and other natural acreage whenever the deeds are amended to restrict development. We propose literacy requirements for continuing receipt of welfare benefits or for early prison release. We propose requiring best available technology in construction of new roads and major reconstruction of existing roads to reduce maintenance costs which frequently exceed the cost of the original construction. We propose legislation to allow competition in the provision of electricity, telephone and cable television to reduce the present high prices caused by government supported monopoly service.

Finally we come to the most controversial proposal. We advocate the legalization of marijuana in the state of Michigan. Aside from its use as an intoxicant, hemp is a major source of natural fiber which can be used as a substitute for cotton and can be grown with a fraction of the pesticides necessary for cotton production. It can also be used as source of paper yielding four times the cellulose content per acre as softwood timber. These commercial uses of the plant represent a potential national industrial value of \$5 billion per year. Present federal law prevents interstate shipment of hemp, so the first state to legalize would receive the majority of the processing industry. This could mean as much as \$3 billion per year to the Michigan economy. We see no evidence that costs from abuse of marijuana as a drug could come to even a small fraction of the revenue generated. In the present economic climate, this proposal cannot be dismissed out of hand.

The outlook for Michigan is grim despite our many assets. It is time for a new direction in the government of the state. Michigan needs reform of regulation to encourage small business. Michigan needs choice in education to provide the best educated workforce possible in the coming information age. Michigan needs to redirect special interest subsidies to repair the neglected public infrastructure and to reduce taxes when those investments are accomplished. Michigan needs to change the direction of environmental regulation to encourage reducing pollution instead of heavy-handed micro-management of industry which only produces long legal battles. Michigan needs to repeal many of the laws that allow courts to be clogged with frivolous suits while violent criminals are plea-bargained to sentences of a few months. None of these changes are likely to occur under the leadership of the major political parties with their business-as-usual attitudes. The Libertarian Party offers a change in direction that Michigan needs now more than ever.

Libertarian Party Membership Application

\$25 Michigan and National Member
 \$15 Michigan Member Only
 \$15 **Michigan Libertarian** subscription only
 \$_____ Additional donation for operating fund (dues cover less than one-half of the operating budget)
 I want to join the Pledge Program. Please send me the registration material.

Note: All memberships include the LPM newsletter. National memberships includes a subscription to Libertarian Party News.

Make checks payable: Libertarian Party of Michigan
 Mail to: Libertarian Party of Michigan
 11700 Merriman Road
 Livonia, MI 48150

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Applications for membership must indicate concurrence with the following statement by signing below.

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

Signature _____

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