



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

NEWS LETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN

Michigan Constitution Article I, Sec. 5

Every person may freely speak, write, express and publish his views on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of such right: and no law shall be enacted to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech or of the press.

MAY-JUNE, 1996

HARRY BROWNE A HIT IN ROSEVILLE!

Harry Browne stole the show at the 1996 Covention Brunch candidate derby in Roseville April 21 with a theme of "Direction, Not Destination." Browne, well aware of the variation in libertarian views on gradualism vs abolition and mini-government vs none at all, won the approval of most of the 110 listeners with a platform of what might be termed a fast-track phaseout of most government functions without tax shifts or compromises on a range of issues.

Shunning the podium as usual, Browne moved in front and with relaxed elegance united the crowd by stressing that whatever the final form of social organization a libertarian might favor, we are all working for a quick move in the direction of less government and that it's time to start now and keep pushing and see where it leads. Interrupted by several bursts of applause, Harry received a standing ovation at the end by nearly everyone in the audience.

Irwin Schiff was next, pushing his position that there is no law which requires payment of the income tax and that he is not a one-issue candidate, but that eliminating the tax would get the government out of a host of programs. Those attending who hoped for a more comprehensive approach were not satisfied. Schiff, although a spirited speaker, suffered by following the smoother Browne, rattling the microphone cord against the podium, causing a continual distraction and intermittent loss of volume. His occasional shot at Browne resulted in only restrained and polite applause.

LPM NOMINATES 77 CANDIDATES

The Libertarian Party of Michigan and its affiliate local organizations nominated 77 candidates for public office at its annual Convention in Roseville on April 21. When combined with the Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates to be nominated at the National Convention in July, there will be 79 Libertarian names on the ballot. Of these, 12 names will be on the LP ticket in every precinct in the state, plus two non-partisan libertarians running for the State Supreme Court. This gives the party a real presence and there will be many local candidates as well.

Ken Proctor will run for the US Senate seat held by Carl Levin and we are running a candidate for all 16 US House seats, 19 for State Representative, all eight state education offices and some 30 local spots.

Assuming Ross Perot run all by himself on his ticket, it is likely that many of his voters would vote Libertarian for the lower offices.

Convention host Macomb County led the parade with 16 candidates of the 77. Wayne and Kent were next at 10. Mid-Michigan provided seven candidates and Washtenaw six. Oakland was the only disappointment with only four. The new affiliates in Ionia and Northwest jumped right into action with three each. Livingston and the Genesee-Lapeer group each contributed four. Others were Berrian and the U.P. with three and Ottawa and South-Central with two. The full list is on Page six.

(Continued on Page 5)

DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair	Emily Salvette	313-747-8129
Vice Chair	Mark Owen	616-729-5550
Secretary	Dan Marsh	616-456-9472
Treasurer	Dave Nagy	
At-large	Jon Coon	

	Keith Edwards	
	James Hudler	
	Jim McAbee	
	Stacy Van Oast	

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

	Glenn Barr	
	Bill Hall	
	Tim O'Brien	
Editor	Keith Edwards	810-777-7468
Inquiries	Marnie Edwards	
Membership	Mark Heil	810-468-0509
Speakers	Keith Edwards	
Campaign Coordinator & Campus Organizing	James Hudler	313-475-9792

Affiliates Coordinators

	Stacy Van Oast	810-784-8783
	Jim McAbee	810-752-4844

Volunteer Coordinator

	Bill Carver	810-293-1402
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Michigan 16-5 Committee (Presidential Camp)

	Ben Bachrach	313-563-1558
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Allegan Co.	Rick Dutkiewicz	616-673-5503
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Berrien Co.	Scott Beavers	616-944-1852
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Ionia Co.	Dick Whitelock	616-527-9263
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Isabella Co.	John Tuttle	517-866-2365
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Kalamazoo-Calhoun	Dennis Flatt	616-385-3547
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Lapeer-Genesee	John Hertrich	810-724-2038
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Lansing area	Mike Brinkman	517-333-5760
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Livingston Co	Doug Mac Donald	810-231-3137
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Macomb Co.	Stacy Van Oast	810-784-8783
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Midland-Bay-Saginaw

	Russ Burke	517-686-8017
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Northwest MI	Richard Ask	616-941-1306
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Oakland Co.	Dave Armstrong	810-391-4329
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Ottawa Co.	Jeff Terhaar	616-847-0581
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South Central (Jackson-Hillsdale-Lenawee)

	Nick Bennett	517-529-4486
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Washtenaw Co.	Geoff Foster	313-481-3044
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Wayne Co.	Joann Karpinski	313-925-6917
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Western MI	Todd Greene	616-456-9472
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Upper Penins.	Jack McHugh	906-428-4710
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Univ. of Mich	Martin Howrylak	810-643-6653
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Western MI Univ.	Brian Carnell	616-345-8671
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Metro Det Lib	Tim O'Brien	313-562-5778
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LOCAL MEETINGS

The following local libertarian groups meet regularly. Most are dinner meetings. Your contact is listed in the Directory.

Kalamazoo-Calhoun meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the Red Lobster in Portage.

Lapeer-Genesee meets on the second Wednesday of the month at Marguerite de Angeli Library in Lapeer at 7:30 P.M. Do not park in the library parking lot.

Livingston meets on the second Monday at Mexican Jones Restaurant, 675 Grand River in Brighton at 6:30.

LP of Mid-Michigan (Lansing area) meets at Sneeker's Restaurant, 600 Homer, Lansing on the second Thursday of the month.

Macomb meets on the second Wednesday at Fire Escape Restaurant, 61 N. Walnut, Mt. Clemens. Dinner at 6:00, meeting at 7:30.

Ottawa meets on the second Friday at 7:30 at the China Garden Restaurant, 133 Washington, Grand Haven.

Washtenaw meets at Dominick's, 812 Monroe, Ann Arbor, March-November at 6:30, meeting at 7:30, every Thursday. Some meetings with major speakers at U-M Union. Call for the location in winter months.

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

Western MI LP (Grand Rapids area) meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 in the basement of Pizza Hut at 44th & Kalamazoo Streets in Kentwood.

Metro Detroit Libertarians is a supper club with a featured speaker and is not a part of the LPM. Meets on the fourth Monday. The location varies, so call Tim O'Brien for directions.

SALVETTE RE-ELECTED CHAIR

Emily Salvette was re-elected Chair of the Libertarian Party of Michigan at the State Convention in Roseville on April 21. There was no opposition. This will be her second term and, she says, her last. It will be a challenging year with the election campaign looking like one of the most organized ever and a record sized delegation from Michigan heading to the National Convention in July.

Vice Chair Mark Owen, Secretary Dan Marsh and Treasurer Dave Nagy were also returned to office unanimously, Owen and Marsh for the second time, while Nagy will serve his fifth term.

Joining those four officers on the Executive Committee will be five At-large Directors after a spirited election on the first ballot. The results were:

Jon Coon	51	Elected
Keith Edwards	43	"
Jim McAbee	39	"
James Hudler	38	"
Stacy Van Oast	38	"
Ben Bachrach	35	
Bob Broda	17	
Mark Heil	17	
Max Dollarhite	15	

Coon, Edwards and Hudler were incumbents. McAbee and Van Oast replace Bachrach, who just missed re-election, and Scott Beavers, who did not run.

Glenn Barr, Bill Hall and Tim O'Brien were re-elected to the Judiciary Committee with no opposition.

Salvette thanked the other members of the Executive Committee for their hard work and cooperative spirit during her first year as Chair. The voters seemed to agree. It looks like this year's team will be just as sharp and hard working. And many thanks to Emily Salvette for her strong leadership this year.

FROM THE CHAIR

By Emily Salvette

Congratulations to the Macomb County group for hosting a wonderful state convention. Stacy Van Oast and her convention committee creatively mixed education, business and pleasure to create an exciting weekend celebration of liberty. It was a pleasure for me to meet so many of you from around the state. I am very impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment you bring to your libertarian work. Thank you for allowing me to represent you as State Chair for another year.

As a political party, our emphasis now shifts to campaigns. We have spent the last two years building local affiliates and increasing membership to prepare for this six-month period. Getting Libertarians elected to office is our primary business until November 6. We have 77 Michigan Libertarians running for local, state and federal office. How many of them can we get elected? The vote total for our most important candidate, the LP Presidential nominee, will determine whether we remain on the ballot for 1998 or even become a MAJOR party. Can we get 5% of the vote and make the Libertarian Party a major influence in Michigan politics for years to come?

We can if YOU get involved. Think about how you can help. We have set up a new hot-line to make it easy for you to volunteer. Call the Volunteer Network at (810) 293-1402 to sign up. There is nothing more important this summer than helping one of our fine candidate with his/her campaign. Yes, they will keep you busy. Yes, it's difficult to ask for votes. But the effort will be worth it. It's worth a summer of hard work to improve our communities, our state, and our nation through Libertarian representation in government. It's up to you. Please be a part of this exciting campaign season.

ELECTION INSPECTOR LAW CHANGED

On May 21, 1996, Governor John Engler signed into law HB 4443 which, among other things, allows Libertarians and other minor party activists to serve as election inspectors. This "clean up" bill takes effect immediately so Libertarians will be able to work at the polls in the upcoming school elections and, of course, in the August primary.

It is nice for us that the Legislature fixed its mistake, but it's noteworthy that people who want to work at the polls still must declare their political party affiliation and are subject to challenge by the Republican and Democratic county party chairs. Also, a person can only declare affiliation with minor parties that have state-wide ballot status. Independents and members of parties currently petitioning are out of luck. We're a long way from open elections.

At this point, the LPM plans to drop its lawsuit.

Emily Salvette

 IONIA COUNTY ORGANIZES

The Ionia County Libertarian Party has completed the organization process and was officially recognized as an affiliate party by the Libertarian Party of Michigan at the State Convention on April 20.

The organization effort was led by our former State Chair Dick Whitelock who presided over the LPM for two years, 1988-90.

Dick is Chair of the Ionia group. Robert White is Vice-Chair, Fred Kutzt serves as Secretary, Thomas Groom is Treasurer and Clifford Lazarus, Jr., Stephen Thomas and Jerry White are Directors.

Dick Whitelock probably holds the record for most letters to the editor among libertarians in Michigan. His enthusiasm for the libertarian cause seems as strong as ever and his experience will be of great value.

MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

The Michigan Libertarian is published bi-monthly as the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan, 11700 Meriman Rd., Livonia, MI 48150. Scheduled publication is January, March, May, July, September and November.

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

Articles and letters to the editor should be submitted by the 30th of the month preceding publication. Text should be typewritten and double-spaced. Unsigned material will not be used. Submissions may be edited.

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 NATIONAL PLATFORM DELEGATES

The LPM will have two delegates and one alternate to the Platform Committee at the National convention July 3-7, 1996. If you have any suggestions, contact:

Tim O'Brien	Ray Warner
3319 Greenfield #345	1321 Orleans #2014
Dearborn, MI 48120-1212	Detroit, MI 48207
313-562-5778	313-259-7716
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517-725-5427	Owosso, MI 48867
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BROWNE A HIT! (Continued)

Rick Tompkins closed the Presidential derby by giving a thoughtful, principled speech which struck a chord with part of the audience. His criticism of Browne was muted and he stuck to the issues, but he suffered by having turned off a number of people the night before by attacking Browne during the unofficial gatherings. Several people walked out early in Rick's speech, citing his behavior the previous evening. Tompkins beat Schiff on the applause meter, but the only standees during the final applause were a handful of his supporters.

The three Presidential candidates were preceded by the only declared candidate for the LP Vice Presidential nomination, Jo Jorgenson, who supplemented the remarks she made at last year's LPM Convention. She is the sentimental choice for second place on the ticket as a hard-working, articulate and humorous speaker. She was well received in both her appearances in Michigan, but could be derailed by a last minute candidate at the National Convention. None of the three Presidential contenders has made a commitment to her, but it now looks like only Browne's is needed. He is the clear front-runner with a clear, comprehensive platform, fundraising ability, speaking ability and an aversion to negative campaigning which is so timely, even with libertarians this year.

CONVENTION NOTES

The Convention was hosted by Libertarians of Macomb County at the Georgian Inn and went off without a hitch. Attendance was perhaps the best ever with 86 delegates and attendance at the Banquet and the Brunch was 110. The Banquet featured Tom Hazlett of Reason Magazine who spoke on the FCC and free speech in which he blasted the "public interest" concept. (A version of that speech appeared later in the May 6 issue of the Wall Street Journal, editorial page.) Also speaking were Dick Boddie and emcee Keith Edwards. Barbara Goushaw con-

ducted the fundraiser auction. What was auctioned, you ask? The United States Government, that's what, or some pretty unpopular parts of it, such as the BATF, FBI, DEA, etc. Over \$2,000 was raised, the biggest bid was by a group of bidders at \$1,040 for, you guessed it, the IRS!

Wayne County hosted the Friday night entertainment, featuring the music of the O'Brien Brothers.

A Liberty Fair was held on Saturday with many vendors in attendance. Thanks go to Paul Soyk, Diane Barnes, Bob Van Oast, Anne Rowe and Dennis Ertzbischoff for doing a fine job of organizing the Fair.

The Convention Chair was Stacy Van Oast, who got off to a fast start last summer and stayed on top of things to the end. Her helpers included Mark Heil, Marnie Edwards, Jim and Laurel Pietrangelo, (Jim emcee'd the Brunch) Matt Ignash, Al Titran, Rosemary Rocchi, Dennis Jacques, Kyle Blair, Bill Carver, Ron Burcham and Keith Edwards, all of Macomb, and Dave Nagy, Ben Bachrach, Tim O'Brien and Mike Devour. And thanks to Emily Salvette for her encouragement and support.

Net income from the Convention was a hefty \$4,329.61.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: As of May 1, 1996, our LPM membership is 543, up from 421 a year ago. Membership in the National LP from Michigan is 685 (on which our delegate count is based) up from 523 a year ago. We hope to get more of the latter to join the state LP as well.

A more up to date TREASURER'S REPORT will appear in the next issue when the final convention figures are entered into the regular report.

Thirty-five delegates and sixteen alternates were chosen at the Convention for our delegation to the National Convention to be held in Washington, D.C. in July. We will have the fourth largest delegation.

LPM CANDIDATES FOR 1996

U.S. Senator Kenneth L. Proctor

Representatives in Congress:

District 1	Michael Oleniczak
2	Bruce A. Smith
3	Erwin J. Haas
4	Ben Steele III
5	Mark Owen
6	Scott Beavers
7	Robert F. Broda
8	Douglas K. MacDonald
9	Malcolm C. Johnson
10	Stuart E. Scott
11	Richard Gach
12	Albert J. Titran
13	James F. Montgomery
14	Scott A. Boman
15	Raymond H. Warner
16	Bruce Cain

State Representatives:

District 15	Paul Kane
19	John Tatar
23	Brad Tidik
24	Jon E. Coon
25	Loel Gnadt
26	Keith P. Edwards
27	Thomas R. Sydlow
29	Mathew Ignash
32	Robert Van Oast
47	Richard Frost
50	Joe Smolinski
54	Michael Wirick
66	Edward D. Wallace
70	Mike Brinkman
78	Thomas A. Baker
85	Max E. Dollarhite
108	Leslie J. Ellison
109	Jerry Pierre-Trettel
110	Robert Black

State Board of Education

Diane Barnes
Barbara B. Goushaw

Regent of University of Michigan

William W. Hall
Calvin J. Matle

Trustee of Michigan State University

Michael H. Miller
Brian A. Kluesner

Governor of Wayne State University

Thomas W. Jones
Stacy Van Oast

Supreme Court Justice:

Jerry J. Kaufman
David Raaflaub

Berrien Co. Commissioner:

District 2 James Kuhn

Ionia CO. Commissioner:

District 4	Richard L. Whitelock
5	William Bartelt
8	William Warner

Kent Co. Commissioner

District 10	Glenn A. Barr
18	Steve Butler
15	Todd Greene
17	Dan Marsh
11	Gregory Pattok

Phil Walsh

Kent Co. Sheriff Steve Warren

Kalkaska CO. Prosecutor Jerold T. Coon

Lapeer Arcadia Twp. Trustee Mike Woodall

Lenawee Co. Sheriff Bart Tinder

Clinton Twp. Trustee Brian Wisneski

Livingston Co. Clerk Richard A. Samul
Hamburg Twp. Trustee Matthew Dickenson

Macomb Co. Clerk Dennis M. Jacques

Macomb Co. Commissioner:

District 4	Ronald L. Burcham
6	Laurel Pietrangelo
8	Paul M. Soyk
13	James McAbee
18	Mark F. Heil
21	Bill Carver
11	Russell Kohler

Ottawa Co. Commissioner:

District 7	Jeffrey Terhaar
13	Russ Smith

Washtenaw:

Superior Twp. Commissioner Brett Cashman

Sylvan Twp. Trustee James L. Hudler

Ypsilanti Twp. Trustee Geoffrey Foster

Wayne Co. Commissioner Kerry Smith

POLITICS AS USUAL

By Keith Edwards

The election campaign is off and running, mostly "off" as in the upper story.

The Republicans, led by Newt Gingrich and Bob Dole have caved in like a cheap pup tent on the minimum wage issue. In addition to creating more unemployment, violating the right of contract between employer and employee, and being a cheesy and unnecessary surrender to the Democrat minority, the increase from \$4.25 per hour to \$5.15 is a major confession that the Republicans, like the Democrats, have failed to control inflation. After all, if \$4.25 was acceptable to the two parties before, and the two parties are so great at managing the economy and appointing bright people to the Federal Reserve to manage the money supply, why the 21% increase? Are prices moving up that fast?

Some investors and economists think so. "Investment Biker" Jim Rodgers said on CNBC the other night that the government is cooking the Consumer Price Index and that the federales are hiding the revised formula so that no one can check it. He's tried to get it and been stonewalled. He thinks the rise in prices is much higher than the government says it is. He recommends that people invest in companies that own natural resources and to diversify out of the US. His book, Investment Biker, now in paperback, compares economies he saw on his world-wide motorcycle trip and is very entertaining as well.

Investor's Business Daily had an article on April 8 demonstrating that freedom makes economies grow faster. Citing two studies which rate countries by an index of economic freedom, the article shows that those countries with free trade, low taxes, property rights, stable currency, etc., have much larger increases in wealth. In the Heritage Foundation report, the United States ranks fourth in economic freedom, behind Hong Kong, Singapore and New Zealand. The Fraser Institute ranks the US seventh,

behind those three and Bahrain(!), Switzerland and Netherlands. We aren't going to move up with actions like the minimum wage increase. Unemployed people don't produce wealth.

One striking note in the Fraser report: Czech Republic, just a few years out of the Soviet orbit has shot up to a tie for 12th place with Bahamas and Canada.

Productivity in the US hasn't been helped any by the EPA, OSHA, and EEOC regulations, all instituted by Republican Richard Nixon, mentor of Bob Dole.

Bill Clinton now says that he's immune from court action because he's on active duty as Commander -In-Chief of the Armed Forces. (Pause for uncontrollable laughter . . . recovered now?)

A rumor in Washington, DC says the government is going to issue three new bonds to raise revenue. The Clinton Bond has no principal. The Dole Bond has no interest. The Gingrich Bond has no maturity.

Anheuser-Busch, not satisfied with being the nation's largest seller of beer, has asked the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to stop the highly successful new breweries from advertising that they brew in small batches when they really contract production out to big brewers like Stroh's. Can't you see the BATF storming Samuel Adams (Boston Beer Company) with guns drawn and the FBI burning down the place? Anheuser-Busch is all through, though. I'm boycotting the bastards after 40 years of loyal quaffing. They won't recover from that!

New Zealand continues the march toward a free economy which we covered in the January February issue. Now they have de-regulated the telecommunications industry. If you own spectrum, you do with it whatever you want. There are no restrictions. You purchase it in a government run auction. Roderick Deane, Chief Executive Officer of Telecom New Zealand recommends we just "blow up" the FCC.



Affiliate Report

PAGE 8

MACOMB COUNTY LEADS STATE IN LP CANDIDATES

by Mark Heil

The Libertarians of Macomb County will have a total of sixteen candidates on the November general election ballot, more than any other Libertarian affiliate party in the state. In addition to two candidates for statewide office, we have two U.S. Congress candidates, four State Representative candidates and eleven county level candidates.

Oakland County to Meet June 13!

Whatever happened to Oakland County? That was the big question at the recent state convention. Soon after the convention, Dave Armstrong, the Oakland County Libertarians Chairman, explained that the few people that had kept the organization going, got busy and frustrated. Apparently, only a handful of people had been attending their meetings, and Dave and his core group got busy with other things, and Libertarian Meetings just kind of became low priority. Can you imagine? - A life outside of the LP????

Shocking!!!

Anyway, Dave is willing to get things started again - but he needs help! We have decided to hold a Re-grouping meeting on Thursday, June 13 at a location which still needs to be determined. Are there any Oakland County Libertarians out there that are willing to help?

If you have any suggestions for a location (a restaurant with a free private meeting room and no minimum meal charge is ideal) and/or would like to help get Oakland County active again, please call Dave right away at 810-391-4329. C'mon...there are over 100 paid county members in Oakland Co. that can help out!

Northwest Michigan LP Forms

The Libertarian Party of Michigan has added another affiliate to its growing family. After a great response to its March 30 organizing meeting in Traverse City, a core group led by Richard Ask with help from Brian Kluesner, Michael Oleniczak, Nick Hamilton, Jerry Coon, Cyndi Ask, and Dan Repzler acted quickly to elect offices and adopt bylaws so their affiliate status could be recognized at the state convention.

On Sunday, April 21, after a unanimous vote, the convention cheered the eight Libertarians there from "up-north" as the Northwest Michigan LP (NWMLP) became our fourteenth affiliate.

The NWMLP will serve Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford counties. Its officers are: Richard Ask, Chair; Jerry Coon, Vice Chair; Debra Anne, Secretary; Jim Anderson, Treasurer; Brian Kluesner, Director & Membership Chair; Kurt Henry, Director & Events Chair; and Michael Oleniczak, Director & candidate for US Congress-dist.1.

Chair Richard Ask says the group will be setting up a regular meeting schedule, planning outreach activities, campaigning for the LP presidential ticket, and is considering plans to host next year's state LPM convention. One of Ask's goals for the group is to have 100 members by the end of the year; quite an accomplishment considering in 1994, the number of LP members above Midland was only 17. But the talent and enthusiasm exhibited by this new group makes anything possible.

If you would like to get involved or just find out more, contact the NWMLP at P.O. Box 5250, Traverse City, MI 49684 or call Richard Ask at (616) 941-1306.

Libertarians Attacked in Letter to the Editor

Ann Arbor News, Tuesday, May 7, 1996

I don't agree much with the Libertarians, but since a good friend of mine is one, I usually try and listen to what they say and try and give them the benefit of the doubt. That's changed! A recent article in The Ann Arbor News confirmed my suspicion that these folks are truly on the fringe of society.

The gist of the article was that Geoff Foster of the Libertarian Party agreed with James Nichols of Michigan Militia fame that the government was responsible for the Oklahoma City bombing. He stops short of saying it's a fact that the government did it, but the implication is there.

Although the Libertarians always try to appear rational and logical, they don't offer one shred of evidence that the government conspired to blow itself up, nor do they seem to need to offer evidence to support their views. Their stand on this issue is a clear case of ideology shaping their reality.

Were there no consequences to this paranoid blather, I could live with this conspiracy theory and even derive some dark humor from their rantings.

But, I believe that the Libertarian rhetoric--like that of Rush Limbaugh, Gordon Liddy, Howard Stern, etc. - actually helped create the conditions that led to the Oklahoma City bombing. One can rant and rave on the television, radio and magazines about the secular, Godless, child-molesting, demon-worshipping cannibals who work for the government only so long, before people on the fringe of mental and psychological stability take it as their life's work to save us from these demons by blowing them up.

So the union of the Libertarians and the militia is a natural one, both philosophically and politically, as well as in a practical sense. Not only do they both hate government, but if society breaks down into groups of hundreds or thousands of individuals fending for themselves (as both groups appear to

favor,) the Libertarians have themselves an armed militia force ready, willing and able to "do battle" with their enemies - real or imagined. (end of letter)

This unwarranted attack was inspired by comments attributed to Geoff Foster in an Ann Arbor News article about James Nichols who spoke at a Libertarian meeting: (excerpt of article)
Geoff Foster, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Washtenaw County, said it was impossible to see the bombing as an act of protest against the government, because no person or group has claimed responsibility, or been convicted of the crime. He suggested the government may have even played a role in the bombing. "It's not an impossibility," Foster said. "Until I know for sure, I can't say why it was bombed." Foster said Nichols' experience with the federal government was unpleasant, but typical. "Unfortunately, this happens too often," he said. "Most people don't understand their rights under the Constitution and don't hold government officials accountable."

Geoff's wife Sherri responded with a letter on May 13:

Let me be the first one to defend my husband from the inaccurate and uninformed characterization of him by one of your readers.

Somehow the gist of a quote attributed to Geoff was misinterpreted to make it seem that the Libertarian Party had formed a union with militias. From my recollection of the article Geoff was alluding to the fact that a person is innocent until proven guilty, and during the investigation, other possibilities should not be discounted.

Furthermore the Libertarian Party is not an evil entity that is seeking to overthrow the government. They believe in something as basic as the Constitution of the U.S. and the Bill of Rights--something that makes the government accountable for it's actions. After reading these two documents, I would challenge anyone to find fault in the Libertarian Party philosophy.

(Ed. note: Geoff is running for office so the attacks are starting early, be forewarned!)

Gallup Poll: 50 Million Americans are Libertarian

from the National LP

WASHINGTON, DC -- The number of libertarians in America has remained consistent over the past two years, with more than 50 million Americans falling into that political category, according to a recent Gallup poll.

In a nationwide survey taken in mid-January 1996, Gallup found that 20% of the population was libertarian. "This poll is good news," said Libertarian Party National Chair Steve Dasbach. "It confirms that libertarians are a significant political force in America -- with a larger base of support than Ross Perot had in 1992.

"It also confirms that Gallup understands that the traditional liberal versus conservative view of politics is no longer adequate. You can't discuss politics in America in 1996 without acknowledging the libertarian factor," he said.

"Now the challenge for the Libertarian Party is to reach out to those libertarian Americans and explain why they should vote for our candidates, and become contributing members of our party," said Dasbach. "After all, the Libertarian Party is the only political party that really represents the views of those 50 million individuals."

The Gallup poll also found that 13% of Americans are liberal, 35% conservative, and 20% populist. The number of libertarians has remained relatively steady for the past two years. A January 1994 survey from Gallup reported that 22% of the population was Libertarian, while a March 1993 survey pegged the percentage of libertarians at 19%.

Gallup determined Americans' political classification by asking two questions. First: "Some people think the government is trying to do too many

things that should be left to individuals and business. Others think that government should try to do more to solve the country's problems. Which comes closer to your opinion?"

Second: "Some people think the government should promote traditional values in our society. Others think government should not favor any particular set of values. Which comes closer to your view?"

Dasbach said the Libertarian Party platform takes those general libertarian tendencies and turns them into specific political policy proposals.

"The Libertarian Party favors dramatically shrinking the size and cost of government, and eliminating laws that stifle the economy and control people's personal choices -- exactly what those 50 million libertarian Americans want," he said.

MINIMUM WAGE DEBATE

WASHINGTON, DC -- The most important number in the debate about raising the minimum wage isn't \$5.15 -- it's 884,000.

That's the estimated number of jobs that were destroyed when the government raised the minimum wage between 1977 and 1989, the Libertarian Party noted today.

"And an increase this year in the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 could destroy another 100,000 to 200,000 jobs, according to economists," said Steve Dasbach. "It's time to end the government's War on Employment," he said. "If politicians want to boost employment instead of destroying jobs, they should vote down this proposed increase and then abolish the minimum wage completely."

Unfortunately, said Dasbach, it appears that a boost in the minimum wage may become law this year -- thanks to the Republicans.

Hands off, Uncle Sam: It's Tax Freedom Day

from the National LP

WASHINGTON, DC -- You can tell Uncle Sam: Hands off -- it's my money now. After laboring 127 days this year to pay federal, state, and local taxes, average Americans are finally working for themselves. That's according to the Tax Foundation, a non-profit Washington, DC research group, which has designated May 7th as "Tax Freedom Day."

"It's shocking when you think about how much time you spend working for the politicians," said Steve Dasbach, Chairman of the Libertarian Party, "It's like spending one-third of your life as an indentured servant to Uncle Sam."

In fact, the average American:

- * Works more than two hours and 45 minutes every eight-hour workday just to pay taxes.
- * Works 127 days every year to pay taxes.
- * Works 15.3 years out of a typical 45-year career to pay taxes.

"On Tax Freedom Day, all Americans should ask themselves a question," said Dasbach. "Who can spend your money better -- you, or the politicians?"

Dasbach said that if Americans like having so much of their money grabbed by the politicians, they should keep voting for Republicans and Democrats.

"They're experts at stealing your money," he noted. "But if you want to keep more of the money you've honestly earned, vote Libertarian. The Libertarian Party is working every day to slash taxes -- and let Americans keep more of their own money."

Newspaper editor endorses Libertarian Party

WASHINGTON, DC -- Another newspaper editor has endorsed the Libertarian Party and announced that he plans to vote for LP candidates in 1996. In a lengthy "Opinion" piece in the April 11, 1996 issue of the Centralia Sentinel (Illinois), Managing Editor David L. Felts blasted the Republican and Democratic parties for avoiding the serious political issues of the day, and said the Libertarian Party is the only true heir to the philosophy of America's Founding Fathers.

"To someone fed up with the tired rhetoric and outright lies of the political establishment, Libertarian arguments are as welcome as a cool breeze on a hot summer day," he wrote. Felts said "both parties offer a Band-Aid approach" to problems like a bankrupt Social Security system and runaway entitlement programs. "The Democrats act like Mama and promise to take care of us. The Republicans act like Daddy and tell us to behave ourselves. But neither party wants to see any serious reduction in the government. They are the government." And, he wrote, "Neither party has much use for the Constitution, especially the Second Amendment...or the Ninth and 10th Amendments.

"I must say that today the Libertarian Party is the only group that is talking seriously about these issues," he wrote. "Libertarians agree with Thomas Jefferson, who rightly said 'that government is best which governs least.' It's time people realized that there is a party that values free thinking, responsibility and, most of all, liberty." So what does Felts plan to do?

"It may not make one whit of difference in this election, but I'm voting Libertarian," he wrote. "It beats suffering the bad taste in my mouth that develops every time I contemplate voting for Bob Dole or the Arkansas wonder."

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