



Libertarian Party of Michigan
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Michigan Libertarian Newsletter

January 2025

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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.

2025 Libby Award Winners

Defender of Liberty Award - Nick Somberg

Nomination Speech by Trevor Step

This evening I have the distinct honor and pleasure to present the 2024 Defender of Liberty Award for Spokesperson for Liberty - A member of the community



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(non-party member) whose patriotism and conviction have inspired contributions to the cause of liberty. The 2024 Libby Award goes to Nick Somberg.

I first became aware of Nick Somberg at the 2021 Libertarian Party of Michigan annual convention where he was a guest speaker. While I would definitely consider Nick a libertarian, he's not a party member. He's the founder of Somberg Law, PLLC, he specializes in criminal defense, personal injury, and other legal services, focusing on defending individual freedoms and upholding constitutional rights. At the podium in 2021 he spent his time sharing stories of corrupt judges, dirty cops, and generally badmouthing the criminal justice system in Michigan, which I greatly enjoyed. Since then I have been loosely following some of his more newsworthy cases, most notably his defense of one of the alleged kidnappers of Governor Whitmer in 2020 and a Free Speech case in which he defended a man's right to play the NWA song "F the Police" in public.

Last May Nick reached out to me about the LP's candidate for the 11th Congressional district. We had a short call where he informed me that he was running for the seat as a Republican and understood that the Libertarian Party wouldn't formally endorse him but he would love any support we could give. He later stopped in to a LPOC meeting to hand out Yard signs and many members were eager to support a Liberty focused candidate since the LP ended up not fielding a candidate in that district.

Throughout the campaign season I kept an eye on his campaign and it did not disappoint. Nick was active in his community attending events, knocking doors, and speaking to constituents. I was especially impressed with how I saw him taking the time to educate the voters on how the law works and shining light on the injustices of our corrupt legal system.

Nick's campaign website calls him a "Tenacious Advocate for Liberty and Justice" and it quotes him saying "As an attorney I work hard to do what's right. I often feel



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like I'm not defending criminals, but defending those who are innocent and wrongfully accused of things due to corruption and challenges from our government."

While I could continue to go on for awhile about his campaign, it might be best to just summarize how I felt about his campaign as "A truly Liberty focused effort." Outside of his recent campaign Nick has continually been a true Spokesperson for Liberty. A minute ago I mentioned some of his more noteworthy cases but the truth is that you could probably pick any of his cases and find his commitment to individual liberties and the US constitution at the heart of his arguments. I highly recommend that you check out Nick on his podcast "Liberty Lawyer." I have no doubt that Nick will continue on fighting for what's right and Defending Liberty.

Promoter of Liberty:

To a Libertarian whose efforts have done the most to promote the LP and Libertarian principles.

Promoter of Liberty Award - Trevor Step

Nomination Speech by Leah Dailey

Promoting the Libertarian Party in 2024, during a wild Presidential Campaign cycle is no easy task. I have the pleasure of presenting this award to the person I believe has done the most fantastic job, working tirelessly to promote, encourage, and support our candidates. Implementing Zoom calls for candidates, helping with filing of paperwork, rallying support for candidate events. Our very own Political Director, Trevor Step. The purpose of our party is to work to elect candidates to political office, this award goes to the hardest working Political Director this party has had in years. Thank you Mr. Step for all your efforts, they have not gone unnoticed.



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Producer of Liberty - Carley Baker

Nomination Speech by Lawrence M. Ludlow

I'm delighted to award Carley Baker this year's title as Producer of Liberty.

If you look at this evening's agenda, you'll see that the award for Carley reads as follows:

“To a dedicated, behind-the-scenes libertarian whose quiet labors over the years exemplify the backbone of the Libertarian Party.”

The key phrase here is “behind the scenes.” It captures Carley's contribution perfectly—working quietly in the background doing what had to be done.

If you think back on the events of the past year, it was Carley who was coordinating and arranging access to all of the materials we used to support our candidates for office:

- There were Excel spreadsheets with the phone number and names of the people we called—along with places to indicate their response and opportunities for following up.
- And there were the instructions on how to make these calls and how to use the data sheets she provided.
- She arranged for and displayed the scripts we used during our calls—asking for texts and refinements and making sure it all got done.
- And she answered the questions of call volunteers—over and over the same questions--posed on our Signal channel and other communication media. If you've ever done it, it requires lots of patience.

And that's just one example of her work. Throughout the year, she supported participation in other events and initiatives, coordinating them, making sure important details were addressed, and ensuring that step-by-step instructions were available for volunteers to provide the support needed. During online group meetings, she would be the one to ask pertinent questions like, “How will this



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happen?” so we could develop realistic plans that worked. She even spent the end-of-the-year holiday season thinking about what we need to do in 2025 to keep things going.

And the whole time, she was caring for her newborn baby. I have a mental image of Carley holding her daughter in one hand while texting and working on a project for us with the other.

That’s multi-tasking!

And it worked.

So, let’s all show our appreciation for Carley’s behind-the-scenes work for the party!

A Quick Guide to Earning and Spending Bitcoin and Cryptocurrency in Everyday Life

By Trevor Step

Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies have long been popular in libertarian circles as alternatives to fiat currency. These technologies are becoming increasingly accessible for everyday use. With technological advancements, you can now earn, save, and spend Bitcoin and crypto in numerous practical ways without needing a computer science degree. This guide explores how to earn cryptocurrency in your daily routine, with examples and actionable steps.

Earning

If you are one of the millions of Americans who listen to podcasts it may be time to start turning your listening attention into sats (There are 100,000,000 satoshis (sats) in a bitcoin. Each satoshi or sat represents 0.00000001 BTC, making it the smallest possible unit of bitcoin.) To do this I suggest the Fountain App. The Fountain App pays you in sats for your time spent listening. Simply download the



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app from your app store, create an account, and start listening to your favorite podcasts. You can then send your earnings to a Lightning wallet.

Today most web browsers sell your browsing data to advertisers. For example, Chrome's Google Ads are a core part of its business model. Chrome collects data to serve personalized ads through its vast advertising network. It uses tools like cookies and trackers to monitor your browsing habits across websites, enabling targeted advertising. But did you know there is a browser that instead uses a privacy-first advertising model? The browser BRAVE blocks third-party trackers and ads by default. Users can earn Basic Attention Tokens (BAT) for viewing ads, creating a more user-centric and transparent ecosystem. Users can browse the web as usual, and earn BAT for viewing sponsored ads. Users can link their personal wallets to their Brave browser account to manage their coins. These BAT coins can be converted to other cryptocurrencies or fiat via an exchange.

Many games now reward players with cryptocurrency. A well-known example is ZBD. Users can earn Bitcoin sats while playing. You can use crypto rewards to buy in-game items, send your rewards to an exchange, wallet, or purchase gift cards.

Spending

There is an increasing network of vendors accepting Bitcoin and other crypto at the point of sale. While most of these are online, a growing number are physical locations. The Lightning Network makes Bitcoin transactions fast and cost-effective for daily use. The most common way to spend your bitcoin or crypto right now is to purchase gift cards. The most popular platform for purchasing gift cards with Bitcoin and other crypto is Bitrefill. To turn bitcoin and other crypto into fiat the easiest platform would be an exchange like Coinbase, Kraken, or Gemini. These exchanges allow you to send your coins to a wallet, sell your coins for USD, and then your wallet is linked to a bank account where the funds can be received. It is



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important to note that turning your bitcoin and crypto into fiat may be a taxable event.

Conclusion

This guide is obviously not conclusive. It is merely written to get you thinking creatively about alternatives to fiat currency. Your everyday actions can be rewarded with small adjustments like swapping your podcast listening app, browser, and gaming platform.

The information provided is for general informational purposes only and does not constitute financial, investment, or tax advice. You should not rely on this information as a substitute for professional advice tailored to your specific financial situation. Investment decisions carry risks, including the risk of loss. Tax laws and regulations are subject to change and may vary based on your individual circumstances. Always consult with a qualified financial advisor, tax professional, or legal counsel before making decisions related to investments or taxes.

Ross Ulbricht is Finally a Free Man

Libertarian Party's Promise Fulfilled: President Trump Issues Full Pardon for Ross Ulbricht.

President Trump Honors Commitment Made to Libertarian Party at National Convention.

President Donald Trump made a promise to the Libertarian Party, to its members, and to Chair Angela McArdle, to free Ross Ulbricht at the 2024 Libertarian National Convention. We are proud to announce today that because of the influence, the impact and the power that the party can wield, Ross Ulbricht once more walks in the light of liberty, outside of a cell, pardoned by President Trump.

“Ross Ulbricht has been a libertarian political prisoner for more than a decade. I’m proud to say that saving his life has been one of our top priorities and that has finally paid off,” said Libertarian National Committee Chair, Angela McArdle. “Ross, congratulations to you and your family. God bless you and keep you safe in your



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new found freedom. On behalf of the Libertarian Party, we are gifting you with an honorary lifetime membership. Thank you to Pres. Trump for following through on your promise. This is an incredible moment in Libertarian history.”

The Libertarian Party has embarked on a new path that exercises the potent influence of its membership and base to become a party of influence in national politics. This initiative was moved forward in advance of the National Convention by Party Chair Angela McArdle, who worked to bring in new voices, and potential allies on issues Libertarians hold most sacred. President Donald Trump was one such invitee, and that coordinated effort to unite philosophies has proven to be immediately fruitful in the freeing of Mr. Ulbricht.

Freeing Ross is only the first step in an overarching plan in place by the Libertarian National Committee for 2025 that will look to bring justice to more politically persecuted individuals, Defend the Guard, Decentralize the Revolution, create Local DOGE, and vastly increase local race victories through new tactical and logistical strategies. Roger Ver, aka Bitcoin Jesus, is currently fighting prosecution, and as previously announced, the Party’s Anti-Lawfare Initiative already has eager volunteers waiting to lend their talents to the fight.

Libertarian Party of Michigan Loses a Champion of Liberty

By Dan Ziemba

It is my unhappy duty to report that, over the weekend, I became aware of the recent passing of our own Norm Peterson (5/27/1949-12/12/2024). I imagine few in the Party have not met, talked to, or otherwise crossed paths with Norm over the years, as he remained an active member as long as his health allowed. This includes the duration of my time in the Party these past five years, at the beginning of which Norm served as LPMI’s Treasurer. Until his passing, he



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remained Chair of the Jackson-Hillsdale affiliate and District 5 Representative on the LEC. Norm always maintained a courteous and respectful demeanor in matters of Party business, even when disagreements arose, and I, for one, have only positive memories of the short few years I have known him. I wish his family well in this difficult time, and I think I speak for the entirety of LPMI in saying that he will be sorely missed, and always remembered. Rest in peace, Norm.

Norm's obituary may be found at the link below; I encourage all members to read through it to appreciate the breadth of his knowledge and accomplishments beyond his significant role in LPMI.

<https://obits.mlive.com/us/obituaries/jackson/name/norman-peterson-obituary?id=57052620>





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Officers & Staff

Chair: Andrew Chadderdon, chair@michiganlp.org
First Vice Chair: Leah Dailey, vaffiliates@michiganlp.org
Second Vice Chair: Trevor Step, vcpoliticaldirector@michiganlp.org
Secretary: Daniel Ziemba, secretary@michiganlp.org
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District 12 Rep: Vacant
District 13 Rep: Vacant

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Webmaster: Vacant, Webmaster@MichiganLP.org
Director, LPMI Communications: Ben DeJong, Communications@michiganlp.org.



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Affiliate Contacts

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

Capital Area:

Chair - Ben DeJong Phone: 616-916-6031 Email: capitalarealp@gmail.com Info: <https://michiganlp.org/capital-area/>

Huron-Raisin:

Chair - Mark King Email: chair@huronraisinlp.org Info: <https://lpwc.wordpress.com>

Jackson-Hillsdale:

Chair - Currently Vacant

Livingston County:

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

Mid Michigan (Affiliate Applicant):

Alice Freeborn Hall

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Chair - Stephanie Dean Phone: 231-620-5280 Email: cory0269@yahoo.com

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Upper Peninsula Libertarian Party:

Chair - Ryan Roberts Phone: 906-420-2995 Email: ryan_r03@hotmail.com Info: <https://michiganlp.org/lp-of-upper-peninsula/>

Wayne County:

Chair - Jami Van Alstine Email: jamiracquel2004@yahoo.com



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Upcoming Events: Please see the Libertarian Party of Michigan Facebook page

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

Follow us on Social Media: [Facebook](#) - [Instagram](#) - [LinkedIn](#) - [X](#)

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.

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