

# California Freedom

February 2005 The official publication of the **Libertarian Party of California**

## ■ Activism

# Parks District Fought the Libertarians... and the Libertarians Won!

by **Dave Ruprecht**  
Executive Director, LPC

**O**n December 23, **Robert Bakhaus** scored an early Christmas present: a victory in a three-year litigation against Isla Vista Recreation and Parks District.

The favorable verdict was from Superior Court Judge Thomas Anderle, who ruled that the District violated state law (the Brown Act) by not opening their meetings to the public. The problems began when three of the five board members (a quorum) held a brunch for 20 invited guests to discuss District matters with county Supervisor Gail Marshall. Since the brunch

was not open to the public and at least one citizen—Norma Geyer, a Republican—was denied entry to the gathering, the District was in violation of California's open meetings law.

Had the Board just admitted its mistake at the time the suit was filed, they could have settled the case for next to nothing. Instead, they chose to spend \$250,000 of District money battling the suit, and now that they've lost, they are liable for between \$150,000 and \$400,000 of Mr. Bakhaus's legal fees.

No punitive charges were filed, so Bakhaus won't see a dime from the suit. If the District doesn't appeal the decision, Bakhaus's attorney, Bill

• **Robert Bakhaus**

Hansult, may be willing to negotiate a waiver of his legal fee.



Still, the quarter of a million dollars that the District stubbornly chose to spend on defending itself will put a serious dent in its already modest budget. Of course the District officials accuse the Libertarians of "stealing programs from the needy," when in reality, they have no one to blame but themselves.

As Bakhaus said, "When the police enforce the law, nobody asks them how much it costs. There is no downside to private



Artist: Batton Lash, Exhibit A Press

enforcement of good government laws like the Brown Act. The law has to be enforced—it's not a question of price, it's a question of principle."

Mr. Bakhaus highly recommends that California Libertarians monitor the hundreds of government agencies,

peppered throughout their regions, which are subject to the Brown Act (California open meetings law), and bring evidence of egregious violations to his attention. Bakhaus may be reached via e-mail at [Taxabo4@AOL.com](mailto:Taxabo4@AOL.com).

In addition to his duties as Secretary of the Santa Barbara County Libertarian Party, Bakhaus is Chairman of United Against Tax Abuse (UATA), a web-based grassroots libertarian lobby "publishing, petitioning, and litigating for a libertarian reformation of tolerance, civility, and equity." His "Libertarian Reformation" methodology is available for study at UATA's web site: [www.Silcom.com/~taxabo](http://www.Silcom.com/~taxabo).

## ■ LPC Convention 2005

# Convention Time!

by **Bruce Cohen**  
Orange County Rep to LPC

**T**his February 18, 19, and 20, California Libertarians will gather for their annual convention. Inside the Sheraton Gateway Hotel at Los Angeles International Airport, we will

eat, drink, and be merry.

This convention promises to be the best ever! A host of exciting speakers\* and informative breakout sessions are lined up to inspire and educate the convention delegates, activists, supporters, and friends.

Friday evening brings receptions for our generous donors and pledgers. Afterwards will be a forum featuring Presidential candidate **Gary Nolan**, speaking on "The Road out of Iraq."

Saturday morning, our officers will give their annual reports,



with the highlight being Chair **Aaron Starr's** overview. **Bob Poole**, Director

• **Gary Nolan**



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

Your picture here

• **Feel like your vote's not counting lately? Be a delegate to the LPC convention, where your input really counts.** (Photo: Convention 2004, San Jose)

of Reason Foundation, will deliver the day's keynote speech.

Saturday's luncheon speaker will be nationally acclaimed Political Advisor **Chuck Muth**. Chuck

will talk about practical election politics in his speech, "Talk is Cheap; Let's Go Play!"

After lunch, the Bylaws Committee will give their report, and delegates will vote their bylaws proposals up or down.

Speaking at Saturday evening's banquet will be **Jim Babka**, President of Downsize DC Foundation. Mr. Babka has successfully raised Libertarian voices in local and national politics.

At Sunday's breakfast **Richard Burke** will present "Electing Libertarians to Office," after which, the delegates will get started on that by electing their 2005 LPC Executive Committee!

The wonderful Samuel Adams awards luncheon will

be emceed as always by **Jack Dean**. **Bob Burg**, best-selling author of *Winning Without Intimidation: How to Master the Art of Positive Persuasion*, will speak on "Endless Libertarians: Three Powerful New Ways to Turbo-Charge the Libertarian Movement."

That afternoon the Platform and Program Committees will present their reports.

Capping off the three-day convention we have State Senator and 2003 gubernatorial candidate **Tom McClintock** speaking at the Sunday evening banquet.

In addition, we'll have

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★ **LPC CONVENTION 2005** ★  
Winning Campaigns  
February 18-20  
**LOS ANGELES**



## California Freedom

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### California Freedom

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Advertising orders and artwork are due eight weeks and four weeks, respectively, prior to the month of publication. We reserve the right to refuse advertising.

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# YOU are the Libertarian Party



## FROM THE CHAIR

Sometimes people call me Mr. Chairman. But perhaps they should call me Mr. Cheerleader.

Think about it: the Chair is just one person. Most everything that happens in this movement isn't because of me; it's because of all of you.

During our annual convention this month, I want to acknowledge the work that has been done by the people in our party.

There are many random acts of libertarianism being practiced by members of our party that I never hear about directly, but I know that they are going on. Each of these folks builds the party a little bit at a time. I'd very much appreciate it

if you could send me a short statement of at least one thing you have done this year to further our movement.

It doesn't have to be anything particularly grand in scale.

If you wrote a good letter to the editor, I'd like to know about it. If you spoke out at a city council meeting, let me know. If you helped someone run for office, tell me about it. If you registered Libertarian voters, send me an e-mail. If you convinced someone that our ideas made sense, tell me a story about it.

And if you know of someone not on this list who deserves acknowledgement, let me know that also.

At this convention, I have the opportunity to address many of you in person. I want to tell your fellow convention attendees about the little—and sometimes not so little—acts of political activism that you've done during the last year. I want to do this not just

to acknowledge you, though that's very important, but more importantly to provide inspiration to others to do the same.

I hope you'll go to the convention in Los Angeles this Presidents Day weekend to be honored for your acts and to honor the acts of others.

I remember from years ago the National Rifle Association's "I'm the NRA" campaign. Through the diligent work of their members, they stopped bad laws from being passed, and they have managed to convince the legislatures of most states to change their laws so that honest, law-abiding citizens could carry concealed firearms.

YOU are the Libertarian Party. You are the reason we make progress.

We don't pay people to do this noble work of ours. We're

all volunteers here, each putting in the time we can. A "thank you" is the currency we offer.

## I want to hear about your random acts of libertarianism.

If you have something you would like to share—or if you want to acknowledge someone else's contribution—send me an e-mail message at [StarrCPA@PacBell.net](mailto:StarrCPA@PacBell.net).

Tell me about your contribution to our efforts, and then go to the convention to hear me talk about what you and others like you have accomplished.

I hope to see you there.

Aaron Starr  
Chairman (and Cheerleader)

# Promote the LP via Private Charity



## FROM THE EDITOR

Since December's devastating Asian earthquake and tsunami, Americans have opened their hearts and their bank accounts—in the amount of \$324 million (*Chronicle of Philanthropy*, 1/7/05)—to aid the victims of this unforeseen global-scale calamity. Naturally, Libertarians approve of voluntary, private aid, while eschewing the liberties that President Bush has taken in pledging our tax dollars, to the tune of \$350 million—at last count.

Former LP presidential candidate **Ron Paul**, M.D., a U.S. Congressman, writes: "It's not the job of the federal government to make a show of generosity to the world with your tax dollars.... Government officials cannot be...charitable, because the money they disperse does not belong to them" (*LewRockwell.com*: "Private Help

for Tsunami Victims"; 1/11/05). David Holberg echoes: "Every dollar the government hands out as foreign aid has to be extorted from an American taxpayer first" (*Capitalism Magazine*: "U.S. Government Should Not Help Tsunami Victims"; 1/8/05).



Libertarian **Alicia Mattson** of Tennessee, moved by the tragedy, pointed out, "We don't have an LP charity run by people that we know." **Mike Laursen** of the Santa Clara County LP recently posed the question, "When was the last time we raised funds for a private school?"

The LP touts private schools and private roads, voluntary contributions. We talk a lot about private solutions but how often do we create them?

We could always use a healthy dose of favorable P.R. What if all the LP members who wanted to donate to the tsunami relief effort combined their funds into a "Libertarians for Tsunami Victims" fund? The Butte County LP has taken a

step in the right direction. This month Chair **Casey Aplanalp** reports on a P.R. opportunity their region is reaping via participation in the Adopt-A-Highway program; **L.K. Samuels** reminds us of the successes of private libraries; and Southern Vice Chair **Mark Selzer** also encourages us to join a community group or charity.

Whether for you that means organizing an LP-sponsored relief fund, or organizing six people wearing "Libertarian Party" T-shirts to wash cars at a private school's fundraiser, it's a chance to build alliances, effect change toward liberty, and yes, reap favorable P.R.

Let's bolster *in fact* those enterprises and charities that we favor *in principle*.

\* \* \*

We're excited to welcome back editorial cartoonist **Battion Lash**, who lampoons the central coast officials whose poor judgment fueled our front page story. Lash, an artist for 25 years, and his wife and business partner, **Jackie Estrada**, are long-time Libertarians. They founded Exhibit A Press in 1994 to publish Lash's comic strip book, *Wolff & Byrd, Counselors of the Macabre* (now *Supernatural Law*), featuring a law firm representing monsters in supernatural cases. You can enjoy more of Lash's fun creations at [www.ExhibitAPress.com](http://www.ExhibitAPress.com).

Toward greater liberty!

Elizabeth C. Brierly, Editor

**I**n fiscal year 2000, total paperwork burdens for all federal agencies were estimated at 7.45 billion hours, 6.13 billion of which came from the Treasury Department alone.

From 1990 to 2000, the typical taxpayer burden to learn about, prepare, and assemble form 1040 with Schedules A, B, and D rose by 47 percent, to more than 27 hours.

—National Taxpayers Union



## Welcome Aboard!

The LPC is very pleased to welcome these 34 Californians who in December signed up for the Party of Principle. They include Mitchell Grossman, a respiratory therapist, Kyle James Keller, a media developer, retiree George Lineer, engineering manager Mark Papamarcos, nuclear security responder Ryan Pettus, housing developer Maury Ruano, and physician Lee Welter. We hope all of you will dive right in to your new home with the Libertarian Party and join us for our annual state convention this month! You'll find it's a great way to network with those of like values—the values of individual liberty and self-responsibility.

Cathy Andrew .....South Lake Tahoe  
 Matthew Carli ..... Los Angeles  
 Dave Carson..... Chico  
 Christopher Cook .....Millbrae  
 William Dunlap .....Hemet  
 Wayne Fergerstrom .....San Diego  
 Hugo Fournier ..... Los Gatos  
 Conrad Frankowski .....Woodland Hills  
 William Gray.....Santa Cruz  
 Mitchell Grossman..... Highland  
 Anne Harding .....Concord  
 F Heinzelman .....La Mesa  
 David Horn..... El Cajon  
 Scott Ispirescu..... Irvine  
 Colin Jemmott..... Pomona  
 Steven Kane .....La Mesa  
 Ray Kansberger.....Visalia

Kyle James Keller..... Pasadena  
 Avalon Korringa ..... Sunnyvale  
 Robert Leslie .....San Diego  
 George Lineer ..... Carmichael  
 Eric Montoya ..... West Hollywood  
 Ed Musgrave .....Arcata  
 Kimber Nixon ..... Bakersfield  
 Mark Papamarcos ..... Sunnyvale  
 Ryan Patterson ..... Los Angeles  
 Ryan Pettus..... San Jacinto  
 James Purchiaroni.....San Diego  
 Jeannette Richards.....Fortuna  
 Maury Ruano .....Venice  
 Ala Smith.....Fresno  
 Kristie Thomas..... Bridgeville  
 Lee Welter.....Sacramento  
 Victor Winston..... Palm Desert

## Letters to the Editor



### Polidioticians' Border Strategy Ineffective

Everyone talks about securing our borders, but no one does anything about it. Oh sure, the U.S. Border Patrol rounds up a few would-be farm workers every day and ships them to Mexico, but most of that activity is the result of profiling people after they have entered the country, perhaps even legally. Libertarians of principle, [and] anyone else for that matter, should not tolerate the current strategy: stop and search anyone, anywhere, who looks Mexican.

If I want to keep my hens safe from the foxes, I put a fence around the chicken coop. Federal border polidioticy is analogous to this: Let the foxes mingle with the chickens first. Periodically send the dogs out to chase the foxes. There will be a lot of fuss; some foxes will be killed; some will get away; all the chickens will be traumatized; but everyone will see that they are doing something about foxes.

With all due respect to our border officers, their job, as defined, is impossible. No one can secure a border anywhere but at the border, yet the officers are spread all over the southwest. It is decidedly un-libertarian to harass people within these United States, on the presumption that they might be illegal, but it puts on a good Potemkin-like show. Once again, the appearance of doing something takes precedence over actually accomplishing something.

This is another example where Libertarian principles can be vote-getters. Libertarian policy is to end the harassment of people [who are] legally in the country. This will make it possible to concentrate the assets on actually securing our borders against the dangerous aliens. More manpower at the

border crossings can reduce intrusive wait time as well, a third benefit of Libertarian thinking.

—Ken Obenski  
 San Diego

### Bashing Republicans

Your editorial in the January, 2005 issue of *California Freedom* stimulates me to wonder whether it would not be more practical for the publication to bash Democrats rather than Republicans. As a longtime member of the Libertarian Party, I have noticed that my political views are more in line with the latter party than with the former.

In your editorial you argue that the possibility for government to be influenced by Libertarian ideas would have been greater had Bush been defeated by his opponent. That is to say, you "wish he [Bush] had not won." I assume that you would extend this generalization to all Republican versus Democrat political races in 2004. I find that an astonishingly imbalanced perspective.

—Patrick Groff  
 San Diego

### Web Watch

## Keep and Bear Arms

[www.GunFacts.info](http://www.GunFacts.info)



Civil libertarian **Guy Smith**, a member of the Libertarian Party of California, says that because our Second Amendment is the only civil right under perpetual attack, it is gun owner rights that are the focal point of his political activism. The mechanism he uses to further that activism is his *Gun Facts* web site.

The site offers a few simple and valuable features, such as a leaflet, "Gun Control: Thoughts about proposed legislation," downloadable and suitable for distributing at anti-gun venues and events, correcting myths such as the proportion of gun-related deaths of children. A useful resource on the site is a list of books, some on gun crime statistics, such as *Targeting Guns: Firearms and Their Control*, by Gary Kleck, a revered criminologist, and some explaining the origin of the Second Amendment, such as *For the Defense of Themselves and the State*, by Clayton Cramer.

Recently, Smith has published his own book, *Gun Facts 4.0*, which debunks common myths about gun control. In-

tended as a reference guide for journalist, activists, politicians, and others, it aids in restoring honesty to the debate about guns, crime, and the Second Amendment.



Chapters have such titles as "Guns in other countries," "Gun owners and public opinion," and "Children and guns." Each chapter lists common gun control myths, and cites documented facts which directly dispute claims by the gun control contingent. So when a neighbor, editor, or politician repeats some slogan propagated by gun control advocacy groups, *Gun Facts 4.0* is a quick place to find both that myth and its rebuttal.

Certainly a labor of love for

### Everyone who takes America and liberty seriously must actively defend the 2nd Amendment.

Smith, *Gun Facts* is a completely free publication. Smith's goal is to "get the information out there." Possibly to keep the effort fresh and the data accurate, Smith invites site visitors to sign up for the *Gun Facts* private e-mail mailing list to offer assistance with research, fact-checking, or proofreading for future editions of *Gun Facts*, or simply to be notified when updates are published. ●

### Keep it coming!

See YOUR viewpoint in print right here at *California Freedom*. Send us your comments, photos, reports on local libertarian events, or tell us about how government policies affect your line of business.

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## ■ Private Solutions

# Follow Ben Franklin's Example to Keep Libraries Open

by **L.K. Samuels**

Editor, *Facets of Liberty: A Libertarian Primer*

**T**he city of Salinas is closing down its three libraries. **Mark Dierolf**, chair of the LP of Monterey County, was the main leader opposing Measures A, B, and C that would have infused more taxes into the city's general fund, though the funds purportedly would be used for the libraries. However, the general fund measures need only 50% approval to pass, vs. the two-thirds majority required for a measure properly earmarking funds for the libraries, as citizens were led to believe these did. The main tax measures were A and B; both lost. However, revenues for Salinas are still moving up from last year. It is not a revenue problem, but a spending problem. And other cities will soon have similar problems.

Article originally published in the *Salinas Californian* on Jan. 11, 2005.

**O**n June 30, 1988, the library system in Shasta County in Northern California came to a screeching halt. Because of budget cuts, the main library in Redding and nine countywide branches closed for almost two years. Three tax initiatives put on the ballot in hopes of reopening the libraries all failed. Sounds familiar?

By January, 1989, only three of the ten libraries were reopened, and these three had limited hours. So a number of citizens decided to do something. They imitated famous American patriot Ben Franklin by volunteering as librarians. Almost 200 Redding citizens stepped forward to become "Library Volunteers," which helped the library to stay open longer hours. Others donated private money to help out.

The other seven branch libraries never reopened. But, according to Carolyn Chambers, head librarian in Redding, citi-

zens decided to take action on their own. They started up their own libraries, funded and staffed completely through private donations. One nonincorporated area called Shingletown built their own library without any government funding. Fall River Mills will soon do the same; four or five other communities lease buildings for their libraries. All were staffed only with community volunteers.



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

Ben Franklin established the distinctly American tradition of volunteerism and community service. In 1731, Franklin and the Leather Apron Club started the first lending library in America. Others soon followed. These subscription libraries were open to the public, and no citizen was ever taxed for the service. Franklin knew that citizen participation made a nation strong, but that compulsory taxation would intrude on community spirit.

What seemed a total disaster in Shasta County turned into something that few had expected—it brought the com-

munity closer together. People from all walks of life offered their service in fundraising, actual construction, administration and staffing.

Currently, many communities struggle with budgetary problems, and some have simply cut out services that were once the duty of the citizenry. America might want to consider going back to its roots. Maybe Franklin had it right all along. Wouldn't it be great if the residents of Salinas decided to solve their library problem and their community cohesion problem with a voluntary library campaign? ●

*L.K. Samuels serves as Northern Vice Chair of the LPC, and works as a realtor in Monterey. He learned of the Shasta County story on a recent visit to the area.*

## ■ LPC Program

# Educating for Personal Responsibility

by **Bruce Dovner**

Coordinator, 2005 LPC Program Committee

**E**ducate students to assume personal responsibility for their own health care needs."

The LPC Program Committee felt that re-adopting in 2004 that item from the health care plank of the 2003 Program would be propagandizing to the students. Therefore, it would not be legitimate to be done in the compulsory, government education system, paid for with coerced (tax) money.

While educating students to take personal responsibility may be propagandizing, educating them for personal responsibility is not. To educate one to do something could be construed as propagandizing that one *should* do that thing. There is a moral context to it. But to educate a person to be *able* to assume personal responsibility, that is, simply to learn the necessary skills and information for it, is not propagandizing. Indeed, government schools offer courses like home economics, electronics, and auto, wood, and metal shop—all imparting knowledge and teaching skills useful in people's personal lives. Yet, no one would contend that such courses constitute propagandizing.

In government schools, students will spend countless class

hours in history, social studies, government, civics, and current affairs courses. Given the political views of most government school teachers and educators, the courses and textbooks will tend to reinforce, if not outright propagandize for, the statist position on most issues.

**Currently, publicly educated students do not attain the skills necessary to be confident living in a free-market, libertarian society.**

Students are taught about the Great Depression and all of the government programs that grew out of it, about Social Security and how it is intended to take care of people in their old age. But they learn little about annuities and investments, or about interest, present value and future value of money. They discuss the health care "crisis" in social studies or current affairs classes. Yet, they devote little study to the theory of insurance, or types of health plans. Students are presented with much politically charged material in the humanities, but little practical information to

actually deal with those issues in economics, finance, or business.

The end result, intentional or inadvertent, is to produce young people who have some knowledge, from a statist position, about history, civics, or current affairs, but little knowledge or skill to deal with the issues as they affect them personally, in everyday life. Nor do they attain the skills necessary to be confident living in a free-market, libertarian society.

One could argue that if the government schools were to get involved in teaching these types of practical skills they would do a poor job of it, politicize it, or intellectually cripple the students as they do in the other subjects, only making things worse. While there is some truth to this, government schools do teach a certain amount of skills, such as reading, writing, and arithmetic. They may do it poorly, and may not do it as well as homeschooling or private schools, or as well as could be done in a free-market education system. But, they do do it; which is more effective than nothing.

It can also be claimed that government education is *not* more effective than nothing—that it's *worse* than nothing.

• See **Education** page 5



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

## Shopping for a home?

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With so many Libertarians in California, this could yield several hundred Network transactions each year.

**Albert J. Segalla, Realtor**  
Chair, Gold Country Libertarians



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# Education 101 Actions a Volunteer Can Take

## Installation Three—10 more ideas

continued from page 4

While there may be some truth to that, let's consider government education vs. no education. Some kids would do quite well if they were simply turned loose in a library, workshop, laboratory, on a computer, or on the Internet to teach themselves, rather than being imprisoned in a government school. But many, if not most, kids would just idle their time away. For them, government school is more effective than nothing, even if nongovernment alternatives such as homeschooling and private schools are more effective still.

**To educate one to be able to do something is not necessarily propagandizing that one should do that thing.**

The vast majority of Americans were educated in government schools. Government education has wide popular support and probably isn't ending any time soon. Until such time as it can be eliminated, it would be best to limit its damage—and its ability to propagandize—and to put it to whatever good use is possible. Shifting funds and students' time from the more highly politicized courses into more practical ones would help accomplish this without additional spending.

To that end, it would be advisable to include in the LPC Program a call for government schools to teach certain practical skills and material. A better wording for the item previously removed from the health care program plank would be, "Teach students the necessary skills and information for them to be able to assume personal responsibility for their own health care needs." Here, we are not telling them that they *should* take personal responsibility for themselves. But we would be teaching them the skills and imparting the knowledge to enable them to do so if they choose. ●

• **Bruce Dovner presents the Program Committee report at LPC convention 2003 in Ontario, California.**

by **Mark Selzer**  
Southern Vice Chair, LPC

**V**olunteers are the lifeblood of the Libertarian Party. But they can become burned out or bored with a task that does not challenge them or fit their interests. This series of articles identifies some of the actions that need to be taken to keep the post-election momentum going, and provide volunteers ideas of tasks that they might enjoy, or something new to work on to shake up their activism a bit.

**1 Write a letter to your local politician.** You might receive some interesting replies. Ask to meet, and then lobby him or her on libertarian issues. The "lower" or more local the office, the more likely you are to be invited for a meeting. Be sure to have at the ready written questions relevant to local issues.

**2 Link an LP web site to your business or personal web site.** If you have a web site somewhere on the Internet, link it to [www.LP.org](http://www.LP.org) or any number of other libertarian sites.

**3 Arrive at LP meetings an hour early with cell phone in hand.** Phone fellow party members or registered Libertarians as a group. This can be fun, and it gives people the chance to overcome any shyness; they can learn from listening to others who may have motivational skills or more experience as phone solicitors. Encourage the people you contact to come down to the meeting, become party members, and make a monthly pledge. Make sure you can process credit cards; this is worth it if you can learn to do it.

**4 Subscribe to Campaigns and Elections Magazine.** It will teach you about real world politics: how to win a local election, how much money

it costs, and what needs to be done. [www.CampaignLine.com](http://www.CampaignLine.com)

**5 Suggest libertarian books for purchase by your local library.** Most libraries have a procedure for patrons to suggest books and videos for purchase. Some may even put libertarian periodicals in their periodicals section.

**6 Speak at a church or local community group.** Once you've joined Toastmasters (as recommended in the last installment), it's time to put those newfound skills to use! You never know who may want a speaker; call or write, and make yourself available. Be sure you can speak well to that group and that the point of view is libertarian. If you approach from just the right angle, they may leap at the chance. One woman I know lectures Christian groups about why the War on Drugs is wrong—using passages from the Bible. The sky's the limit.

**7 Join a community group or charity.** After awhile you can let fellow members know you are Libertarian. They'll see what nice, community-minded people Libertarians are. A group of Libertarians used to don Libertarian T-shirts and go along with community groups to help clean up graffiti. People chatted and yes, even said nice things. Word of mouth is the best advertising.

**8 Distribute voter registration forms.** Visit your local registrar of voters for a box of forms. Distribute them to Libertarians at local meetings. Make sure everyone keeps a stash of voter registration forms in their home, office, and car in case they need one.

**9 Run for City Council.** Become a full-time candidate for City Council or another race you feel realistically you can win, or for a race where you could garner the Libertarian Party a good deal of publicity. Raise money. Hire a campaign manager. You will

need to quit or take a leave of absence from your job to campaign full-time.

**10 Market research.** If you have experience in market research, you can be invaluable. What would induce a person to switch to a new party? to vote Libertarian? Are we seen as too right-wing or too liberal? What percentage of people know who our Presidential candidates are? These and innumerable other questions need to be answered. You can also do this informally as a questioner taking a survey in a shopping mall, fair, or outreach table as a way to get people to register to vote as



Libertarians and to talk with you about politics. ●

*Mark Selzer will be running again this month for LPC Southern Vice Chair, a position he has held since 2001. Active in the LPC since 1998, this Internet business owner ran for State Assembly in 2000. He lives in Hollywood and hosts a cable access television talk show called "The Libertarian Alternative." He can be reached at [Liberty64@JPS.net](mailto:Liberty64@JPS.net).*



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierty



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierty

• **At the LPC convention, you'll get to meet LPC activists such as Sandi Webb, a former Simi Valley City Councilwoman. Webb is one of many spitfires in the LPC who can tell tales of making their communities a more libertarian place. (LPC 2003 Convention; Ontario, Calif.)**

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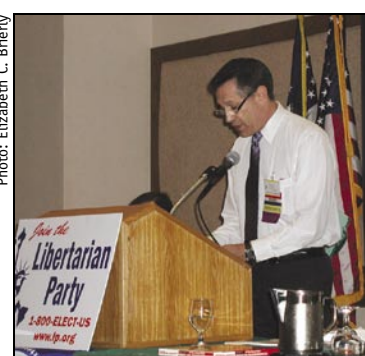


Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierty

*Active in the LP since our country's bicentennial year, Bruce Dovner conceived of and spearheaded development of the LPC Program to provide practical policies to implement the Party platform. He has served as the Program's coordinator since its inception in 2002. Dovner is an instructor of mathematics at several Los Angeles colleges. You may reach him at [BDovner@ArtNet.net](mailto:BDovner@ArtNet.net), or by telephone at (562) 961-6919.*



# My First City Council Meeting: an Eye-Opener

by Paul T. Ireland

Member, Libertarian Party of California

It's ironic that in all my years as a Libertarian political activist, I attended my first city council meeting only last month. It started off for purely personal reasons, but now I am so outraged by something, that fixing it is my new mission.

I'm considering opening a hot dog cart and putting it at a local busy car wash so people can enjoy a dog, a soda, and a bag of chips while their vehicle is being vacuumed and washed. I obtained a list of rules and regulations for local towns from the county health department. Many towns disallow vending carts completely—not even on private property. My town has a strange ordinance saying that any vending carts must be constantly moving. I called the business license department to verify this, and was told in no uncertain terms (and with the typical bad attitude of a govern-



**The last thing a bankrupt city should do is chase away new business.**

ment worker) that they do enforce this absurd ordinance. Not only would I have to move every ten minutes, it couldn't be from one parking spot to another. It would have to be to a different address altogether.

I sent a heated e-mail message to every member of the city council, showing them photos of my cart so they could see that it wasn't a small ice

cream pushcart. Fully loaded, it weighs nearly 800 lbs. and is normally towed behind a car. It has a sink, storage areas, soap, and everything to make it a fully functional mobile restaurant, and of course it would be certified and inspected by the county health department.

When I arrived at the meeting, I waited for the period for people to address the city council and mayor. While waiting, I heard something that immediately made me so angry the hair on the back of my neck stood up and my face became flushed.

Apparently my town has heard of Voice over IP technology (VoIP), which allows people to send data packets of their voice over the Internet to speak with people everywhere for much lower rates than are offered by the phone company. Several companies offer this service, with the most popular being Vonage. The Gardena City Council has taken it upon themselves to impose a "utility tax" on the Internet providers in the area, because people could potentially use this technology for speaking to people on a phone. As a Libertarian and a computer network engineer I was appalled by the nerve of these people trying to charge a tax based on what kind of data someone wants to send over an international network.

My turn came to address the council. I told them there is no sane person on earth who would consider Internet access a "utility" to be taxed. I pointed out that not even the federal government claims to have ownership over the Internet. Nor does the government of any other country, because it is an international network not "owned" by anyone but the companies who built the fiber-optic backbones, and who paid for their incredibly expensive

switches and other equipment. I asked why the City of Gardena thought it had any claim over the Internet, and how they could possibly presume to have authority to tax something to which they hold no claim, based on something as arbitrary as the kind of data packets that were going across the network. They seemed confused; the city attorney alone understood my questions. I resolved to do some serious grassroots work in the community to nip this in the bud, hopefully aided by my LP region.

Back to the hot dog cart. One of the city council members sided with me, saying he didn't understand what the problem is if I'm on private property. The city manager said my cart could "potentially" be moved, so it must constantly move. My council ally didn't think that mattered any more than I do. Another councilperson said it wouldn't be fair to local businesses that pay rent, for example, in strip malls. I said that whatever arrangement someone else makes for rent on private property is no concern of mine, and that I shouldn't be punished if I can find a better way to do business.

The city of Gardena, by the way, is in the process of going bankrupt. The leaders' fiscal irresponsibility has cost our small town several million dollars. I explained to the council that the last thing a bankrupt city should do is chase away new business. The mayor seemed to have tired of my talking, and asked me to take a seat. I must have exceeded the time limit for speakers to address the Council.

Several local citizens from the audience approached me after the meeting, telling me I was right, and that they were happy I'd brought it up. I met with that one councilman who'd

agreed with me. He asked me to contact him at his business, a local jewelry store. I was also approached by the manager of a local card club casino who advised me to take a photo of the cart in front of the Sam's Club store in our town. Every day, they roll out a cart to sell pretzels and churros; they don't move the cart all day long. I know the town won't go after Sam's Club, and if they can have a cart, I'm sure I can have one. This was great advice.

I am very happy to have found one councilperson who'll take the Libertarian view. Without a member of the city council to bring the issue of changing the local ordinance to the floor, I'd have to gather 3,000 signatures on my own to make it happen.

**Why would the city think it has any claim over the Internet?**

I'm confident I can handle my personal challenge with the cart on my own. But the 4-5% utility tax on local Internet providers is going to be tough; I will need help from all the Libertarians I can find, not only to help overturn this locally, but to write to all their local papers so it won't happen in their towns. ●

*Paul T. Ireland has been a Libertarian activist since 2000, when he started setting up outreach booths at raves. He's a former chairman of the San Bernardino County LP and has twice run for public office. In 2003 he was awarded his third Lights of Liberty award from Advocates for Self-Government. Ireland works in Torrance as a computer network engineer.*

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• You too could be enjoying late-night Libertarian scheming in a hospitality suite at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel in Los Angeles later this month, as these two did at LPC convention 2003 in Ontario, California.

To register for the convention, see the form on page 8.





■ Budget Watch

# LP and Taxpayer Groups were Right: "Balanced Budget Act" is Toothless

by **Richard Rider**  
Chair, San Diego Tax Fighters

**R**eject this ruse! Remember the original deal we were promised by Arnold? Vote for a huge \$15 billion bond to pay for past mistakes, and we'll pass a solid spending limit so this mess doesn't happen again. Proposition 57 gives us the bonds, but Proposition 58 does not give us any spending limit. The legislature is free to continue spending like crazy, sticking us with higher taxes and more debt. All pain for no gain. If we approve this toothless 'plan,' then perhaps we'll owe Gray Davis an apology!"

In the last month or so, there have been a number of articles pointing out that almost nothing has been done to control state spending since Arnold Schwarzenegger succeeded

**Big-shots and luminaries have no special abilities to properly analyze fiscal matters.**



Schwarzenegger, along with the heads of the California Taxpayers Association and the California Chamber of Commerce. The bottom line is that big-shots and luminaries have no special ability to properly analyze fiscal matters, or even to tell the truth.

That being said, let's hope that this time, when Lucy (a.k.a.

**We opponents were totally correct in our ballot arguments.**

Governor Schwarzenegger) tees up the football for Charlie Brown (a.k.a. the California voters) to kick, she/he does it right, and lets us kick the spendthrift legislature back into reality. Some very worthwhile statewide initiatives are being kicked around. If they don't get badly diluted, they just might bring the fiscal reforms that were illusionary in Props. 57 and 58.

Ultimately it's the Governor's decision, as he has the unique star power to put whatever initiative he desires on the ballot. He controls the football.

We shall see. ●

To read our full ballot arguments against Prop. 58—and all the official information and proponents' arguments—view the supplemental March 2, 2004 California voter information guide at:  
[Primary2004.ss.ca.gov/voter\\_guide/english\\_supp.pdf](http://Primary2004.ss.ca.gov/voter_guide/english_supp.pdf).

Richard Rider is Chairman of San Diego Tax Fighters, and a long-time Libertarian activist. He was the LPC's 1994 candidate for Governor, and in 1998 garnered 16% of the vote in his race for San Diego Tax Collector. He can be reached at [RRider@san.rr.com](mailto:RRider@san.rr.com).



Photo: Elizabeth C. Briely

tives—which passed easily—that supposedly were to be the key to controlling runaway state spending and burgeoning state deficits. Prop. 57 authorized the issuance of \$15 billion of bonds to cover the budget deficit for the year, with the promise that Prop. 58, the "Balanced Budget Act," would force the legislature to bring spending back in line with revenues.

With a very short timeframe for these special initiatives, and with some help of State Senator Tom McClintock—who'd also been Schwarzenegger's rival in the gubernatorial election—three leaders of local taxpayer groups wrote the ballot arguments against Prop. 58; I was one. McClintock himself handled the ballot arguments against Prop. 57.

It turns out, on both initiatives, that we opponents were totally correct in our ballot arguments, while the proponents either lied or were blissfully ignorant of the toothless nature of Prop. 58. A lesson to be learned.



Photo: Governor's Press Office

• **Governor Schwarzenegger has the star power to get any initiative he favors passed, but, as we predicted, Prop. 58 lets these state officials continue to spend like crazy.** (State of the State address; January 5, 2005)

Davis in the 2003 special gubernatorial recall election. But this is not what we were led to expect—far from it.

As you should recall from the Prop. 58 rebuttal argument quoted above, our March, 2004 ballot sported a pair of initia-

Perhaps more important than reviewing our clairvoyant statements opposing Prop. 58 is to read proponents' pompous arguments, and to review the luminaries who signed off on these falsehoods. Supporters of Prop. 58 included Governor

■ Activism

# Butte County on the Road to Fame

by **Casey Aplanalp**  
Chair, LP of Butte County

**T**he LP of Butte County is on the road to fame. Actually, two roads! We have taken advantage of the Adopt-A-Highway program, volunteering for clean-up on two high-visibility highways in Butte County within the Chico and Oroville areas; specifically, Oro Dam Highway and West Sacramento Avenue. For this effort, the BCLP receives recognition on four posted highway signs, complete with our Statue of Liberty logo.

Why? Among other reasons, it shows thousands of drivers every day that the Libertarian Party is quite active. It shows volunteerism, community service, and organization, all in a positive light. We'll also benefit from name recognition on a par with freeway-blogging. At a glimpse, a traveler can see a statue of liberty, the word "Libertarian" and see that the

local party is cohesive and capable.

We think it is an excellent idea, especially for a fledgling force, and would like to see more of the same across the state. It's easy to do. Just call or visit the Department of Public Works and fill out a form. Select an available highway (or three). It costs nothing. You just promise to clean up both sides of a two-mile stretch of highway at least twice a year, and they supply the gloves, bags, and pinchers.

I personally recommend beer after the clean-up. ●

*Under the leadership of Casey Aplanalp as Chair Pro Tem, the Butte County LP was reactivated in February, 2004. Aplanalp has served as Chair since then. A self-described "recovering Republican," he has been an active Libertarian for about nine years. Soon he will be offering Libertarian T-shirts for sale right here in California Freedom. Aplanalp lives in Chico with his wife and their two young children.*



For the latest activities, discussion groups, meetings, parties and demonstrations of the Libertarian Party of California and to link to your local region's site, visit our web site:

[www.LPC.org](http://www.LPC.org)



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■ LPC Convention 2005

# Endless Libertarians

## Turbo-charge the Libertarian movement!

### Bob Burg tells us how

**T**he greatest political message in the world is all for nothing if we can't communicate it persuasively."

It's not much better if we only share it with a few people. How can we reach an exponential number of people, who can help spread the message?

That is the question being posed by **Bob Burg**, the author of *Endless Referrals: Network Your Everyday Contacts into Sales*, and *Winning Without Intimidation: How to Master the Art of Positive Persuasion*. He will share the insider secrets of outreach and communication with us at the 2005 convention of the Libertarian Party of California, as he kicks off this year's series of seminars on the west coast.

Burg will show us how to reach out and touch vast numbers of potential Libertarians. We'll learn how to:

- work a room full of people

effortlessly and comfortably;

- win people over without them even realizing it; and
- follow-up effectively; as well as the one key question that will set us apart and make people take notice.

Bob Burg is nationally known as a speaker on business networking and positive persuasion. Along with his work for Fortune 500 companies and international sales organizations, he appears regularly on the motivational seminar circuit. He has shared the stage with such legends as Zig Ziglar, CNN's Larry King, Coach Lou Holtz, Brian Tracy, Olympian Mary Lou Retton, cookie magnate Debbi Fields, Harvey Mackay, the late Og Mandino, NBC's Willard Scott, and many others.

Bob is a devout Libertarian and committed to spreading the message of individual liberty and personal responsibility. A second generation American, he



• **Bob Burg**, author

is grateful for the opportunity to live in the U.S., and hasn't given up on our founders' vision.

Burg believes strongly in *laissez-faire* capitalism and free enterprise. He also puts his success skills to use for charities. He was once named Palm Beach County Leukemia Society "Man of the Year" for his fundraising success!

Burg's corporate speaking fee is \$10,000, but he has generously waived it for the LPC, and he'll be speaking at the Samuel Adams awards luncheon on Sunday, February 20, from 12:30 to 2:00 P.M. This powerful seminar will be included in your Full or First Class convention package! Separate luncheon tickets are available for just \$79 in advance, or \$99 at the door. Can't dine with us? We do have a limited number

Calling all writers and shutterbugs!

California Freedom

wants your take on the sights and sounds of the LPC convention.

Contact Editor Elizabeth C. Brierly right away—before the choice beats are assigned to Woodward and Bernstein.

Editor@CaliforniaFreedom.org

## Convention

continued from page 1

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\* *Speaker list subject to change without notice.*

Author of article **Bruce Cohen** has been on the LPC Executive Committee since 2002. In 2004 he ran for U. S. Congress. Cohen is a Realtor in south coastal Orange County. Call him at (949) 813-8001, or e-mail him at [LA2005outreach@LPC.org](mailto:LA2005outreach@LPC.org).



Photos: Elizabeth C. Brierly

• **Jack Dean** (above left) and **State Senator Tom McClintock** (above right) are two of the scheduled convention speakers.

of "speaker only" seats for just \$25. For tickets, call (877) 884-1776, or sign up on the web at:

[www.LPC.org/conv/2005/](http://www.LPC.org/conv/2005/). Register early, since this event may sell out! ●

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- ★ **Richard Burke**, Executive Director, LP of Oregon, and elected Libertarian, Commissioner, Tualatin Valley Water District
- ★ **Jack Dean**, Samuel Adams and Karl Bray awards director
- ★ **Tom McClintock**, Calif. State Senator and 2003 Gubernatorial Candidate
- ★ **Chuck Muth**, Author, and Political Consultant and Campaign Manager
- ★ **Gary Nolan**, 2004 candidate for LP Presidential nomination
- ★ **Kate O'Brien**, elected Libertarian, Rancho Simi Park & Recreation District
- ★ **Bob Poole**, Director, Reason Foundation

*List of speakers is subject to change without notice.*

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