



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN

MARCH-APRIL, 1995

LOCAL GROUPS GOING STRONG

By Emily Salvette, LPM Vice Chair

Local Libertarian organizations are the most important tool for spreading the libertarian message in Michigan. The efforts of LP affiliates have been outstanding this year. We salute everyone leading groups, attending meetings and helping increase membership in the Libertarian Party. Keep up the good work!

During the fall, the Lansing area re-organized and submitted by-laws to become an affiliate Party of the LPM. Mark Owen, Chair, and Mike Brinkman, Vice-Chair, are to be congratulated for their efforts at raising the profile of libertarianism in Michigan's capitol. The group's Secretary is Robert Broda and Treasurer is Patti Lundy. They have established a regular meeting schedule with excellent speakers such as Dr. Paul DeWeese of TEACH Michigan. Their monthly newsletter, edited by Mike Brinkman, is outstanding.

In December, I met with an enthusiastic group in Midland who want to start the Tri-City Party (Midland, Saginaw, Bay City). Russ Burke and Scott Keenan have taken on the responsibility of getting this group off the ground, with Scott Ecker, former Ohio LP Treasurer providing assistance.

On January 3, the Wayne County LP had a very successful dinner meeting with talk-show host and former US Senate candidate Ronna Romney. She discussed the media and its effect on campaigns. JoAnn and Ed Karpinski have been doing a good job with the Wayne County group (does a more un-libertarian

(Continued on Page 4)

CONVENTION TO DISCUSS 1996 STATE PLATFORM

The Libertarian Party of Michigan Executive Committee Decided at its Feb. 19 meeting to revive the State Platform for the 1996 election. The Committee voted 6-0 to reserve one hour of platform discussion at the 1995 Convention based on written submission of suggested planks to Platform Chair James Hudler prior to the Convention to maintain an orderly discussion. The LPM dropped the state platform in the mid-1980's due to the time consumed at the conventions and the acrimony it caused. The latter is not expected to be a problem due to a more mature membership.

Those wishing to submit proposed planks should send them to James Hudler, 17165 Fahner Rd., Chelsea, MI 48118 as soon as possible. There will be a limit of perhaps five planks in the platform, relating to Michigan issues only. Any member may submit one or more planks. Please be logical, clear and concise. Long, rambling planks will be put at the end of this discussion if there is time. No oral planks will be considered.

The Committee also agreed to have an Executive Director charged with the responsibility of finding, equipping, and staffing a self-funded state office, all at Jon Coon's suggestion. It was decided that the Director would neither be specifically included or excluded from membership on the Committee, but be on the same basis as any other appointive function. Chair Keith Edwards then appointed Coon to the position with the above duties specified.

Next meeting: Sunday, March 26 at 1:00 PM at Jon Coon HQ in Ferndale.

DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair	Keith Edwards	810-777-7468
Vice Chair	Emily Salvette	313-747-7542
Secretary	Marnie Edwards	
Treasurer	David Nagy	
At-large	Jon Coon	
	James Hudler	
	Barbara Vozenilek	

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	Tim O'Brien	
	Brian Wright	
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Campaign Coordinator	Scott Boman	313-831-9774
Regions Coordinator	Emily Salvette	313-747-7542
Campus Organ.	James Hudler	313-475-9792
Speakers	Keith Edwards	810-777-7468

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

Midland-Bay		
City-Saginaw	Scott Ecker	517-585-3634
Western	Glenn Barr	616-784-2613
Lansing area	Mike Brinkman	517-337-0517
Jackson-Lenawee-Hillsdale	Nick Bennett	517-529-4960
Berrien Co.	Scott Beavers	616-944-1852
Branch Co.	Paul Pann	517-279-9860
Genesee Co.	Trish Marie	810-742-7268
Isabella Co.	John Tuttle	517-866-2365
Kalamazoo Co.	Doug Houts	616-382-2843
Livingston Co	Doug MacDonald	810-231-3137
Lapeer Co.	John Hertrich	810-724-2038
Macomb Co.	Stacy Van Oast	810-784-8783
Monroe Co.	Don Atkinson	313-241-7038
Oakland Co.	Leslie Balian	810-969-0666
Ottawa Co.	Jeff Terhaar	616-847-0581
Shiawassee Co	Shirley Coon	517-661-2219
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Van Buren Co.	Walt DeVisser	616-427-7543
Washtenaw Co.	James Hudler	313-475-9792
Wayne Co.	Joann Karpinski	313-925-6917
Upper Peninsula:		
East		
Central	Jack McHugh	906-428-4710
West		
University of Michigan	Shawn Brown	313-994-9380

LOCAL MEETINGS

The following local libertarian groups meet on a regular basis at the location and time listed. You are welcome to attend. Most of these groups meet for dinner with either a formal program or work session following. Call the contact listed in column one to confirm the date of the next meeting if you have not attended before.

Washtenaw meets at Dominick's, 812 Monroe, Ann Arbor every Thursday. Some lectures at U-M Student Union. Call James Hudler.

LP of Mid-Michigan (Lansing area) meets at Sneeker's Restaurant, 600 N. Homer, off US-127, Lansing second Thursday of month.

Oakland LP meets at Mr. B's Restaurant, 423 Main St., Rochester on the third Wednesday of the month.

Wayne Co. LP meets at La Trattoria Restaurant, 13736 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, on the first Tuesday of the month.

Macomb Co. meets at Ryan Roadhouse, 3950 14 Mile Rd., Warren, on the second Wednesday of the month.

Metro Detroit Libertarians is a supper club with a featured speaker. It is not a part of the Libertarian Party. It meets on the fourth Monday of the month at one of several locations. Call Tim O'Brien to confirm the exact time, date and location, at 313-562-5778.

If your area is not listed above, call the local coordinator to find your local schedule.

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LPM CONVENTION IN APRIL

The Libertarian Party of Michigan will hold its Annual Convention on April 28-30 at the Grand Rapids Hilton. The Convention will be hosted by the LP of Western Michigan; Dan Marsh is Convention Chair.

The Convention will get under way on Friday evening with a program of comedy and music, with the Ottawa County LP as host. This is always a fun event and a good opportunity to unwind from the week's challenges, get together with old friends and to meet new people.

Saturday will feature a number of workshops in the morning and formal business in the afternoon. The latter will have reports on the Party's progress during the year (and this has been one of our very best years), consideration of BY-laws changes (not too many, we hope) and preliminary discussion of planks for the 1996 State Platform.

Saturday night's Banquet will feature Doug Bandow, Senior Fellow at Cato Institute, the libertarian think tank in Washington, DC, which has attracted so much attention the past few years and is becoming so influential, especially among younger members of Congress.

Harry Browne, who is seeking the LP nomination for President, will speak at the Sunday Brunch. He is the author of several books on investment, having called the big rise in silver many years ago and also the famous How I Found Freedom In An Unfree World in 1973. Many readers found this to be a very liberating book.

Other presentations will be made by libertarian Republican State Rep. Greg Kaza, former State Rep Steve Dresch, think tanks Heartland and Mackinac, TEACH Michigan, the home-schooling advocates and FIJA.

The Convention is the highlight of the year for the LPM, with progress reports, future plans, elections, interesting speakers and a lot of fun. Brochures are in the mail. If you have not received yours yet, it should arrive shortly. Don't miss it!

NEWS BRIEFS

State Representative Greg Kaza (R-42nd Dist.) has advised that he intends to introduce five bills in the Legislature to enact (1) popular referendum on pay raises, (2) none of the above option in elections, (3) independent voter registration, (4) ballot access reform (easing) and (5) part-time legislature. Chair Keith Edwards has written Rep. Kaza applauding four of these moves, each of which would limit the power of the parasitic state. Edwards did demur on item (3), preferring that we eliminate registration by affiliation so that cross-voting would be permitted in Presidential Primaries or elimination thereof, and to avoid giving a tyranny a list of those to tyrannize. In view of Waco and Ruby Ridge, this is a real concern. It is simply none of government's business which party an individual prefers. Other than that, Greg's ideas are sound and further evidence of his fine work in Lansing.

Investor's Business Daily blasted the \$20 billion bailout of the Mexican peso which is actually a bailout of rich bondholders who are friends of the power elite. The title of the editorial expresses their view of the chances of whether the money will be repaid, "Kiss It Goodbye."

Commissar of Money Alan Greenspan, former Objectivist crusader for free enterprise-turned Council on Foreign Relations stooge, testified before the Senate Banking Committee that he would like to see a return to the gold standard, but did not think there was much support for it on the Fed. What took him so long? He's been Chairman of the Federal Reserve for years and had more support for gold then than since Clinton started making appointments. Currencies are sinking like rocks. We throw \$20 billion to save the peso which is dropping against the dollar which is also declining and Gutless Greenspan timidly and belatedly "suggests" the cure. Former mentor Ayn Rand must be rotating at super-sonic speed in her grave! Given his long exposure to the ethics of Objectivism and his understanding of the free market, one has to conclude the man has no integrity at all.

LOCAL GROUPS GOING GOOD (Continued)

area exist in Michigan?), and attracting a speaker of this caliber shows how hard work pays off.

The LP of Lapeer County met on January 11. This group, led by John and Christina Hertrich, has a strong group of dedicated volunteers. They plan to continue outreach activities in their area.

Later in January, an organizing meeting was held in Livingston County. Fifteen very capable people attended and were eager to begin building a libertarian presence there. Thanks to Dale Haviland of Brighton for putting this meeting together. Doug MacDonald of Whitmore Lake volunteered to act as interim chairman. With assistance from Blaine Lankford, another meeting was held on Feb. 27 to pass by-laws and elect officers. Good luck to Livingston County - one more county organized!

The Washtenaw County group held a very successful fundraiser on February 11. The Sam Adams Dinner, with guest speaker Jon Coon, was sold out a week before the event! The evening was an enjoyable one for all involved and generated much needed funds for this very active county group. The University of Michigan student group, led by Shawn Brown with help from Myreya Amezcua, is going strong. On March 3 they sponsored a lecture by Richard Ebeling of Hillsdale College in the student union. In early April, historian Burt Folsom, visiting Fellow at the Mackinac Center, will close out the student lecture series.

After a very busy and successful campaign season, the LP of South-Central Michigan resumed meeting with a crowd of 100 coming to Jackson to hear a representative of the Michigan Militia, generating many new names for the mailing list.

John Tuttle in Isabella County is planning a state affirmative-action initiative on the Michigan Ballot similar to the one in California that prohibits the state from discriminating based on race, gender, etc.

If you are interested in helping with this effort, call John at (517) 866-2365.

The Western Michigan LP has been busy organizing the LPM State Convention coming up April 28-30 at the Grand Rapids Hilton. Dan Marsh is convention coordinator with very able assistance from his committee. Sharon and Todd Greene have lined up a great set of speakers including Presidential hopeful Harry Browne and Doug Bandow of the Cato Institute.

The Ottawa County LP will be sponsoring the Friday night entertainment at the State Convention. Jeff Terhaar, Ottawa County Chair, reports we can look forward to music and comedy that night. Don't miss this exciting event.

The February 11 Local Leaders Conference in Ann Arbor was a great success. Forty people participated in six different workshops designed to teach management skills useful to local organizations. The feedback from those attending was very positive, due in part to the excellent job done by the workshop presenters. Thanks to Keith Edwards, Ben Bachrach, David Nagy, James Hudler, Barb Goushaw, Scott Boman and Jon Coon for leading the workshops and ably answering everyone's questions.

There is no doubt that the local organizations in Michigan are the strongest they have been in our 23 year history. Their efforts are paying off. We have better candidates, more high-quality activities and more LPM members than ever before. Thanks to all of you for making this possible. We are planning to add to our strength by holding organizing meetings in Kalamazoo and Calhoun Counties in late March. The primary goal of the LPM Executive Committee is to organize and assist local groups. Call me with your questions, concerns and suggestions at (313) 747-8129. I'm always happy to help you build an even stronger local group.

Every one blames his memory; no one blames his judgement. LaRoche foucauld

MORE ON CONSTITUTIONS

First, I'd like to thank all those who have expressed support for my position on that other party in the last issue. We've received only two letters in opposition and one that I can't quite figure out.

One of the opposing letters came from the Michigan CP organizer which I shall not comment on as she "permits" me to print her letter in its entirety and directs me not to print excerpts despite the fact that the letter is now MY property and that copies were sent by her to quite a few other LPM members, making it an open letter anyway. As I was saying in the last issue about fuzzy thinking. . . .

However on this subject, I am always ready to "network" and cooperate with other freedom lovers and "unity" has been my theme for the past six years, but I will not cooperate with those who wish to destroy the LP by splitting its vote. Enough said.

In another letter, former LPM Chair Brian Wright says, "liberty is the primary and universal good; a constitution is good only to the extent that it derives from libertarian principles and promotes liberty. In general, this means limiting the power of the state, at which our own Constitution, to say the least, has been pretty lame.

"I sympathize with libertarians who want to share more immediately in political victory. Winning is important, but they need to appreciate the meaning of winning. Libertarian ideas such as restitution, privatization and economic self-responsibility are emanating from the recent majority on Capitol Hill. The most consistent of these advocates got it from "us". The cooptation of LP positions means we are in fact winning."

Tom Jones sent in two pages of quotes from the Constitution of the Russian Federation of 1993 in which rights are granted and then taken away. Here are examples.

Article 55, Section 3. Human and civil rights and liberties may be restricted by

the federal law only to the extent required for the protection of the fundamentals of the constitutional system, morality, health, rights and lawful interests of other persons, for ensuring the defense of the country and the security of the state.

Article 56, Section 1. Individual restrictions of rights and liberties with identification of the extent and term of their duration may be instituted in conformity with the federal constitutional law under conditions of the state of emergency in order to insure the safety of citizens and protection of the constitutional system.

Article 84 The President of the Russian Federation shall . . . dissolve the State Duma in cases and under procedures envisaged by the Constitution. . . .

Article 87, Section 2. In the event of aggression against the Russian Federation or an immediate threat thereof, The President of the Russian Federation shall introduce Martial law. . . (emphasis added).

Article 115, Section 3. The decrees and executive orders of the Government of the Russian Federation may be repealed by the President of the Russian Federation, federal laws and the decrees of the President of the Russian Federation.

As I was saying about fuzzy thinking. . . .

There is no substitute for reason, morality and respect for the rights of others. NO constitution will work without them.

Gillies

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Dave

APRIL 19

On April 19, 1775, the British army moved toward Concord, Mass., to seize the store of weapons held by the Americans. They were met by the Americans at Lexington and in a brief exchange of gunfire eight Americans were killed. The British moved on to Concord where two Americans and three British died. The patriots, defending their money and their weapons, spread the word through the colonies within three weeks and the fight for freedom and independence was on. There was no Constitution or Bill of Rights, but the Americans knew what their rights were anyway.

On April 19, 1993, after a seven week siege following an attack by the Bureau of Alcohol, tobacco and Firearms to seize weapons previously okayed by local authorities, the Federal Bureau of Investigation attacked some 80-85 members of a small religious group by punching holes in their building with armored vehicles and pumped what has been identified as CS gas (outlawed by the Geneva Convention) into the building, setting off a fire that incinerated the occupants. These Branch Davidians were legally under the protection of the First, Second, fourth and Fifth Amendments to no avail. This event was shown live on national TV for the entire nation to see. Americans watched, gulped and went about their own business. Rights? What are rights to the BATF (Brutes, Assassins Terrorizing Freedomlovers) and the FBI (Federal Bureau of Incendaries?)

This is an issue we cannot let die. According to Professor R.J. Rummel (Wall Street Journal editorial page, July 7, 1986) 20th Century governments have not only killed nearly 36 million citizens of other nations in war, but also over 119 million of their own citizens. Some 115 million were killed by totalitarian and authoritarian governments, and four million by free or semi-free governments.

The US is a piker by these standards, but is learning fast. Eight at Kent State, one (Donald Scott), two at Ruby Ridge and 85 at Waco, not to mention those killed on raids

on the wrong houses.

Ruby Ridge occurred under the Republicans and Waco under the Democrats. Neither pursued the issue of the other's guilt. The FBI's coverup continues. Director Louis Freeh (what a misnomer) continued to lie in his Jan.26 letter to the WSJ in reply to James Bovard's article on Ruby Ridge, the same lies the judge and jury rejected at Randy Weaver's trial.

The Democrats and Republicans will do nothing to stop the terrorist state. They could not be paid if the Internal Robbery Service didn't use terror to collect taxes.

So, it is up to libertarians of all (or no) affiliations to keep the issue alive. We need to keep calling talk shows, write letters to the editors, use the internet, and remind those few pro-libertarian office holders around the country that freedom is not just about free markets and term limits. It's about the violence and brutality of the United States Government. Let's start by wearing black armbands on April 19 and when asked why, let's say why!

The BATF should be disbanded and its people kicked out of government or at least transferred to the Washington, DC, sanitation department. The FBI leadership and all who were involved in Waco and Ruby Ridge from Janet "Firebug" Reno down should be charged with murder. And the other alphabetical terrorist groups such as the FDA, EPA and IRS should be disarmed.

April 19 should be designated as "Freedom Day", a national holiday to replace Presidents Day. It should be a joyful affair, with flags and Statue of Liberty buttons and banners displayed.

In the meantime it will have to be a somber day, with black armbands until we stop the slaughter by the government. It's a lot less that the patriots had to do in 1775, but the least we can do for the victims of the 1990's.

We could be next on their list.

LIBERTY LIBRARY

The following books are recommended for those who wish to enhance their understanding of libertarianism. Some are out of print but available at libraries or used bookstores. Many are available from Laissez Faire Books.

Fiction:

The Fountainhead	Ayn Rand
Atlas Shrugged	Ayn Rand
Time Will Run Back	Henry Hazlitt
The Probability Broach	L. Neil Smith
Voyage From Yesteryear	James P. Hogan
Animal Farm	George Orwell
1984	George Orwell
Anthem	Ayn Rand

Rand's novels are the most explicitly libertarian and philosophical, and the most influential. The sci-fi novels of Smith and Hogan explore anarchism. The Matt Helm stories of Donald Hamilton are among the best written in the spy-adventure genre as are his westerns. Many of the westerns of Louis L'Amour are heroic and historically accurate. His best are Hondo and Flint. The business novels of Cameron Hawley were also heroic in a way, especially Executive Suite and Cash McCall. Kenneth Roberts wrote three Novels set in the American Revolution, Arundel and Rabble in Arms from the patriot side, and Oliver Wiswell from the Tory side.

Economics and Politics:

Economics in One Lesson	Henry Hazlitt
Human Action	Ludwig von Mises
Capitalism: The Unknown Ideal	Ayn Rand
Libertarianism in One Lesson	David Bergland
Healing Our World	Mary Ruwart
The Rights of Man	Tom Paine
The Road to Serfdom	F.A. Hayek

Anything by Hazlitt is easy to read. He was the clearest of the economic writers. Mises is difficult, but Human Action is encyclopedic in scope. Rand's book focuses on the morality of Capitalism.

MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

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Editor: Keith Edwards
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All material contained herein represents the opinion of the author and is not necessarily the position of the Libertarian Party of Michigan.

LIBERTARIAN RESOURCES

Laissez Faire Books, 938 Howard St., #202, San Francisco, CA 94103. Excellent selection of libertarian and other books. Call 415-541-9780.

International Society for Individual Liberty, 1800 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94102. Promotes international understanding of the principles of liberty and covers the progress of libertarianism over the world. Holds conferences, publishes Freedom Network News and many excellent position papers. Call 415-864-0952.

Liberty Magazine, P.O. Box 1167, Port Townsend, WA 98368. A review of libertarian thinking in political and cultural areas. \$35 for 12 issues.

Reason Magazine, 3415 Sepulveda Blvd., #400 Los Angeles, CA 90034. \$19.95 for 11 issues

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