



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

January 2024
Volume 53:01

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Comments from the Editor

This edition features a total of 7,818 words. It also features the third and final installment of the series of articles related to Upper Peninsula secession. It is a bit long (4,408 words) but treats each detail with due importance. If the timeline is too much, just skip it (if temporarily), and you'll still enjoy the article. Happy New Year!

Contributions and Comments Welcome

Contributions are welcome, with careful attention to our [guidelines](#). Comments or articles 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 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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Unity Caucus Gives Thanks to Defenders of Liberty

January 01, 2024 / By Scotty Boman

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



Figure 1. Ryan Brennan and Leah Dailey holding Libby Awards

South Lyon, MI – The Libertarian Unity Caucus of Michigan presented the annual Defender of Liberty Awards to three carefully selected Michiganders who made notable contributions to the libertarian cause, or the Libertarian Party. The presentations were at the 2023 Defender of Liberty Award Banquet on Saturday November 25th. The venue was the South Lyon Hotel at 201 North Lafayette Street, South Lyon, MI, 48178.

A Thirty-Year Tradition

The tradition has its roots in the 1993 Libertarian Week Banquet at which the Libertarian Party of Michigan presented the [Freedom Fighter Award](#) to famed “Medicide Doctor” Jack Kevorkian. Each year there-after the Party would honor someone with an award. Award banquets were hosted by affiliate groups or the state party. This year the Unity



Caucus hosted the event in an effort to transcend the factionalism that has afflicted the Michigan party for the past year.

Initially Liberty Festival Banquets were held as distinct events near the end of calendar years during which award winners earned them. However, it was often a challenge for activists to organize a festival while campaigning on even years, so Defender of Liberty Awards were eventually bestowed upon winners during the early spring convention of the following year. So if an award was handed out in the spring, it was for the previous year. But since the 2023 event was so late in the year, the award committee considered activists based on their work in late 2022 or 2023.

Unity Caucus Banquet Speaker

Our Speaker for the 2023 Defender of Liberty Award Banquet was [Angelique Chaser-Thomas](#). She was the 2018 Libertarian Party [nominee](#) for Michigan's Lieutenant Governor.



Figure 2. Angelique Thomas was the LibbyFest speaker

She holds a BS in Political Science and Jurist Doctorate from the University of Detroit Mercy, an MBA from Northwestern University, and a Certificate in Strategic Change Management from Eli Broad School of Management at Michigan State University.

In 2010 she co-founded Manufacturing and Design Electronics ("MADE") and took on responsibility for strategic growth initiatives. Located in Auburn Hills, and formerly named CI Lighting, MADE designs and manufactures specialized printed circuit boards.

Her perspective is one that rises above the fray and focuses on a hopeful future for the Libertarian Party. She prompted guests to wonder if this our time to move voters from the time of the "wasted vote" to the "Why not?" era? Hence she pointed out that voters are more open to an alternative to the biopoly, but that we need to be ready to seize the moment and stop turning on one another.

Angelique spoke extensively and answered several questions from guests. Scotty Boman posted video of her speech here on Rumble:



- [Intro](#)
- [The rest of the speech.](#)

Unity Caucus Libby Award Presentations

Scotty Boman was the Master of Ceremonies for the award presentations, but selected nominators presented the awards to the winners. The author posted a video of the award ceremony here: <https://rumble.com/v3ydnij-defender-of-liberty-award-cerimony-11-25-2023.html>

Spokesperson for Liberty Award

To a member of the community whose patriotism and conviction have inspired contributions to the cause of liberty.



Figure 3. Bret Cashman presents Spokesperson for Liberty Award to Leah Dailey

Former Superior Township Parks Commissioner (Partisan 1996-2004) Brett Cashman presented the Spokesperson of Liberty Award to Leah Dailey. In his nomination statement he wrote:

“Leah has worked tirelessly to promote the Libertarian Party and ideas of freedom. She has been a campaign manager, local party leader and state party leader. She has tried to find common ground for all members in this time of division. Unlike many long-time members she has not become bitter or confrontational but has peacefully tried to bring members together. She has been a perfect example of the kind of Libertarian we would all like to know.”

Leah played a major role in organizing the event, but this came as a complete surprise since the award committee (Gregory Creswell, Alice Freebornhall, and Mark Ashley Price) kept their decisions a secret, and information was only shared on a need-to-know basis.

Promoter for Liberty Award

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



Jami Van Alstine presented the Promoter of Liberty to Ryan Brennan. In her nomination statement she wrote:



Figure 4. Jami Van Alstine presents Libby to Ryan Brennan

Ryan has driven efforts, such as March to Defend Lives, that have garnered both attention and support for libertarian ideals. He included and got support internally from members on both sides of the current party divide. While he has taken a position, he continues to publicly advocate for full inclusion of membership in party spaces.

In 2023 Ryan Brennan worked to organize demonstrations in Lansing, the Upper Peninsula and Detroit. Here

are links to articles and media clips that show the effectiveness of his efforts through March to Defend Lives:

Capitol Rally

- [MichiganLP.org post](#)
- [Detroit News article](#)
- [WLNS 6 News video](#)
- [Lansing Ste Journal article](#)

Detroit Rally

- [Michigan Libertarian Article](#)
- [Detroit News Article](#)
- [Fox 2 Detroit](#)
- [Click on Detroit News 4](#)

March to Defend Our Lives also held a protest in the UP via the UPLP and Ryan Roberts

- [Upper Michigan Source article](#)



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Producer of Liberty Award



Figure 5. Bradley Hunt's Libby

To a dedicated, behind-the-scenes Libertarian whose quiet labors over the years exemplifies the backbone of the LP.

Leah Dailey presented the Producer of Liberty award to Bradley Hunt. In her nomination statement Leah wrote:

"Bradley has been working with Students for Liberty and started a non-profit to get libertarian literature and publications into prisons to inspire those held captive by the state."

An Students for Liberty published the following [article](#) about Bradley's work:

<https://studentsforliberty.org/success-story/bradley-hunt-spreading-the-ideas-of-liberty-in-prisons/>

Bradley has the rare distinction of being a two-time Libby winner. That was in 2015, the most recent efforts are much more recent.

Charitable Proceeds



Figure 6. The Unity Caucus donated \$70 to the Libertarian sober caucus

The Libertarian Unity Caucus of Michigan donated \$70 to the Libertarian Sober Caucus. This balance remained after Libby Fest organizers covered expenses. While Libertarians support legalizing vices, they also support voluntary solutions to the disease of addiction.

Also, in the spirit of volunteerism, some of the attendees brought food to the event to be donated to local food pantries.



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A [list](#) of past Libby Award Winners is available in the historical archives:

<http://old.michiganlp.org/news-and-events/liberty-festivals>

BUDS 'N REALITY
POLITICALLY CHARGED PODCAST FROM THE
ANARCHIST/LIBERTARIAN POINT OF VIEW

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f i t v s a

Explore the [Buds 'N Reality Podcast](#) with LPMI's Shaun Collins!

Sticking to My Principles – A Christmas Miracle!

January 01, 2024 / By Leah Dailey

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Figure 7. Peace of mind - A Christmas miracle

If you've been in the Libertarian Party for more than five seconds you've encountered this question from your peers, "when did you become a libertarian?" My answer is typically, "Well, I've always been skeptical of authority...my poor mother." Recently it dawned on me it may have started with Christmas.

When I was a little girl Christmas was a time of celebration, delicious food,



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gathering with friends and family, it was also a time of wonder. I would come to wonder, "who the hell is lying to me?"

I understood fully the celebration of the birth of Christ. I love the nativity story, especially the nuance I came to learn in later years. Mary's pregnancy was shameful, no one would welcome them as they entered Bethlehem, which is why she gave birth in a stable. The angels visited the shepherds first to deliver the good news of the Messiah's birth. Shepherds were considered unclean and could not worship at the temple. Jesus came to save all people, starting with those whom society rejected.

What I didn't understand was Santa, with his elves and flying reindeer. I was equally confused by the dusty plastic tree my mother would erect each year in the corner of our living room. I had learned early on that my mother was not to be trusted to answer my "childish" questions. For example, I was genuinely puzzled about how my body produced tears, but when I asked her, she said it was from too much sugar. Or when I asked her why she and my father had divorced, she said because his mustache tickled when he kissed her. Did she not realize her current boyfriend had a fat Tom Selleck mustache? We didn't have a chimney, she told me Santa had a key to the backdoor. I desperately wanted a She-Ra action figure and her horse for Christmas. Santa was my only hope, so I sat on his lap and told him so.

I got a Popple that year. Finally, I realized that Santa had the same distinct handwriting as my mother. The jig was up, and I told my brother my findings. He agreed that Santa's existence was far-fetched, but his understanding was this: if you don't believe then you won't get presents. And he was going to continue to believe. I was dumbfounded. He was willing to believe a lie in order to gain the fleeting happiness that material objects provide? I may have been an overly dramatic child, but I could not see this as anything less than selling your soul to the devil. I took my chances and proclaimed my disbelief. It turns out my brother's theory was incorrect. The presents still came, though with time there were less toys and more clothes by request as I was becoming a young teenager. I call it a request, but it was more appropriately a demand.

The year's fashion trend was different colored jeans, and I had put all my Christmas hope into a pair of dark-green Jordache Jeans. I pointed them out several times to my mom at the mall. She even had me try them on so that she knew what size to get me. As tradition my brother and I were allowed to open one gift on Christmas Eve. This was my chance, and I couldn't wait to show off my cool new jeans at my grandparents' annual Christmas party that evening. I proposed the win-win scenario: just tell me which present contains the jeans, hand them over, and no one gets hurt. My request was not



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well received. She refused to tell me which gift it was. Our exchange escalated, and after I had pushed all of her buttons, she loudly revealed that she did not get me the jeans. I lost it, I turned into a red-faced volcano erupting with a shrill screech, frothing with tears and snot. She ruined my Christmas as well as my entire life. (She did get the jeans but gave them to my grandmother to give to me on Christmas Day).

This scene is important for me to describe, as it was later used to explain to my mother why I could no longer participate in the giving and receiving of Christmas gifts. There is nothing wrong with giving a gift. If I see something that reminds me of someone, or something that I know a loved one would like, I will get it for them. It is a nice gesture that communicates that this person is in your thoughts. If this is true, how is making a Christmas list not just a list of demands? And what does my list of demands have to do with the birth of Christ? After all, Christmas isn't my birthday. I wrestled greatly with these questions as I entered adulthood.

My attitude toward Christmas took a big shift in 2007-2008. I had recently discovered that recycling was bullshit. Literally, I watched the Showtime series *Bullshit!* starring Penn & Teller, "a documentary series set out to prove that many of the institutions society holds dear are bogus." My grand take away was that reducing and reusing were far better than recycling. At this same time I read a book called *Culture Jam*, written by the founder of *Adbuster* magazine, and I delved deep into anti-consumerism. I then found a book called *Scroogenomics* which helped to cement my personal principles to reject current western Christmas traditions (the book emphasizes the excess waste and overspending around the holidays). Needless to say, no one was happy to hear my anti-Christmas rhetoric that year. I was labeled Scrooge and Grinch. I tried to compromise, and wrapped the few gifts I gave with newspaper instead of wrapping paper. But it wasn't enough. I was too convicted of my principles.

The next year I went full bore. No one seems to like it when I point out that Jesus was more likely born between April and September, or that Constantine picked Dec 25 to piggyback off of Saturnalia celebrations, or the yuletide worship of the evergreen tree- and what about St. Nicholas? A wonderful man, he gave to the poor, and did not request a list of demands from entitled children. My kids were 6 and 8 that year. No more Christmas tree, no more stockings, no more gifts. I never promoted Santa anyway, forgive me, I don't like lying right to my children's faces. Before you label me as Grinch, know this, I did not forbid others from exchanging gifts, I only asked that they leave me out of it. I explained, in length, to my kids why I could not continue with the charade. No need to pity my children, I go big on their birthdays, that day is all about celebrating them.



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As libertarians I think we can all agree it can be hard to take a stand for your principles without sounding arrogant. If I'm doing what I think is right, does that mean I think everyone else is wrong? Of course, but I fully believe everyone is free to practice whatever holiday traditions they value, even if I think they are wrong.

I am still concerned with holiday waste, and I'd like everyone to get serious about it. 4.3 million pounds of wrapping paper are purchased every year. For what? To momentarily cover a box and then to throw it in the trash. 30% of U.S. garbage is produced in December. We live in a hyper-consumption, ultra-convenience, disposable society. (I can be an anti-consumer capitalist by the way). It pangs me to my core thinking about the planned obsolescence that goes into manufacturing the products we buy. Just throw out the old and buy the new. Garbage is a real problem. And then I'm told that I'm doing my part by using a paper straw. Yeah right!

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





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Free State of Superior: The Case for Secession

January 01, 2024 / By Joshua Jongema

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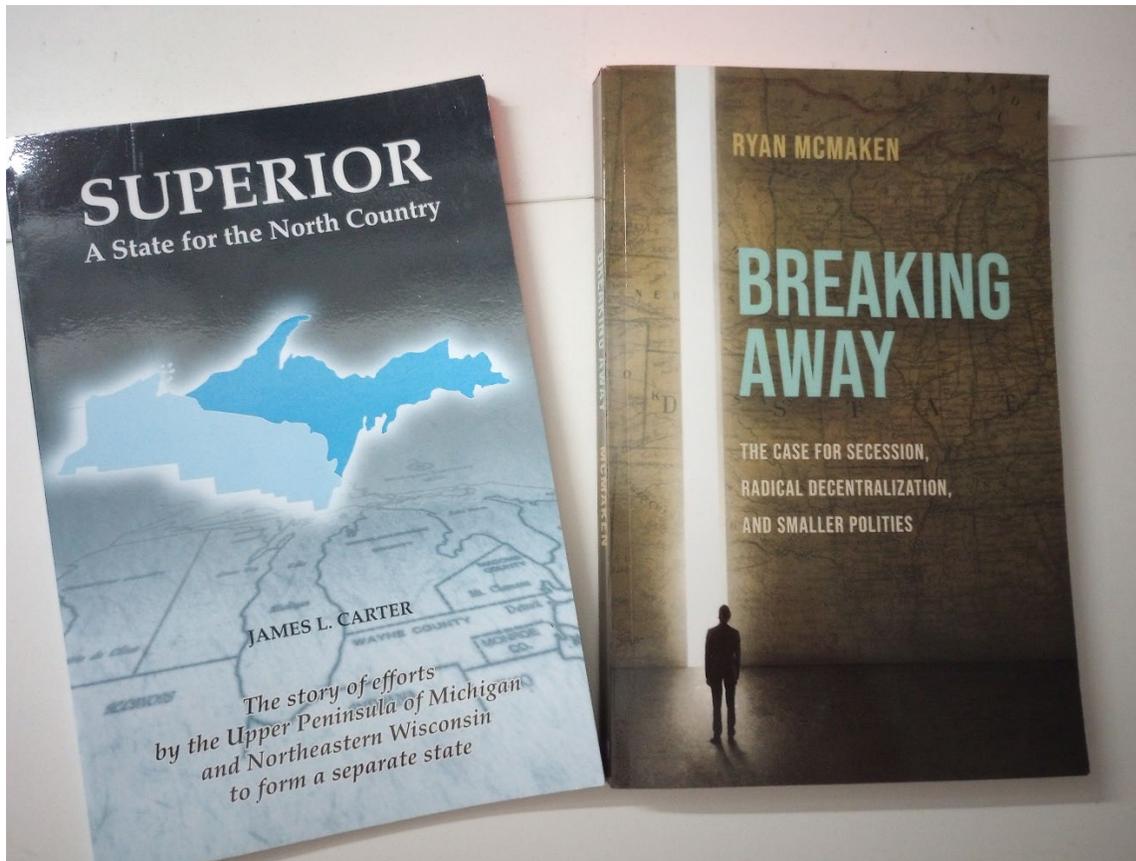


Figure 8. The books *Superior* and *Breaking Away*

Introduction

Individuals in the Upper Peninsula (UP) of Michigan are farther from having liberty and justice than they have been through the entire history of American federalism. Their story is one filled with repeated, failed attempts at asking nicely for human rights, from powers in Lansing and DC. While modern, centralized power structures make freedom and liberty difficult for individuals, there is hope for those who reject their domination through passive resistance. Humans everywhere need a way to live freely despite tyranny's grip.

From the decades before Michigan became a state, and to this day, residents and representatives of the UP have made repeated attempts at establishing autonomy. Often, UP representatives led statehood movements particularly suited to their personal



ambitions, and those of their business partners. These reps did not work towards liberty and justice for individuals, but rather attempted to ride the UP to their own fame and fortunes. With failure after failure, to get crony statist to recognize their inalienable, natural rights to self-determination and autonomy, residents of the UP have been repeatedly denied their freedom. The book *Superior: A State for the North Country* by James L. Carter (2011), reveals the timeline of those attempts.

“Although entirely overlooked in matters of legislation, appropriation, and education, we are fully recognized in that of taxation.” -Abner Sherman,
Upper Peninsula Advocate, March 23, 1858.

UP Secessionist Timeline

- **1781** – Northwest Territories created to include the UP
- **1805** – Michigan Territory created, including the eastern UP.
- **1809** – the UP divided into three sections: East (Michigan Territory), Central (Indiana Territory), and Western (Illinois Territory).
- **1818** – Entire UP folded into Michigan Territory upon Illinois becoming a state, along with all of what later became Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota.
- **1820s** – Movements began to separate the UP from Michigan and combine it with parts of modern-day MN, WI, and IL- around Lake Superior’s southern and western borders.
 - Petitions circulated among residents and presented to Territorial and Federal officials.
 - A rivalry between lead-mining interests and fur traders stole the spotlight.
- **1823** – James Duane Doty, a Michigan Territorial Judge appointed in 1823, was a major supporter of the movement for UP statehood.
 - His area included Michilimackinac County with its seat on Mackinac Island.
 - He sent a bill for statehood, for the superior region, to Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri.
 - No action was taken on his bill.
- **1827** – Austin E. Wing of Monroe, Michigan’s Territorial Delegate to Congress, wrote a bill similar to Doty’s.
 - **Jan. 1829** – Wing’s bill was passed by the House of Representatives, having the backing of Senator Benton and Michigan Territorial Governor Lewis Cass (who wanted to govern the new territory and make the capital Cassville, 30 miles south of Prairie du Chein).
 - His 3rd term as delegate expired and the Senate took no action on his bill.



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- **1830** – Another bill for statehood was introduced but did not include the eastern half of the UP (the cedar swamps and Mackinac Island) to win support from lower Michiganders. It failed.
- **1835** – Michigan first attempted to declare statehood using its original territorial boundaries (with only the eastern UP) but met roadblocks.
- **1836** – The Toledo War was settled by Congress in the passing of the Northern Ohio Boundary Bill which gave Ohio the Toledo strip and gave Michigan the western part of the UP- comprised of 9,000 square miles of the era’s most profitable mineral and timber land in America.
 - Many of the residents of the UP did not want to be part of Michigan either.
 - Congress had received a number of petitions from persons in this region asking that the area south of Lake Superior be organized as the territory of Huron.
- **Jan. 26, 1837** – Michigan entered the union as a state.
- **1837** – The Panic of 1837
 - It was a time of banks holding failed assets, a housing bubble, and a federal government demanding payments in gold or silver, leading to massive losses for venture capitalists and banks. It caused a 6-year depression, after which many American investors were keen on reinvesting in American markets that were attached to navigable waterways.
 - Of 175,000 Michigan residents, an estimated 3,000 lived in the UP. Of these, about 1,000 were white men (1/3rd; French, Scottish, and English). 2/3rds were indigenous, mostly Ojibwa.
 - Settlements in the Superior Region included Mackinac Island with its Fort, Saint Ignace, Sault Ste. Marie, L’Anse, LaPoint on Lake Superior, and Green Bay. Seasonal settlements existed on Whitefish Bay, Bay de Noc, at Grand Marais, and where Marquette is now. Fur Company posts were at L’Anse, Grand Island, the Sault, and Mackinac.
 - Only practical transportation was the great lakes. Several indigenous trails through the interior. In winter a virtually isolated region.
- **1840** – Houghton’s mineral report; given to Michigan state congress in 1841.
 - America’s first mineral rush began for copper, in the UP.
- **1842** – Fort Howard at Green Bay became a center of activity and provided “law and order” for a vast wilderness region
- **1844** – Iron discovered in Marquette area, bringing new activity to the area
 - Within a few years, dozens of mining companies laid claim to the minerals, many based in the East financial and industrial centers – Boston, NY,



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Pittsburgh, and Cleveland. Many did not succeed. Still, new towns developed around the mines:

- Iron Towns: Marquette, Ishpeming, and Negaunee.
- Copper Towns: Ontonagon, Rockland, Eagle River, Eagle Harbor, Copper Harbor, and Portage Lake.
- Mining activity increased arguments about the need for representation.
- **1844** – Out of feigned concern for order (rather than mineral exploitation), the US Secretary of War sent William Wilkins to establish Fort Wilkins in Copper Harbor and used soldiers to protect white miners from the Ojibwa.
 - No conflict occurred between white miners and the Ojibwa, and two years later the soldiers at Ft. Wilkins were sent to assist in the Mexican-American War.
 - Between 1867 and 1870 Ft. Wilkins was used to station men finishing their terms following the Civil War and was then abandoned.
- **1850** – The census reported the UP had 5,659 inhabitants recorded in its 7 counties.
 - Legislators voiced the need for roads, port improvements, schools, and other state services.
 - House of Representatives heard Committee of Mines and Minerals on the need for infrastructure for the sake of the mines.
 - Michigan did not want to throw money at the useless wilderness it had been given, though it was sure to enforce taxation on the region's people.
- **Sept 24, 1851**- the Lake Superior Journal featured an article entitled *North Michigan – A New State*, which claimed the state government's policies towards the UP were "niggardly" (a non-racist term derived from the Scandinavian language, meaning stingy or miserly). It quoted Editor Jermain of the Michigan Expositor as saying UP legislators had to be in the state capital three months before opening of the legislative session, or otherwise they had to travel to Lansing on snowshoes. Jermain noted the UP residents had "not one thing in common with us below. They have within themselves everything requisite for an important state."
- **1853** – Senate Mines and Minerals Committee recommended "obnoxious and illiberal" taxation provisions in Mining Company charters be revised and noted the difficulty for the Lansing-based legislature to properly govern the region of vast wealth.
 - Reform was called for to make tax money more available to local governments.
 - It was doubtful that "a legislative body composed almost entirely of members chosen from the Lower Peninsula, having limited means of knowing the



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wants and interests of a region so remote...can...bestow that legislative action so much needed.” Statehood would be the best means of serving the interests of the peninsula. Residents didn’t really want separation, “unless unequal laws and an oppressive policy shall drive them to it.”

- **1853** – Gov. Robert McClelland said to a joint session of Michigan House and Senate “There is no part of the State which deserves more your fostering care than the mineral region of Lake Superior.” He advocated for the completion of the Soo Canal so Michigan could better appreciate the UP’s mineral wealth. His words came after constant complaints that state taxes on local mining companies were depriving local areas of that tax money. Non-mining companies paid little taxes, so Lansing didn’t want to lose its cash cow, but wouldn’t develop the local areas the mines operated in, instead using the money for Lansing. This led to renewed calls for statehood.
- **1854** – Most of the land in the UP was put under control and management of the federal government in the second Treaty of LaPointe.
- **1855** – Ontonagon was one of most prosperous towns.
 - The four-story Bigelow House, along the Ontonagon River, was the site of early meetings on statehood for the Superior region. Newspapers from Sault to Ontonagon were advocating for statehood at that time, with Ontonagon taking the lead. The Bigelow House featured many private and public meetings on statehood. It no longer stands today.
- **Mid-1850s** – UP had population of about 10,000, and it was a time of propaganda for and against UP statehood.
 - Downstate and out-of-state newspapers all railed against the idea of statehood for the UP, though the UP and, allegedly, nearly all of its residents advocated for it. The NY Daily Tribune (an abolitionist paper) advocated for UP statehood.
 - Rumors flew that the original Northwest Ordinance did not allow for the creation of a new state from that region. Also, many papers nationwide printed misinformation, that Wisconsin and Michigan legislators had already approved conceding territories to the new state. A state of confusion arose.
 - The new state would be “a great commercial emporium.”
 - The capitals of Michigan and Wisconsin were too far from the remote settlers who “should be allowed the privilege of adapting their political institution to their circumstances.”
 - **1853**- The legislature had just begun pushing a railroad through, though the railroad didn’t connect the national railway to the UP until 1872.



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- 1855- St. Mary's Falls Ship Canal in Sault Ste. Marie finished.
- These projects effectively nullified one of the arguments for UP statehood.
- **Jan 13, 1857** – Abner Sherman showed Michigan's legislature a petition signed by 77 persons, mainly from Ontonagon, Houghton, and Keweenaw counties urging a new state for the UP. They said, "it is almost the unanimous desire of our people to have this project consummated...We are actuated no feelings of disrespect or disloyalty to our State but [are] fully satisfied that nothing would so much tend to develop our resources, and that many incalculable advantages would arise under a separate government."
- **Feb 4, 1857**- A petition submitted by Sherman was referred to a special committee of five which released a bill "to retrocede the Upper Peninsula to the United States, preparatory to the formation of a new territory," which was submitted to the house. It cited distance from the capital, seasonal isolation, differences of economy, and a lack of responsiveness to UP needs saying, "we believe considerations of ultimate benefits to the country – of justice to the pioneers of that distant region – of the practical necessity of an ultimate separation, the proposed measure will be sustained by the patriotic citizens of the Lower Peninsula." He noted the people of the UP, "are almost if not entirely unanimous in favor of an independent organization, conscious that their own prosperity and best interests would be eminently subserved thereby."
 - The bill was laid on the table without discussion and never brought back up.
- The Free Press wrote *The State of Superior* which read, "The idea is a very fallacious one that would lead anyone to suppose that the people of the State of Michigan would be willing to cede away so valuable a portion of their territory."
- **March 23, 1858** - Abner Sherman's wrote an article in the Upper Peninsula Advocate, *The Relations of the Upper and Lower Peninsulas*, which said:
 - "Nature never contemplated such a union...a divorce from our unnatural partner is the only true mode of redressing the many evils to which we are subjected." "Not a dollar" had been appropriated for UP roads or harbors. He wrote, "Although entirely overlooked in matters of legislation, appropriation, and education, we are fully recognized in that of taxation."
 - At this time, the legislature's discussions and Press in every quarter was in concert, the new state should be called "Superior."
- **1860s** – UP statehood was laid aside (yet again) since Michigan was in the Civil War and the UP supplied that war with iron and copper.
- **Dec. 28, 1868** – A territorial Convention was called at Miller's Hall in Houghton



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- Delegates were selected, who went to the state senate and house, listed grievances for the UP, and set forth reasons for its separation.
- “Resolved: That we...will use our best endeavors, and earnestly request our representatives and senators in the state legislature to use all honorable means to secure a cession of this portion of the state to the general government for the purpose herein set forth.”
- It was received with little enthusiasm from Lansing.
- **March 1869** – a minority resolution assenting to the secession of the UP was submitted to the House of Reps by its Committee on Federal Relations. It was promptly tabled, and no action was taken
 - Dissatisfaction among UP residents was evident. Tolls on the Sault ship lane were increased. Calls were made to refund taxes taken from mines to the counties they were in.
- **1869** – Railway built through port of Escanaba and Ishpeming
- **1872** – rails merged into C&NW system
- **Feb 6, 1875** – It “has been decided to call a convention for the purpose of taking into consideration the question of petitioning the State Legislature and Congress for the cession for the Upper Peninsula to the general government, and the erection of the same into a territory.”
 - **March 11, 1875** - Convention called at Austin’s Hall in Ishpeming
 - Resolution by Swineford was accepted “almost unanimously.”
 - This too was ignored in the legislature and waylaid in the press outside the UP.
- **1890s** – Sault and Republic carry the banner
 - Population of UP then was 180,658, higher than Delaware (168k), Montana (132k), Idaho (84k), Wyoming (61k), and Nevada (46k).
 - News Editor Chase S. Osborn began a campaign to put state and national candidates into office in Lansing, so the issue would not be ignored by the Legislature there.
 - Roger Andrews wanted Clover-Land, saying the UP could only see its potential with autonomy.
 - He said the UP is ahead of other actual states in valuation, tax revenues, school expenditures, employment, timber and mineral production, population, land area, miles of railroad, etc.
 - The State of Superior was proposed again.



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- This only led to increased attention paid to the value of the UP, and resulted in disregard for the proposal so that Michigan could keep its cash cow in the barn.
 - He continued support for the UP Development Bureau, which built the UP Tourism Industry.
 - He published the “Clover-Land Magazine” well into the 1930s.
- **1920s** – Logging, fishing, and motoring Tourists the UP’s main economy
- **1930s** – Great Depression
 - WW2 left no energy, resources, or inclination for freedom for another two decades.
- **1950s** – Pat Hayes owned the hotel House of Ludington in Escanaba and flew the flag of the State of Superior.
- **1957** – Mackinac Bridge completed
- **April 4, 1959** – Theodore G Albert, Ironwood attorney, filed “Bill of Complaint in Action for Divorce” in Dickinson County court, with the UP being the Plaintiff and the Lower Peninsula, the Defendant. It read: “The Lower Peninsula is too distant, too cold, too unwieldy, too hard to handle, and for that reason, deprives the Plaintiff of any warm or close association.” The Plaintiff further asks that her maiden name be restored.
 - This caught on, with talk of part of Wisconsin joining and making Iron Mt. the capital.
- **1962** – John Steel of DeTour (land developer & real estate broker) and Robert Wylie launched a campaign to form a new state and become a legalized gambling mecca like Nevada.
 - A series of meetings started at the Iron Inn, in Iron River.
 - They formed the Upper Peninsula Independence Association.
 - 20,000 signatures were collected for a ballot referendum- just 36,000 short.
- **1960s** - Jim Trethewey, who coined the term “Yoopers,” proposed the idea of “Superiorland.”
- **1975** – Rep. Jacobetti continued to be a driving force behind the statehood issue...succeeded in getting the Legislature to approve expenditure of \$5,000 in 1975 “to study the feasibility of establishing a new state.”
- **1988** – The last attempt of the UP statehood movement
 - Rep. Jacobetti introduced House Bill Number 6115, “to separate the Upper Peninsula from the State of Michigan; to adjust certain boundary lines between the Upper and Lower Peninsulas; and to provide for a referendum.”



- Jacobetti's bill for UP statehood failed to be brought to a proper vote in the House and, like all other similar legislative efforts, it quietly expired.

Secession – Good or Bad?

In June this year, General Petraeus [told CNN's State of the Union](#) that the dissolution of a nation such as Russia would be a bad idea. He claimed, "I don't think we want a country that spans 11 time zones and includes republics in the Russian Federation of many different ethnic and sectarian groupings to come apart at the seams." Being a proponent of federalism, the general's claims appear to be heavily biased. This becomes clear in a reading of Ryan McMaken's recent book *Breaking Away: The case for secession, radical decentralization, and smaller polities*.

"Rights may be universal, but their enforcement must be local." -Murray Rothbard

McMaken lays out a strong case against the centralization of power, with evidence from history and recent events. He demonstrates that democracy only works if it is done locally. He shows historical record of times this has worked, including reference to the 18th century Holy Roman Empire, the 19th century Austro-Hungarian empire, and the 17th century Dutch Republic, which all had many subdivisions of nearly-autonomous regions. He proposes secession as a tool for independence, points out how colonized nations seceded from European powers, and reminds us that America seceded from Britain. He notes that the number of independent nations has tripled since WW2 and proposes this trend should continue.

"Democracy seems like oppression to the minority." -Ludwig von Mises

McMaken tells the hard truth: Democracy doesn't work, except perhaps on a local level. When populations with differing world views must exist under a single regime, voting resolves nothing, and one side will ultimately impose its preferred policies on the other side. He gives a prime example of Iceland in 2018 which saw legislation introduced to ban circumcision, though this is a de facto ban on orthodox Judaism. Some are so blinded by their cultural biases, that they even conclude that no "civilized" person could possibly believe that circumcision is anything other than a barbaric practice. Those who continue to believe in such things, it is thought, must therefore be forced "into the 21st century" by the coercive power of the state. Their religious beliefs, as Hillary Clinton demanded in 2015, "have to be changed."

Democracies can produce disgruntled minority groups locked out of power indefinitely by the majority- what McMaken calls permanent minorities. Ludwig von Mises concludes that even if the member of a nation's minority group, "according to the letter of the law, be a citizen with full rights...in truth he is politically without rights, a second-



class citizen, a pariah.” Mises characterizes majority rule as a form of colonialism from the point of view of the minority. The solution is one of the decentralization of power.

“Under decentralization, jurisdictions must compete for residents and capital, which provides some incentive for greater degrees of freedom.”

-Lew Rockwell

Early America & Tribal Sovereignty

Early Americans believed in spreading power out as far and wide as possible. They feared a federal government could replace the crown in military might and coercive power, and knew standing armies were a loss of liberty. They kept power locally to offset the potential for abuse by a central authority. This follows English traditions which in the 1600s raised militias under civil law. These militias were organized locally and divorced from royal control. By constitutional convention these fears were rooted in the 2nd Amendment, with the intent that states would be free to raise and train their own militias as a defense against federal power. Today in the USA military training of the once-free and now federally-managed militias, is left up to the states.

“The people have a right to keep and to bear arms for the common defense. And as, in time of peace, armies are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be maintained without the consent of the legislature; and the military power shall always be held in an exact subordination to the civil authority, and be governed by it.” -1780 Massachusetts declaration of rights.

Tribal sovereignty presumes the tribe is a sovereign entity having a direct negotiation with the federal government. In practice the tribes are semi-autonomous and subject to regulations and oversight by the federal government. Tribal land should not be considered US territory, but as of now the federal government can regulate so far as to dictate whether tribes can sell marijuana. Federal officials are known for running their own puppet candidates in tribal elections who can serve as a direct conduit between tribal governments and the federal government’s favored interest group. The federal government reserves the right to dissolve tribal governments alleged to be corrupt, such as when tribal officials use their privileges to enrich themselves. Logically, it should be the other way around.

Postmodern Solutions

In November 2021 Gov. DeSantis of Florida signed a law banning the use of vaccine mandates by private and public entities. He claimed the sovereign state supersedes the federal government, but also local governments. He said local governments “don’t have a right to do wrong.” Critics claimed this was a violation of the “home rule,” which in some states protects the autonomy of local governments. To only decentralize to the state level inevitably presents the same issue of a centralized power enriching itself while abusing its citizenry. So, McMaken concludes decentralization must happen at the



state level as well. Unfortunately, this is strictly forbidden in the US Constitution, which says people who want freedom must beg for it, from their abusers, the way peasants beg lords and kings.

"No new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State...without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress." -US Constitution, Article 4, Section 3, Clause 1

McMaken points out the number of solutions to this problem practiced elsewhere in the world. In Sweden, a system of Double Majority Voting means that to achieve significant legislative changes a majority of voters overall in a region, as well as a majority of voters in a majority of regional governments, must all agree. He proposes a system of Local Vetoes and gives an example of how this would apply to Colorado. If Colorado became a singular unitary state Denver would dominate exclusively. Areas outside of Denver should have veto power over policies pushed by it. Another solution would be political representation based on population size, where each region of a state would get equal votes within a greater body of regional governments.

To sum up McMaken's claims, he provides 3 major reasons for decentralization. First, smaller states allow for more choice and more opportunities for exit. Second, smaller states increase protection of minority rights when democracy fails. Third, smaller states are less likely to get away with abuses of power. He points out that larger states do not necessarily facilitate greater trade. He demonstrates that defense agreements can work where national defense once stood. He reveals the fact that small countries are nearly twice as wealthy as larger countries- according to the World Bank Development Indicators- are oft more responsive to their people, and don't have the money to engage in crazy ideas. An independent judiciary, along with proper legal checks and balances, could in theory ensure liberty and justice for all.

In the absence of the above remedies, or others, permanent minorities will continue to exist. Very few solutions exist for such individuals. These include boycotts, passive resistance, and armed rebellions. This last solution can lead to civil war, which makes secession a very important tool for those desiring peace.

The Free State Solution

If a Free State of Superior were brought about, it could do what cannot be done in federalist America. It could deregulate nuclear technology and enable companies, such as the one that [went bankrupt](#) earlier this year, to sell mini reactors to cities in need of clean power. After all, why should Americans have access to clean energy restricted, while the US government continues to buy its only heavy water from Iran?

"The United States is buying Iran's heavy water for its nuclear reactors through an intermediary despite sanctions." -[Anadolu Agency](#)



If a Free State of Superior were enacted, Yoopers could finally have the freedom to grow and be prosperous, on their own terms, without despotic control from dictatorial actors such as Gov. Whitmer, AG Nessel, Biden, and Trump. It could become a vacation paradise where the money goes to the property owners and the original inhabitants. It could be a place where humans live in harmony with nature. It could once again stand as a cultural epicenter for native civilization, like a beacon of light to the world.

"Nature never contemplated such a union...a divorce from our unnatural partner is the only true mode of redressing the many evils to which we are subjected." -Abner Sherman, Upper Peninsula Advocate, March 23, 1858.

Individuals are sovereign unitary entities, and governments are not. Still, a local government run in a democratic manner would be freer and more just than our current model allows. The people of the UP and greater Superior region have struggled for independence for too long. If power is taken through decentralization, the decolonization of individuals within permanent minority groups such as UP residents and the Ojibwa tribe, could finally occur. Secession should be explicitly allowed by law, but in the absence of due representation the people are given no choice but to resist their oppressors in Lansing and DC. Ultimately, national divorce is the best solution to the problem of a weaponized nation captured by foreign and special interest groups.

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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.*

Wednesday, January 3 @ 6-8pm – South West Michigan Affiliate Meeting

Airway Lanes Taproom: 5626 Portage Rd, Portage - 269-775-1775

See website for details: www.swmlp.com

Thursday, January 4 @ 7-9pm – Livingston County Affiliate Meeting

Brewery Becker: 500 W Main St, Brighton

Join the Libertarian Party of Livingston County for our monthly meeting.

For more information, see: <http://www.LivingstonLP.org>.

Wednesday, January 10 @ 6:30-8:30pm – Wayne County Affiliate Meeting

Habib's Cuisine: 14316 Michigan Ave, Dearborn

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



Libertarian Party of Michigan

Liberty ★ Property ★ Non-Aggression

Wednesday, January 10 @ 7-9pm – Macomb County Affiliate Meeting

Call to order at 8pm.

To confirm details call (586) 201-3535.

Thursday, January 11 @ 6:30-8pm – Huron-Raisin Monthly Meeting

The Tap Room: 201 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti

More info at www.HuronRaisinLP.org

Sunday, January 14 @ 7-9pm – LPMI Executive Committee Monthly Meeting

Online

Meeting ID: 849 2295 8547. Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84922958547>

Tuesday, January 16 @ 8-9pm – Upper Peninsula LP Monthly Meeting

Online

Every 3rd Tuesday at 8pm EST – the UPLP holds General Meetings open to the public.

Meeting ID: 819 9262 3984. Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81992623984>.

Wednesday, January 17 @ 6:30-8PM – Jackson-Hillsdale Monthly Meeting

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

<http://www.stevesranch.com/>

5:30 pm to 6:30 pm Open Meeting and Networking.

Wednesday, January 17 @ 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.

Thursday, January 18 @ 7pm – LPMI Candidate Happy Hour

Join us on Zoom to chat with other current, former, and potential candidates to share your campaign plans, strategies for success, and other tips and tricks.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83144833813> - Meeting ID: 831 4483 3813

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>.



Libertarian Party of Michigan

Liberty ★ Property ★ Non-Aggression

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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