



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN

Oct/Nov

1993

BALLOT ACCESS PETITION DRIVE OVER THE TOP!

The LPM has completed the gathering of signatures for the ballot access petition drive six weeks ahead of schedule. Over 40,000 were obtained, providing a safe margin over the 26,000 valid signatures required. The petitions will be submitted to the Election Bureau later in November. If you have not returned yours, please DO SO NOW! Be sure to sign as the circulator and send them to:

Emily Salvette
1026 Greenhills
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

rather than the address shown on the petition form.

The herculean effort was led by petition drive Chair Scott Boman. Barbara Vozenilek worked countless hours as Volunteer Coordinator, Emily Salvette served as treasurer and provided some early guidance on getting started, James Hudler lent his experience (this was his fourth such drive) and a lot of hard work, along with special efforts by Mark Hiselman, Michael Emhart, Ben Bachrach and others. The County Coordinators and those who collected signatures in the hundreds are to be especially commended along with those who made financial contributions.

Thanks everyone, you did a great job! Above all, thanks Scott. You got the ball rolling.

To those who did not participate, Life is not a spectator sport! And neither is the fight for freedom. There is much left to do, and you have abilities of value. Don't sell yourself short. Anything you can do will be appreciated. Call your county coordinator, or start a group if there is none.

BANQUET A SMASH HIT

The Libertarian Party of Michigan held its annual Libertarian Week Banquet on October 2 at the Clarion Hotel in Farmington Hills and enjoyed a huge success. A capacity crowd of 98 enthusiastic diners attended and applauded the presentation of the LPM's first annual Freedom Fighter Award to famed "Medicide Doctor" Jack Kevorkian. The award was presented by Dr. Mary Ruwart to Margo Janus, sister of Dr. Kevorkian, who was unable to attend because of legal difficulties in connection with indictments stemming from two assisted suicides.

Chair Keith Edwards led off the program with an indictment of governments for hypocrisy. He pointed out that governments have killed nearly 36 million people in the Twentieth Century in wars alone and an even more shocking 160 million of their own citizens, including deliberate mass starvation, from Shanghai to Waco. Governments believe they have the right to kill people who do not wish to die and also make it illegal for pain-wracked, helpless or terminal patients to end their own lives, nor is anyone else permitted to assist them in a painless way. This, said Edwards, is the height of hypocrisy and states the fundamental issue of individualism versus collectivism.

Dr. Ruwart spoke of the experience of her late sister, Marti, who was one of Kevorkian's patients, and defended his work. She said that the hardest part of the day was the abrupt taking of the body by the authorities for an unnecessary autopsy. She also reviewed the careful study that Kevorkian makes of each case before accepting it and of the difficulty of obtaining records from an obstructionist medical community.

(Continued on Page 3)

DIRECTORY

FROM THE CHAIR

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We expect to fill in some of the blanks and vacancies shortly because of the fine work done by local people during the petition drive. To volunteer call Karen Scarborough at 313-673-2693 or Keith Edwards.

In the last two issues, I wrote about Waco and the Randy Weaver case as portents of the coming of Nazism to America and the viciousness of the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. These are but two of the many armed agencies of the U.S. Government. Let's not forget the Secret Service, CIA, IRS, Postal Inspectors, Marshall's Service, Drug Enforcement Agency, Immigration and Naturalization Service and, incredibly, Food and Drug Administration. There are many others.

In Germany, the Nazis started with the SA brownshirts in the early 1920s, a non-legal intimidation force used to terrorize other groups. Later in that decade, the black-shirted SS was formed as a bodyguard for Hitler. Heinrich Himmler took over in 1929. The Gestapo was formed in 1933 by Goering as the secret police service in Prussia to terrorize opponents of the Nazi regime. In 1934, Himmler expanded it as an arm of the SS. The Sicherheitdienst or SD was the security service of the SS formed by Himmler and run by Reinhard Heydrich. In 1936 a unified police force was set up to replace the police of the various states with, you guessed it, Himmler in charge.

The Nazi method was to combine these agencies of violence into a massive, loyal terrorist organization run by the most vicious. In the United States, we have far more such agencies but each has narrower area of authority and sometimes they clash. At Waco and Ruby Ridge, they cooperated. Good thing they're separate, right?

News item: Wall street Journal, Oct. 22: "Attorney General Janet Reno gave the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation new authority over the Drug Enforcement Administration, but said she wouldn't merge the agencies. Under his expanded role as director for investigative agency policies, FBI Director Louis Freeh would be responsible for resolving disputes involving the two agencies as well as the Border Patrol and U.S. Marshalls." Feel better? Who says history doesn't repeat itself?

BANQUET A SMASH HIT (Continued from Page 1)

In her acceptance of the Freedom Fighter Award, Margo Janus discussed the importance of Kevorkian's work, described the evaluation process, the methodology and the integrity of the procedure. She reviewed the inhumane interference by politicians and prosecutors, pointing that they had seized the original machine that provided the most effective and quick method and by suspending Kevorkian's license, forced him to go to the less preferred method of carbon monoxide. So much for governmental "humanity". She expressed confidence that her brother will win the legal battle and that assisted suicide, or "Medicide", will be accepted and professionalized under strict rules of medical ethics.

Ms. Janus answered a great many questions, handling them capably and fully. It was a touching experience for the audience, especially as she recalled the gratitude his patients felt toward Dr. Kevorkian for ending their pain and helplessness. Quite a lady.

The Banquet was also a financial success, raising over \$1,400. Thanks go to Mary Ruwart for contacting the Honoree.

The plaque bore the inscription:

Dr. Jack Kevorkian
Freedom Fighter Award
In honor of his battle for liberty
and rational humanitarianism

Libertarian Party of Michigan
October 2, 1993

I would like to express my personal thanks to Barbara Goushaw, Karen Scarborough, Pat Baker, Dave Nagy, Ben Bachrach, Jon Coon and Kent Hyne for their help in making this event so successful

Keith Edwards

The following letter was sent to us by Dr. Kevorkian.

Dear Mr. Edwards:

It pleased me to know that you all enjoyed a successful Freedom Fighter dinner on October 2nd, and that my sister's presentation on my behalf was well accepted.

It is indeed a high honor to be accorded the recognition your organization has bestowed upon me. I regret the deplorable societal circumstances which deprived me of the pleasure of participating in your noble gesture, not to mention the infringement of basic human rights that the deprivation exemplified.

Your extraordinary plaque will always symbolize to me the unending struggle for true freedom and enlightenment as well as the need for eternal vigilance which your organization espouses.

Sincerely,
Jack Kevorkian, MD

1994 CONVENTION PLANS

The 1994 Convention of the LPM will be held April 22-24 at the Airport Ramada Inn. The theme will be "Freedom Under Siege", most appropriate in this era of Randy Weaver, Waco, gun control, the Billary health plan and the persecution of Jack Kevorkian and his patients.

Convention Chair Nancy Geragosian and Dennis Ertzbischoff promise a well-organized and hard-hitting convention with some fun activities as well. Details to follow.

There will be nominations of candidates for public office and election of Party officers and the Executive and Judicial Committees.

County coordinators should start now to look for libertarians to run for public office in 1994. All Congressional and State Legislature seats are up except for Levin's.

A HARBINGER OF PROGRESS

By Scott A. Boman

As Chairman of the "John Hancock-We Want Yours" Committee to keep the Libertarian Party on the ballot, I would like to thank all of the people who have worked for that end. The petition drive is over and it looks like we are going to make it. Without ballot status there is no Libertarian Party, only an educational group similar to ISIL or the Metro-Detroit Libertarians.

I hoped we would be able to get most of the signatures with our volunteers, but such was not the case. The majority of signatures were obtained by professional petitioners, most of whom were paid by the National LP. However, I believe the volunteer effort did far more than merely collect signatures. In fact, we may look back and see that losing ballot status was one of the best things that ever happened to us.

When I volunteered to spearhead this effort, I did so because no one else would. There I was on the last day of my first Libertarian Convention. Keith Edwards was telling us that we couldn't count on court challenges to keep us on the ballot and that a volunteer was needed to spearhead a petition drive. Silence. Keith said he would check his answering machine periodically to see if there were any volunteers. He also said, "This is individual responsibility, people." Well, to the relief of everyone there, someone did volunteer, me.

I have recounted this event to point out that the Michigan LP was in serious trouble. Almost everyone there had worked their Hynes off for years and had other things to do in their lives. Other people were new to the whole thing and just figured "someone" would handle it. The fact of the matter was that a few old timers couldn't do anything but maintain the status quo (no one in public office and little public recognition) without some new blood. After all, Abraham Lincoln was a powerful leader, but there wouldn't be a GOP if all the Republicans had said, "Let Abe & Co. handle it."

What happened was phenomenal. Not only did newer members get involved, but new people joined the Party. People who had been libertarian, but didn't know what to do about it besides vote, set up information tables and circulated petitions all over the state. Hundreds of libertarians made contact with one another. Before the ballot access drive, there were only eleven regional coordinator posts and four of those posts were vacant. Now there are 17 of them. Most importantly, we had a chance to interact with the public. Hundreds of people have asked for more information about us while we were soliciting signatures. Those were people who may have considered us as an occasional protest vote, but that's about it. Now that they have made contact with the Party, they may become active as members. Who knows? The person who asked for more information when you said, "Would you like to sign. . ." may be the first Libertarian to be elected to the State Senate. She could even be the first Libertarian President!

Soon it will be time to rest, but not for long. To keep ballot status we need to get votes in elections. We have built a versatile organizational structure which could serve well for coordinating statewide campaigns. If only a quarter of the people we contacted signed, we made nearly 200,000 contacts. Let's not lose the momentum and if we're going to be out there trying to get enough votes to stay on the ballot, then perhaps we should get someone elected while we're at it.

Gillie's Inc.

RESTAURANT

6524 N. Dorf Hwy
Mt Morris MI 48458

313-686-1200



Dave Gillie

HAVE YOU HUGGED A GUN NUT TODAY?

BY Jack McHugh

As an Upper Peninsula libertarian pro-gun activist, some of my favorite people are animal rights whackos. For years, hunters have taken a pass on helping preserve the Second Amendment, often succumbing to a "let George do it" attitude. Also, they did not believe that gun grabbers would actually come after their scoped bolt action rifles (sniper rifles) and hunting shotguns (riot guns).

Thanks to PETA and similar extremists, hunters are now responding to NRA outreach programs and joining in record numbers. They are no longer so sure that gun control means only those nasty "assault rifles" and Saturday night specials.

At the same time, there is growing concern being expressed in the gun press about the escalating war against the Constitution in general, not just Amendment Two. From property seizure laws to the Weaver case to the Branch Davidian fiasco, awareness that something has gone drastically wrong is rising among a traditionally conservative segment of society. (Ironic how the same concern is missing from the liberal mainstream press.)

Here is an opportunity for Libertarians. Gun owners have been stabbed in the back repeatedly by both major parties. Many have become disgusted and disillusioned with politics as usual. Perot's position on guns is not good (depending on what day of the week it is).

How can we present ourselves to this potential ally in a way that makes us look credible? Here are two suggestions:

1. Get a table at a local gun show. Smaller gun shows rent tables for as little as \$15 and the big ones aren't much more. I will cover half of my table with Libertarian pamphlets and half with NRA pamphlets, thus making a positive mental association. Over all is a banner: "The gun owner's best

friend - THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY". Call around your local gunshops to get information on upcoming shows.

2. Go to gun club meetings. As many as 200,000 Michiganders belong to Rod, Gun and Conservation Clubs. Most of them would be flattered to get a request to briefly address their members. You may not sign up a lot of new Libertarians, but a five minute pro-gun pep talk will establish a presence and show that we are on their side. Call the MUCC in Lansing to get info on clubs in your area.

Do these things and the next time sportsmen hear the word "libertarian", it won't mean just some distant talking head at election election time. It will call to mind "those local guys with a table at the gun show. They came to one of our meetings last year."

Editor's note: Jack has an excellent idea here. At the National Convention in Salt Lake City this year, author L. Neil Smith made the same point and said we could gain a couple million votes this way. That may be a bit optimistic, but we won't know until we try it.

ISIL has a pamphlet entitled "Gun Control, Patriotism and Civil Disobedience" that is excellent, although some may think it too extreme. Decide for yourself by getting a copy (and a list of other pamphlets-they're all good) from: International Society for Individual Liberty, 1800 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94102. Pamphlets are 5¢ each, minimum order \$1.00. On orders of 1,000 or more, they will print your name and address on the pamphlets. 415-864-0952.

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Children, parents and the law

In the rush of concern for children who are harmed by their own parents' irresponsible behavior — such as the Schmidt/DeBoer case — Bruce Miller provided a welcome perspective ("In the best interest of children's rights," Aug. 28).

The notion that the state should be permitted to overrule natural parents in any but the most extreme situations by determining that they are not in their own children's "best interests" is terrifying. Those who may be tempted by the high-profile, sad, but exceptional, cases of parental irresponsibility to consider increasing the scope of government involvement should read Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* to see the final consequences of such a "best interests of the child" policy.

The social engineers who advocate state intervention would, no doubt, be unmoved by Huxley's dystopia as they seem invariably to consider themselves "Alphas."

DET. NEWS **Tim O'Brien**
9/20/93 MADISON HEIGHTS

Another fateful chapter has been written in the government's crusade against drugs. The result: one more dead, two careers ruined and the lives of the survivors in three families will be changed forever. All because our leaders, in their infinite wisdom, have decided that the use of certain substances should be treated as a criminal activity.

If Malice Green had been engaged in the use of force or fraud it would be another matter. But he was not. By their own testimony, former officers Larry Nevers and Walter Budzyn stopped Green only because they "assumed" he was involved in a possible drug deal. If he had not been suspected of criminal activity, Malice Green would probably be alive today and the careers of Nevers and Budzyn would still be intact.

Clearly, these three men and their families should be considered as "victims" in the government's insane "war on drugs."

9-12-93 **Richard Whitelock**
DET. NEWS IONIA

Legalize drugs

The headline on Thomas Bray's Aug. 29 column read, "Is it time to decriminalize drugs?" Perhaps it would've been just as appropriate to ask, "Why were drugs made illegal?"

The use of "illegal" drugs are political crimes. Presented as "killer drugs," which must be suppressed at any cost, they cause less than 1,000 deaths per year in this country. Certainly, any death is tragic, but compared to the 50,000 deaths that are a result from ingesting alcohol and the 350,000 deaths from smoking tobacco, the death rate resulting from "illegal" drugs pales in comparison.

So here we have 400 deaths from the use of tobacco and alcohol for every one death caused by the use of illegal drugs.

What rational reason explains why such murderous drugs are legal, while a handful of "illegal" drugs do less than 1 percent as much direct harm? Marijuana is illegal while tobacco is legal simply because some politicians say so. The difference between them is strictly political.

Just as the "crime" of speaking out against the Communist government of the USSR was "political," just as the "crime" of being Jewish in World War II Germany was "political," the crime of using "controlled substances" in America is likewise political.

What's next . . . chewing gum?

DET. NEWS **Dar Tisdale**
10-1-93 NEW HAVEN

Decriminalize drugs

In his well-articulated Aug. 29 column, "Is it time to decriminalize drugs?" Thomas Bray courageously identifies drug criminalization as the key underlying cause of two recent highly publicized senseless killings — directly in the case of Malice Green, and indirectly with Elizabeth Alvarez.

Bray also observes that "after years of the 'war on drugs,' we don't seem to have made much of a dent." If anybody is still not convinced of the direct correlation between drug laws and drug crime, they should ask themselves why drug-related crime was practically non-existent before the government first introduced drug laws in 1914.

DET. NEWS **Jeff Hampton**
9-5-93 BLOOMFIELD HILLS

Deadly statistics

I'd like to thank the New England Journal of Medicine for giving everyone a perfect example of how to lie with statistics. ("Weapons are Deadly for Owners," Oct. 7, Detroit News.) The Journal compared 388 murder victims with 388 people who hadn't been murdered. And surprise: The murder victims were more likely to own guns. Thus proving, according to the Journal, that owning a gun puts your life at risk.

Suppose they had been studying burglaries and found that burglarized homes were much more likely, on average, to have dead bolt locks. Would that prove that dead bolt locks cause burglaries?

Hardly. More likely, it would mean that people who rightly feared having their homes broken into had installed locks. Similarly, if murder victims are more likely to have owned guns, it could easily mean that they knew someone was likely to try to kill them and tried to take precautions. The fact that three-quarters of the victims in this study had been killed by people they knew suggests that that might be the case, doesn't it?

I won't mince words: The authors of this study understood quite well that they were misrepresenting their data. This is the sort of mistake that gets you flunked out of introductory statistics. But in this case, it wasn't a mistake, it was deliberate fraud. This study was deliberately designed to "discover" results favorable to gun control no matter what the truth might be.

10-20-93 **Brett P. Bellmore**
DETROIT NEWS CAPAC

Cancel NASA

We can save billions of tax dollars by canceling NASA. Can we afford a space station we don't need?

NASA seems to exist only for military purposes. Since the Soviets are no longer such a threat, many spy satellites are unnecessary or redundant.

Allen Salyer **DET. FREE PRESS**
Royal Oak 9-19-93

CALENDAR

First Tuesday of each month: Wayne Co. LP meets at the Red Lobster, 6850 N. Telegraph in Dearborn. Cocktails at 6:00, dinner at 6:30, program at 8:00. Call JoAnn Karpinski at 313-925-6917.

Second Tuesday of each month: LP of Mid-Michigan meets at Sneeker's in Lansing at 6:00. Call Jon Addiss at 517-394-0122.

Third Wednesday of each month; Oakland Co. Libertarians meet at the Red Lobster, 101 W. Ten Mile Rd., Madison Heights.

Every Thursday: Washtenaw Libertarians meet at Dominic's Restaurant in Ann Arbor. Some lecture events held at U-M Union. Call James Hudler at 313-475-9792.

Macomb Libertarians now meeting. Call Syacy Van Oast at 313-784-8783.

November 18: "Health Care: Free Market Solutions", Tom Shull, Executive Director of Heartland Institute Michigan, at 7:30 at U-M Union.

Nov. 17: Candlelight vigil in support of Karen and Scott Scarborough at the Federal courthouse on W. Lafayette in downtown Detroit. Starts at sundown through A.M. Sentencing at 3:00 P.M. Nov. 18, in the courtroom of Judge Nancy Edmunds. People may speak in support at that time.

Libertarian Advisory Council meeting at 1:00 at Dominic's Restaurant on Monroe, east of S. State St., Ann Arbor.

December 11: Rally-benefit at the Capital Theater in Flint against property forfeiture. Call Scott Boman for starting time at 313-831-9774.

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 and be typewritten, double-spaced and signed. Submissions may be edited.

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

Keith Edwards, Editor
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 a quorum of 30% of the membership, including proxies. If there is no quorum at the scheduled time, the meeting will not be held. Instead, a meeting of the Executive Committee will begin right away.

All LPM members can vote at the Council meetings, but only members of the Executive Committee can vote at Committee meetings although any member may attend.

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.

LPM PROXY

I, _____, A MEMBER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN, HEREBY GIVE MY PROXY FOR THE LIBERTARIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING ON NOV. 21, 1993 TO _____
_____ . SIGNED _____

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_____ 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".

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."

This does not preclude self-defense or resistance to tyranny.

Signature _____



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