



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

June 2024
Volume 53:06

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Comments from the Editor

This edition features a total of 6,788 words. Some titles have been edited to be more concise. Articles have been edited to improve grammar, punctuation, and clarity. The author's opinion clause has been modified slightly, for accuracy. Spacing has been adjusted for consistency.

Contributions and Comments Welcome

Contributions are welcome, with careful attention to our [guidelines](#). Comments, articles, or requests of advertisement space, for the next issue of the Michigan Libertarian may be sent to newsletter@michiganlp.org. Submissions sent later than the 20th of each month may not have time to be used. Articles are often posted to michiganlp.org/headlines ahead of our publication date.

The Libertarian Party of Michigan (LPMI) depends on contributions to carry out its mission. Please Visit us at MichiganLP.org and scroll down to the bottom of our homepage to gain access to our contribution form.



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Wexford County's 1st Libertarian Run for Sheriff

June 01, 2024 / LPMI Press Release

This article expresses the opinion of the author(s). LPMI members are welcome to send in opinion articles (In keeping with our [guidelines](#)) for consideration to the editor.



Picture 1. Jake Bassett looking dapper.

Campaign Manager Email: Cory0269@yahoo.com

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Longtime resident with criminal justice training & experience seeks to end the divisive and unnecessary "war on your rights."

On May 13, longtime resident Jake Bassett launched his campaign to be elected as Wexford County sheriff. His message to voters was, "A county sheriff is the local community's last line of defense to protect our constitutional rights against political trends and ill-conceived laws that divide us." Bassett added, "It's an elective public office that should always be under civilian control by people whose top priority is to respect our individual liberties as we peacefully go about our day-to-day business. It should never be a one-way transmission line for state-level bureaucrats to impose mandates from Lansing or anywhere else."

Bassett described his law enforcement vision:

- "Everybody," he says, has "something to gain from an approach that minimizes interference with our peaceful activities."
- Deputies know that statistically, when there is a good bond between the public and law enforcement, communities are safer and more law abiding.
- To achieve this goal, deputies want to be viewed as true servants of the community, not a distant, imposed element. By acting as servants of the Constitution—as people who are subject to the same laws they enforce—they can achieve this goal.
- Accountability is at the heart of being viewed as community servants. And there really is a hunger for accountability among law enforcement professionals because they know it will attract and hold onto the best and brightest for Wexford County.

Bassett said that this approach minimizes friction between residents and reduces tension between residents and over-active deputies: "When people mind their own



business, they get along just fine as good neighbors. They're not trying to control others or worried someone's trying to control them. And deputies won't be in the business of enforcing tension-producing laws that cost a lot of money to enforce and litigate."

Mr. Bassett anticipates support from the 2nd-Amendment community, LGBT community, opponents of victimless crime laws, deputies who understand that good relationships are based on minimizing the number of unnecessary conflicts with citizen-taxpayers, conservatives, homeschoolers, people who value constitutional protections, and those who just want to be good neighbors and otherwise left alone.

Now employed by a local lumber and delivery business, Jake Bassett has held private security positions at major retail establishments in the community and has a longstanding interest in law enforcement, criminal justice, and resolving tensions surrounding police activities. He has completed training in a criminal justice program sponsored by West Shore Community College.

Kayla Wikstrom Runs to Represent House District 108

June 01, 2024 / LPMI Press Release

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Picture 2. Kayla Wikstrom looking wise.

Former Republican seeks to restore 2nd Amendment rights and election security, curb abuse of executive powers, and reduce over-imprisonment for crimes without victims as a Libertarian Candidate.

On May 13th, longtime Delta County resident Kayla Wikstrom launched her campaign to represent Michigan House District 108 for the Libertarian Party. She explained her overall message: "Politicians on both left and right want control over our lives; they only disagree on how to take it. Here in the Upper Peninsula Libertarian Party, we advocate small government, personal responsibility, and accountability. Government has taken on too many roles, and I want to stop that."



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“My top priority is restoring our 2nd Amendment rights and repealing infringements. For all the claims that women and minorities are under attack,” says Wikstrom, “I find it strange that politicians refuse to support the ability of people to educate, train, and arm themselves so that they can protect themselves. The anti-self-defense advocates and our legislature are literally forcing us to be victims.”

We also lack a clear, simple process to verify election results, she said. “It’s been four years since the 2020 fiasco, and we still don’t have a way to authenticate elections. Never again should an election be certified when a canvasser is openly and publicly threatened to certify as in 2020. Despite two legislatures and Senator McBroom’s Oversight Committee report, there’s still no clear process. Despite the official narrative that everything’s just fine, the report never stated that there was no fraud. Instead, it uncovered vulnerabilities, processing insecurities, and resistance by officials to deliver requested information to the Senate committee. The report is incomplete, and the games have to stop.”

Wikstrom is also concerned about the abuse of executive power and the lack of interest by the current legislature to assure that the rights of the people are not suspended again by the stroke of a pen. “If a claim of ‘emergency’ is going to be the grounds for suspending the constitution as it was in 2020, you can bet that self-interested politicians will declare emergencies to justify their actions. The unprecedented lockdowns resulted in the largest wealth transfer in history from the middle class to the top one percent in income. Yet Governor Whitmer never furnished either science or data to justify her massive intrusion, the destruction it caused, and the harm we continue to live with.”

Wikstrom cited over-imprisonment as another costly practice. “Half of all Michigan prison inmates are serving time for non-violent, victimless crimes. Michigan has more prisoners than the population of 17 countries! And there’s still a question about collusion between Gretchen Whitmer, Dana Nessel, and the FBI agents who helped entrap our neighbors in a fake kidnapping plot by offering criminal suggestions to the entrapment victims. That’s why those cases were thrown out.”

After running for office in 2022, Kayla Wikstrom put aside social media to spend time reading her Bible. “I was struck,” she said, “by what I read in Isaiah chapter 30 about not turning either right or left, but instead listening to the voice of God and following the narrow path. As far as I’m concerned, I’ve been led to run as a Libertarian Party candidate because of its consistent application of both truth and grace to issues where God wants us to act in accordance with our responsibility as human beings.”



Explore the [Buds 'N Reality Podcast](#) with anarchist/libertarian Shaun Collins!

UPLP Update & More

June 01, 2024 / By Ryan Roberts, UPLP Chair

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Picture 3. Upper Peninsula Libertarian Party Logo

As the Libertarian Party National Convention wraps up its busy convention weekend, we are well underway for the 2024 election season with our newly nominated Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates! Congratulations to Mr. Chase Oliver (Presidential candidate) and Mike Ter Maat (Vice Presidential candidate). We would also like to congratulate Angela McArdle for being re-elected as the National Party



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Chair, and we can't wait to see what the next two years bring. With Angela's leadership and strong work ethic, she was able to bring two opposing candidates, Donald Trump and Robert F. Kennedy Jr., to the convention, which brought a lot of media to our national convention. We hope this public awareness continues going forward!

The Upper Peninsula Libertarian Party (UPLP) had its local convention/caucus, which was held on May 19th in Rockland, Michigan. At this convention we successfully nominated two partisan local candidates that will appear on the 2024 general election ballot in November. Congratulations Robert Black for stepping up to run for Crystal Falls Township Supervisor. Also, congratulations to Jason Morgan for being nominated to run for Rockland Township Supervisor. The UPLP would also like to officially endorse Brice Burge who is running for a non-partisan Munising City Commission seat. Good luck on your run! We would also like to endorse Kayla Wikstrom as she is vying to be nominated by the LPMI to run for the 108th state house of representatives!

We also selected five delegates and two alternates to represent the UPLP at the July 20th LPMI Candidate Nominating Convention being held right in our backyard, at the Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan! I was nominated and elected for a fourth term as chairman of the UPLP, along with Daniel Wood for his third term as vice chairman, Jordan Best for his first term as secretary, and Andrew Ranta for his first term as treasurer! If you would like to get involved, volunteer, and/or become a member of the UPLP please reach out to me at president@uplp.org. You can also donate or become a member of the UPLP by visiting our website at www.uplp.org.

Mark your calendars for June 29 where members and guests are welcome to join our delta county UPLP group, and our 108th district candidate hopeful Kayla Wikstrom, at Moe's Pub at 6pm. There we will discuss local organizing to expand our brand, and Kayla will be discussing her goals as she prepares her campaign.

As stated above, the LPMI Candidate Nominating Convention will be on July 20th in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. You do not need to be a member of the LPMI to attend, but you do have to be a delegate and a member by June 20th to participate in the business meeting. Join here www.michiganlp.org. Finally, our next UPLP regular business meeting will be held on June 18 via Zoom. Please visit our website at UPLP.org for the meeting link under the events tab [or find it below]!



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Affiliate Growth Tips & Tricks

June 01, 2024 / By Leah Dailey, LPMI 1st Vice Chair

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Picture 4. Leah Dailey looking savvy.

As Chairperson of the Libertarian Party of Oakland County (LPOC), I'm thrilled to boast about my group of dedicated members and our successful efforts in growing our affiliate.

I was recently asked by another party member, "Leah, how can I get my affiliate to be as awesome as LPOC?" As I was sharing my strategy with them, I thought it would be valuable to widen the audience.

These are friendly suggestions that may or may not apply to your affiliate region:

Have a good location, with decent food and alcohol options. I have received feedback from many members, and this is their preference. A private space is optimal, but a quiet corner of a restaurant will suffice.

Send meeting notice. Most affiliates keep a list of attendees and send meeting notices in multiple ways—through a Facebook group, Signal chat, group or personal email accounts. Utilize our CiviCRM database. LPOC has been sending meeting notice this way consistently for the last three years. Our meeting notice is sent to over 800 contacts within Oakland County. These contacts are LPMI members, LPN members, and folks who are curious enough to submit their contact information. There are challenges to using the database. Our LPMI Affiliates Director can help you. Please contact vcaffiliates@michiganlp.org for assistance.

Have both monthly business meetings and social meetings. There is much value in having a business meeting each month. The argument has been made that business meetings are boring or there are times when there is no business to conduct. Being accountable to business has helped to keep the LPOC stay focused on objectives and keep active members engaged. Scheduling social events outside of monthly business meetings can also keep members engaged and give them a social outlet.



Follow Robert's Rules of Order when conducting business. This helps our members become familiar with parliamentary procedure. Most of us start at ground zero when we join the party.

Have regularly scheduled meetings. This is often overlooked, but I've found this is quite important in planning for the year, or recapping events as well as working on goals.

Fundraising is key to growth and effectiveness. Some affiliates ask for annual membership dues. LPOC has found that we raise more money by passing a "cash can" around at each meeting. In some meetings we've collected over \$100.

Member outreach keeps members coming back. The Chair of our Membership Committee can provide call lists. LPOC has found success with planning a member calling event which includes providing food and beverage to our helpers. Incentives are paramount. Please contact membership@michiganlp.org to get your list today!

Affiliate events build awareness in the public eye. Once your affiliate raises some money, I recommend purchasing a canopy tent and collapsible table. You can design custom business cards or flyers on Vistaprint or Canva. Get a World's Smallest Political Quiz poster, poster frame and easel [here](#). LP materials can be purchased [here](#). Scope out your area for opportunities for tabled events and set up shop!

Take stock of your helpers. There are four main types of members—activists, volunteers, candidates, and donors. Pay attention to where people are best positioned. Not everyone is comfortable calling members. Not everyone is comfortable being front and center at a tabled event or engaging with strangers. Some members would rather help with giving money, some with giving their time, some with promoting our liberty presence online and some with in-person interaction. Observe and then work at plugging them in appropriately.

If you are unsure of which affiliate you're near, please visit the LPMI website [here](#).

If you live in a region that is unaffiliated at this time, and you are interested in helping set up an affiliate please reach out to vcaffiliates@michiganlp.org and we can delve deeper into the process together.



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Explore the [State 180 Podcast](#) with LPMI's Ben DeJong!

Trump's Catch-22

June 01, 2024 / By Joshua Jongema

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Picture 5. UPLP member Andrew Ranta (second from left, bottom) boos Trump's lies (Credit: Jose Luis Magana/AP)



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Trump's team accepted an invitation to speak at the Libertarian National Convention, and presented voters with a false choice between two evils- a catch-22. Merriam-Webster defines a catch-22 as "a problematic situation for which the only solution is denied by a circumstance inherent in the problem or by a rule." Such is the case when hoping for the nation-state to solve problems caused by the nation-state.

While Trump's appearance seems to have brought a lot of visibility to the Libertarian Party, he is not remotely libertarian. He initiated lockdowns (and bragged about it), asked the CIA to increase drone strikes at a time when the duty was potentially to be put into the hands of the DoD, removed safety requirements for medical experiments and industry practices, signed the 2020 Coronavirus Relief Act, and eroded the rule of law. He is correct that globalist control is a poison but refuses to acknowledge the poison of an unaccountable nation-state. At this time when World War 3 is closer than ever, don't trust Trump to save the day for individuals. When you're caught between a rock and a hard place, it may be best to walk out down the narrow middle.

Vivek Ramaswamy talked a good game but seemed to pander for the sake of propping up and selling Trump. After saying libertarian-esque things for a while, he was met with jeers from the crowd when he proposed that Trump is the person libertarians should vote for. Vivek proposed a "libertarian-nationalist alliance." This is a self-contradicting statement that stands in opposition to the goals of the Libertarian Party and liberty for individuals. After all, someone can only have liberty if they personally have the power to take it, and empowering nations accomplishes the opposite.

Trump promised to commute the sentence of Ross Ulbrecht. Unsurprisingly he didn't mention Snowden or Assange. He didn't mention the war on drugs, which daily treats many as horribly as Ulbrecht. He didn't mention his maximalist foreign policy, and the irony of using strength to achieve peace. He presented himself as the lesser of two evils, pointing out Biden's willingness to sign the WHO Treaty (which flopped recently anyways). Trump concluded the USA under Biden will become a "failed nation," but said nothing about the harm nations do to citizens. Trump's proposal is a catch-22 because a vote for either Biden (a globalist) or Trump (a nationalist) is a vote against individual liberty.

If you think you need the majority of people to agree with you before you can begin to live your life, you're not being creative enough. Don't underestimate your personal power. There is always a way to take personal responsibility and accountability. If your state would arrest you or your children for getting an abortion, move to a different state. If America seems likely to push nation-wide sanctions on the unvaccinated and



locks them in their houses, move to a country that won't. Stop worrying about what other people do, and just focus on what you will do, every day. While it is tempting to depend on others, libertarians should know by now it is foolish to blame others for their own successes and failures.

Woke, “Pragmatist” Cheaters Deceive to Win

June 01, 2024 / By Larry Ludlow

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Picture 6. Ron Paul speaks at LP Convention (Credit: Ben DeJong)

Overview

LP delegates attending the Libertarian National Convention in Washington, DC, were unfortunately not schooled beforehand about the underhanded tactics, lies, and cheating that enabled a large group of delegates to be seated at the convention. Led by a deranged breakaway faction that once controlled the LPMI, the delegates eventually coalesced around groups of misfits and second- or third-tier nominees that afterward were voted into the top spots. Even then, the winner barely eked out a victory on the seventh round of voting after losing five earlier ones by increasingly large margins. Also, the victory was over None of the Above (NOTA). This is not inspiring.

The Rust-Belt Backstory

Earlier this year, an out-of-control mob in Michigan held hostage that delegate convention, and the chair (from the Mises Caucus) permitted his replacement to run the convention (and later, the replacement of his chosen replacement). Parliamentary procedures (Robert's Rules) do not permit a chair to “authorize/permit” chaos. Over Memorial Day weekend one of those underhanded delegates got ahold of the floor microphone, early Friday morning, and read aloud to the National Convention delegates a tiny part of a judicial ruling that appeared to support their contention that a group of delegates from Michigan (and their partners elsewhere) should be seated. He did not explain the full context of that ruling or what the judge wrote elsewhere about other rulings that went against the group that wanted to take seats at the



convention. The out-of-context quotation that he read early on Friday misled many of the “undecided” LP members (a significant part of the audience) to sympathize with the deceivers and allow them to be seated at the convention. Their thinking was that the entire matter was merely an innocent disagreement and that the Mises Caucus was being mean and nasty by not seating them.

Sympathy Grounded in Ignorance

The National Convention audience did not know that the Michigan fraudsters had absconded with party funds, the party mailing lists, sent out spoof emails representing themselves as the legitimate LP of Michigan. They didn’t know that for months, the deceivers were misrepresenting themselves as the genuine LP to members throughout Michigan. They didn’t know that the fakers had lost every previous ruling on these matters. Instead, the National Convention audience thought that they were simply the victims of a disagreement. Wouldn’t it be fair to seat them as a gesture of kindness? After all, aren’t we all libertarians? That was the vibe.

So, the convention delegates allowed them and their allies to take delegate seats on the floor, and they agreed to lower the voting threshold required for their approval. This has been a tactic of theirs all along, and it worked once again. It set the stage for a very determined, multi-pronged, and relentless effort among the various eccentric contingents to coalesce around the defeat of the strongest candidate, Dr. Michael Rectenwald. Like the current “progressive” leftists running amok throughout the country, these woke-sters have no other goal than to tell you what to do—to control your speech, cancel you, destroy your career if you disagree, hurl labels, and then move on to the next bizarre issue and repeat the cycle. And they don’t give up. They want what they want. Period. Angela McCardle, the LP chair, was remarkable for her calm and judicious behavior for the entire struggle-session farce that captured the first day of the convention – a farce that completely derailed the timeline from that point on.

The Trump Speech and Its Implications

An additional farcical element was added to the mix on Saturday evening as Trump supporters were stuffed into the venue to ensure more applause for their idol. Even though the LP was hosting the event and delegates had flown thousands of miles to attend, pay for the venue, and make the event possible, the Secret Service inserted Trump supporters in the front section of the speaking hall – ignoring the “Reserved” signs affixed to the first several rows of seats. When LP delegates demanded their rightful seats from these trespassers, conflicts broke out. It was as if the LP had invited Trump for dinner and instead of arriving as a good guest, he brought the entire



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neighborhood with him, flooded our home, kicked us out of the dining room, and complained when we demanded seats in our own home. Really bad manners. Bigly. Trump supporters didn't know that they were being used, and Trump thusly revealed a weakness or kind of cowardice since he won't appear as a speaker if not facing an audience stuffed with his supporters. There are some really nasty stories to tell about what went down on the floor as these squatters took seats reserved for paying hosts.

Just as bad, was the behavior of the Chase Oliver supporters. Instead of behaving like a civilized host audience—clapping when Trump spoke truth or made a key point for liberty and booing briefly when Trump lied or spoke against freedom—they booed constantly. This is churlish behavior and undermines its own purpose. Like profanity, the act of booing loses its impact when it is overused. The result made these people—and by extension the Libertarian Party—look like a bunch of spoiled, mannerless goons. Moreover, it was another indicator of the self-absorbed narcissism of these people: they want what they want. Although not a violation of the non-aggression principle (NAP), a willingness to drown out a speaker so that they cannot be heard seems to telegraph an underlying attitude; namely that, to them, the ends justify the means. The problem with this, as most of us know, is that in this life, we often do not see our “ends” fulfilled. But we always live with and experience the “means.” That's why libertarians adhere to the NAP. We know that our actions (the means) are all we really experience, so we focus on these actions. Yes, we seek the “ends,” but our conduct is where we lay the emphasis – on peaceful “means.” The incessant booing reveals a deep betrayal of the NAP and the true character – or lack of it – among the Chase Oliver–Michael Ter Maat factions and their allies. And it was fully on display that Sunday.

The Final Pileup

There was a failure on that Saturday night as Rectenwald imbibed too early in some a recreational substance, which led him to appear less than serious after the Trump speech. He walked off the stage, saying he was bored with the proceedings, leaving Chase Oliver and Mike Ter Maat to sweep up the rest of the narrative. This undoubtedly caused many who were marginal supporters to question that support. Rectenwald has acknowledged that mistake and hopes he'll be forgiven since we all make such errors. This probably drained off some votes for him—the ones that would have pushed him into the victory spot on the fifth round of votes. Contributing to the final result was the combination of pride, envy, and wrath—the three worst of the deadly sins as described and ranked in Dante's *Divine Comedy* (in the *Paradiso*)—exhibited by Joshua Smith on Sunday night. Instead of encouraging his supporters to support Michael Rectenwald



as the strongest candidate (and the one most in agreement with his own policies), Smith decided to imitate the posture of the fallen angel, Satan, in Milton's *Paradise Lost*: "...better to reign in Hell than serve in Heaven." Those votes would have pushed Rectenwald over the top as we shall see.

On the last day (Sunday, late at night after 15 hours on the floor), large numbers of employed delegates were leaving the floor and going home since the proceedings had gone long beyond the scheduled 5:00 PM closing deadline. Then, feeling desperate that his attempt to gain the top slot would fail and he would not have his five minutes of fame, Mike Ter Maat cut a deal to take the VP slot with Chase Oliver as POTUS—even though he had negotiated and reached an agreement with Michael Rectenwald to be his VP partner. This panic-based betrayal of trust will haunt his conscience in the future, or so I suspect. Even worse, the victory was Pyrrhic: Chase Oliver barely won against the option of None of the Above (NOTA), which always must remain an option at an LP national convention. That's not exactly a mandate.

Fortunately, the Mises Caucus still controls the party's Libertarian National Committee (the executive/senior leadership positions). This creates its own cognitive dissonance. How can the leadership defend candidates that cannot be trusted to act honorably?

"Black Pill" or Something Else?

So, what's the upshot? Even with this disappointment, it's not a total black cloud for the following reasons:

First, even though it would have been great to showcase a better candidate, Michael Rectenwald, this election cycle would not have generated a huge increase in the percentage of votes for the LP, which is what the "pragmatists" who opposed Rectenwald wanted. Why? Because massive infusions of tens of millions of dollars have been dumped into the RFK Jr and Jill Stein campaigns. This cash is proof that regime elites are desperately afraid that disaffected voters—available in record numbers this election cycle because both Biden & Trump are widely despised by everyone—would propel the LP into breakout territory as a viable alternative to the Ds and Rs, possibly with totals running into the double-digits. Allowing the LP to emerge as *the* alternative couldn't be allowed. That may be why RFK Jr chose a Silicon Valley censorship-industrial-complex partner as his VP and why Jill Stein is suddenly enjoying a huge cash flow—probably from the same sources.

The strategy of the Mises Caucus is three-fold:



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- Abandon the pretense of the “pragmatists” (they’re not); namely that the LP can win elections and should focus only on that. America is simply not ready for that yet.
- Use the LP to get out a pure message to educate Americans so that one day they’ll be disposed to choose liberty.
- Focus what little clout the LP has by winning local races first to establish credibility, and to gradually move up to win higher offices. You have to start small with winnable local races.

Second, the LP propelled itself to the top of the news cycle for the entire month (and all weekend) with RFK Jr, Vivek Ramaswamy, and Donald Trump as guest speakers. All three were critically received and either booed or praised, depending on what they said or how many lies were recognized. There was a Trump Derangement Syndrome (TDS) section of the woke candidates that booed way too much at times during Trump’s speech, however. This muted their effect. Why? Like profanity, boos must be used judiciously to have any impact. A constant undercurrent of booing is bad manners and turns into background noise that is ignored or despised. So, the Mises Caucus Strategy won a victory, and it embarrassed the TDS woke-sters because most headlines showed that Trump, by being booed purposefully, was not the real “boss” of the LP or of the Mises Caucus, as the woke fakers insisted in the weeks previous to the convention. They’ve been exposed as hysterical liars yet again. In addition, Trump was forced to concede that he’d try to free Ross Ulbricht, who suffers, like himself, as a law-fare victim of the deep state.

Third, by seizing the POTUS and VP slots for the pragmatist/woke coalition, these misguided and deranged folks will utterly embarrass themselves as the background positions of Chase Oliver (his statements about transitioning minors are only a start) become more widely known and are utterly rejected. Moreover, he is an awkward, fish-out-of-water creature whose outward demeanor and gestures are not inspiring. He is fortunately very anti-war, which is a great positive, so that won’t be messed up, but otherwise, it’s a crap-shoot with him.

Fourth, Mike Ter Maat, who really is a masterful speaker, is a former cop. He is poised, articulate, compelling, and commanding in appearance and delivery as a speaker—hands down, the finest speaker up there. But the woke contingent is, in effect, swallowing a turd in that he’s a cop – only a kissin’ cousin away from Trump in a way. Fortunately, he, too, is antiwar.



Fifth, and most fun of all, is the following comedic outward appearance of this POTUS–VP duo. Chase Oliver, as POTUS, is clearly the tail wagging the dog. He is a tiny man with an odd appearance, a robotic, awkward gait and presentation of himself as a human being. When he shows excitement or tries to project conviction and power, he looks like a spoiled baby screaming into the wind and having a bit of a tantrum. When standing next to the more imposing Mike Ter Maat, one cannot help but think, “this is surely a mix-up; why is the Toy Poodle holding the leash on a Great Dane? Ter Maat is a more polished and believable speaker. There is simply no comparison.

The Future as the Farce Unrolls

It is possible that by November, this odd couple will not even be on speaking terms as each regrets having to associate with the other—making this decision in a moment of panic. Think about it. If you were Chase Oliver, as the POTUS candidate, wouldn't you resent being constantly outshone and upstaged by the confidence and competence of your VP running mate? And wouldn't you get tired of being physically overshadowed onstage? And he's a cop, with all of the negative stereotypical connotations attached!

From Ter Maat's perspective, how will he perceive Oliver in relationship to him as the days wear on? First, he knows that he's a superior speaker – much more articulate and persuasive – and looks like a genuine alpha-POTUS. Oliver is a child's toy by comparison. And Ter Maat is accustomed to being the boss. Even more cringe-worthy, how will he face any of his former colleague-cops? Think about it. In his generation, cops were supposed to be seen as caricature alphas, bosses, and masculine man-handlers who spoke with authority. How will he face his old colleagues as he parades around with a boss who looks like his spoiled adoptee? This will not go down well. Even if his colleagues don't say anything to his face (or even think it!), Mike Ter Maat will suspect that he is the butt of every joke in police department conversations nationwide. This will rankle him constantly. It will gradually poison his relationship with Oliver. They will pretend to “get along” in public, but both will despise their arranged marriage in their private moments. It will dominate any memories of their 5 minutes of fame, or so I think, but maybe these people don't fit into the box in which I believe they live. Time will tell.

Meanwhile, Michael Rectenwald can return to what he does best: writing kick-ass books and once again accepting his academic stipends from the Mises Institute and Hillsdale College—both of which he had to sacrifice because of 501(c)(3) requirements. And he can sit back and watch this shit-show unravel. Sadly, however, the LP is being represented by a team of candidates that showed a distinct preference



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for employing despicable “means” in order to achieve their “ends.” Since—as I explained earlier—we always live with the “means” and often don’t arrive at the “ends,” libertarian voters are being asked to make a choice. Do we support people who show they will do anything to get what they want—people who deceive, cheat, and cut deals after making agreements to the contrary—or do we abstain from voting? After all, many of us prefer the company of honorable, honest people—even if they do not agree with us politically—over the company of people who will do whatever it takes to get what they want.

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District 4 Rep: Michelle Gregoire, dist4rep@michiganlp.org

District 5 Rep: Norm Peterson, dist5rep@michiganlp.org

District 6 Rep: Justin Miramonti, dist6rep@michiganlp.org

District 7 Rep: Dominic Thelan, dist7rep@michiganlp.org

District 8 Rep: Vacant, dist8rep@michiganlp.org

District 9 Rep: Daniel Muehl-Miller, dist9rep@michiganlp.org

District 10 Rep: Vacant, dist10rep@michiganlp.org

District 11 Rep: Jeff Pittel, dist11rep@michiganlp.org

District 12 Rep: James Harris, dist12rep@michiganlp.org

District 13 Rep: Ryan Brennan, dist13rep@michiganlp.org

Judicial Committee Members

Connor Nepomuceno, judicialcommittee@michiganlp.org

Joshua Jongema, judicialcommittee@michiganlp.org

Volunteers

Webmaster: Vacant, Webmaster@MichiganLP.org

Newsletter Editor: Joshua Jongema, Communications@michiganlp.org



Communications Director(s): Joshua Jongema & Ben DeJong,
Communications@michiganlp.org.

Affiliate Contacts

****Please contact local affiliate officers to learn how to get involved in their meetings.*

Capital Area:

Chair - Ben DeJong, capitalarealp@gmail.com.
<http://CapitalAreaLP.com>

Huron-Raisin:

Chair - Mark King, chair@huronraisinlp.org. Vice Chair Larry Johnson, 734-320-7237,
MichLibertarian@gmail.com
<https://lpwc.wordpress.com>

Jackson-Hillsdale:

Chair - Norman Peterson, (269) 330-2980, norman.peterson@comcast.net.

Livingston County:

Chair - Trevor Step, trevorstep@protonmail.com.
<http://livingstonlp.org>

Mid Michigan (Affiliate Applicant):

Alice Freeborn Hall

Northern Michigan:

Chair - Stephanie Dean, (231) 620-5280. Political director Corey Dean, (231) 590-8290,
cory0269@yahoo.com

Oakland County:

Chair - Leah Dailey, fuleahrd@gmail.com.
<https://www.facebook.com/lpocmi/>

Southwest Michigan:

Chair - Jason Brandenburg, swmi4liberty@be-innovative.net
<https://swmlp.com>

Straits Area:

Chair - Andy Evans, (231) 625-8403, amevans_1968@yahoo.com.
Straitslp.com or facebook.com/StraitsAreaLP



Upper Peninsula Libertarian Party:

Chair - Ryan Roberts, (906) 420-2995, ryan_r03@hotmail.com.

UPLP.org

Wayne County:

Chair - Andrew Chadderdon, andrew.chadderdon@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

****Some meetings can get canceled, or locations can change with short notice. Consider checking event pages or contacting hosts for updated information before travelling to events.*

Sunday, June 2 @ 2-4pm – Straights Area Affiliate Meeting

Bluffs on The Lake Restaurant: 10905 High Bluffs Drive, Cheboygan

SALP will also hold its [Nominating Convention](#).

Wednesday, June 5 @ 6-8pm – Southwest Affiliate Meeting

Airway Lanes: 5626 Portage Rd, Portage

The Southwest Michigan affiliate meets the first Wednesday of every month to discuss local activism and party business. Confirm details by going to

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/LPofSWMI/> and clicking the events tab.

www.swmlp.com

Thursday, June 6 @ 7-9pm – Livingston County Monthly Meeting

Cleary Pub: 117 E Grand River, Howell

Join the Libertarian Party of Livingston County for our monthly meeting. We gather at 7, order drinks and food, and business starts shortly after. If you're new to the party or to Libertarianism in general, you'll find the meetings welcoming and informative!

<http://www.LivingstonLP.org>

Thursday, June 6 @ 7-9pm – Thumb Area Libertarians Meetup

Leaning Tree Golf Course: 7860 Smiths Creek Rd, Goodells

Open to everyone from the counties of St. Clair, Sanilac, Huron and Tuscola, and Lapeer. Join us for an open invite about Libertarianism 101. We will dive into: who libertarians are, how they differ from the others and how we are going to grow a competitive option locally for the people of the Thumb!! If you would like to be part of different groups/caucuses within the libertarian movement that can be discussed and shared also. Help us stop the growth of the state!!

Sunday, June 9 @ 7-9pm – LPMI Executive Committee Monthly Meeting (Online)



Libertarian Party of Michigan

Liberty ★ Property ★ Non-Aggression

The Executive Committee will meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 7:00 PM on Zoom.

Meeting ID: 874 3297 2253. Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83093546405>

Tuesday, June 11 @ 6:30-8:30pm – Capital Area Monthly Meeting

Eagle Monk Brewery: 4906 W Mt Hope Hwy, Lansing

Join the Capital Area affiliate of the LPMI for discussions on politics and libertarian theory. We meet the second Tuesday of each month.

Wednesday, June 12 @ 7-10pm – Friends of the LPOC Social Event

Chadd's Bistro: 46858 Dequindre Rd, Shelby Township

Join the Oakland County Libertarian Party and their local friends for a fun night of socializing and karaoke at a great Libertarian-owned restaurant.

Wednesday, June 12 @ 6:30-8:30pm – Wayne County Monthly Meeting

Habib's Cuisine: 14316 Michigan Ave, Dearborn

Second Wednesday of Every Month. Call to Order is promptly at 6:30pm.

Thursday, June 13 @ 6:30-8pm – Huron-Raisin Monthly Meeting

The Tap Room: 201 West Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti

www.HuronRaisinLP.org.

Tuesday, June 18 @ 8-9pm – Upper Peninsula LP Monthly Meeting

Online

Every 3rd Tuesday, at 8pm EST, the UPLP holds General Meetings online, open to the public. Meeting ID: 819 9262 3984. [Zoom Link](#).

Wednesday, June 19 @ 5:30-7pm – Jackson-Hillsdale Monthly Meeting

Steve's Ranch Restaurant: 311 W Louis Glick Hwy, Jackson

Join the Jackson-Hillsdale affiliate of the LPMI for their monthly meetup.

Wednesday, June 19 @ 6:30-9pm – Oakland County Monthly Meeting

B1 Tavern: 1967 Cass Lake Rd, Keego Harbor

Join LPOC for their monthly meeting. Casual dinner at 6:30pm. Call to order at 7:30pm. Confirm details by going to <https://www.facebook.com/lpocmi/> and clicking the events tab.

Friday, June 21 @ 6:30-9pm – Livingston County Tabled Event

B1 Tavern: 1967 Cass Lake Rd, Keego Harbor

Please join the Libertarian Party of Livingston County for a tabled event at the Food Truck Friday's event in Pinckney, MI from noon – 8 pm on Friday June 21. We'll be handing out LP literature, Promoting LP Candidates, and recruiting new members.



Event takes place at the square in downtown Pinckney.
Please RSVP at the link below if you would like to volunteer.
<https://forms.gle/8JicThZ66W3gTbwF6>

**Wednesday, June 26 @ 7-10pm – Monthly New Member Welcome Zoom Meetup +
Statewide-Member Discussion & Debate**

This month's discussion topic: Recap of the 2024 Libertarian National Convention.
If you would like to participate in the discussion event, please email
membership@michiganlp.org for the Zoom link. All current members will receive an
email invitation to the discussion section, which begins at 8pm.

Are you inspired by our ideals? [Join the party today](#), and [consider running for office](#)
under our banner to get these ideals enacted in your community.

If you are new to the *Michigan Libertarian*, you can find archived issues here:
<http://old.michiganlp.org/resources-2/newsletter>.

The Libertarian Party is committed to America's heritage of freedom:
individual liberty and personal responsibility, a free-market economy of
abundance and prosperity, a foreign policy of non-intervention, peace,
and free trade.

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

LPMI Phone: 888.FREE.NOW

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