

MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

Volume 7 Number 11

February 1980

WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN . . .

LP BALLOT DRIVE SUCCESSFUL

By Eric O'Keefe

By mid-January, Michigan Libertarians had collected over 26,000 signatures for placing the Party on the August ballot! This met our goal, so we called in all petitions and prepared to file the signatures. The minimum number of valid signatures required is 18,339, and the filing deadline is May 3, so we are operating with large margins in both signatures and time.

The rapid success of the petition drive reflects greatly increased support for the Libertarian movement. Dozens of Libertarians stepped forth to help in the effort, including many who had never before participated in LP activities. The labor and cooperation of many people was required to make this achievement possible. Congratulations and thank you to all of those who assisted.

The petition drive was kicked off with a trip by Marion Williams, Field Organizer for the Clark for President Committee, on November 4 and 5. Drawing on her experience from previous petition drives, she helped inexperienced Michigan Libertarians set up an organization with the ambitious goal of collecting 23,000 signatures by the end of 1979. By November 18, we had only 3,300 signatures, but the number of petitioners was growing rapidly. In mid-December, it was decided that we should aim for 26,000 signatures, to provide a larger safety margin. This number was reached on January 12, 1980. Thus, in 56 days including holidays, 22,700 signatures were collected.

Marion Williams and the rest of the Clark Committee continued to be sources of useful ideas (and more) throughout the drive. Stephen O'Keefe and Michael Shipe provided valuable assistance in organizing petitioners in East Lansing. Rose Wright led an important group of volunteers in Oakland county. Leslie Key of Wisconsin, Regional Coordinator for the Clark Committee, provided important help which shortened the drive by a couple of weeks. Of course, the help of many others was essential for success.

The early completion of this drive, which frees the LPM for other work, was also important to the national Clark effort. The Clark Committee can now concentrate additional effort on more difficult ballot drives in other states.

This rapid petition drive was expensive. Many of you have already contributed generously. We still need more money, however. Please help pay for this important effort.

We cannot rest for long after this petition drive. Now is the time to begin preparing the organization and lining up the support which will assure our success in August. A victory in the August primary should be the prime objective of the Libertarian Party of Michigan for the next six months. Such a victory will clear the way for obtaining permanent ballot status in November. This in turn will set the stage for the leap to major party status by the LP in Michigan.

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Travel and Work for Liberty

Two of the most important petitioners in the Michigan drive are going to work full time for the Libertarian Party in the first half of 1980. Bill Krebaum and Kathleen Jacob are both becoming traveling petitioners. They will help put the Libertarian Party and the Clark-Koch ticket on the ballot in some of the most challenging states in the country, starting with Maryland. An amazing surge of support, financial and otherwise, caused the LP to seek ballot status in Maryland, despite very difficult requirements.

Other states which need or will soon need traveling petitioners include Florida, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Texas and Montana.

Petitioning jobs offer the opportunity to travel and earn money while doing important work for the Libertarian cause. If you are interested and eligible to vote, contact:

Eric O'Keefe
6415 Gladys
Detroit, Michigan 48210

or:

Ed Clark for President Committee
2300 Wisconsin Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20007
(202) 333-8263

TREASURER'S REPORT

Assets

General Fund.....	\$ 209.37
Newsletter Fund.....	30.05
Ballot Fund.....	0.00
Liabilities	\$1,076.00
NET WORTH.....	-\$ 818.33

We will need memberships, subscriptions and contributions. Come on folks. Join the party and bring a friend!!
—Anne Belinski

LPM OFFICERS 1979-80

Chairman.....Jim Hudler
Vice Chairman.....Greg Clark
Secretary.....Ray Warner
Treasurer.....Anne Bilinski

ADVERTISING RATES

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The Michigan Libertarian is published monthly as the official newsletter of the Michigan Libertarian Party.

All letters to the editor and articles will be considered for publication unless otherwise requested.

Please submit all contributions typewritten. They will be edited only for length, grammar and spelling.

Editor: Brian Wright

Layout & Printing: Nick Hamilton

Michigan Liberty Honor Roll

The people listed below have contributed in concrete fashion to the LPM's successful ballot drive. Any omissions are regretted.

Nick Hamilton	Peter Avery	Neal Oliver
Tom Smith	William Bigler	John Morris
Theresa Hercher	Bernard Sullivan	Jerry Comptois
Hugo Walter	Lisa Eichhorn	Dave Treece
Anne Bilinski	Jerry Malone	Don Bilinski
Fred Schantz	Ray Warner	Robert Meyers
Greg Clark	David Gillie	Bill Krebaum
James Pike	Larry McKenna	John McDivitt
Anthony Kantz	James Limbacher	Louis Volsse
Dan Hunt	Marion Williams	Richard Ryan
Charles Koch	Dave Lovelace	Eric O'Keefe
Sandra Perry	Kurt O'Keefe	K. B. Termaat
Kelly O'Keefe	Paul Getty	Stephen O'Keefe
Benedict Burns	Kathleen O'Keefe	Peggy Jain
Mary O'Keefe	Lynne Pentler	Mark O'Keefe
Neil Faiman	Joy O'Keefe	Maureen Vermeer
Charles Congdon	Greg Kaza	Fred Dechow
Brian Wright	Dick Jacobs	Rose Wright
Ron Redmond	Randy Szabla	Ed Clark (of Detroit)
Diane Szable	Charles Todd	Steve Vargo
Jim Hudler	Leslie Graves Key	Paul Ciaramitero
Ken Hopf	Daniel Herrick	Ray Bruce
Jeffrey Quick	Jack Mariotti	Kathleen Jacob
Tom Jones	Michael Shipe	Ed Clark President
Edward Spurlock	Mike Hardy	Committee
John Little	Pat Cartwright	Randy Jones
Rod Pietrzyk	Lynn Johnston	Jack Hart
Diane Snoad	Dan Hanson	Pete McAlpine
Kay Augustin	Eric Gentile	Thomas Malone

AND EVERYONE WHO TOOK TIME TO SIGN.

Libertarian Party of Michigan Activities

Apart from culmination of the petition drive for LP access to the state primary ballot — the story of which appears elsewhere in this issue — several other functions of interest to the Michigan LP were conducted during the month of January.

The LPM held its January SCC meeting in Ann Arbor with the primary objective of discussing and formulating post-ballot drive strategy. The meeting was well attended by party activists from key metropolitan areas, which in itself signifies a growing amount of popular support and enthusiasm for the LP across the state. Although membership and financial condition are not quite to the level of those peak days of 1976, it is becoming quite clear that the health of the organization will soon surpass the wildest expectations of those few diehards who gathered glumly at the state convention last May.

Party membership continues to grow at a rate of 10-15 individuals per month, and although the LPM still carries a hefty amount of red ink, our progress toward retiring this indebtedness has been steady and impressive. (Refer to this month's treasurer's report on page 2). The ballot drive was costly but was supported to a large extent by external sources directed through the Michigan Clark for President Committee. The chairman of this committee, Eric O'Keefe, devoted a substantial amount of his own funds to the effort with an eye toward eventual reimbursement by means of both these external sources and additional fund-raising programs to be conducted under auspices of the MCPC and the LPM. These programs will be underway soon, and all libertarians are urged to contribute something of themselves to

what has been, and yet promises to be, a most remarkable assault on the state juggernaut. Remember Ben Franklin's old adage: "We must all hang together, or we shall surely all hang separately."

In addition to the matter of the ballot drive and the fund raising plans for defraying its expenses, several important items were discussed relating to upcoming party activities and requirements:

1. Issue Petition

The two issue petitions which have been hammered out and actualized over the course of the last few months — legalization of marijuana and elimination of the property tax — were assessed in terms of our future plans.

Clearly, the positions libertarians maintain with respect to these two issues appeal naturally to traditionally antagonistic constituencies, and our purpose as libertarians is to use these issues as a means of showing responsible people of both groups that personal freedom and economic freedom are inseparable. We also hope to gain their enthusiastic support in our endeavor to demolish the common enemy of intelligent life on this planet: the coercive, leviathan state.

Mr. Ray Warner, chairman of the marijuana issue committee, suggested that the LPM could get good mileage out of some form of participation in the protests which are being organized in conjunction with the Republican National Convention being held in Detroit this August. A well-staffed literature booth bearing petitions for the legalization of the production, sale, and use of marijuana in the state of Michigan would be likely to gather significant popular support as well as media coverage. Of course, discretion in

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the actual use of this drug in any other is advisable under all circumstances, but the important point that we can emphasize as advocates of individual liberty is that such discretion is an individual function, a matter of personal responsibility in which legal sanctions are solely appropriate in a context of impairment-induced damage to others. The location for the projected "counter-convention" is tentatively on Tartar Field of Wayne State University. Those interested in pursuing this actively should contact Mr. Warner at 313-531-9172.

As with the marijuana issue petition, which is being approached at this time with typical libertarian voluntarism — i.e. there has as yet been no formal party push for a petition drive — the petition to amend the state constitution to eliminate property taxes is still being held in abeyance. Previously, this had been party policy due to the importance of conducting a "blitzkrieg" petition drive to achieve primary ballot status. Now that this has been accomplished, however, a number of SCC members have expressed reservations about pursuing a radical and possibly unsuccessful anti-property tax petition drive when we might better focus our efforts upon supporting less draconian proposals for property tax relief that stand a better chance for public approval. The upcoming new Tisch amendment was suggested in this regard, provided it contains sufficient ideological consistency and potential negative impact upon the spendthrift gang in Lansing to warrant general libertarian support. In any case, the matter was not fully resolved at this meeting, and it was proposed that advice from the LP National office and the Clark for

President Committee be sought prior to moving out strongly in one direction or another.

2. LPM 1980 State Convention

The state party convention will be held on the third weekend in May, probably in Ann Arbor. This should be a very exciting and well-attended event, especially since LP presidential candidate Ed Clark will almost certainly appear to give an address to the assembly, and the party will be nominating its candidates for a wide assortment of U. S. congressional, state and county positions. In addition, it is hoped we can attract a large number of displays and booths of groups and individuals with gripes against various coercive laws or who simply have interests they wish to express. Media coverage should be extensive.

Anyone having ideas for the convention or wishing to participate in its major events or planning should formulate their plans and goals and contact convention committee chairman Eric O'Keefe at 313-898-3616. All those wishing to attend will be provided advanced registration forms in the near future.

One very important point to keep in mind regarding this convention is that it will be a nominating convention. *The LP must have candidates in order to become a credible political force*; it is even probable that our candidates can win in some of the races where the voters are totally disgusted with the other candidates. Each of us as libertarians should seriously consider running for public office, inasmuch as no other kind of individual is equipped either intellectually or "morally" to participate in the orderly dismantlement of the coercive state apparatus. And this must be our goal—

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not some foredoomed glory trip; there is nothing glorious about government work except as one may enlist it effectively toward the end of a free society.

3. LP National Committee Meeting

There is a high probability that the August 1980 Natcom meeting will be held in Southeast Michigan. The tentative dates for this event will be 2, 3 August — just two days prior to our state primary. By virtue of media attention, the holding of this meeting at this time in Michigan will provide a vital boost to the prospects of achieving a significant margin of votes over the minimum needed for us to appear on the general election ballot in November. It would be a marvelous plus, especially if the two candidates, Ed Clark and David Koch, attend.

All people on the LPM mailing list will be advised should the event materialize as hoped. One thing that should be mentioned here in conjunction with the August primary is that only our party name and vignette will appear on the ballot. It is estimated that we will need approximately 3,000 votes (0.3% of the total primary vote is the actual requirement) in order to get on the general election ballot. Once this is accomplished we'll need 18,339 votes in the general election for our presidential candidate in order to obtain *permanent ballot status*. Thus, it is clear that much is at stake in the primary election performance. The LPM hopes to overcome the obstacle of absence of candidate listing in this primary by advance planning, telephone contact and an avalanche of publicity. The Natcom meeting fits well into our overall strategy of success.

4. Publicity and Media Goals

Virtually unanimous agreement

was achieved on the proposition that the LPM must significantly improve its advertising-publicity efforts (in addition to fundraising). Mr. Dick Jacobs of Flint, a new SCC member who sought out the LPM subsequent to reading Ringer's book, *Restoring the American Dream*, was especially interested in developing our capabilities in this vital area.

Unfortunately, perhaps, publicity in Michigan for libertarian events and activities has heretofore been pretty much a do-it-yourself thing (and it still shouldn't be discouraged for that), but as we gain strength and national importance it will become increasingly necessary to have an organized and efficient system for publicizing our activities. Until this system is in place, an endeavor which will be largely formulated at the next SCC meeting, individuals who have items to announce to the press or media should write up a short press release and coordinate its dissemination with people listed below:

Metro Detroit.....	Eric O'Keefe
	313-898-3616
	or
	Rose Wright
	313-684-1816
Ann Arbor.....	James Hudler
	313-475-9792
Midland.....	Fred Dechow
	517-631-6536
Flint.....	Dick Jacobs
	313-694-9154

A few other matters of general interest were discussed prior to the SCC meeting adjournment. The next SCC meeting was scheduled for February 10 in Ann Arbor. See "Events and Announcements" section. There are still openings for

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SCC members on a "homesteading" basis. If anyone wishes to be an SCC member, please contact our chairman James Hudler (313-475-9792) or else attend the 10 February meeting.

The film *The Inflation File* made the rounds in Michigan this last month courtesy of James Hudler. It was shown at the Metro Detroit Libertarians meeting January 15 and drew mixed reviews, partially on account of the stereotypical treatment of the protagonist's black secretary. The economic information, however,

was accurate and the film has some fine humorous moments.

Anyone having information, e.g. from the Ann Arbor Libertarian League, MSU Libertarian League, county events, special get togethers, etc., should contact the editor prior to the 20th day of the month of issue in order for it to appear in the newsletter (313-644-1816).

We also need short articles, letters and advertising. Please get involved with your local newsletter: one or two person shows bore the readership.

—Ed.

LETTER(S)

Dear Sir:

It comes to light that a particular Republican congressman from Illinois, Phil Crane, has been touting very much the same basic philosophy as has your newsletter.

Mr. Crane has been expressing repeatedly his passionate belief in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the virtue of our Founding Fathers.

He has also been quite vociferous in his disdain for our presently cumbersome federal government. He bemoans the fact of our ever-increasing and ever-burdening taxation.

And he vigorously dalutes the market place as the true arena in which the healthy battles between supply and demand, wages and prices, and success and failure can take place in a truly free economy (and therefore society).

It is truly fitting and proper that such a man be regarded with the same degree of respect that seems to be accorded to only those heroes of the Libertarian movement whom the N.L.P. has designated as being worthy of praise.

—G. J. Comptois, Royal Oak

EDITOR REPLY: *Phil Crane is indeed an articulate and comparatively consistent advocate of the free market. His stand on personal freedoms is generally good, although his stands on foreign policy are interventionist. The significant question one must ask is why such an apparently principled and laudable person has not embraced the Libertarian Party. The only political party which advocates individual liberty as a matter of principle.*

Events and Announcements

30 January PM, Lansing

Formal filing of signatures for LPM's most successful ballot drive.

31 January

A²L²

Ann Arbor Libertarian League
Meeting: Edith Efron Tape
7:30 P.M.
Michigan Union, Ann Arbor

6 February

U. of D. Libertarian League
Meeting
For info. call Greg Kaza
(313) 927-2341

10 February

LPM State Central Meeting
2:00 PM
Welker Room
Michigan Union, Ann Arbor

19 February

Metro Detroit Libertarian
Meeting 7:30 PM
Howard Johnson's Restaurant
14 mi rd & Stephenson Hi-Way
Troy

21 February

A²L²

7:30 PM
Lecture on
Biocentric Psychology
by Betty Irwin
Michigan Union, Ann Arbor

Film

Incredible Bread Machine

This excellent introduction to the ideas of liberty in a modern world is available to any high school, J.C., business, etc. group on request. Contact:
James Hudler 313-475-9792

NOTE

If you or your organization have an event to announce in the Michigan Libertarian, please send all information to the state office or call the editor by the 20th day of the month preceding the month of the event.

Libertarian Party of Michigan
308½ S. State Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
or
Call Editor (313) 644-1816

SPECIAL NOTES

- The February issue of *Qui* magazine carried an article on the Libertarian Party. The reporting was fairly shallow but the publicity was welcome.
- Milton Friedman is hosting a PBS series entitled "Free to Choose," airing every Tuesday night at 10:00 EST on Channel 56 in the metropolitan Detroit area. Most of our local libertarian critics give this one high marks. The first of 10 weekly segments appeared January 15.

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