

# Michigan Libertarian



Volume 37 Issue 3

May / June 2008

## Register Now for Historic State Convention

by Greg Stempfle

The LPM has made great strides in achieving its goal of 100 candidates. As of this first weekend in May, we have recruited 62 candidates from across the state. With one month to go and many county caucuses still scheduled, 100 candidates is a goal we could easily surpass.

This is the first year that the National Convention will be held before the State Convention. As a consequence, the Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates will have been decided by the time we have our convention. The press coverage generated by our Presidential nomination may encourage more candidates to run under the Libertarian banner.

We still need all of those interested in running as a Libertarian in 2008 to get in contact your local affiliate chair or candidate coordinator, Dr. Eric Larson, at [lpmlarson@comcast.net](mailto:lpmlarson@comcast.net) in order to learn about the nomination process and which offices are available in your area.

In addition to selecting our candidates, there will also be platform debates and the selection of the new LEC. All officers are up for election (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, 5 at-large seats, and a three member Judicial Committee).

Both our Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates will surely be encouraged to attend the Michigan

*(cont. on p.2)*

## Defender of Liberty Award Winners

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## Mary Ruwart Enters Presidential Race

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## State Convention Registration

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### Michigan Constitution ARTICLE I, SECTION 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*

## Presidential Primary Law Overturned

Libertarians and other third parties win court ruling

A Federal judge on March 26 overturned a portion of the new Michigan Primary election law that would have given the Democrat and Republican parties exclusive use of the party preference lists of voters who participated in the January presidential primary.

The ACLU represented the coalition of organizations filing the lawsuit that included the Libertarian, Green, and Reform Parties of Michigan, the Metro Times, and Winning Strategies, a political consulting firm.

The state law, passed in August 2007, would have handed the Democrats and Republicans a list of hundreds of thousands of people who voted in their respective primaries, and to no one else. This list would have been a goldmine for the two major parties. In effect, the state would have been subsidizing political party membership and fundraising activities.

To make matters worse, the law mandated that anyone apart from the Republican and

Democratic parties who used the voter list could be fined \$1000 and face 93 days in jail.

The law was initially struck down by a pair of lower courts, but at the last minute, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled that helping to build the major parties is a legitimate function of state government. The court majority said reserving lists of voters to the two parties was within the authority of the Legislature and Governor when they approved the primary bill last summer.

In a 21-page opinion, Judge Nancy G. Edmunds struck down the portion of the law that gave the lists to the major parties and made it a misdemeanor for anyone other than the two major parties, including other political parties, journalists, academics or historians, to have access or use the lists. She declared that this section of the law violated the equal protection rights of third parties. There are no plans to appeal the decision.

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w w w . m i . l p . o r g

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the weekly email newsletter of the LPM.  
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## Newsletter Information

The *Michigan Libertarian* is published bimonthly as the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan  
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**Submissions:** Please email articles and advertising to  
[MichiganLibertarian@Gmail.com](mailto:MichiganLibertarian@Gmail.com)

or mail payment to:

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Lansing, MI 48909-7065

**Deadline:** The next deadline for submission of articles and advertising is July 7, 2008.

**Advertising Rates:** Full Pg \$100, Half Pg \$50, Quarter Pg \$25.  
25% discount for LPM Candidates, 50% discount for LPM Affiliates. No personal ads.

**Visit:** <http://www.mi.lp.org/Newsletters> for more information.

## LP of Michigan State Convention

(cont. from p.1)

Convention. In any event, we will do our best to secure presidential campaign material at National to distribute to our membership in Romulus.

The evening banquet will feature Shikha Dalmia, a senior analyst at Reason Foundation, a free market think tank. You may remember Dalmia from her 8 years at the Detroit News as an editorial writer. She will speak on open borders and immigration policy, a subject sure to spark lively debate.

A few more notes on the convention:

I am in possession of several boxes of current literature for LPM candidates which I will distribute to affiliates and candidates at the Convention. There are three brochures available. One is about keeping government busybodies off your back and is a more generic libertarian piece, while the others are more issue specific. One of these is geared toward small businesses and the other opposing racial preferences.

The Wayne County LP will be hosting a suite throughout the day for delegates to relax. Candidates will have the opportunity to have a good quality candidate photo taken.

## Correction

by Will Tyler White

An article in the previous issue of Michigan Libertarian about closing the Lansing office listed me as the author, although I did not write it or approve it.

To set the record straight: the Capital Area affiliate negotiated a reduced rate for the Lansing office to keep the option open for the next LEC to be elected in June. It was not "free" as the article stated. Furthermore, I did not propose, and I am not soliciting monthly pledges to pay the office rent. It has always been my position that the Lansing office be supported from the general fund. A cost/benefit analysis shows that closing the Lansing office is not a big money saver and in fact has many drawbacks. This analysis is posted on the e-newsletter and at [groups.yahoo.com/group/MichiganLibertarian](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MichiganLibertarian) Download it and do your own analysis, then bring your opinion to the June convention and let the LEC know what you think.

If we are serious about being an effective political party, we need to be lobbying in Lansing for changes in election law, or filing suit against bad laws like the 2008 Primary, which was thrown out! That is the best way to show the general public (and the R's & D's) that we are a positive force for change. Sure, having a lot of candidates is good publicity, but if they do not get elected we look like perennial losers. We ran 115 candidates in 2000 and what good did it do us?

When people see meaningful results that the average person can appreciate, then they will jump on our bandwagon.

# Campaign Conference Recap

by Greg Stempfle

Campaign season for the LPM got underway March 8<sup>th</sup> when 45 candidates and activists met in Livonia for our candidate training conference at the Best Western hotel. Organized by LEC members Erin Stahl and Greg Stempfle, this event featured guest speakers addressing different aspects of campaigning for office.

Leonard Schwartz, the Political Director for the LPM went over the paperwork requirements to be a candidate. The process is surprisingly straightforward. For most offices, there are only 3 short forms to fill out, which are available on the Michigan Secretary of State website. For most offices, unless you spend more than a certain amount (\$1,000 for State offices, \$5,000 for Congress), you are exempt from filling out campaign finance paperwork.

Dealing with the media was an important topic covered. Tim O'Brien, from the Small Government Alliance, spoke about paid media and Erin Stahl spoke on earned media.

Hazel Park Councilman Andy LeCureaux and Libertarian, talked with the crowd about reaching out to voters. He is certainly familiar with this as LeCureaux had been re-elected to the council 3 times.

Two representatives from Libertarian Presidential campaigns spoke to the crowd prior to straw poll voting. David Yardley from Kalamazoo spoke on behalf of Michigan's own Bob Jackson, who has subsequently dropped out of the race and endorsed Bob Barr. Mark Schreiber spoke on behalf of the Wayne Allen Root camp. Results of the straw poll are on page 4.



*Campaign Conference Speakers; Bill Hall, Leonard Schwartz, Andy LeCureaux, and Tim O'Brien*

Three Defender of Liberty Awards were also presented. The Spokesperson for Liberty Award was given to Leslie Roszman. Leslie was the Michigan Coordinator for the Ron Paul campaign. There was an incredible outpouring of support for Ron Paul leading up to the cold January primary. It seemed his name was everywhere you looked. Paul's 4<sup>th</sup> place in Michigan had been his best showing up til that point.

A second Spokesperson for Liberty Award was given to Troy Councilman Martin Howrylak. Martin has been serving the residents of Troy by being a vocal critic of government waste in the city. Martin has been a popular and dedicated board member.

The Promoter of Liberty Award went to Scott Avery Boman. Scott has been one of our strongest and consistent candidates since the early 90s. Scott has also served as past Chair of the party and has been promoting the LP in the Detroit Area for that long. Scott was endorsed by the Detroit News when he ran for City Council in 1997.

For those who missed the conference, video footage of the presentations has been uploaded to the LPM's website at, <http://www.michiganlp.org/Shared%20Documents/Resources.aspx> Special thanks to Dr. Erwin Haas for recording the conference.



*Defender of Liberty Award Winners; Leslie Roszman, Scotty Boman, and Martin Howrylak*

# Affiliate Events and News

by Greg Stempfle

## Mary Ruwart in, Bob Jackson Out

Presidential candidate Bob Jackson, from Constantine, suspended his campaign on April 7th. Jackson writes on his site, "When a better candidate appears it is good to recognize it. I have terminated my campaign in favor of full support to Bob Barr and I encourage you to also support Bob Barr."



Presidential Candidate  
Mary Ruwart

Another native Michigander, Mary Ruwart, has thrown her hat into the ring. Mary was a longtime activist and candidate in the LPM for years. She is the bestselling author of *Healing Our World: The Other Piece of the Puzzle*. Mary has a PhD in biophysics and spent 19 years as a research scientist at U p j o h n Pharmaceuticals. She

has also written extensively on the subject of government regulation of the drug industry. In 2002, libertarians launched an unsuccessful lobbying campaign to get Dr. Ruwart appointed as Commissioner of the FDA.

## Wayne County

The LP of Wayne County will hold its nominating caucus on June 5th at Dimitiri's on the Avenue in Dearborn on Michigan Avenue. This is where candidates are encouraged to fill out their paperwork. We will also need to elect officers for the upcoming year at this meeting.

## Dearborn Heights/Redford

Supporters of the effort to recall Michigan Speaker of the House Andy Dillon have turned in more than 15,000 signatures to place recalling the Democrat on the next scheduled election. Only 8,700 are needed. Dillon was one of the chief officials behind last years \$1.4 billion tax hike passed by the Legislature to balance the state budget. Only two lawmakers have been recalled in Michigan and no Speaker of the House has ever faced such a challenge. Expect many court battles before August.

## Lansing

Efforts to place a medical marijuana ballot proposal before voters have finally succeeded. The Secretary of State has officially certified the proposal. Signature gatherers led by the Michigan Coalition for Compassionate Care submitted more than half a million names to the state last year. Polls consistently and overwhelmingly show that the public supports this issue.

## Hazel Park

### Andy LeCureaux enters Dem Primary

Andy LeCureaux has announced his intention to seek the Democratic nomination for State Legislature in his home district of 27. LeCureaux, a four term councilman and frequent Libertarian candidate for Congress lives in an overwhelmingly Democratic district and felt his chances of victory would be easier under that party banner. Several libertarians have had success running as Republicans so it will be interesting to see how Andy pulls off the switch to Democratic politics. LeCureaux plans to embrace his libertarian positions while on the campaign trail. Often elected Republicans who did not toe the GOP line are referred to as RINOS (Republicans In Name Only). Could Andy become the first in a new breed of DINOS?

### LPM Presidential Straw Poll Results

March 8, 2008

Wayne Allyn Root	11 (37%)
Bob Jackson	8 (27%)
Ron Paul	2 (7%)
Steve Kubby	2 (7%)
Christine Smith	2 (7%)
Mary Ruwart	1 (3%)
Walter Williams	1 (3%)
George Phillies	1 (3%)
Daniel Imperato	1 (3%)
None of the Above	1 (3%)

Since this poll was taken, Mike Gravel, Mary Ruwart, and Bob Barr have announced their candidacy while Bob Jackson has dropped out.

# Affiliate Events and News

## Upcoming Events

**May 13, 2008**

Republican and Democrat filing deadline for primary election

**May 14, 2008**

Oakland County Nominating Caucus

Sila's Restaurant, two blks. East of Greenfield on the south side of 12 Mile Rd. 7:30 meeting time.

**May 22-26, 2008**

National Libertarian Convention, Denver

**June 5, 2008**

Wayne County Nominating Caucus

Dimitiri's on the Avenue, 14316 Michigan Ave, Dearborn, 7:30 meeting time.

**June 7, 2008**

State Convention, Romulus

-Nomination of candidates for public office

**August 5, 2008**

Primary Election

**November 4, 2008**

General Election

## Platform Committee Accepting Changes

by Greg Stempfle

At the upcoming state convention, a portion of the business session will be devoted to the consideration of changes to the LPM platform. This year's Platform Committee will be chaired by Greg Stempfle. Traditionally, one member from each of the 5 largest affiliates meets to discuss the proposed changes prior to the convention and to give its recommendation to the membership. This year, I will consider including members from outside these affiliates to serve on the committee. Please send any proposed changes to the party platform to [stempfle@hotmail.com](mailto:stempfle@hotmail.com). The current platform of the LPM is found at <http://www.michiganlp.org/Shared%20Documents/Platform.aspx>

Please note, there will be no bylaws changes debated at this convention. Only during odd-numbered years do these occur so that we can spend more time on candidate selection.

## Candidate Platforms

by Leonard Schwartz

What planks should be in your candidate platform? That depends on whether you want to get many votes. Many Libertarians don't care whether they get many votes. To them, being a candidate is a form of self-expression - an opportunity to state their views on issues. They don't care if voters consider these views bizarre or ridiculous. Some Libertarians, often called "macho-flashers," even prefer to shock voters with views that voters consider outrageous.

This essay provides advice to Libertarians who want to get many votes.

1. Your platform should discuss only issues that are relevant to the office you seek. For example, if you are running for the state legislature, don't discuss national or local government policy. Alternatively, if you want to discuss national issues, run for Congress. If you want to discuss local issues, run for a local office, etc. If you are running for an executive position, like county sheriff or township clerk, emphasize changes that you could make without getting approval from the legislature.

2. An important rule in politics is that voters aren't looking for reasons to support a candidate. They are looking for reasons to oppose a candidate. Therefore, if you have a platform that contains 30 planks, you give voters 30 possible reasons to oppose you. If you have a platform that contains 10 planks, you give voters only 10 possible reasons to oppose you. Therefore, if you want to get many votes, have a platform with few planks. Emphasize planks that voters consider most important.

3. Select policies that distinguish you from your Democratic and Republican opponents. Select policies where many voters prefer your plank over that of one and preferably both of your opponents. For example, ending the war on herbal medicine is a good issue for candidates for Congress and the state legislature.

4. Your website should provide a short justification for each plank. So should other campaign material, if space allows. It should persuade undecided voters that your plank is correct. Utilitarian reasons alone usually aren't sufficient. As Richard Ebeling said, and Jacob Hornberger often repeats, "No one has ever gone to the barricades for the sake of a cost-benefit analysis." You should rouse their emotions. You want voters to agree that your opponent's position is stupid or immoral.

# 60 Candidates and Counting!

by Bill Hall

United States Senate and Augusta Township Trustee. Macomb County Commissioner and the State Board of Education. Eight of 15 US Congressional seats (so far). Letters, emails and telephone calls and messages are streaming in from Libertarians all across the state; Libertarians eager to step forward, and make a difference this year as a Libertarian Party candidate.

On June 7 the LP of Michigan will meet in convention in Romulus to nominate its candidates for the November 4 general election. Never in the history of the LPM have so many Libertarians announced their interest in seeking the Libertarian nomination this far in advance of the convention. Six weeks prior to the convention we have 60 potential candidates, more than all the 57 candidates who ran in 2006! On March 8, our 2008 Campaign Conference was packed with 45 people anxious to learn more about how they could run effective campaigns.

Earlier this year, we announced the goal of running at least 100 candidates in 2008. Given recent history, this was quite ambitious, and a real “stretch” goal. But freedom-lovers recognize the great opportunity we have here in Michigan. A state economy that is a disaster, in large part due to those bipartisan bozos in Lansing. The opportunity to run against incumbents who raised taxes, and raised taxes again. The ability to tap into the unrest, and enthusiasm, that fueled the Ron Paul Revolution. The prospect for running on a ticket that includes an excellent Libertarian Presidential candidate, sure to make waves with the political establishment.

We need you to volunteer to run for office in 2008. Unless we are on the ballot and present ourselves as a legitimate party by running candidates, we will never gain credibility with the media. No matter how much or little campaigning you do, your presence on the ballot is vital. Even if you run only as a name – you will be serving an important role by giving our other candidates who are running active campaigns instant credibility and support.

We have the plans, and the volunteer commitment to provide candidates like you support in training, web sites, position papers and filing the campaign paperwork. Become a part of the team. Make that commitment. Pursue freedom in Michigan, by becoming a Libertarian Party candidate.

Contact our candidate coordinator, Dr. Eric Larson, today at [lpmlarson@comcast.net](mailto:lpmlarson@comcast.net). Write us at P.O. Box 3685, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-3685. Call us at 1-888-FREENOW. Attend the state convention in Romulus on June 7. Don't wait, become a candidate today!

## Partial List of Announced Candidates

Leonard Schwartz	Vice-President
Bill Hall	State Board of Education
Jeff Steinport	State Board of Education
Daniel Kelzer	WSU Board of Governors
Joesph Rosenquist	MSU Trustee
Darryl Schmitz	MSU Trustee
Eric Larson	U-M Board of Regents
Tom Bagwell	U-M Board of Regents
Scotty Boman	US Senate
Dan Johnson	Congress #2
Erwin Haas	Congress #3
Carolyn Langlois	Congress #4
Richard Bowerman	Congress #7
Richard Gach	Congress #9
Mark Byrne	Congress #10
John Vico	Congress #12
Greg Stempfle	Congress #15
Tim Beck	State House #2
Greg Creswell	State House #3
Erin Stahl	State House #24
Adam Goodman	State House #26
Dan Flamand	State House #42
Rodger Young	State House #47
Neil Galbraith	State House #52
JR Udvadia	State House #87
Bill Wenzel	State House #72
Larry Orcutt	State House #73
Tracey McLaughlin	State House #74
Matt Friar	State House #76
Mike Orcutt	State House #77
Bill Bradley	State House #80
Pat Steinport	State House #86
David Brown	State House #87
Devon Smith	State House #99
Allitta Hren	State House #102
Scott Alexander	State House #106
Mike Brylewski	Macomb County Commissioner
Tom Workun	Macomb County Commissioner
Michael Marotta	Washtenaw County Sheriff
Bill Parker	Cass County Sheriff
Jamie Lewis	Kent County Commissioner
Bill Gelineau	Kent County Clerk
Krista Goodman	Augusta Township Trustee
Steve Nickelson	Kent County Treasurer
John Stedman	Kent County Sheriff
Dan McDougall	TBD
Chester Hill	TBD
George Nelson	TBD
Howard Merritt	TBD
Dan Livingston	TBD
Steve Van Til	TBD

# Libertarian Party of Michigan - Annual Convention

## June 7, 2008

**Register now .....**

*Best Western – Gateway  
(Metro Airport)  
9191 Wickham  
Romulus, MI 48174*

*LPM Business Convention 9am-4pm  
Candidate Nomination  
Annual Banquet 5:30pm-9pm  
Great Speakers! Fun and Relaxation*



***The Party of Principle***

Business Registration and Hospitality	\$15
Afternoon Luncheon w/ Speaker	\$15
LPUSA – Candidates	
Evening Banquet	\$55
Buffet Dinner	
Featured Speaker: <i>Shikha Dalmia,</i> <i>Senior Analyst at the Reason Foundation</i>	
Entire Package	\$85

**Reserve your room:**

- via phone 734-728-2800
- Group Code: CGLPM

Rates are valid until May 5, 2008.

We reserved a fairly large number of rooms, but suggest booking ASAP.

<i>Room Type</i>	<i>Rate</i>
<b><i>Doubles</i></b>	<b>\$84.99</b>
<b><i>Kings</i></b>	<b>\$74.99</b>
<b><i>Jacuzzi</i></b>	<b>\$119.99</b>
<b><i>Suites</i></b>	<b>\$159.99</b>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONVENTION REGISTRATION: Mail to:</b></p> <p><b>LPM Convention 2008 c/o Bill Gelineau 2789 Kissing Rock SE Lowell, MI 49331</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">or <a href="http://www.mi.lp.org">www.mi.lp.org</a></p> <p><b>Note: After May 25, Luncheon and Banquet are “as available”</b></p>	<p><b>Name(s):</b> _____ _____</p> <p><b># Convention Attendees</b> _____ @ \$15 _____</p> <p><b># <u>LATE</u> Attendees</b> (after May 25, 2008) _____ @ \$20 _____</p> <p><b># Luncheon Attendees</b> _____ @ \$15 _____</p> <p><b># Banquet Attendees</b> _____ @ \$55 _____</p> <p><b># Michigan Membership Renewal</b> _____ @ \$25 _____</p> <p><small>(Attendees intending to vote as delegates must be a member of either the Michigan or National Party by May 7, 2008)</small></p> <p><b>Total enclosed</b> (check or money order) \$ _____ Make check payable to: Libertarian Party of Michigan</p>
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# Libertarian Party of Michigan State Convention June 7, 2008

- Selection of Candidates
- Selection of new LEC
- Possible LP Presidential Nominee
- Guest Speaker : **Shikha Dalmia**  
Senior Analyst, Reason Foundation

Best Western - Gateway  
Metro Airport  
9191 Wickham  
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**Don't Forget! The Libertarian  
Party Presidential Convention  
will be on C-SPAN May 24-25**



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