



Michigan Libertarian

Volume 33, Issue 1

January/February 2004

Lansing Headquarters Update

The new Lansing headquarters of the Michigan Libertarian Party will open its doors to the public around the 8th of February. The headquarters' staff have received a new toll free number for use in all marketing purposes, 888-FreeNow, and LPM chair Bill Gelineau expects the new location will celebrate with an open house on or around the 2nd of March. The staff expects to use February to focus on procedures, as well as monthly activities and the intern program.

**Michigan Constitution
ARTICLE I, SECTION 5**
Every person may freely speak, write, express and publish his views on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of such right; and no law shall be enacted to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech or of the press.

Libertarian Party of Michigan
PO Box 27065
Lansing, MI 48924-7065
<http://www.lpmich.org>

Lansing To Host State Convention

by Jamie Lewis

Michigan Libertarians will be heading to the state capital for the 2004 State Convention to be held on April 17. The Convention will be taking place in the Lansing West Conference Center at the Holiday Inn, 7501 West Saginaw Highway. Libertarians will spend the day preparing not only for the upcoming November elections, but also the May National Libertarian Convention in Atlanta, and will be selecting officers to direct the party over the next year.

The Convention will follow the same successful one day format as last year. The full day of events will begin at 9:00AM and will feature Platform discussion, nominations of state and local candidates,

selection of delegates to the national convention and election of State Executive Committee. The evening banquet will feature a forum with the major candidates for the Libertarian Presidential nomination. Even if you don't plan on being a delegate to the National Convention, you won't want to miss this chance to hear not only the candidates' positions on the issues, but also how they plan to bring that message to the American voters.

Register for the convention before **April 1** and receive a welcome packet (with printed copies of all relevant documents and guides as well as niceties) and tickets to the banquet for only **\$45** per person. Or, for **\$65**, you can also

extend your LP membership for another year.

After **April 1**, the banquet will be **\$60** which will include a courtesy copy of the convention agenda. There is no charge to attend only the business session of the convention, however you **must** register in order to vote at the convention. Early registration will help avoid lines. Box lunch will be available for **\$10**. During lunch, each of the presidential candidates will be given the opportunity to give his campaign speech. For those who wish to spend the night, rooms will be available for **\$67 plus tax**. Send checks, payable to the Libertarian

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Owen Re-Elected

by Trafton Jean

Mark Owen was able to overcome a smear campaign to be re-elected to the Owosso City Council with 691 votes. His third place finish out of eight candidates qualified him for a four year term.

Owen's campaign concentrated on door to door activities. Mark walked a majority of the four square miles of the city. It was a hard fought campaign because many in Owosso's old power structure wanted him out of office. According to Mark, "they tried to use every cheap shot in the book to try to tear me down". There were the typical Libertarian smears that Mark is in favor of bringing every type of vice to Owosso. Others tried to



make Mark out to be divisive and not a team player.

Counteracting these attacks was a difficult task. Unlike in Oakland and Macomb counties, Shiawassee County has only a handful of Libertarians. Having the

manpower available to call into action to counteract smear campaigns can be difficult in smaller counties.

A common theme resonates through most of the successful Libertarian campaigns in recent years. It is not exactly an anti-government message, but rather a more positive message that Libertarians will stand up for the common man. You can't fight city hall is the old saw and when people see a candidate that will stand up for them they respond. Our successful candidates come across as reasonable and responsible people who are involved in and care about their community.

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Newsletter Information

The *Michigan Libertarian* is published bimonthly as the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan, PO Box 27065 Lansing, MI 48924-7065 Phone: (888) FREE-NOW

Submissions: Please email articles to newsletter@lpmich.org
Only electronic format will be accepted. Acceptable formats are plain text, Word97, RTF, HTML, Pagemaker 7.0. Any other formats, please ask first.

Deadline: The next deadline for submission of articles and advertising is April 1, 2004.

Advertising: Please email advertising to newsletter@lpmich.org
Only electronic format will be accepted. Because of the nature of various programs, please send ads in .p65 format. Above formats are also acceptable, but layout or resolution may be lost in the publication process. Please mail payment to:

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25% discount for LPM Candidates, 50% discount for LPM Affiliates.

Visit: <http://www.lpmich.org/Newsletters/index.html> for more information.

From the Chair

LOOKING FOR CANDIDATES IN 2004

by Bill Gelineau

The past year has offered a number of great opportunities for the Libertarian Party to shine. The success of some of our members in non-partisan races this year proves well organized candidates who advocate libertarian solutions can have tremendous success.

But if the vision of a truly successful LPM is ever to be seen by the public in the races that matter, we need to break down the wall of institutional statism. Our only real opportunity to do this is in partisan races – facing the D's and R's head on in a clash of ideas.

In the 2000 election cycle, we contested all of the Congressional districts in Michigan as well as a majority of State House seats. That year set the standard for success in the LPM. In the post-911 era, when so many opposition groups have crawled for cover lest they be criticized as poor patriots – it is our choice to be the voice for freedom. We should do this loudly and proudly under a distinctly partisan Libertarian flag.

I hope each member of the LPM considers the opportunity this year represents to help build a new and dynamic coalition of people that love freedom.

We will have a platform proposal endorsing the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative. This common-sense proposal was left in our lap by the chicken-hearted Republicans and is a tremendous opportunity to reach out to those who are tired of socialistic, outcome based public policy practices. The LPM should run hard to support this effort.

Will you step forward and run in one of the identified Balance of Power State House districts? Or give voters a choice where you live. Can we upset the political apple cart in one of the few districts left competitive by overt gerrymandering? Combine that with a ready-made issue like the MCRI and a candidate for State Representative would have a strong message indeed. A Congressional candidate opposing the war in Iraq on principle could make some real difference in this debate.

We need courageous members like Warren Adams, who is already declared as a candidate in the 3rd District. Warren learned in a 2002 State Rep race just how inspiring it is to communicate ideas to the electorate. And how will the voters hear a Libertarian message if we don't offer them a choice loudly and in a way that identifies the Libertarian Party?

We need more like the efforts Jamie Lewis of the Libertarian Party of West Michigan, who is organizing that group to once again run in EVERY State Rep seat in Kent County.....just like 2002. But this year, he is

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Promote Libertarianism by Being a Candidate

by Leonard Schwartz, candidate recruitment chair

One of the best ways you can promote liberty and the Libertarian Party is by running for partisan office. Even nominal candidates — those who spend no time or money campaigning — help promote libertarianism. In Michigan, like other states, the more candidates the Libertarian Party has on the ballot, the more votes each candidate gets.

Why do even nominal candidates promote the Libertarian Party? One reason is that there are many persons who support libertarianism, but who think that the Libertarian Party is too weak to have any effect. By having many candidates, we tell libertarians that the Libertarian Party has many grass root supporters who show their support publicly.

Another reason is that the more candidates we have on the ballot, the more attention the news media gives to the Libertarian Party and its active candidates. Because most active Libertarian candidates have little money to spend campaigning, free news media coverage is crucial. For what office should you be a candidate? The answer to that question depends mainly on whether you plan to be an active candidate or merely a nominal candidate.

Active Candidates

If you plan to be an active candidate, the most important factor is having fun. Being an active candidate is a lot of fun. Consider whether there is an incumbent whom you will enjoy criticizing. Consider what issues you like to discuss the most and what race those issues will be important.

Another important factor is free news media coverage. The news media probably will give more attention than usual to candidates for the governing boards of Michigan's three largest universities. First, there was much media coverage of two recent U. S. Supreme Court cases involving

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Advertising Space Available

Over 1,000 Libertarians across the state read the Michigan Libertarian.

Would you like to advertise your business or organization in this newsletter?

Would you like to help the LPM offset their costs and promote your product or group?

Advertising Rates: Full Pg \$200, Half Pg \$100, Quarter Pg \$50. 25% discount for LPM Candidates, 50% discount for LPM Affiliates.

\$

It's 2004. Is it too early to plan for 2005?

by Nathan Allen

There will be hundreds of non-partisan offices on the ballot in November 2005. That's right, 2005 (about 22 months from now). In keeping with our Operation Farm Team plan these are the races we want to target. Non-partisan races give us a chance to espouse Libertarian ideas without the Libertarian label. Experience shows that voters like our ideas and will vote for them when they look at the ideas alone.

This is our chance to get freedom-minded, fiscally responsible people elected to local city councils where they will become the Farm Team of experienced politicians that someday move up to the state legislature. The first step is to get appointed to a board or commission in your city, township, or village.

In Oakland County, we are encouraging as many people as possible to get appointed to local boards/commissions. There are so many positions open, that any person willing to serve their community is likely to get appointed. It really is as simple as contacting your city clerk—generally a very friendly person—to find out what openings are available.

The paperwork is as simple as filling out your name and address. Upon being selected, you will be given instructions on just exactly what your responsibilities are and what you need to do. The folks in the city administration are so grateful for your volunteer help that they will bend over backwards to help you. This is too simple. *(continued on page 8)*



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Being a Candidate

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the University of Michigan's admissions policy. Second, there probably will be a constitutional amendment proposal that will end racial preferences regarding admissions at state universities. See my "Become a University Board Candidate" article on page 6 of the Nov/Dec 2003 issue.

The news media tends to give Libertarians more coverage where the race between the Democratic and Republican is likely to be close. In close races, the Libertarian candidate can be the swing candidate — getting more votes than the difference between the Democrat and the Republican. Both before and after the election, reporters will discuss whether the Libertarian takes more votes from the Democrat or from the Republican.

Most legislative districts are gerrymandered so that either the Democrat or the Republican is sure to win. Sometimes the other major party doesn't even have a nominal candidate. But there are some districts with close races. See Greg Stempfle's "Operation Balance of Power" article on page 8 of the Sept/Oct 2003 issue. It lists the state representative districts that had close races in 2002. Also check whether the county commissioner race was close in your district. You can get that information from the county clerk and probably also from your public library. Another factor is whether you can get elected as a Libertarian. Some townships elect minor partisan councils on which few people want to serve. Sometimes there are not enough Democratic and Republican candidates for all the positions. Brett Cashman thus was elected to the Superior Township Parks Commission in Washtenaw County in 1996. Brett was reelected in 2000. (Some townships elect minor nonpartisan councils on which few people want to serve. Gary Bora was elected to the Lyon Township Library Board in Oakland County in 2000.) If your township elects minor councils, check how many candidates were on the ballot in 2000. You can get that information from the township clerk and probably also from your public library. But don't be a candidate unless you are willing to serve. Ask the township clerk about when the council traditionally meets.

Nominal Candidates

If you plan to be a nominal candidate, you likewise might consider minor township councils. Otherwise, you can promote the Libertarian Party best by running for whatever position will be on the most ballots, but for which no LPM member wants to be an active candidate. If you plan to attend the LPM convention on April 17, please contact me before the convention. E-mail: schwartz@lpmich.org. Phone: 248-546-3569. If you don't plan to attend the LPM convention, please contact the chair of your local LPM affiliate so that you can be nominated at a local caucus before the convention.

Convention (cont. from page 1)

Party of Michigan along with the registration form on the back page. For the latest information, check the LPM web site: www.lpmich.org

Volunteers would be greatly appreciated! Could you help with set up Saturday morning or greet people as they arrive? Could you help with decorations or set up? What about helping with the banquet fundraiser or tallying votes during the elections? If you would like to get involved, please contact Jamie Lewis at jkl620@yahoo.com or 616-281-9329.

Operation: Balance of Power Update

by Greg Stempfle

With the State Convention just a few months away, now is the time to think about recruiting candidates for the upcoming election season. The LPM has developed a strategy to make the most impact on the 2004 elections as possible. Challenging all of the State House races that were decided by a few percentage points could garner the LPM some much needed publicity as well as a project for the entire state membership to participate in.

Only a handful of districts in the state are actually contestable in the general election. Such districts are known as swing districts because either party could win the seat. It is also these districts where the effect of third parties is felt the most. Right now, Republicans hold a 16 seat majority (63-47) in the State House. Only seventeen of these 110 seats were decided by less than 10%. The rest were heavily Democratic or Republican.

If LPM candidates are consistently run in these swing districts, the major party candidates would be pressured to start adopting some libertarian ideas in order to court potential swing voters. A Republican in a tight race with the Democrat, may want to push tax cuts or gun rights a bit more. A Democrat wanting to pull ahead in a close race with a Republican may have to address issues personal freedom and civil rights. Pressuring the older parties to adopt Libertarian Party issues is the next best thing to winning races ourselves.

This sort of circumstance happened three times in the last election cycle. In 2002, there were two house seats in Wayne County where the LP candidate earned enough votes to prevent either major party candidate from getting a majority. In both cases, a Democrat was victorious over a Republican. While it can be debated which major party Libertarians are more likely to draw off votes from, the point is that those votes potentially could have cost the Republican the race. Perception is reality. There was a Green Party candidate in Macomb County who prevented a majority in that race, possibly tipping the hat to the Republican victor.

District 17 Wayne Co (Dearborn Heights, Redford)

Democrat Paletko beat Republican Handy 49.6-47.3% while LP candidate Christopher Gonzalez earned 3%.

District 23 Wayne Co (very southern end)

Democrat Law beat Republican Jones 49.5-48.5% while LP candidate Rick Secula earned 2%.

District 51 Genesee Co

Republican Robertson beat Democrat Lockwood 49.9-48.4% while Green Party candidate Ponzetti earned 1.6%.

In these 14 districts, the winning candidate received less than 55% of the vote.

Dist. 97 Clare, Gladwin, Arenac, Bay Counties

Dist. 106 NE Lower Peninsula

Dist. 91 Muskegon Co

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Calendar of Events

February 11, 2004 - MACOMB COUNTY monthly meeting. Drinks and dinner at 6:30 PM, business begins at 7:30 PM. Location: Miles World Restaurant, 17689 Masonic, Fraser, MI 48026, 586-415-4500. **Contact: Keith Edwards Phone: (586) 777-7468 E-mail: keithmarni@aol.com**

February 12, 2004 - 7:30 PM Valentine's Day Party and/or alternate date for Libertarian Party of Washtenaw County Business Meeting. Location: Cubs' AC Restaurant (located in the Colonial Lanes Bowling Center) at 1950 S Industrial Hwy, Ann Arbor. **Contact: Jeff Weber Phone: (734) 434-6486 E-mail: humanism@comcast.net**

February 19, 2004 - 7:30 PM Discussion: "Is Socialism Rampant in Ann Arbor?" Location: Cubs' AC Restaurant (located in the Colonial Lanes Bowling Center) at 1950 S Industrial Hwy, Ann Arbor. **Contact: Jeff Weber Phone: (734) 434-6486 E-mail: humanism@comcast.net**

February 25, 2004 - Libertarian Party of Oakland County general membership meeting. Meeting starts at 7:30. Optional dinner starts at 6:30. Lloyd Sherman will be speaking on "Getting Appointed to a Local Board or Commission." City councilmen and other local appointees will also be available to answer any questions you may have. Location: Sila's Restaurant, 4033 W. Twelve Mile, Berkley, 2 blocks east of Greenfield. **Contact: Nathan Allen Phone: (248) 891-3003 E-mail: chair@lpocmi.org**

February 27-28 Libertarian Comedian Tim Slagle performs at Historic Holly Hotel, Reservations are highly recommended. Cost is \$10/person (\$8 if you have dinner there before). Location: Historic Holly Hotel, 110 Battle Alley, Holly, MI 248-634-5208 **Contact: Historic Holly Hotel Phone: (248) 634-**

Affiliate News

Wayne County

The Libertarian Party of Wayne County's outreach event on January 4th will be located at the Gibraltar Trade Center in Taylor at 15525 Racho Rd. The Wayne County LP has recently celebrated the election of Mr. John Stempfle to city councilman in the City of Grosse Pointe, and is currently seeking members to run active campaigns to increase party exposure in the area. Interested members can attend meetings or email Wayne County secretary Bill Detlor at billdetlor@wowway.com, or phone Chuck Kainz at (313) 291-5684.



Capital Area

The Capital Area Libertarian Party is seeking volunteers to assist during the state convention on April 17th, located in the Holiday Inn West hospitality suite. Interested parties can contact the CALP at www.calparty.org. The CALP's annual Liberty Fest was designated a success by members and attendees. The Liberty Fest's Defender of Liberty awards were presented by Michigan

party chair Bill Gelineau, and a panel discussion including Mickey Hirten from the Lansing State Journal, Bill Ballenger of Inside Michigan Politics, Dawson Bell of the Free Press Lansing Bureau, and WSYM Fox 47 anchor Paul Junge covered varying topics, from the press coverage of political celebrities such as Arnold Schwarzenegger to media coverage of third party candidates.

South Central and Washtenaw County

The Libertarian Party of South Central Michigan (LPSCM) recently collaborated with the Washtenaw County on September 11th, presenting on marijuana activists Tom Crosslin and Rolland Rohm who were killed by FBI agents at the Rainbow Farm campground in Vandalia on September 11th, 2001. These groups have also collaborated to send mail to inactive members in order to inform them of their next meeting in Addison on January 27th. The LPSCM has joined with the Michigan Coalition for Return to Constitutional Government (MCRCG) in the fight over land use and property rights stemming from the unconstitutional Grading/Soil Erosion Control Ordinance in

Hillsdale County. The two groups shared a booth at the Hillsdale County Fair which focused on gathering signatures to recall six county commissioners. Information on the MCRCG can be found at www.mcrcg.org.

Van Buren County

Bill Bradley has been appointed to a two year term on the Michigan Municipal League's Legislative and Urban Affairs Committee. This Committee which meets three times a year will review current legislation and influence the League's public policy direction.

Ann Arbor University of Michigan

Libertarian presidential hopeful Gary Nolan spoke at the University of Michigan on November 19th. Nolan addressed his vision of the Libertarian Party of the future by focusing on disseminating the Libertarian message to the voting public in its simplest form. Covered topics of Mr. Nolan's address included the failure of the Social Security system, the elimination of the income tax, military non-intervention, the failures of the Food and Drug Administration, the war on drugs, immigration, and minimum wage laws.

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Affiliate News

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West Michigan

The West Michigan Libertarian Party hosted the American Civil Liberties Union's Kerry Love, a practicing constitutional and disabilities rights, business, and personal injury attorney, on Tuesday, January 27th. This event focused on the PATRIOT Act of 2001, as well as other post 9/11 anti-terror measures and their effects on search and seizure, probable cause, and privacy. West Michigan treasurer Jeff Steinport took a stand against stealth elections in December by voting no on the Kent Intermediate School District's \$16.5 million Special Education proposition. Mr. Steinport objected to the date of the election, which nefariously occurred on a non-standard election day. Stealth elections are commonly used to avoid a large turnout, easing the ballot process while avoiding dissent. More information of Jeff Steinport and stealth elections can be found at <http://www.mackinac.org/article.asp?ID=6046>, the Mackinac Center for Public Policy's website.

Tri-City Freedom Dinner

by Rosemarie Jozwiak

This past year was very busy for the Tri-City Libertarian Party, and 2004 promises to be even more so. It is especially important in this election year that we continue to remain a strong presence, as vocal and as visible as possible. We want everyone to know who we are and where to find us — not only in the Tri-City area (Bay, Saginaw, and Midland) but in our expanded affiliate areas of Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, and Isabella counties as well! If you can help or give suggestions for events in these areas, it would be greatly appreciated. One goal for 2004 is to see more members involved in our local party.

The first TCLP event of the year is our Freedom Dinner on February 28. It is being held this year in Essexville. We are honored to have Mr. Jon Coon as our speaker. Jon's topic 'Who Owns Your Property' will cover an issue that is getting out of hand — the conflict between state and national regulating/enforcement agencies and the property owner who is paying taxes. Knowing Jon, it promises to be a very enlightening and entertaining evening. Tickets for the dinner (\$25 per person) can be purchased by mailing a check, made payable to the Tri-City Libertarian Party, to: TCLP Treasurer, 332 South Trumbull Road, Bay City, MI 48708-9619.

Deadline for tickets is February 21st. Tickets WILL NOT be available at the door. We hope to see you there. Best wishes for a happy and successful libertarian new year!

From the Chair

(cont. from pg.2)

also hoping to have a candidate in EVERY Ot-tawa seat also.

We need more like Dick and Rae Jozwiak of the Tri-Cities affiliate, who consistently step forward to make sure the machinery of the LPM continues to turn.

We need more like Will White of the Capital Area LP, who has stepped forward to help lead the effort to centralize the State Office of the LPM in Lansing.

It's time we stand up proudly as Libertarian advocates of freedom — and announce to the political establishment that the LPM will continue to offer a choice for those who love freedom.

What can you do to organize your own affiliate? Are you helping your local Chair identify and run candidates for partisan office? And if your Chair isn't looking — are you considering a run against him? I hope so! If the LPM is going to progress from our 2 — 3% level of electoral support, it will require that those who will make change have the courage enough to step forward.

And the field is wide open. Several affiliates are on life-support...no need to blame anything but a failure to identify leaders and inspire you to take this opportunity and make the most of it. When did you last hear from your Affiliate? Does the Chair call you and ask for your help? Did you send a couple bucks for the effort?

Well, if they haven't asked... I will. Right now, we need volunteers at all levels to augment the efforts of a valiant few that have build the successes of the past year. But to raise our visibility, we need many more members willing to cross the threshold into candidacy. What district will you represent? Call me at 616-897-0488 or e-mail wgelineau@firstam.com. Do you need some direction or assistance? Give me a call.

We have solid affiliates in most of the population centers in the state. If you live in one of these, please give me a call or e-mail... I'll help you do the basics to become a candidate in 2004.

Text of MCRI Proposal

INITIATIVE PETITION
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION
THE PROPOSAL WOULD AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION BY ADDING A SECTION 25 TO ARTICLE I.
ARTICLE I, SECTION 25:

(1) The University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Wayne State University, and any other public college or university, community college, or school district shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting.

(2) The state shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting.

(3) For the purposes of this section "state" includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the state itself, any city, county, any public college, university, or community college, school district, or other political subdivision or governmental instrumentality of or within the State of Michigan not included in sub-section 1.

(4) This section does not prohibit action that must be taken to establish or maintain eligibility for any federal program, if ineligibility would result in a loss of federal funds to the state.

(5) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as prohibiting bona fide qualifications based on sex that are reasonably necessary to the normal operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting.

(6) The remedies available for violations of this section shall be the same, regardless of the injured party's race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin, as are otherwise available for violations of Michigan anti-discrimination law.

(7) This section shall be self-executing. If any part or parts of this section are found to be in conflict with the United States Constitution or federal law, the section shall be implemented to the maximum extent that the United States Constitution and federal law permit. Any provision held invalid shall be severable from the remaining portions of this section.

(8) This section applies only to action taken after the effective date of this section.

(9) This section does not invalidate any court order or consent decree that is in force as of the effective date of this section.

Michigan Civil Rights Initiative in Historical Perspective

by Leonard Schwartz

To understand the importance of the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative to voters and the Libertarian Party, it is useful to know the history of racial preferences by the government.

Origins of Current Racial Preferences by the Government

How did current racial preferences by the government begin? Was it an act of Congress? No. Was it a Supreme Court decision? No. Racial preferences began with presidential executive orders. Was it a Democratic president?

No. It was a Republican.

Richard Nixon, starting in 1969, issued a series of executive orders creating racial preferences. One order created minority set-aside programs for government contractors. Another created racial goals or quotas for the federal civil service. Then Nixon created racial goals or quotas for employers who receive more than \$10,000 a year from the federal government.

Why did Nixon create racial preferences? His motive was political. Tricky Dick correctly predicted that outraged white voters would blame the Democrats, not the Republicans. He was reelected by a landslide in 1972. President Ford continued Nixon's policies.

Ronald Reagan and George Bush, during the 1980 presidential campaign, promised to eliminate racial preferences. They thus got much support from people who traditionally voted Democratic, whom the news media called "Reagan Democrats." Reagan and Bush reneged on that campaign promise.

George Walker Bush continued his father's hypocrisy. He criticized racial preferences, but hasn't cancelled the racial preferences created by Nixon. Regarding racial preferences at state universities, he didn't need to ask the courts to rule them illegal. He could order the Secretary of Education to enforce the Civil Rights Act by threatening to cut federal funds to state universities that use racial preferences.

In Michigan, the Civil Service Commission, at the request of Republican Governor William Milliken, eliminated the merit system in 1971. State universities also started using racial preferences regarding admissions. John Engler was governor for 12 years. During most of that time, his fellow Republicans controlled both houses of the legislature. Engler could have appointed to the Civil Service Commission persons who opposed racial preferences. He and his fellow Republicans could have threatened to cut funds to state universities that use racial preferences. But they didn't.

Why do Republicans say they oppose racial preferences, but do nothing to end them? They are afraid that if they eliminated racial preferences, the Reagan Democrats would stop voting Republican.

Furthermore, racial preferences support the myth that blacks are too lazy or too stupid to be successful unless white people give blacks

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Troika Creates the Fully Informed Voter Effort PAC.

by Leonard Schwartz

Michigan's campaign finance law limits the amount of money a person can contribute to a candidate's campaign fund. For most offices the maximum is \$500.

Some Libertarian candidates have friends and relatives who want to contribute more than the maximum. So do Democratic and Republican candidates. Therefore, the Dems and Reps made a major loophole in the campaign finance law — the independent political committee (IPC).

There is no limit on the amount of money a person can contribute to an IPC. Once an IPC has contributions from 25 persons, it can make contributions to each candidate committee that is ten times the maximum for an individual.

The LPM Troika (Fred Collins, Barb Goushaw-Collins, and Greg Dirasian) have created an IPC: the Fully Informed Voter Effort - PAC. LPM campaign finance law guru Leonard Schwartz is the FIVE-PAC treasurer.

Until FIVE-PAC gets contributions from 25 persons, it is subject to the usual \$500 limit. After FIVE-PAC gets contributions from 25 persons, it can contribute ten times that amount to each candidate committee.

The Troika managed the successful city council campaigns for Fred Collins, Martin Howrylak, David Eisenbacher, and Erin Stahl. The Troika also helped manage the successful city council campaigns for Mark Owen and Andy LeCureaux.

The FIVE-PAC web site is www.5pac.org.

Owen Re-Elected

(cont. from pg.1)

This is an important lesson for future Libertarian candidates. People do not respond well to theoretical stances and debates. Most people do not think that way. Libertarians need to identify their issues in a concrete way. Local governments will often create an issue that Libertarians can use as a fulcrum of their campaign. In Troy, it was a generous retirement plan for council members at taxpayer expense, in St. Claire Shores, it was increased fees and obnoxious code enforcement, and in Owosso, it was the creation of an historic district.

Owen will continue to work toward better and less intrusive government in Owosso. Identifying ordinances and policies where support could be garnered to abolish them will be one goal. City managers tend to recognize when a Libertarian is on their council, and tend to be a bit more careful in what they propose. They have no desire to have a public dogfight regarding proposals that could make them look bad. Just having a Libertarian watchdog in place will help reduce big government type policies.

Populism is a winning strategy for Libertarians. Republicans and Democrats represent special interests and big government leaving the little guy out of the picture. When Libertarians find issues that are appealing and are based on the principles of a free society, we can and do win.

Thinking About 2005

(cont. from pg.3)

Michigan's problems were not created overnight. And fixing the problems in Michigan will not happen overnight. As Libertarians we need to understand that we need a grass roots level movement to correct all of Michigan's ills. This is going to start by getting responsible people appointed to serve on local boards and then getting them elected.

Greg Dirasian, 1/3 of the very successful Oakland County Troika campaign team says, "If you really want to create a free society, this is where to start. You will have great fun, get to know some genuinely wonderful and caring people, and influence them without ever realizing it. Whether you decide to move on to higher/elected office or not, I guarantee that you will find this a fulfilling experience."

On February 25, at the Oakland County General Membership meeting at Sila's Restaurant in Berkley, Lloyd Sherman will be our guest speaker on how to get appointed to a local board/commission. Mr. Sherman serves on FIVE boards in his city. Sample forms will be available for anyone interested in finding out how the system works. Other councilmen and board members will also be available to answer questions. If you can't attend the meeting and would like to find out how simple this process is, contact Lloyd Sherman at: LSherman@LpocMi.org, or, (248) 398-4739.

Editor's Note

I would like to say a word of thanks to John DiGiacomo, Greg Dirasian, Greg Stempfle, Tom Quinn, Bill Gelineau and everyone who submitted articles for helping me put together this issue of the Michigan Libertarian. I look forward to serving as editor of this publication.

What have you been doing lately to help promote Libertarianism? Has your local affiliate sponsored a successful event? Have you received some recent media coverage? Let us know! Send us your newsletters or write a short article about your event. Send your submissions to newsletter@lpmich.org. You can submit in plain text, word or PageMaker document. Articles can be submitted by any member, not just local chairs or secretaries, so type up those success stories or those ideas you've had to promote the party and let the rest of the state know!

Jamie Lewis



2004 Libertarian Party of Michigan
State Convention
Saturday, April 17
Lansing West Conference Center
7501 West Saginaw Highway

Who will be the 2004 Libertarian Presidential Candidate?

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How will he bring his message to
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Libertarians Delivering the Message

The first in a series of profiles of LPM members and how they make a difference by introducing our communities to libertarian ideas.



Fred Collins

OFFICE: Berkley City councilmember—Nov,1997 to present

POSITIONS HELD: Committees-Tree board, DDA liaison, and two years on the Dream Cruise committee

CITY POPULATION: 15,587 population

CITY BUDGET: \$6,797,000 (general fund)

What made you decide to join the party and when?: I started out as a volunteer for the Jon Coon for U.S. Senate campaign in 1993

What has been your involvement in the LP? I have worked on most of the major projects the LPM has taken on, mostly as a campaign manager (5 local elections) I also worked very hard on the lobbying project that changed the top of ticket law so that it is easier to keep us on the ballot.

What would you say was your key to winning this office? Hard work and a good campaign manager.

What has been your biggest political accomplishment in promoting libertarianism since being elected? I have repealed three ordinances, cut spending, and modified dozens of other ordinances.

"The most important thing that I have done is learn to work in the system to make positive changes, and to show Libertarians that we can win if we want to."

Calendar of Events

(cont from page 5)

5208

February 28, 2004 - Tri-City Libertarian Party's Freedom Dinner 2004 Guest Speaker: Jon Coon "Who Owns Your Property?" Social hour: 6 p.m. (cash bar available) Location: The Grand Banquet and Conference Center; 660 West Hampton Road, Essexville **Contact: Rosemarie Jozwiak Phone: (989) 922-5226 E-mail: Jozie@mail.com**

March 10, 2004 - 6:30 PM LP of Oakland County Executive Committee meeting. All dues paying members are encouraged to attend and participate. Bring your cell phones—we will be calling members to recruit candidates. Location: LPM Headquarters, 619 E. 9 Mile Rd., Hazel Park. **Contact: Nathan Allen Phone: (248) 891-3003 E-mail: chair@lpocmi.org**

March 24, 2004 - Libertarian Party of Oakland County general membership meeting. Meeting starts at 7:30. Optional dinner starts at 6:30. Candidate forms, a notary, and assistance will be available for people who plan to run for office. Location: Sila's Restaurant, 4033 W. Twelve Mile, Berkley, 2 blocks east of Greenfield. **Contact: Nathan Allen Phone: (248) 891-3003 E-mail: chair@lpocmi.org** February 27, 2004

April 17, 2004 Libertarian Party of Michigan State Convention 9:00 AM-5:30 PM Followed by a banquet at 6:30 PM featuring a forum of the candidates for the Libertarian Presidential Nominations. Location: Lansing West Conference Center at the Holiday Inn, 7501 West Saginaw Highway. **See back cover of this issue for registration information.**

May 27-31, 2004 **Libertarian Party National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia**-Many speakers will be featured including Ron Paul, Dean Cameron and James Gray plus a Campaign Training Workshop featuring Barb Goushaw and Fred Collins. **Contact: Jamie Lewis Phone (616) 281-9329 E-Mail jkl620@sbcglobal.net** to be put on the delegate list. For more information, visit: www.lp.org/conv/2004

Civil Rights History

(cont. from page 7)

preferential treatment. This myth fosters a feeling of superiority among white people, regardless of whether they are Democrats or Republicans.

Not all Republican politicians are hypocrites, however. Two Republican state representatives, Leon Drolet and Jack Brandenburg, are the co-chairs of the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative. Twenty other Republican state representatives have endorsed MCRI. But the leaders of the Republican Party of Michigan oppose MCRI.

Significance of MCRI to Government Policy

If MCRI passes, what effect will it have on government policy? Will it eliminate the racial goals or quotas in the state and local government civil service? No. MCRI specifically exempts racial preferences that are necessary to maintain federal funding. So until there is a president who cancels the goals or quotas for employers who receive federal funds, racial preferences will continue in the civil service.

If it passes, will MCRI eliminate racial preferences in admissions at state universities? Yes, in theory. But in practice, the effect is unclear. First, constitutions and statutes are merely words on paper. Whether they have any effect depends on the persons who enforce them. Federal and state civil rights laws already prohibit racial preferences regarding admissions and employment. But the Democrats and Republicans in power refuse to enforce the existing law. Why should anyone expect that they will enforce a revised law?

Second, state universities will find a way of using racial preferences without violating the letter of the law. This has already occurred in California, where a similar constitutional amendment was made in 1996. The law was effective for a few years. Then state universities started basing admissions on race-substitute factors such as being poor, living a one-parent household, and living in a neighborhood with a high crime rate.

Furthermore, racial preferences are important for admissions only at the University of Michigan and a few graduate programs at some other state universities.

Significance of MCRI to Libertarians

Since MCRI will have little practical effect on government policy, why should Libertar-

ians support it? Why should Libertarians contribute time or money to MCRI? MCRI is important because it can increase public support for the Libertarian Party and its candidates.

Most voters think that the Supreme Court or the Democrats are responsible for racial preferences by the government. They are unaware that racial preferences were started by Richard Nixon and were supported by every subsequent Republican president and governor. They are unaware that racial preferences are still supported by the leadership of the Republican Party of Michigan.

MCRI gives Libertarians a great opportunity to inform voters that the Libertarian Party is the only political party that opposes racial preferences by the government. It gives Libertarians a great opportunity to convert Republicans and Reagan Democrats into Libertarians.

To take advantage of this opportunity, Libertarians should volunteer time (1) as petitioners to help assure that the MCRI proposal gets on the ballot or (2) as active candidates or campaign workers to convert support for MCRI to support for the Libertarian Party and its candidates. Those who cannot contribute time can contribute money to LPM and its candidates.

While petitioning for MCRI:

- (1) Wear clothing or buttons that publicize the Libertarian Party.
- (2) Inform signers that the Libertarian Party is the only political party that opposes racial preferences by the government.

While campaigning:

- (1) Publicize the hypocrisy of most Republican politicians.
- (2) Inform voters that constitutions and statutes are merely words on paper and have no effect unless voters elect people who will enforce them.

(3) Use the MCRI issue as a good example of why voting for Democrats and Republicans is a waste of one's vote.

To volunteer or get more information about MCRI, go to www.mcric2004.org or call 313-550-9000.

(Cont. from pg. 4)

Dist. 108 South Central UP
Dist. 37 Oakland Co, Farmington
Dist. 43 Oakland Co, Waterford
Dist. 55 Monroe Co
Dist. 62 Calhoun Co
Dist. 52 W Washtenaw Co
Dist. 24 Macomb Co, St. Clair Shores
Dist. 21 W Wayne Co
Dist. 75 Grand Rapids
Dist. 101 NW Lower Peninsula
Dist. 84 Huron, Tuscloa Counties

Examples of major parties adopting third party ideas.

When Ross Perot ran for President in 1992, one of his signature issues was the federal deficit and balancing the budget. Perot earned 19% of the vote and it could be argued that he cost George Bush I his presidency. Prior to the Clinton Administration, Congress had not balanced the budget since the 1960's. Not only did they start balancing the budget, but they actually had a surplus. When Perot ran again in 1996, the balancing the budget was a non issue and he earned less than half of his earlier vote totals. Unfortunately, now that the pressure is off, the feds have returned to even bigger deficit spending.

Jon Coon ran for US Senate as a Libertarian in 1994 in what was the most publicized and aggressive effort that the LPM has embarked on to date. Jon earned nearly 5% of the vote with the signature issue of gun rights. This wave of support for such a controversial issue took the establishment by surprise. A few years later, thanks in part to Republicans worried about losing votes to Libertarians, the Legislature eased CCW requirements across the state. Now every law abiding citizen in Michigan, provided they fill out a lot of paperwork, can carry a firearm for protection.

In the 1920s and 1930s, the Socialist Party frequently earned 5% in Presidential elections. Much of their platform made it into law during the Great Depression.

It's generally agreed that had Ralph Nader not run for President as a Green, Al Gore would have picked up a few more states in 2000 and been elected President. The Greens fed off discontent among leftists over the Democratic Party moving toward the political center. Realizing how many votes can be gained by picking up on Green ideas, Howard Dean is now running on a more "progressive" platform than recent Democrats and was leading the early polls.

Preemptive Force, History, and Non-Intervention

By John Di Giacomo

Many Libertarians loathe family gatherings. The inevitable pestering of an overzealous relative seems almost commonplace to a Libertarian like me, and an adequate defense to attacks on the Libertarian position is usually the first of conscious thoughts that enters my mind with the mention of this dreaded event. My girlfriend's family, staunch supporters of the Bush administration and self proclaimed neo-conservatives, were the first of these prosecutors over the recent holidays. After entering the house and noticing the blaring sound of Fox News emanating from the television, the topic of conversation quickly turned to politics. The argument ensued with an attack on government spending. "It's OK to be liberal when you are young, but when you get a REAL job your mind will change," her father argued. "I actually rather like the Libertarian position," she rebutted. "Well Libertarians are OK, but they never want to get involved in other nations' business. We would have been attacked by Iraq if Libertarians ran the country."

This struck me as odd. The Neo-Con movement has begun to define preemptive force in the wake of September 11th as a reaction to a perceived threat. In the eyes of this new movement, preemptive force is justified and classified as a self-defense measure. Dating back to the Caroline incident of 1837 in which British troops boarded the U.S. vessel Caroline and killed several American citizens believed to be aiding Canadian rebels in their fight against the British, the semantics of preemptive self-defense within international law have included a notion of "proportionality and necessity1." Libertarians have argued in much the same way by philosophically classifying preemptive force as categorically non-existent. Joseph Knight noted three categories of force in Libertarian philosophy: initial force, defensive force, and retaliatory force2. Of course Libertarians, through the non-interventionist doctrine, are opposed to the application of initial force. But does non-intervention justify the Neo-Con attack on this presumed Libertarian xenophobia?

I argue that it does not. If we examine the war in Iraq as the principle example of this new doctrine of preemptive force, we can quickly see that preemptive force is non-existent and rather falls into the category of initial force as Knight's designations contend. This war was justified on the grounds that Iraq posed an imminent threat to American citizens because of its alleged proliferation of nuclear and chemical weapons. After finding no "smoking gun," as pundits love to term it, the focus of Karl Rove's political strategy turned to the "liberation of the Iraqi peoples."

But if we are to use the Caroline incident as a measure of the legality of preemptive force within the case of the weapons of mass destruction argument, then preemptive aggression against Saddam's Iraq was neither "proportional" nor "necessary," but was rather initial force of one country against another based in the fallacy of a non-existent WMD program. It we apply the same ideas of "proportional" and "necessary" to the secondary argument of the liberation of the Iraqi peoples, preemptive war would be categorically illegal or unjustified within the preemptive force policies set forth by the Caroline incident because of the application of initial force without an imminent threat. Therefore non-intervention looks mighty sweet to this Libertarian, as it allows retaliatory and defensive force in times of an imminent threat, but avoids the pitfalls of adopting an unjustifiable initial force approach.

John Di Giacomo is currently a student at Central Michigan University, majoring in philosophy and criminal justice.

(Footnotes)

1 Arend, Anthony C. International Law and the Use of Preemptive Military Force. (Online) Available <http://www.twq.com/03spring/docs/03springarend.pdf> 7 January 2004.

2 Knight, Joseph. Understanding the Libertarian Philosophy. (Online) Available <http://www.daft.com/~rab/liberty/libphilo.html> 7 January 2004.

2004 Libertarian Party of Michigan Convention

Registration Form

Saturday, April 17th-Lansing West Conference Center at the Holiday Inn 7501 West Saginaw Highway

Advance Registration **Before April 1st** Banquet Tickets..... @ \$45 each=\$ _____
with one year membership extention..... @ \$65 each=\$ _____
After April 1st Banquet Tickets..... @ \$60 each=\$ _____
with one year membership extention..... @ \$80 each=\$ _____
Business Session (Avoid Lines- Register Now!)..... @ \$0.each = \$ _____

(Please include any additional names with this form)

Box Lunch @ \$10.each=\$ _____

Total Amount=\$ _____

American Express, Discover, Master Card and Visa accepted. Credit Card Number _____ Exp _____

Or include check (payable to the Michigan Libertarian Party).

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