



# MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN

DECEMBER, 1992-JANUARY, 1993

## NATCOM ENDORSES ATLANTA STATEMENT

By Bill Hall

The Libertarian National Committee met on December 12 and 13 in Las Vegas, Nevada. As you might expect, the meeting focused upon setting goals and a budget for the coming calendar year.

The previous weekend an ad hoc committee of 16 Libertarian activists from across the country had met in Atlanta in order to participate in a strategic planning process for the LP. They developed a proposed mission statement for the LP and a series of expressed goals to implement that statement, which revolved around improving the image, organization and campaign activities of the LP. The NATCOM adopted the Atlanta mission statement, "The mission of the Libertarian Party is to move public policy in a Libertarian direction by electing candidates of the Libertarian Party to public office". This statement replaced a much longer one in the NATCOM's operating manual which focused on a number of goals, only one of which was the election of candidates.

The NATCOM endorsed the specific goals and objectives in the Atlanta statement with minor changes and additions. The most controversial of these were recommendations that the LP at the next national convention eliminate the "pledge" as a criterion for LP membership and change the platform adoption criteria to shorten the platform, draft it from scratch at each convention, and emphasize issues of current concern and transitional proposals with a 2-4 year perspective for addressing those issues in

a manner consistent with libertarian philosophy.

The NATCOM adopted an ambitious budget for 1993 slightly smaller than the actual 1992 budget. It seeks to capitalize on the tens of thousands of prospects generated by the 1992 campaign, bringing them into the LP, strengthening the national office by a dual director administration splitting office manager responsibility from marketing and communication and investing considerable time and energy in preparing materials for use by state and local affiliates and candidates. In addition, major efforts are budgeted to petition for renewed ballot status in certain states and to continue the campus organizing program.

Funding these activities will require your generous contributions in the coming year. So if you don't want the national LP to go into hibernation until the next election, now is the time to show your support.

The NATCOM unanimously voted to schedule the next presidential nominating convention for a time between June 10 and July 7, 1996, the same year as the general election.

Joe Knight reported on his incredibly successful campus organizing efforts, noted that he is planning a volunteer effort by local affiliates in connection

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## THINK FIRST

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 At-large Gary Bradley  
 Mike Gillman  
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Judicial Committee Charles Hahn  
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NATCOM Rep. Bill Hall 616-459-6121

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 Candidate Training Director  
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 11700 Merriman Rd., Livonia, MI 48150

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WANTED: Libertarians to fill the vacancies.  
 No experience needed. Call Keith Edwards.

The first issue of the Oakland Co. Libertarian carried an item which questions the validity of the National Platform position on prostitution as a victimless crime. It asks three questions. Are female prostitutes not victims of the pimps who forcefully control their lives and livelihood? Are their patrons not victims if they contract sexually-transmitted diseases? Are not illegitimate children victims when born to prostitutes?

All three questions are perfect examples of context-dropping.

Prostitutes are controlled by pimps only because the occupation is illegal and they have no legal remedy for abuse. If prostitutes were legal, these women would need no "protection by the pimps who would soon be out of the business. The prostitute could ply her trade in a safe environment rather than on the streets. They are not the victims of pimps, but are the first victims of prostitution law.

Patrons who contract VD do so because they operate in the underground created by the law. Where the trade is legal and competition is open, safe sex is a selling point, especially for repeat business and is encouraged. That's why VD rates are lower in European countries which have legalized the profession. The patron is a victim of government intervention, not of the hooker.

As for the quaint expression, "illegitimate children", it is necessary only to point out that we do not need the approval of government to be born. To address the point however, how is one victimized by being born? Had the sex act not occurred, the child would not be alive. Life is the standard of value, so acquiring life cannot be loss of a value which did not exist prior to conception. This is the "stolen concept" fallacy of using a concept to refute a concept on which the first con-

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**NATCOM ENDORSES ATLANTA STATEMENT**

(Continued)

with spring break in California, Texas and Florida, indicated that he will be placing more emphasis on following up with campuses already organized and the formation and marketing of a campus speakers bureau. The trial organizational effort employing Brad Klopfenstein as a student organizer was a great success and Joe intends to continue the student organizer program in the future.

**EXCERPTS FROM ATLANTA STATEMENT**

Establish a "Shadow Cabinet" to comment regularly on current issues.

Develop and vigorously market a speakers bureau of screened representatives of the LP who can convey the positive image of the LP as a place where all in the libertarian quadrant are welcome.

Eliminate the "Oath".

Establish reciprocity between national and state Libertarian Party membership, where possible.

Increase proportion of minorities, women and other groups not currently represented in the LP membership.

Improve outreach to special interest groups.

Raise \$1,000,000 to support state house candidates.

Recruit 1,500 candidates nationwide.

Identify and provide campaign materials and promote professional campaign training.

Have 200 federal candidates file with the Federal Election Commission and provide support for federal candidates including Bookkeeping, FEC reporting, generic TV and radio ads and other services.

**FROM THE CHAIR**

The Atlanta statement is an ambitious attempt to professionalize the Libertarian Party and upgrade it to the status of a legitimate contender. A great many of the specific proposals to this end make a lot of sense and indeed mirror the program we are attempting to implement here in Michigan. Our goals over the past year have been:

1. Improve inquiry response. Done.
2. Get local groups formed. Some progress but gaps are evident. See Directory.
3. Campus organizing. Some progress here, but follow-up is needed.
4. Membership increase. Up from 70 to over 350 in two years.
5. Candidate recruitment, 150 in 1994.
6. Candidate training scheduled for 1994.
7. Better financial controls, budgeting and fundraising.
8. A continued emphasis on unity, cooperation and a "bigger umbrella". Much progress since the late 80's.

Some areas of the Atlanta statement are troublesome. The platform is a well-designed, carefully conceived document that received strong support at Chicago in 1991 from purists and pragmatists. The proposal to start from scratch at each convention portends lengthy debate and ill-feeling. Why mess with a good thing?

The proposal to abolish the non-initiation of force pledge will be strongly resisted. Are we to condone non-retaliatory force by omission? The pledge is the heart of libertarian politics, based on rational ethics and "formidable to tyrants only".

We will not leap from 280,000 votes to 50 million in 1996. Our major impact is educational. Our platform is comprehensive, clear, consistent and rational. As others see these virtues, they will vote with us, but they won't see them if we hide them or water them down.

**MEET JON COON**

By Karen Scarborough

A warm handshake and a ready smile. These are things you notice when first meeting Jon Coon. He doesn't proselytize or bore you to death with epistemology re-hashing. When queried however, he leaves you with an impression that this individual is firmly entrenched in Libertarian concepts and principles. Jon, one of our newer members, was first introduced to Libertarian ideas when presented with the Nolan Chart Quiz which led him to study the works of Ayn Rand. But it wasn't the usual Rand favorite Atlas Shrugged that Coon found most enlightening. In his opinion, The Fountainhead had the greatest impact for him. Although not a "Randroid", many of his libertarian leanings stem from an Objectivist beginning. Coon has voted for the Libertarian candidate for the past eight years, but only recently became a party member.

"Sounds typical," you say? Jon Coon is about as typical an LPM member as snow is here in July. A man of purpose, Jon joined the party with some very specific goals in mind. One of the goals is "to develop a better party structure with more regional organizations and more people involved in more areas." When Coon was asked his opinion on the state of the party he replied, "I think there is more support for the Libertarian Party than most people realize." Criticisms? He doesn't have any, but he does have some very definite ideas for becoming a major political force with which to be reckoned. "We need to be more in tune with what the voters want without compromising the principles outlined in the Party Platform. We need to better understand the voters. We have lost (elections) for so many years that we failed to see the Opportunity in '92."

Shortly after joining the Party, Coon wasted no time in setting up a committee devoted primarily to getting our candidates elected. One function of the commit-

tee is fundraising -- major fundraising. Presently, Coon and his committee are exploring various avenues of advertising and other forms of marketing. Jon was appointed State Campaign Chair and holds regular weekly meetings. The group, composed of new and old members alike, has one common attribute: enthusiastic dedication to Libertarian principles.

Coon, wife Lori and three children, Josh, Rebecca and Sarah, reside in Henderson where Jon is a log buyer for a veneer company. Of interest to Libertarians is the fact that son Josh, 14, is currently enrolled in the Clonlara Home Based School. Watch for Coon's home school article in a future issue.

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**URGENT!**

Anyone planning to (or considering) run for any office, local or state, in '94 or '96 should contact Jon Coon immediately at (517) 661-7751. Early campaign planning is of the utmost importance.

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**LIBERTARIAN RESOURCES**

An outstanding source of libertarian books and tapes is Laissez-Faire Books, 942 Howard St., San Francisco, CA 94103. Call them at (415) 541-9780 to get their catalog, or (800) 326-0996. Philosophy, politics, economics, humor, psychology, fiction and more.

International Society for Individual Liberty (ISIL) publishes pamphlets on a variety of political issues with very attractive quantity prices. ISIL also conducts seminars on freedom and free markets around the world. Most of the free market thinkers in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union have been influenced by ISIL. Contact them at 1800 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94102 or call (415) 864-0952. Memberships are \$20 regular, \$12 student. Join them. Their work is extremely important.

## BOOKS IN REVIEW

Economics in One Lesson Henry Hazlitt

Economics books are generally a hard read. Most are large, obscure, macro-economic and loaded with mathematical symbols that seem reminiscent of ancient Egyptian. If one is not daunted by the size, the verbiage will drive one to the refrigerator for a Bud or three.

An economist friend of mine claims, on the other hand, "Economics is such a simple subject no school should offer a degree in it." Which is closer to the truth?

This issue was settled for me at the age of 21 when I first read Economics in One Lesson by Henry Hazlitt. My friend is right. While most economics books are poorly written and probably wrong, Mr. Hazlitt's 1946 classic is brief, crystal clear and absolutely true.

The book consists of 25 topical chapters of one to ten pages each, covering a range of subjects such as taxes, inflation, prices, controls and profits. Such subjects as "Disbanding Troops and Bureaucrats", "Spread the Work Schemes" and "The Fetish of Full Employment" are a libertarian delight.

The basic theme of the book is that "Economics . . . is the science of tracing the effects of some proposed or existing policy not only on some special interest in the short run, but on the general interest in the long run." In other words, if you are about to rob Peter to pay Paul (counting on Paul's support), you also have to consider the effect on Peter and what Peter will do about it (hide his money).

No one should run for office without being familiar with the material in this book. It's available from Laissez-Faire Books at \$9.95 for the quality paperback. See Libertarian Resources, Page 4.

Keith Edwards

## THINK FIRST

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cept depends.

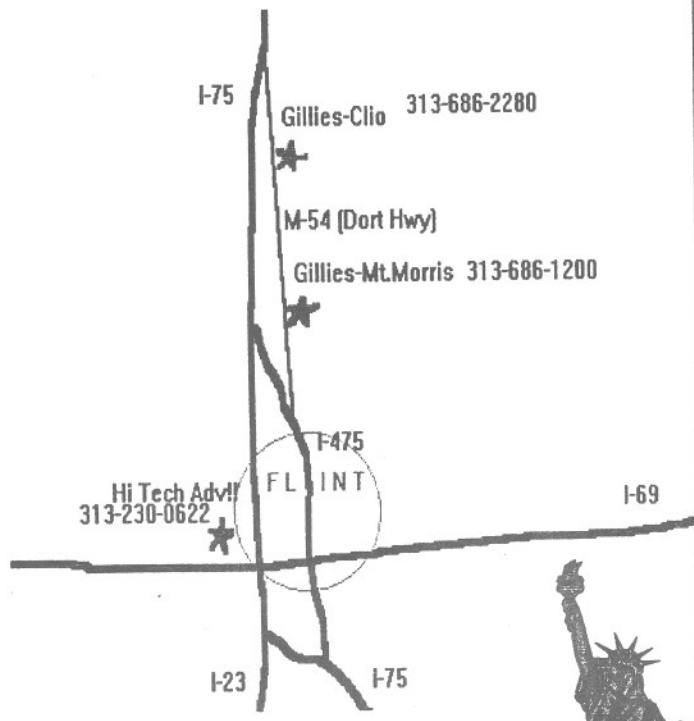
As is the case with drugs, one can argue the morality or wisdom of engaging in prostitution, but the worst effects of such activity come not from the "vice", but from making the vice a crime. There is no inherent "victim" in prostitution in a free society. When it is outlawed, everyone becomes a victim and it is the government that victimizes.

Keith Edwards

## WASHTENAW LIBERTARIANS TO CAUCUS

Washtenaw Libertarians will have candidates for the City Council elections again this year. They will caucus on January 27 to determine nominees for Ypsilanti and on January 28 for Ann Arbor. The latter campaign should be especially interesting in view of the DNR report revealing that Ann Arbor's huge city dump has worse pollution than the private industries it likes to criticize. But then Ann Arbor's bureaucrats are well known in the waste industry for their hypocrisy. Seems to be a prerequisite for employment.





### Gillies Restaurants;

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**MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN****CALENDAR**

The Michigan Libertarian is published bi-monthly as the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan. Scheduled publication is January, March, May, July, September and November.

Articles and letters to the editor should be submitted by the 15th of the previous month. Text should be typewritten and doubled-spaced. Unsigned material is not used. Submissions may be edited.

Advertising is available at \$5.00 per column inch or fraction thereof for camera ready copy.

Editor: Keith Edwards  
22131 Marter Rd.  
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080

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**POLICY ON OFFICIAL MEETINGS**

All meetings of the Executive Committee of the Libertarian Advisory Council will start at the scheduled time.

Under the By-laws, the Council is the legislative body of the LPM between annual Conventions. It requires an attendance of 30% of the membership for a quorum. This includes proxies. If there is no quorum at the meeting scheduled time, the meeting will not be held. Instead, a meeting of the Executive Committee will begin right away so that business can be conducted.

All LPM members can vote at the Council meetings, but only the seven members of the Committee can vote at committee meetings. It is important, therefore, that members show up on time for the Council meeting. Please help by being on time.

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Our pride rather than our virtue criticizes the faults of others. We reprove our friends less to correct their faults than to show that we ourselves are free of them.  
Maxims of LaRouchefoucauld

Everyday: Spread the word.

Second Tuesday of each month: LP of Mid-Michigan meets at 6:00 at Sneeker's Restaurant in Lansing. Call Jon Addiss for details.

Every Thursday: Washtenaw Libertarians meet at 6:30 at Dominic's Restaurant in Ann Arbor. Call James Hudler for details.

February 7, 1993: Libertarian Advisory Council meets at 1:00 at the home of Jeff Hampton, 44707 Cherry Ridge Rd., Northville. West of I-275, between Six and Seven Mile roads. 313-348-2718

April 30-May 2, 1993: LPM State Convention in Grand Rapids.

May 1-October 27, 1993: Ballot Access Petition Drive.

August 31- September 5, 1993: National Convention of the Libertarian Party in Salt Lake City. First two days are for candidate training, last four days are the convention proper.

Ann Arbor Libertarian League Events. All will be held in the Pond Room at the Michigan Union, at 7:30 PM. Including:

February 11, 1993: Health Care Crisis: Free Market Solutions. Gerald L. Musgrave, PhD., advisor to Mackinac Center.

March 4, 1993: Free Speech Forum/Pornography

March 18, 1993: "Clintonian Fascism". Professor Richard Ebeling of Hillsdale College.

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When you get into bed with the government, you often get more than a good night's sleep.

David Littmann, Senior Economist  
at Comerica Bank

### Libertarian Party Membership

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Combined Michigan and National Member

**DON'T DELAY  
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\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Michigan Member Only

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\$\_\_\_\_\_ 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

GOVERNMENT MANDATED NOTICES: The United States Postal Service requires that we notify you that the cost of newsletter subscriptions (\$25 national, \$15 Michigan) are included in your membership dues. The Internal Revenue Service requires that we print "contributions are not tax-deductible".

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Livonia, MI 48150

Telephone: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

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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**FORWARD &  
Address Correction.**

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