



# MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

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NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN

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APRIL-MAY, 1993

## PETITION DRIVE STARTS JUNE 1

The Libertarian Party of Michigan will conduct a ballot access petition drive starting June 1. Chair Keith Edwards was advised by the Election Bureau on May 5 that there will be no change in the interpretation of the law that the Principal Candidate of a party is the candidate at the top of the ticket. In 1992 our "top" was Presidential contender Andre Marrou who failed to get enough votes to maintain ballot status. Several statewide education candidates did exceed the minimum number required and they would have qualified us if the ruling had specified a state office as the standard.

That's the bad news. The good news is that the Election Bureau also advised Edwards that it expects to recommend that the State Legislature amend the law to eliminate the Principle Candidate requirement so that any statewide candidate could qualify a party reaching the minimum. Brad Wittman of the Bureau agrees that it is unfair to smaller parties to require the top of the ticket when some of them nominate only a presidential candidate and others never do.

Edwards and Jon Addiss had already begun to line up some legislators to co-sponsor a bill to make this change and otherwise cut ballot access requirements.

Scott Boman is the chair of the Petition Committee which includes Emily Salvette, James Hudler, Barbara Vozenilek and Glenn Barr. County coordinators will be needed. Please volunteer to help. Everyone has a big stake in this drive. If the law is eased, this should be the last such drive.

## GRAND RAPIDS CONVENTION A HIT!

The 1993 Convention of the LPM was held at the Days Inn in Grand Rapids April 30- May 2 and the nearly 50 enthusiastic registrants combined unusual unanimity in the business meetings, serious discussion of moral and religious issues by the main speakers and raucous fun in between.

All four Party officers were elected by unanimous vote with Chair Keith Edwards and Treasure Dave Nagy reelected, Jon Coon moved up to Vice Chair but will retain his other function of state campaign chair, and Pat Baker is the new Secretary. Pat will merge her membership job into her new position.

The officers will be joined by the three At-large members of The Committee (formerly the LCC), 21-year activist James Hudler, Barbara Vozenilek, a one-year "veteran" and Todd Greene, another fairly new face.

The Judicial Committee will be composed of Mary Ruwart, Tim O'Brien and Glenn Barr. None are incumbents.

The Convention also selected 23 delegates to the National Convention in Salt Lake City Labor Day weekend, joining Chair Keith Edwards whose position is automatic per the By-laws. The increase from 17 in 1991 to 24 in 1993 is due to the strong growth of the Party in Michigan.

The theme of the Convention was Religious Liberty and featured Mary Ruwart speaking on "Spirituality in Political Freedom." Dr. Ruwart, author of the book "Healing Our

(Continued on Page 3)

## DIRECTORY

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair	Keith Edwards	313-777-7468
Vice Chair	Jon Coon	517-661-7751
Secretary	Pat Baker	313-684-5158
Treasurer	Dave Nagy	313-684-5158
At-large	Todd Greene	
	James Hudler	
	Barbara Vozenilek	

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Judicial Committee	Glenn Barr	
	Tim O'Brien	
	Mary Ruwart	

NATCOM Rep. Bill Hall

Inquiries	Marnie Edwards	
Database	Ben Bachrach	
Membership	Pat Baker	313-684-5158
Fundraising	Bill Shotey	313-278-3673
Speakers	Tim O'Brien	313-548-6857
Editor	Keith Edwards	313-777-7468
National Campaign Coordinator:		
	Bill Shotey	313-278-3673
State Campaign Chair:		
	Jon Coon	517-661-7751
Candidate Training Director:		
	Mike Marotta	517-223-7752
Campus Org.	James Hudler	313-475-9792
Western UP	Clyde Mikkala	906-337-1784
Eastern UP	Vacant	
Northern LP	Dave Black	517-732-4772
Western MILP	Glenn Barr	616-784-2613
Mid-Mich. LP (Ingham-Eaton-Clinton Counties)		
	Jon Addiss	517-394-0122
South Central (Jackson-Lenawee-Hillsdale-Monroe Counties)	Nick Bennett	517-529-4960
Branch Co.	Paul Pann	517-279-9860
Genessee-Saginaw-Shiawassee Counties:		
	Jon Coon	517-661-7751
Isabella Co.	John Tuttle	517-773-9660
Kalamazoo Co.	Vacant	
Lapeer Co.	John Hertrich	313-774-2640
Macomb CO.	Stacy Van Oast	313-784-8783
Midland-Bay Cos.	Vacant	
Oakland Co.	Al Weissberg	313-357-2871
St. Clair Co.	Ed DeVogt	313-985-4943
Van Buren Co.	Walter De Visser	616-427-7543
Washtenaw Co.	James Hudler	313-475-9792
Wayne Co.	JoAnn Karpinski	313-925-6917
Berrien Co.	Scott Beavers	616-944-1852
Region Coord.	Karen Scarborough	313-673-2693

## BENNETT RUNS IN 65TH

Ophthalmologist Nick Bennett of Horton, Michigan, is the Libertarian candidate for the State House of Representatives in District 65. The seat is vacant. He filed for the June 2 election just before the April 29 deadline. The State Election Bureau advised that the LPM could still be on the ballot for any election for which the filing deadline was before June 1.

Nick is one of the newer members of the Party and is also coordinator for the South Central Libertarians, serving Jackson, Hillsdale, Lenawee and Monroe Counties. He is a member of the Jackson County Medical Society.

The Bennett campaign is off to a fast start with solid support from the South Central group. Among other scheduled appearances are those on May 20 at United We Stand America and May 21 before the Jackson Chamber of Commerce.

Tom Slaughter is campaign coordinator for Jackson County.

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 REPUDIATE THE DEBT?

Does this sound like a wackey idea from some far out libertarian nut? Well, not quite, just the only libertarian President.

\* \* \*

*Thomas Jefferson, writing in 1813 on why the new government of a nation may have the moral authority to repudiate a burdensome public debt:*

A new majority have come into place, in their own right, and not under the rights, the conditions, or laws of their predecessors. Are they bound to acknowledge the debt, to consider the preceding generation as having had a right to eat up the whole soil of their country, in the course of a life, to alienate it from them, (for it would be an alienation to the creditors) and would they think themselves either legally or morally bound to give up their country and emigrate to another for subsistence? Everyone will say no; that the soil is the gift of God to the living, as much as it had been to the deceased generation; and that the laws of nature impose no obligation on them to pay this debt.

## CONVENTION A HIT! (Continued)

World; The Other Piece of the Puzzle", spoke at the Sunday Brunchon defending freedom from a religious viewpoint, appealing to Christians, New Agers and Aquarians. She stressed the need to change others by changing the way in which we deal with them.

By contrast, Keith Edwards spoke at the Saturday night Banquet on "The Moral Basis of Liberty" on an Objectivist-natural law foundation. He demonstrated why a rational ethics is necessary and how government makes ethical behavior virtually impossible and said that the older religious establishments need to revise their positions on personal ethics from a "commandment" basis to free choice if it is to play a part in the freedom movement.

Although Ruwart and Edwards approached liberty from different viewpoints, their conclusions seemed to converge on the theme of benevolence. Ruwart's religious position is more modern than traditional and Edwards' view that "judgement is not condemnation and error is not evil" puts him in the David Kelley corner of the current Objectivist controversy.

The raucous fun began on Friday evening with a wild Karaoke session ranging from Heidi Pruitt's fine singing to some totally off-key vocalizing by persons who shall remain anonymous. Everyone enjoyed it all and were good sports about it.

After the Banquet, a spirited auction was led by the hilarious, loquacious and raptacious Barbara Goushaw. Can this girl sell junk! If she goes into the used car business, stay away! An excellent magic show followed with Leslie Balian serving as the foil. Or victim.

On the serious side, the Atlanta proposal to scrap the non-violence pledge and the platform was debated by national activists Ken Prazak and Joe Hauptmann vs Steve Alexander. Steve defended the pledge and platform on a more formal intellectual basis while Ken and Joe called for their repeal

on a more pragmatic basis. Both sides presented their arguments well and a lively Q and A followed.

To everyone's relief, there were only three minor changes in the By-laws. The Libertarian Advisory Council meeting dates were made more flexible but will still be held in the months of August, November and February. A specific fiscal year of April 15-April 14 was established at Dave Nagy's suggestion. One minor editorial deletion was made.

A number of workshops were presented including "How Government Cost Controls Increase Health Care Costs" by Dr. Erwin Haas, Religious Liberty and Government Persecution (quite timely after Waco) and others on practical political methods.

Chair Edwards reviewed our progress for the past year and congratulated the Party and a number of individuals on their good work. He emphasized the goals for the coming year including regaining ballot status and changing the election law; formation of new local groups and expansion of those in existence; candidate recruitment and training; establishment of a speakers bureau (Tim O'Brien will spearhead this); and operations improvement via an operations manual based on past achievements, errors, and omissions with firmer organization.

The 1994 Convention will be held in the Detroit metro area. Karen Scarborough will chair the Convention Committee and has already begun planning. It will be an election year and with nominations for public office on the agenda, it will be very carefully planned and organized. It will also be a lot of fun.

Special thanks go to the Grand Rapids group for the excellent 1993 Convention. Glenn Barr, Mike Gillman, Todd and Sharon Greene, Jim and Heidi Pruitt and Jim Gross did a terrific job, especially since it was their first time. Thanks, Gang.

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Violent hatred lowers us beneath those we hate. Maxims of La Rochefoucauld

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## GET THE WORD OUT

## LAWS: A LIBERTARIAN NEED

As Libertarians, we are united in our opposition to government tyranny. We disagree on the issue of basic laws, however. My position on this subject is that we need a strong constitution which clearly forbids the intrusion of tyrants and criminals into our lives and a singledivided, voluntarily supported government in order to enforce the law when tyrants and criminals attempt to harm us.

Without the law described above, tyrants and criminals are able to abuse us. In order to eliminate "others government" and to establish self-government for all, we need to establish a strong legal system which protects all of our rights (which the U.S. Constitution does not).

We need a single government divided into competing branches and levels because we are morally obligated to minimize the risk of harming the innocent when exercising retaliatory force. No one portion of the government can be trusted to administer justice under the law (which is itself totally defined and subordinate to our rights) without being checked by other government branches. Likewise, vigilantes and criminal organizations cannot be permitted to execute whatever they might consider to be justice, because that would permit more than a minimal risk to the innocent.

For these reasons, I urge our Party to adopt a constitutionalist position and to write it into our platforms. Not only would this plant us on firmer ideological ground, but also improve our turnout at the polls.

Paul Dracon  
415 Bauman  
Clawson, MI 48017

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Government is that great fiction by which everyone expects to live at the expense of everyone else.

Frederic Bastiat

One of the functions of libertarians, and maybe the most important, is to educate. It precedes scrambling for votes. One of the best ways (certainly the cheapest way) is to contribute letters to the editor of your local paper. It's not that tough to do. On the next page are some letters recently printed by the Detroit News.

To enhance your chance of getting your letters printed here are some suggestions. Start by jotting down the ideas you want to communicate. Rearrange them so one idea leads to the next. Then cut out anything that does not advance your main point. To avoid severe editing, keep it to three paragraphs or less and don't put your best line at the end. That's where they are most likely to cut. Be specific, cover one point and be original. Don't use standard libertarian jargon, don't get nasty and be constructive.

Keith Edwards

I wish to extend my "Thanks" to those who voted for me as LCC member at large. We have a strong group, combining the eloquence and knowledge of experienced Libertarians with the enthusiasm and fresh ideas of the new. With continued support from ALL lovers of freedom, our horizons are expanding each day, our capabilities are Infinite !!!

A Ballot Access petition committee is now organizing. The tentative date for the start of our drive is June 1, 1993.

***We need your Assistance NOW !!!***

Volunteers for area coordinators and petition gatherers are essential for a successful push in the short time limit we face.

***Please call Barb Vozenilek - (517) 592-2687***

***Volunteer Coordinator Ballot Access Petition Drive***  
***1993-94***

***"John Hancock - We Want Yours"***

*Yours for Liberty, Barb Vozenilek*

**FOR FREEDOM !!!**  
**LIBERTARIAN**



The following letters to the editor were all written by members, past or present, of the Libertarian Party of Michigan. They cover several currently controversial issues, but each treats the issue in a way not done by the average contributor. In general, they do challenge the hidden premises of the more conventional points of view.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

3-9-93

# The legal right to assisted suicide?

The debate over Jack Kevorkian and assisted suicide is more crucial than most people realize. It boils down to the question of whether we are to live in a free society or we are to regress to a mystical tyranny.

To say that a person does not have the right to decide the manner and timing of his/her own death is to say that there is no right to life itself. The implication is that we do not have the right to make any decisions for ourselves. Only society is to be given that power. But society is just a name for other people and their political hacks.

This is monstrous. Kevorkian is a heroic defender of all of us!

**Keith P. Edwards**  
ST. CLAIR SHORES

## Privilege of working

In your March 18 story, "House bills target 'deadbeat dads,'" State Rep. Sharon Gire, D-Clinton Township, is quoted as saying, "And besides, if a person's been given the privilege of making a living by virtue of a license. . ." Incredible. This puts it as well as can be said about government in our lives.

Now, it's a privilege to make a living. And that is how government thinks. Actually, the word "think" is a misnomer because the people in government don't think. They don't know how to think. All the people in government do is interfere in our lives.

Tell government to stop interfering in our lives. Sharon Gire would be a good place to start.

D.E. 710617 NEWS **Dar Tisdale**  
3/25/93 LENOX TOWNSHIP

## The right to choose?

Stephen Chapman's March 19 column, "Today's ethic requires treating adults like children," adequately sums up today's situation. Whenever people want something free of cost, vote-hungry politicians will eagerly do everything possible to fill their requests with an accompanying and disproportionate loss of liberty for everybody, of course.

And our liberty in choosing health care may well be next to go if the "free medicine" people get their way from President Clinton. Will America become fully Sovietized before people finally learn that if they want to be treated like adults, they have to act accordingly?

DETROIT NEWS 3/26/93 **Jeff Hampton**  
NORTHVILLE

Public education is a Marxist scam that steals our hard-earned money, creates unceasing social unrest, keeps ACLU lawyers busy and instills moral bankruptcy in children.

Kalkaska voters should be congratulated for repeatedly saying no to this abomination. I hope this excellent attitude spreads nationwide.

4-4-93 **Kenneth G. Morris**  
NEW BALTIMORE

If the Kalkaska public school system is unable to deliver education to student consumers at the price they are able to pay then other education providence ought to be given an honest chance.

This is a golden opportunity to try more cost-effective private alternatives to the public schools should be divided equally among all students and handed out in the form of vouchers. Parents and students would be free to seek the best educational solution to their needs.

**Jack Elder**  
ROCHESTER

## Government intrusion

Many of our state leaders believe that we are owned by the state of Michigan. Two of those people are state Sen. Debbie Stabenow and state Rep. Frank Fitzgerald. They don't believe that we have the right or intelligence to make a personal choice. They want to make not buckling our seat belt a primary crime and will use the force of police to make you submit to their will.

The state police and many county sheriffs love this idea, because it will take more police to chase down this new class of criminal. Besides, it is much easier and more profitable stealing money from honest citizens along the highways of Michigan than fighting real crime.

5/7/93 **Kenneth L. Proctor**  
CHARLOTTE, MICH.

## CALENDAR

Everyday: Look for a prospective libertarian.

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

Third Wednesday of the month: Oakland Co. Libertarians meet at 6:00 at Red Lobster, 101 W. Ten Mile, Madison Heights.

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

June 1-November 1, 1993: Ballot Access Petition Drive. Call Barbara Vozenilek to volunteer.

July 25-31, 1993: International Society for Individual Liberty holds its annual conference in Tallinn, Estonia. Includes a tour of "Ayn Rand's St. Petersburg". Contact ISIL at 1800 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94102.

August 8, 1993: LPM Advisory Council Meeting and Annual Picnic, at a location to be announced.

August 31-September 5, 1993. National Convention of the Libertarian Party in Salt Lake City. First two days are for workshops and the last four are for the Convention proper (or improper). This is always a lot of fun and you will meet and hear many interesting people. It is worth the cost. Alternate Delegate spots are still open.

### LiberTech: data you can use

*Magna Carta, Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution.* On diskette. \$5.00  
 Michigan House, Senate, Judiciary and Administration. On diskette. \$5.00

Data access and security by appointment

Michael E. Marotta (517) 223-7752  
 P. O. Box 954 Fowlerville, Michigan 48836

## BOOKS IN REVIEW

How I Found Freedom in an Unfree World by Harry Browne

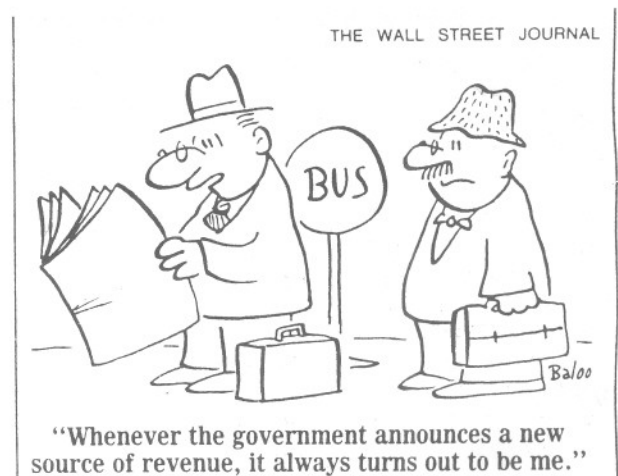
You can achieve personal freedom here and now. You can live the life you want to. You can be as free as you want to be. Harry Browne's message is personal and direct.

Browne identifies 14 common traps that people fall into. From taxes and the treadmill to certainty and burning issues, each of us is boxed in by our unchallenged assumptions. Then he shows how to achieve freedom from government, exploitation, social and family relationships. In discussing freedom from the government, Browne identifies three principles to guide your actions: Don't be awed; Don't confront; Don't organize.

Browne's twelve rules for a life of personal success are easy to understand. Among them are: "Never expect anyone to act from your knowledge, perspectives or objectives . . . Never invest a resource that you are not prepared to lose. . . Never quibble over a price you didn't expect to pay."

How I Found Freedom in an Unfree World is a perennial favorite for those of us who spell libertarian with a small l.

Michael E. Marotta



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

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 double-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

POLICY ON OFFICIAL MEETINGS

All meetings of the Executive Committee and 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 scheduled starting 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 members of the Executive Committee can vote at Committee meetings. It is important that members show up on time for Council meetings.

At the Annual Convention, all members who register and attend may vote. There are no proxies. First-time members of the LPM must have been a member at least 30 days prior to the Convention in order to vote.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The following are some of the people who have joined the Libertarian Party of Michigan recently. Several attended the 1993 State Convention. Welcome!

- Michael Emhart
- John W. Fagan
- Eric Haight
- Glen W. Kelley
- Raymond D. Lovens
- Dan Marsh
- Ryan G. Plumley
- John Tuttle
- Robert F. Vojtech
- David Westerhof

ANSWER TO THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE IN THE FEBRUARY ISSUE. THANKS GO TO KEN MORRIS.

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65	I	N	T	U	N	E		66	O	O		68	R	A	T	E	D		69	
70	V	O	A		71	O	S		72	N	J		73	E	R	R				

It is easier to deceive yourself, and to do so unperceived, than to deceive another.  
Maxims of La Rochefoucauld

# Libertarian Party Membership

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

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Michigan Member Only

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Michigan Libertarian newsletter 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.

**DON'T DELAY  
JOIN TODAY**

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".

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

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

County: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:  
Libertarian Party of Michigan  
11700 Merriman Road  
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 \_\_\_\_\_



**MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN**  
11700 Merriman Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48150

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**FORWARD &  
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Marnie Edwards  
22131 MARTER RD.  
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