

MICHIGAN

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January - February 2007

Jillette and Boortz have put Libertarianism on the airwaves

by Andrew Wrenbeck

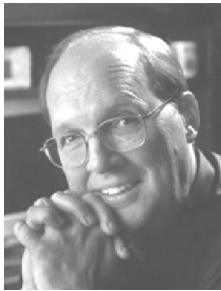
On local radio stations and even more widely spread as the #1 downloaded podcast on iTunes, Penn Jillette and sidekick Michael Goudeau are putting the Libertarian point of view in front of Americans around the world with Penn Radio on the FREE FM radio network.



Penn Jillette

Penn Jillette has been the larger, louder half of comedy-magic team Penn & Teller for over 30 years. Many people also know of him from the Emmy Award winning Showtime series *Bullshit*, where he and Raymond James Teller dispel myths and also have a been promoting Libertarian topics for 5 seasons.

Penn's guests include Libertarians such as Drew Carey, Doug Stanhope (who is seeking the Libertarian nomination for President in '08) and a huge list of other big-name actors, comedians, politicians and musicians who share the Libertarian point of view.



Neil Boortz

Because of the show the Libertarian Party has received exposure unlike any other resource in the past. Covering topics from taxes and government intrusion to silly laws

and the war in Iraq.

Some would argue that Neal Boortz has a larger audience for his self-proclaimed Libertarian talk show, *Boortz*. Boortz considers himself to be a Libertarian, he supports eliminating the war on drugs, lowering taxes, and shrinking the size of government while disagreeing with the Libertarian platform by supporting incremental taxes and the war in Iraq.

Boortz co-wrote the book *Fair Tax*, proposing to implement a national retail sales tax in lieu of federal income taxes. Boortz is also an attorney.

You can subscribe to Penn Radio on iTunes for free, and listen to the daily show any time you want or visit www.pennradio.com to see if it is broadcast on a radio station near you.

Boortz is syndicated on the Jones Radio Networks and Cox Radio. You can visit or visit www.boortz.com to see if it is broadcast on a radio station near you.

Bush Hopes to Expand the Size and Scope of Big Government

William Redpath Provides Libertarian Response to the State of the Union Address

On Tuesday, January 23, President Bush delivered his 2007 State of the Union Address. While there were some things in the speech that were, on the whole, good, on most matters the President continued to show no appreciation for the concept of limited (particularly federal) government, and he continues to conflate the ideas of national defense and security with his stubborn

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LP of Livingston Co.	David Buck	Not Available
Libertarians of Macomb Co.	Jim Allison	www.macomblp.com
Midwest Michigan LP	Brian Kluesner	www.pecktec.com/lpmwm/
LP of Oakland Co.	Adam Goodman	goodman582@hotmail.com
LP of South Central MI	James Parker	jamesp@hillsdale.epcorp.com
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The Michigan Libertarian Newsletter

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Submissions: Please email articles to newsletter@lpmich.org
Only electronic submission will be accepted. Acceptable formats are plain text,
MS Word, HTML, Freehand.
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Deadline: The next deadline for submission of articles and advertising is March
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candidates running for office in Michigan who have
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www.payattention.org Continues "Politics" Ad Campaign

by Andrew Wrenbeck

Continuing an ad campaign from the mid-term elections, payattention.org encourages Americans to both register to vote and to pay attention to who they are voting for.

Mock television commercials and web sites form a typical campaign of Democratic and Republican candidates for office, and encourage watchers and visitors to look at the issues and the actual candidates. To get beyond the hype.

The payattention.org program is a campaign put together by the Ad Council. The Ad Council is a private, non-profit organization

that uses volunteer talent from the advertising and communications industries and the media, and the resources of the business communities to deliver messages to the American public.

The Public Service Announcement (PSA) campaign is designed to encourage 18-24 year olds to vote. These PSA's show how by doing nothing, you're actually doing something. By not voting, you're essentially helping someone else into office. And it may not be the someone you would choose.

The PSA's also speak to education because if you're not educating yourself

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Lloyd Sherman - Rest in Peace

by Leonard Schwartz

Lloyd Sherman, a long-time Libertarian activist, passed away on Christmas Day after struggling with lymphoma. He was 51.

He was an officer of the Libertarian Party of Oakland County and the state party. He also was a frequent candidate. Lloyd was active in Hazel Park government. He served on the city's Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Commission, Building Authority, Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, and Fence Board of Review. He even continued serving on several boards between chemotherapy treatments.

He served on the board of directors of Brass Roots, a group that supports the right to keep and bear arms. Brass Roots was founded by Jon Coon, LPM's candidate for US senator in 1994. Lloyd was active in several organizations that opposed the war against herbal medicine. He especially supported the medical marijuana movement. He was respected by Democratic and Republican politicians. Among the persons whom spoke at his memorial service were State Representative Andy Meisner and County Commissioner David Coulter. Lloyd was survived by his wife, Jeannie, his daughter, Erika, and several grandchildren.

Promote Libertarianism by Getting Elected to a Nonpartisan City Office

by Leonard Schwartz

Libertarians' greatest success is in nonpartisan elections. At least eight Libertarian Party of Michigan members have been elected to city councils: Fred Collins in Berkley, Martin Howrylak and David Eisenbacher in Troy, Andy LeCureaux in Hazel Park, Mark Owen in Owosso, Bill Bradley in South Haven, John Stempfle in Grosse Pointe, and Erin Stahl in St. Clair Shores.

Most city elections are on November 6, 2007.

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Pay Attention from page 3

about the candidate you vote for, you may as well be voting for a Bag of Leaves.

The goal of this campaign is simple. Pay attention, get involved and most importantly, vote. All goals that could serve to help the Libertarian Party in future elections.

The campaign is funded by the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP). In other words, tax money is used for the campaign. This aside the program does encourage people to think before they vote.

Some of the campaign's put together by the Ad Council include "Rosie the Riveter," "Smokey Bear," "A Mind Is a Terrible Thing to Waste," "McGruff the crime dog."

The organization may also be familiar to many Libertarians because of the failed,



Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Campaign that wasted over \$1 billion in taxpayer's money with nearly zero success.

Regardless of the source of the ads, they may serve the Libertarian cause. We just have to hope for response more like the "Smokey Bear" campaign, than the "Your

Elect
SIDE OF HASHBROWNS
PRINCIPLED. PROVEN. FILLING.

Brain on Drugs debacle."

Hold tight, because Republicans and Democrats spending money and encouraging people to pay attention to whom they vote for seems to be self-defeating.

Get Elected from page 5

Here is how to get on the ballot:

1. Contact your city clerk to learn (a) the deadline for submitting candidate paperwork and (b) the number of valid signatures you need. Also ask if you can get on the ballot by paying a filing fee instead of petitioning and whether the filing fee is refundable. Your city clerk will provide petition forms and an "Affidavit of Identity."

2. Unless you will pay a filing fee, start gathering signatures from persons who live in your city. First ask friends to sign your petition. Some friends might also help get signatures. Next start petitioning door-to-door in your neighborhood. Petition only in daylight. Saturday and Sunday afternoons are best. Say something like: "Hello. I'm [name]. I want to be a candidate for [name of office]. Please sign this petition so that my name will appear on the ballot. I'm not asking you to vote for me. I'm merely asking your permission to be on the ballot." Most people will sign. Sometimes someone will want to discuss issues. Don't waste your time. Say something like: "I'll be happy to discuss issues after my name is on the ballot. But today I'm in a hurry." If the person won't sign, just go to the next house.

Because some persons aren't registered to vote at the address they put on the petition, you should get at least 40% more signatures than you need.

3. File your "Affidavit of Identity" and petitions (or filing fee) before the deadline.

4. Form a candidate committee and file a "Statement of Organization" with the county clerk. Campaign finance rules are the same for nonpartisan and partisan offices. See my article in the Michigan Libertarian, March/April 2006.

5. Contact your LPM affiliate for support. Planning a successful campaign takes time. Start planning now. Then start campaigning. Don't be discouraged if you don't win the first time. Martin Howrylak, David Eisenbacher, and Erin Stahl lost their first city council races. But they were elected on their second attempts. LPM affiliates should start recruiting nonpartisan candidates now.

2004 Vote Recount Conclusion

by Andrew Wrenbeck

After the November 2004 election, the presidential nominees of the Green Party and the Libertarian Party jointly requested a recount of the presidential vote in New Mexico and in Ohio.

Black Box Voting, a nonprofit, nonpartisan elections watchdog group partially covered this story in the HBO documentary *Hacking Democracy*. The documentary exposes the vulnerability of computers which count approximately 87% of America's votes in county, state and federal elections - suggesting that if our votes aren't safe, then our democracy isn't safe either.

Both states had relatively small fees for requesting a recount. But elections officials in both states were determined to thwart the requests. In New Mexico, the state retroactively increased the fee ten-fold and a lower court said that was OK.

The two candidates couldn't afford the \$1,400,000 new fee for the recount, so they dropped their request, and the voting-counting machines were then reprogrammed so that any recount would be impossible. Later, on May

16, 2006, the New Mexico Supreme Court said the



two candidates should have received the recount they had requested after all, but, of course, by then it was too late.

In Ohio, the recount supposedly went ahead. Under the law, a few precincts were supposedly to be randomly chosen. A hand count of these randomly-chosen precincts was then to be compared with the machine total. If they matched, no further recount in that county was needed.

On January 24, a jury convicted two Ohio elections officials of rigging the recount. Instead of randomly choosing precincts, they first identified a few precincts in which the hand-count and the machine-count matched. Then they claimed that those precincts had

been the randomly-chosen ones; and since totals matched, no further recount of other precincts was needed.

According to sources interviewed by Black Box Voting, the women were offered plea bargains but declined, and their supervisors were never publicly required to account for

the illegal manipulation of Cuyahoga County ballots during the 2004 recount of the presidential election. As in New Mexico, it is too late to do anything about it.


More Info:

www.BlackBoxVoting.org


www.hackingdemocracy.com

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The Oakland County LP Elects New Officers

by Leonard Schwartz

The Libertarian Party of Oakland County, at its annual convention on January 24, selected the following officers:

- Chair: Adam Goodman
- Vice-chair: Jim Young
- Secretary: Leonard Schwartz
- Treasurer: Dianne Szabla

- Communications director: Brian Kelly
- Membership director: Nathan Allen
- Development director: vacant

Anyone interested in becoming the development director should contact Adam Goodman, 248-765-3213, goodman582@hotmail.com.

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stubborn continuation of his Administration's tragic war of choice in Iraq.

On the positive side, the President's health care proposal that allows replacing an unlimited employer health care expense deduction with standard deductions for individuals, while not perfect, is a large step in the badly needed direction of breaking the link between employment and health insurance in this nation. It would stop federal tax discrimination against people who are not covered by employer-provided insurance. It would, as the President said, make health care more affordable for more Americans.

Unfortunately, the President's proposal calls for a minimal tax increase for those Americans with the most expensive of insurance plans. Beyond this, various health care reforms should be the province of state and local governments. The federal government should not be involved; there is nothing in the U.S. Constitution granting it license for such involvement. Among this nation's political parties, only the Libertarian Party takes the Constitution and its limited powers for the federal government seriously.

Other than that, the President's innocuous platitudes were the highlights of the rest of his speech.

The President touched on another of his unpopular and failing big government solutions: No Child Left Behind. Not so very long ago, the Republican Platform called for the elimination of the federal Department of Education. Today, Republicans and Democrats compete over which big government programs and mandates can be forced on state and local governments. No Child Left Behind should not be reauthorized. Bush said he wants children in failing schools to have additional options. We agree, but that should be left to state and local governments to hash out. The Libertarian Party calls for an end to any federal government involvement in education, including the cessation of all grants to state and local governments and what the Republican Party platform called until the year 2000 - the closure of the federal Department of Education.

The President applied his big government philosophy to our energy policy, too. Instead of trusting you and me to determine what sort of fuel economy we prefer in our private vehicles, the President is attempting to force new fuel economy standards on automobile manufacturers. Additionally, he is tampering with the free market in order to reach the probably unachievable goal of "energy independence." If we want the lowest possible energy prices and alternative energy sources to develop, we need to get government out of the energy business and let the free market work. Unfortunately, the President is disregarding the history that made America the great nation she is with his approach of intervention and regulation.

The President indicated that he intends to exercise some spending restraint and to balance the budget. He also suggested reforms that are supposed to prevent billions of taxpayer dollars from being spent on earmarks. Those are fine words, but we should look at his actions, too. Since Bush has been in office, the Republicans have spent more, even discounting for terror and war related expenses, than even the Democrats had spent. And the President can't blame Congress; he never once vetoed a Republican bill for excessive spending.

If he is truly opposed to earmarks, he could have used his veto power, but he didn't. If a Libertarian president had been handed such bills, they would have gone, unsigned, back to the Hill with a simple message attached: For the sake of the American people, become financially responsible now. The President and the GOP-controlled Congress had their chance to show fiscal restraint, and they badly failed the American people.

Even after the criticism he has taken for his Iraq Surge Strategy from some of his strongest supporters, the President continued to promote his plan that places many of our citizens in harm's way. Clearly, the primary reason America rejected the Republicans this past November is because of the President's failed policy in Iraq. But for the U.S. starting this unwise war, the President would not have to ask for 92,000 additional U.S. soldiers, as well as Civilian Reserve Corps.

When Bush stated that we need to take the war to the enemy, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was quick to stand and applaud. The question we need to ask ourselves is what specific enemy we need to pursue for the purpose of national security.

There has been a great deal of controversy about so-called facts presented by the White House about the initial cause for military action in Iraq; it is time we look at some real facts. We are indeed nation building. We are playing policeman in a civil war. We attacked Iraq and triggered what is clearly a civil war that has killed tens of thousands of people in Iraq, all without a correct and coherent explanation of what our purpose and goals are from the Bush Administration. We have chased non-existent weapons of mass destruction instead of focusing on the terrorists who killed nearly 3,000 Americans on 9/11. We are creating more terrorists on a daily basis because of our intervention in Iraq. In short, we went after the wrong bad guys and are now stuck in the middle of someone else's civil war.

Bush said that we need to "win" in Iraq, but he has never clearly articulated what a "win" would be. That is the least he owes the American people. The most successful outcome Americans can hope for is to withdraw from Iraq as quickly as is safely possible for our troops, before too many more of our sons and daughters are added to the ever growing list of casualties.

We, in the Libertarian Party, still think there is hope for the advocates of limited government. According to an ABC News report, the President has only kept one third of the promises he made in his 2006 State of the Union address. Bush's current approval ratings are lower than for any U.S. President the day before a State of the Union Address since President Richard Nixon in 1974. Hopefully, he will fail in turning his mostly big government solutions into public policy.

Democrats tend to throw expensive big government solutions at health care and education, so it seems likely that the two older parties, acting in concert, will only continue their longstanding trend of making government bigger, less responsive and more expensive.

In the eighties and nineties, Republicans ran on limited government platforms. Voters rightly rejected many of these Republicans last November for breaking their promises. But, in handing both Houses of Congress to the Democrats, voters weren't screaming for radical liberal change, but for some semblance of government restraint - in terms federal fiscal policy, and ending America's military involvement in Iraq.

But, given the Democrats' multi-decade proclivity for larger and more expensive government, casting one's lot with them is not the answer. There is but one common-sense political solution remaining. If you are as upset as I am about the President's plan to continue to increase our military involvement in Iraq and the size of government, I ask you to please join and become involved with the Libertarian Party, the only U.S. political party that is committed to - or even simply respects - the concept of limited government and freedom for all individuals in the United States.

William Redpath is the Chairman of the Libertarian National Committee. Additional information about Mr. Redpath may be found . Additional information about the Libertarian Party is located .



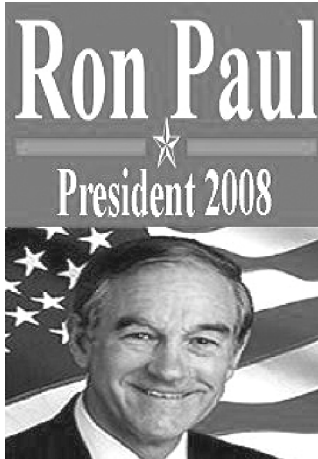
William Redpath

Ron Paul and Doug Stanhope Go For White House In '08

by Andrew Wrenbeck

The Texas Congressman Ron Paul enjoys support across political spectrum. The anti-war pro-freedom hero wants to represent all of America.

Ron Paul's office has confirmed reports that the Texas Congressman is set to run for the 2008 Presidency. Paul unites



opposition to the war and the police state at home across the entire political spectrum and in contrast to the current gaggle of criminals running the White House, represents everything that America truly stands for. A huge effort in support of Ron Paul needs to be mobilized now to prevent Americans from being hoodwinked once again into electing a different puppet of the same dark establishment in 2008.

Paul first ran for President as the Libertarian candidate in 1988, receiving a massive 400,000 votes. He now commands the support of those all across the political spectrum, from libertarians through anti-war Democrats to real paleoconservative Republicans.

Paul has been in and out of Congress since the 70's and is universally hated by the Republican elite, who routinely back Democrats against him just to try and get him out of office. The former Vietnam flight surgeon is the perfect candidate for President and activists from every corner of every political persuasion should mobilize now in an attempt to help Paul shatter the power monopoly of the Republican and Democrat establishment who have worked together for decades to slit America's

throat in the interests of power, greed, and ego - all working towards the realization of a new world order.

The Texan represents a dying breed in Congress, those who actually cast their votes in accordance with the Constitution and not at the discretion of lobbyists or the fear that the elite will tarnish their political careers if they don't continually support the establishment. As a result Ron Paul is the elite's worse nightmare, simply having him on the ticket itself will be a massive public relations blow, and that's why media organs will probably be activated to try and discredit him before 2008.

Paul was one of only a handful of Republicans to vote against the illegal invasion of Iraq, contending rightly that the Constitution clearly states that only Congress can declare war. In bucking a trend, Paul was anti-war long before the majority of the country came around to a similar way of thinking following the catastrophe of the occupation.

While Democrats soft-peddle and cozy up to Bush, creating phony arguments about the level of troop presence in Iraq and ignoring the majority will of the country to bring the troops home immediately, Ron Paul's opposition to unnecessary wars of intervention has remained steadfast throughout his entire political career.

Filling the void in the completely other end of the spectrum is Doug Stanhope. He has unofficially announced his campaign. Stanhope claimed on *Penn Radio* that because the powers that be have so many campaign laws, for now his campaign is unofficial. That way he can do and say what he wants before being subject to government oversight.



That is precisely what the political comedian and celebrity brings to the arena, access to the press. Already appearing on national radio, and on the cover of *Edinberg Festival Guide* magazine Stanhope has the ability to market himself very well.

Stanhope's MySpace presidential website shows support from familiar names like Joe Rogan, Ron White, Dave Attell and more who appear on his massive 5200 plus member friends list. Both his website and his My area have links to join the Libertarian Party. There is no question as to which party he would choose to give him a nomination.

As a comic standup speaking truth and liberty to those in power, Doug Stanhope has done many a series of Q&A's and interviews. He has publicity experience. Hoping to peel off the layers of misinformation that tend to surround LP candidate hopefuls. It seems Stanhope is big in the U.K. as well, as his comedy is focused a lot on the cynicism of living within gaining totalitarianism.

Stanhope's main agenda would be focused on issues of self-government, individual rights, government waste as well as immediate withdrawing of troops from Iraq, ending the War on Drugs, pardoning all non-violent drug offenders, castrating the IRS and the FCC., and lowering the drinking age to eighteen.

Both Stanhope and Paul have exploratory websites set up with contact information and candidate information.

www.ronpaulxplore.com

www.ronpaul2008.com

www.stanhope2008.com

www.myspace.com/stanhope08

Here's a great story that answers the question What Would Libertarians Do?

By Shane Cory

This week, I learned of a recent meeting that took place among some of our newly elected Libertarians.

Jack Tanner, Tom Clark and Kim Hawk serve on Florida's Lee County Soil and Water Conservation Board which is comprised of five members. Jack, Tom and Kim are Libertarians. They hold the majority on the board . . . a Libertarian majority.

This month they held a board meeting, which is typically not a widely attended event. However, this time their meeting room was

chock-full of bureaucrats from Lee County and even surrounding counties.

Here are Kim Hawk's own words to describe the setting:

"Jack had e-mailed the agenda and invited media. Everyone knew what was likely to happen. Bureaucrats began to file into the room. Federal, state, county and city managers of agriculture, utilities, water and parks departments took their seats. Jack had never seen anything like it. Two years ago he couldn't get board members to attend. The air was electric. I could feel the tension in the room. Our two employees Nik and Garry were there. Mark, the board member unseated by Tom, was there with a scowl on his face. No media were present. Cookies and doughnuts sat largely untouched in the center of the table. My stomach was in a knot. I didn't know if I could do what I came to do."

So, now you are probably wondering, "What the heck was going on?" It's pretty simple, Lee County was about to get their first taste of what elected Libertarians do.

You see, Lee County offered a little program that fell under the supervision of the Soil and Water Conservation Board. The program had an impressive name, the Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL).

For years, employees of the MIL visited the homes of Lee County residents and adjusted their sprinkler systems. They made sure that homeowners had good distribution on their manicured lawns and didn't over or under water.

All of Lee County residents paid for this service, whether they used it or not, to the tune of \$202,986 per year. The Mobile Irrigation Lab serviced an average of about 34 lawns a month. That's about \$497 per lawn. You can probably see what's coming by now.

That's right, in that well-attended meeting of the Water Conservation Board, our newly elected Libertarians were about to terminate what was obviously a wasteful government program. Once again, here's Kim Hawk's take: *"Chairman Jack Tanner quickly moved through the agenda until he opened the floor to discuss the termination of the mobile irrigation laboratory and our two employees*

The next 45 minutes or so were consumed by a series of earnest and emotional pleas by the government managers. Phrases like 'millions of gallons wasted' and 'billions of gallons saved' were used. Papers were pushed around with columns, charts and graphs. A case was cited in which an elderly, feeble, poor woman, unable to manage her lawn sprinklers, was 'saved' by our wonderful program."

As the debate wound down Mr. Hawk announced how he would vote:

"I now know how uncomfortable and awkward it feels to look government workers in the eye and tell them 'You're fired.' I felt sad for the two men whose income was lost and at the same time I felt exhilarated thinking of the thousands of taxpayers who will keep more of their own money."

"I looked around the room. Our employees, Nik and Garry, were visibly angry. Garry was muttering something I'm glad I couldn't hear. Jack called for a vote. Ron Edenfield brusquely pushed back his chair and stood, announcing, 'Let the record show I don't have time for this. . . ' Ron walked out. Jack was unfazed. Paul Dinger voted to keep the service saying, 'I don't want to throw the baby out with the bath water.' Jack, Tom and I voted to end the program."

"The government managers were mumbling to each other. I heard phrases like 'this is unbelievable!' They stayed behind to discuss their next move."

"I felt many conflicting emotions on my way out. As the day wore on I gradually realized

that this was a dream come true. I am 49 years old. For 35 years I have complained about our intrusive and expensive government. Now I am government, and I am doing something about it. I have found my nirvana. Jack, Tom and I will do whatever we can to prevent other agencies from thwarting our attempts to reduce government waste and regulation. We owe this to the taxpayers and ourselves."

After learning of this story, I called up Jack Tanner just to let him know how much we all appreciate their work. It's one thing to be an elected Libertarian; it's another to govern as a Libertarian. It is not easy to endure the criticism of the majority.

It is not easy to have to look good employees in the eye and fire them simply because they held a government job. But that's the duty of an elected Libertarian.

What do Libertarians Do? Thankfully, the men and women of our party who run for and win public office stand by principle and do their jobs regardless of how unpopular or uncomfortable things may become.

The new LEC office location at 2722 East Michigan Avenue in Lansing has been put to good use since our move December 1, 2006. Many thanks to the Capital Area LP for providing the moving crew. The office is just west of US-127, within site of the Capitol dome, and has a very visible sign facing Michigan avenue. The historic marker in front of the office on Michigan Avenue marks where the first major length of road in the world was paved with concrete.

**LEFT:
LEC meeting
2-11-07:
The LEC hard
at work in the
new Lansing
o f f i c e
c o n f e r e n c e
r o o m.**



c l a s s i f i e d s

SHOULDN'T YOUR NEXT CAR BE FROM A LIBERTARIAN?

Andrew Wrenbeck: Chevrolet - Cadillac - Saab - Hummer - Pre Owned (734) 327-1756

We invite you to join the Libertarian Party of Michigan

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: __ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Annual dues for the
Libertarian Party of
Michigan are \$25

Mail To:

Libertarian Party Of
Michigan
PO Box 27065, Lansing,
MI 48909-7065

☐ I Prefer email communications over US Mail

☐ Occasionally we make our list available to other groups that wish to offer products or services to our members. Check here to be EXCLUDED from additional mailings

☐ I certify that I do not advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving social or political goals. Signature: _____
(signature required for membership, but not for donations)

Please charge my credit card (Visa or M/C only:)

Card Number: _____ Expires / /20

Signature: _____

☐ I have enclosed a check or money order (Payable to the Libertarian Party Of Michigan)

Political contributions are not tax deductible.

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