

California Freedom

May 2005

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

Libertarian Candidate Support Organization Underway!

At the 2005 convention of the Libertarian Party of California, a new and important organization was founded. The brainstorm of **Kristi Stone, Kevin Takenaga, and Bruce Cohen** was brought to life, in the form of the California Association of Libertarian Political Coordinators (CALPiC).

Campaign managers and candidate coordinators from throughout California met under the leadership of these three longtime LPC activists, who have each served as campaign managers and as re-

gional campaign coordinators. Each has also held elected office within the LP at state and local levels. Instrumental in their effort was convention guest speaker **Richard Burke**, Executive Director of the LP of Oregon, himself a successful candidate for public office, having been elected Commissioner of Tualatin Valley Water District

in Oregon. The Libertarian Party's goal is to elect Libertarians to public office. Candidate support is a vital part of this effort, and an

Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly



One of CALPiC's first projects, a candidate planning workbook, which will be practical guide to getting onto the ballot and running to win. Drawing from candidates and campaign managers from around California, CALPiC will make the workbook available to all Libertarians involved in political campaigns.

CALPiC will save Libertarian campaigns time and money. They will also professionalize candidates—educating them and preparing them to win. CALPiC will endorse candidates at different levels, and give them support and resources commensurate with their commitment to campaigning.

All those interested, whether as a candidate or campaign staffer requesting support, or as a volunteer to CALPiC itself, are encouraged to contact CALPiC's leadership:

- Kristi Stone, Chair
Kristi@KristiStone.com
- Kevin Takenaga
Kevin@ElectCollier.com
- Bruce Cohen
BruceDCohen@Cox.net

You may also apply for membership in CALPiC's on-line discussion group, at *Groups.Yahoo.com/group/CALPiC/* (click on the "Join this Group" button).

California Volunteers Honored by Advocates for Self-Government

Each year, **Advocates for Self-Government** rewards libertarians who have done outstanding volunteer work for liberty.

The libertarian organization has announced its 2004 **Lights of Liberty** award winners. The Libertarian Party of California has the auspicious claim to 28 of the 170 or so honorees nationwide. The California winners included:

- Dr. Bradley Bobbs
- Frank Bowman
- John Brady
- Joe Cobb
- Bruce Cohen
- Brian Lee Cross
- Bruce Dovner
- Andrew Favor
- Laura Ferrer
- Keith Gann
- Keith Garrison
- Debi Grand
- Allen Hacker
- David Hacker
- Carol Halcomb
- Melanie Hayes
- Mark Hinkle
- Timothy Johnson
- James Anderson Merritt
- Rod Peterson
- Susan Raffensperger



Delmer G. Ross
Bolynda Schultz
Mark Solomon
Kevin Takenaga
John Thomas
Anthony Turley
Dennis Umphress



The award is presented to those freedom-fighters who,

throughout the calendar year, have done at least one of the following:

- Had three **letters to the editor** published (in a non-libertarian newspaper or publication) that used the word "libertarian"

• See **Awards** page 5

LP Success in Brown Act Lawsuit

On April 7, the Board of the Isla Vista Recreation and Park District (IVRPD) decided to stop fighting the LP of Santa Barbara County, and to accept terms closing the LP's Brown Act-based lawsuit, originally filed in November, 2001.

Spearheaded by LPC member **Robert Bakhaus**, three years of legal action against the IVRPD had finally come to trial last December. With an allegation of six separate violations of the Brown Act—California's law requiring that meetings of public officials be open to their public—Judge Anderle found for the plaintiffs, the LP of

Santa Barbara County and Mr. Bakhaus, on two of the violations.

Insisting they'd done no wrong, the District's Board of Directors chose not to simply settle the case at the beginning, instead spending three years, and \$200,000 to \$300,000 of Isla Vista taxpayers' funds.

A loss on any one of the counts would make the District subject to an assessment for the fees of the plaintiff's lawyer. According to Bakhaus, the Board has decided not to appeal the LP's court victory. The LP's attorney, Mr. William Hansult, received \$41,000 for his three

years of litigating IVRPD.

Bakhaus says that the LP of Santa Barbara County has five more potential court cases being reviewed for possible litigation.

Congratulations to Robert Bakhaus and the LP of Santa Barbara County for their victory, and thank you for holding our public officials accountable to citizens! ●



• **Robert Bakhaus**

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SUBMISSION DEADLINES

All news stories, editorials, and announcements are due six weeks prior to the month of publication:
• July 2005: Due 05.20.05
• August 2005: Due 6.20.05
• September 2005: Due 07.21.05

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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New Board Off and Running



FROM THE CHAIR

We have a great group of individuals on our board this year. At this time, I would like to single out **Mark Whitney** and **Kevin Takenaga** for accolades.

When I get a complaint, I usually put the complainer himself in charge of fixing the problem. When Mark Whitney, Chair of our Legal Committee, grumbled about the lack of effective marketing in our party—something I agree with, by the way—I declared, “You’re right, Mark. This problem needs to be solved. You just became Chair of the Marketing and Branding Committee, and you need to find the best and the brightest to populate it.”

Well, I’ve got to give him credit; Mark took on this additional committee assignment, and he sure is running with it. Already, he has established a well-defined purpose:

This committee will be responsible for defining, developing, packaging, and delivering an effective Libertarian Party of California brand, in a cost-effective manner, to promising segments of the political marketplace, and ensuring a consistent message be conveyed in all public communications and appearances.

By the time you read this, I expect we will have a preliminary plan on how to proceed. If you have expertise in this area and you would like to help this committee create a more professional image for our party, please e-mail Mark (at Libertarian@TheLaw.net) with your contact information.

By the way, Mark Whitney is no lightweight when it comes to marketing. His company, TheLaw.net, competes with major firms, such as Westlaw and LexisNexis, to provide legal research to attorneys. He’s been relentlessly and aggressively gaining market share—starting from ground zero in 1999.

I first met Kevin Takenaga last year. He’s been a consistently active volunteer, especially in helping out with the recent LPC convention. I’ve learned that when Kevin says he’ll do something, it gets done. He’s also a pleasure to work with.



This year, Kevin was elected to the LPC Executive Committee, and he has taken on the demanding role of Chairman of the Web Site and Infrastructure Committee. Right out of the gate, he’s making tremendous progress. Already, he has located and contracted with a seasoned professional to completely revamp our web site. The goal is to have a more professional-looking site by no later than May 15.

In addition, Kevin has been assembling a team to modernize our out-of-date computer infrastructure. This team

has spent many hours at the state party headquarters. Kevin is working with people from around the country to create a membership database our

If you have expertise and would like to help create a more professional image for our party, please e-mail Mark.

county parties can use to better keep in touch with you, our members—a goal which, until now, has eluded us.

I expect we’ll see a lot accomplished this year by folks like Mark Whitney and Kevin Takenaga. These guys are real heroes.

Good job, gentlemen.

Toward liberty!

—Aaron Starr
Chairman

My worst Nightmare... and a Dream Come True



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Soon after our very successful state convention, one of our office computers crashed. That is never a good thing, but this particular computer contained all of the LPC’s financial information and utilities. Its last back-up wasn’t very recent—plus, without it, we couldn’t perform all the bookkeeping and clerical duties your office carries out daily.

I wish I could say that I calmly called the Chairman of our Web Site and Infrastructure Committee, **Kevin Takenaga**, but I would be lying. Kevin heard the hysteria in my voice and immediately started working on a solution.

Since the office is in southern California and Kevin is in the north, he enlisted his fellow Executive Committee member **Bruce Cohen** to save our bacon. Bruce grabbed **John Brady**—fellow member of the



Orange County LP and a computer genius—and together they headed to Los Angeles County. For those unfamiliar with the territory, that’s a 1½-hour drive under “normal” conditions—that is, with no traffic and a strong tailwind. Of course, this emergency struck during Friday Rush Hour, during one of the heaviest rainstorms in this, southern California’s second wettest rainy season ever.

Bruce swears it only took four hours, but I know he’s being gallant.

To recharge from their trek, they met up with the San Fernando Valley Libertarian Supper Club; nothing recharges a Libertarian like a nosh and some laughs with kindred spirits.

Back at the office.... By 2 A.M. on Saturday morning, John had worked magic between the unusable—yet invaluable—computer, and another. He mumbled something about a “slave” and a “master”

hard drive, but I really don’t think any kind of bionic S&M belongs in our family-oriented newspaper.

All the while, Bruce scurried about, organizing files and planning a complete makeover of the office...but more about that next month.

It has taken time to reprogram the “new” computer, but your office is back up and running...and I am one dreamily happy Executive Director.

Once again, I have been blown away by the committed volunteers we have in our party. Every day I thank Kevin, Bruce, and John for their selfless and Herculean efforts...and you should, too!

—Dave Ruprecht
Executive Director

Correction

Last month, *California Freedom* incorrectly stated that the 2005 convention of the Libertarian Party of California was the first for Contra Costa County’s **Richard Newell** (“New Regulations Shuffle LPC’s Regional Parties,” by Scott Wilson; April 2005, page 8). On the contrary, Newell reports, “I believe it was my sixth, including one that I helped sponsor, circa 1982.” *California Freedom* joins Scott Wilson in apologizing for the error.

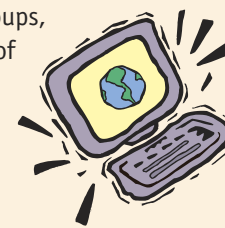
About the Death Tax

(see Action Alert page 3)

For more information: “U.S. House approves bill to end death tax: Opposition expected in Senate,” by *LP News* Editor J. Daniel Cloud, posted at www.LP.org/lpnews/0505/death-tax.html.)

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.CA.LP.org



Letters to the Editor



Social Scam System

People should be free to contribute voluntarily to a Social Security system with payroll contributions dedicated to subsidizing the retirement of contributors, in direct proportion to their contribution, or fund their own retirement, or both. With payroll deductions no longer going into the general (slush) fund of CONgress, there is no reason for Social Security retirement eligibility and benefits to be set by the whim of CONgress...and no reason the Social Security system cannot be privatized.

—Bill Holmes
Lancaster

Efficient and Honest Initiatives

No man's life, liberty or property are safe while the Legislature is in session."

I did not write that; it's Mark Twain who's most often given credit for these words. If he were alive today to have observed the [Terri Schindler] Schiavo circus, he probably would have said, "No person's dignity, life, liberty, or property are safe while the Legislature is in session."

Legislatures are notorious for

their willingness to ignore the Constitution, reason, science, or even mathematics in their zeal to have it their way, and/or garner a few extra votes. The Indiana legislature voted in 1901 that $\pi = 3$.

To offset the outrageous power of a legislature dominated by special interests, California instituted an initiative system to allow the citizens to overrule or bypass the legislature. It has not been a complete success. One of the biggest problems is that special interests don't go away, and any special interest rich and powerful enough to buy a legislature can buy an initiative.

First, crafty lawyers write a long, convoluted proposal that promises benefits on page 1, but then, deceptive wording woven into inscrutable text on pages 3 through 5 takes them away from most people. Page 7 reinstates those benefits, exclusively for the special-interest insiders, but on page 8 we get the bill. Marketing consultants come up with a catchy, appealing title, vaguely related to the initiative. Thus, the "Better Government and Security Amendment" will be a pay raise for the legislators' bodyguards, plus a bond to add market value-enhancing security fea-



Welcome Aboard!

The LPC welcomes these 40 new members and subscribers who in March joined the California chapter of America's third largest party. They include Cary Halpin, an equities trader, sales representatives Martin Brenner and Brian Johnson, Arthur Oliver, a Realtor, engineer Thomas Schaefer, and John Anthony, a manager of technology services. We look forward to seeing you soon at a local LP meeting or event, and sharing your concerns about individual liberty with us like-minded folks!

John Anthony Los Angeles	Anil Inamdar San Diego
Kathy Aplanalp Chico	Brian Johnson Manhattan Beach
Eudora Bergen Laguna Hills	Walter Knoepfel San Francisco
Justine Bonavito El Cajon	Terrence Kotsatos Berkeley
Martin Brenner San Anselmo	Frank Lynch Del Mar
Rinaldo Brutoco Ojai	Kenneth Miller Oakland
Alan Clark La Mesa	Kendall Miller Reedley
Kevin Collins Eureka	Douglas Murray Pomona
Wayne Cross Belmont	Arthur Oliver Bellflower
Wayne Dunlap Del Mar	Mark Peterson Palm Springs
John Elick Riverside	Jack Prete Hidden Valley Lake
Dale Everett Culver City	Ken Puleston Torrance
Margaret Fowler Oroville	Thomas Schaefer Cupertino
V. Gazaway San Jose	Borre Schmidt Lancaster
Robert Guthrie Santa Barbara	Cory Smith Hermosa Beach
Cary Halpin Willits	Robert Stearns Walnut Creek
Stepan Hamamciyan San Francisco	Peter Strudwick Blythe
Elinor Heath Palo Alto	Wes Wiley San Francisco
Shannon Hicken Upland	Kenneth Yeo Auburn
Sharon Humphreys Portola Valley	
Daniel Huss El Cajon	

tures to their personal homes, and those of their favorite lobbyists—all of it for life.

The next step is to get signatures, and once again, money is the mother's milk of polidiotics. Professional canvassers are paid per signature to annoy people in public places, and to coerce signatures on petitions which, like bills in the legislature, are seldom read, merely approved on faith.

How can Libertarians curb

this activity without encroaching on the individual's right to petition? How about a word limit? Two thousand words should be enough for any legitimate proposition. If that is not enough, if more words are needed, require more signatures. In other words, require signatures of 1% of registered voters for each 2,000-word page. I would like it to be progressive: 1% for the first page, 1.2% for the second page, etc. One initiative in San Diego had 80 pages! The words must be found in a common collegiate

dictionary, or defined within the word limit—no legal mumbo jumbo. I once thought that paying for signatures should be a crime, but that encroaches on first amendment rights; so instead, the petition must publish the names of those financing its circulation. That is, actual names of living persons or legal corporations, no *ad hoc* names like "Committee for the Better Government and Security Amendment."

—Ken Obenski
San Diego

Action Alert: Help the LP End the Death Tax

by Aaron Starr, LPC Chair,
Dave Ruprecht, LPC Executive Director,
and Bruce Cohen, LPC Member
Communications Chair

Libertarian Party members: we need your help!

As you may know, the LP is part of a coalition that's striving to end the death tax. The death tax is a significant threat to family-owned businesses and farms. This unjust tax greatly affects all family estates. It takes up to 50% of an individual's savings, which should be passed on.

The U.S. Congress has approved legislation (H.R. 8) that would completely eliminate the death tax. As of this writing, this bill is on its way to the Senate.

Senators hope to reach a compromise that will help H.R. 8 to be passed this summer. But

this compromise could jeopardize the value of the bill, undermining its purpose. The LP supports passage of the bill in its *unaltered* form. To get it approved, it is unnecessary to compromise the language.

Make no mistake; this is the closest we have come to ending this un-American government property seizure. In order to ensure its demise, your support is urgently required. This is not only an opportunity to end the death tax; it is our chance to show the strength of the Libertarian Party.

With your help, we will be heard. To help eliminate the death tax, each Libertarian Party member must call or write their Senator immediately, and ask that H.R. 8 be approved *without* compromise. Please call, write, and e-mail Senators Boxer and

Feinstein; tell them to pass H.R. 8 in its original form. You can do so easily through this web link: www.Senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm.

Once you've taken action yourself, please let your family and friends know too. Explain the importance of this bill and ask them to get involved.

This is a hotly contested bill. Just a few votes in the Senate could save billions of dollars for American families, and would bring us one step closer to achieving true freedom within our own nation.

Our government must stop penalizing people for saving money and building businesses. This is an action Libertarians can take to help Americans keep what their parents worked for.

Please act today! ●

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■ Opinion

Government Coercion Killed Terri Schiavo

by **Richard Rider**
LPC Member & Chair of
San Diego Tax Fighters

Like many libertarians, I did not become entangled in the difficult question of what should be done (or not done) to or for Terri Schindler Schiavo (who died on March 31, fourteen days after court-ordered removal of her feeding tube). I've avoided the stories, and marveled at the degree of attention the saga received.

But a disturbing article by columnist Nat Hentoff caused me to reconsider ("Terri Schiavo: Judicial Murder / Her crime was being disabled, voiceless, and at the disposal of our media." *The Village Voice*, March 29, 2005; see VillageVoice.com/news/0513_hentoff,62489,6.html). It is very troubling that the state forbids those who wish to continue caring for Terri from doing so.

So what is the libertarian position on such matters? I'm not sure what the official Libertarian Party platform position is (we've got a platform that seems to cover everything!), but let me lay out what I think it should be. *

First, the expressed wishes of the sick should be honored. If they want to die when they reach a certain deteriorated state, that should be their decision, or the decision of those they designate to make the determination. Suicide should be legal.

People should be able to leave written instructions, determining under what conditions death is the desired alternative. They also should be able to choose the method of death, within reason (you can't be dumped off the top of the Empire State Building for the exhilarating ride down to the street, for instance).

But, of course, Terri, like most of us, has no such written instructions in place. So it is true that someone else has to make decisions for her.

The libertarian answer is (or should be) that the hubby has the right to say, "I will no longer take care of her." We don't support legal requirements mandating that individuals provide such support indefinitely to anyone.

But this guy should not have the right to require Terri's death, when other family members are willing and anxious to continue that support for her. Absent valid written instructions from the incapacitated, spouses do not own their mates.

If no family member wants to continue providing or arranging life support, then the issue gets a bit murky. I'm not sure that strangers should be able to take over someone's helpless body without some familial approval.

I'll dodge that issue for now.

If no one will take care of Terri (or others in her dire situation), then she does indeed die. But the truth is, family members sometimes are willing to step forward, as was the case in this instance. The legal guardian should be able to give up his or her responsibilities, but not prohibit such support by other family members.

One other important caveat—unfortunately, government provides health care, which messes up the solution. As a compromise in such situations, the government should have some procedure to decide when taxpayers would no longer provide support for the hopelessly ill. If family members—perhaps working with charities—want to continue such support, that's fine. But the taxpayer should not be on the hook in such instances.

As usual, government screwed

up. The state intervened—using force to prevent other family members from providing sustenance and water for Terri.

This unnecessary application of government coercion, preventing a peaceful resolution, is indeed a tragedy—and should be frightening to us all. The power of the state grows and grows, while we retreat before Leviathan. ●

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.



* For the Libertarian Party's National Platform, visit www.LP.org/issues/platform/.

Young People! Summertime of Liberty, Economy, and Society

Thanks to the Independent Institute, high school- and college-age students will have a special opportunity this summer to learn answers to such intriguing questions as:

- *What are the revolutionary ideas that gave birth to freedom and economic progress?*
- *Why did socialism fail?*
- *Are pollution and traffic congestion caused by market failure or government failure?*
- *What caused the Great Depression?*

Brian Gothberg, a Teaching Fellow at the Oakland-based Institute, will lead two sessions of the week-long seminar on "Liberty, Economy, and Society" for students who'll be entering ninth grade through undergraduate college in the fall. Gothberg is a Lecturer both in the Department of Economics and Finance at Golden Gate University, and in History of Western Civilization at Academy of Art College.

In order to help high school

and college-age students learn to reason through the kind of issues they will face, each summer the Independent Institute sponsors these seminars as a major part of their overall Student Program.

"These dynamic seminars help students learn what economics is, how it affects their lives, and how understanding its laws can help them achieve the things they care about," says the Institute. "In the climate of today's politically correct classrooms, many students seldom have the opportunity to learn the economic and ethical

principles of freely competitive markets and free societies so essential to understand, appreciate and be prepared to deal with the world they will soon enter."

The two identical sessions will be held June 13-17 and August 8-12, with the following curriculum:

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Mon. | Economics and Liberty: A Historical Development |
| Tues. | Market Chaos or Hidden Order? |
| Wed. | Monopoly or Competition? |
| Thurs. | Market Failure or Government Failure? |
| Fri. | Inflation, Recession, and Government |

Space is limited, so early reservations are recommended. The enrollment and materials fee of \$175 per student is subject to change. All sessions are held at the Independent Institute, 100 Swan Way, Oakland, California. Each day's seminar period runs from 8:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

For further information, visit www.Independent.org/students/seminars/, or contact the Institute's Academic Affairs Director, Carl Close, by phone at (510) 632-1366 x117, or at e-mail at CClose@Independent.org. ●

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CHardingRN@aol.com

LP Sponsors May's FreedomFest

by **Lawrence Samuels**
LPC Northern Vice Chair

This year's FreedomFest, "where free minds meet," should be a real crowd-pleaser for libertarians. The Libertarian Party is a co-sponsor.

I attended the inaugural FreedomFest, organized in 2002 by Mark Skousen of the Foundation for Economic Education (FEE). Despite having been organized in just four months, that exciting event drew over 1,000 participants.

This year's conference, now run by Young America's Foundation, will be held May 12-14 in Las Vegas, at Bally's Paris Hotel and Resort. Billed as "three glorious days of Great Ideas, Great Books, and Great Thinkers," the conference will be rich with seminars, exhibitors, banquets, networking opportunities, and myriad speakers on issues of liberty.

This year's impressive lineup of speakers, representing the fields of philosophy, economics, history, finance, law, religion, and science & technology, will include: Charles

Murray, author of *What It Means to Be a Libertarian*; Dinesh D'Souza, author of *What's So Great about America*; Bob Poole, founder of *Reason Magazine*; *Wall Street Journal* columnist John Fund; former Congressman Bob Barr; John Mackey, CEO of Whole Foods; along with Mark Tier, Ward Connerly, Ken Schoolland, FreedomFest founder Mark Skousen, and more.






As the LP is sponsoring this event, discounts may still be available for LP members. Visit www.FreedomFest.com, or phone 1-800-USA-1776. ●

LPC's County Meetings*

County	Type of Meeting	Day	Time	Venue	For more info	How to contact
Alameda	Pizza Liberty Party	2nd Thursday	7:00 PM	Round Table Pizza; 1774 Decoto Road, Union City	Constance Ericson	(510) 601-1178, Alameda@EBLP.org
Alameda	General	3rd Thursday	7:00 PM	Yang Chow Restaurant; 3211 Grand Avenue, Oakland	Curt Cornell	(510) 864-8662, Chair@EBLP.org
Alameda	Lifeline Newsletter	4th Sunday	2 - 4 PM	Floyd residence	Terry Floyd	(510) 351-0973, Treasurer@EBLP.org
Contra Costa	General	3rd Thursday	7:00 PM	Yang Chow Restaurant; 3211 Grand Avenue, Oakland	Curt Cornell	(510) 864-8662, Chair@EBLP.org
Contra Costa	Pizza Liberty Party	3rd Tuesday	7:00 PM	Round Table; 3637 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette	Cam McConnell	(925) 427-0188, ContraCosta@EBLP.org
Contra Costa	Lifeline Newsletter	4th Sunday	2 - 4 PM	Floyd residence	Terry Floyd	(510) 351-0973, Treasurer@EBLP.org
Fresno	Social + Business	May 9 (all other months, the 8th)	6:30 PM social; 7:30 business	May only; Perko's; Bullard & Highway 41, Fresno	Rodney Austin	(559) 255-5561
Los Angeles (Antelope Valley)	General	3rd Friday	7:00 PM	Greenhouse Café; Antelope Valley Mall	Jason Gonella	Aynrkey@AOL.com
Los Angeles (Central)	General	4th Wednesday	7 PM dinner; 8 PM program	Denny's Restaurant, 5751 W. Sunset Blvd., Hollywood	Jose Aguilar	(323) 359-6745; www.LPLAC.org/64.htm
Los Angeles (East San Gabriel Valley)	Supper Club	4th Tuesday	7:30 - 9 PM	Denny's; 546 W. Baseline Rd., Glendora	Dan Fernandes	DFernandes@adelphia.net
Los Angeles (Foothills: Glendale, Pasadena)	Dinner & Speaker	2nd Wednesday	7 PM dinner; 8 PM speaker	Bakers Square; 473 N. Rosemead Blvd., Pasadena	Ted Brown	(626) 286-6124, TedBrown1776@Hotmail.com
Los Angeles (San Fernando Valley)	Supper Club	4th Thursday	7 PM dinner; 8 PM program	Carrow's; 18355 Ventura Blvd., Tarzana	Edward Bowers	(818) 314-1897; LPSFV.org
Los Angeles (South Bay)	General & Business	1st Thursday	7:00 PM	Various	Dan Sherman	(310) 719-8909
Los Angeles (South Bay)	Dinner Club	3rd Thursday	6:30 PM social, 7 PM dinner & program	Rafaello's Gourmet Italian; Pacific Ave. & 4th St., San Pedro		www.Liberty66.org
Los Angeles (Southeast)	General	1st Tuesday	7:15 PM dinner; 8 PM meeting	Coco's Family Restaurant; 11510 E. South St., Cerritos	David Bowers	(562) 862-6083, DaveBo1000@AOL.com
Los Angeles (Westside)	Supper Club	3rd Tuesday	7:30 PM	Dinah's Family Restaurant; Sepulveda Blvd. & Centinela Ave., Westchester		www.Region62.org
Marin	Discussion	May 16	7:30 - 9 PM	Tamalpais Bank, 100 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., San Anselmo	Matt Turley	(415) 786-6687, MaTurley@Comcast.net
Nevada County	Social lunch	Friday	12:30 PM	Various	Bob Glassco	(530) 477-2515
Orange	Business	3rd Wednesday	7:00 PM	The Data Workers; 660 W. Baker St., Suite 317, Costa Mesa	Joe Cobb	(949) 338-9020
Riverside	General	3rd Thursday	6:00 PM	Marie Callender's; 69-830 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage	Susan Marie Weber	(760) 340-2213, SusanMarieWeber@Earthlink.net
Sacramento	Meet-up	4th Wednesday	8:00 PM	In-N-Out Burgers; 3501 Truxel Rd., Sacramento	Gale Morgan	(916) 247-6245
Sacramento	General	3rd Friday	7:00 PM	4805 Winter Oak Way, Antelope	Art Tuma	(916) 729-7092
San Diego	Business	2nd Tuesday	7:00 PM	Rider residence	Richard Rider	(858) 530-1776, www.SDLP.org
San Francisco	Business + Social	2nd Saturday	3 - 6 PM	Round Table Pizza; Geary Blvd. & 16th Ave., SF	Marcy Berry	Chair@LPSF.org
San Luis Obispo	Various	Various	Various	Various	Gail Lightfoot, Richard Venable	(805) 481-3434
San Mateo	Public Dinner + Business Meeting	3rd Thursday	6:30 PM dinner; 7:30 business	IHOP; 510 El Camino Real, in Belmont	Jack Hickey	(650) 368-5722
Santa Barbara	General	Last Tuesday	6 PM dinner; 6:30 meeting	State & A Bar & Grill; State St. & Anapamu St., Santa Barbara	Clarence Gardner	(805) 892-3447
Santa Clara	Rotating between business & speaker	2nd Thursday	7 - 10 PM	Various	Bob Goodwyn	BobFlight03@Yahoo.com, www.SC.CA.LP.org

* Subject to change without notice. Represented here are counties reporting in by press time. For other counties, visit www.CA.LP.org, and click on "Local."

Some 2004 Winners from the LPC

			
Allen Hacker	Laura Ferrer	Mark Hinkle	
			
Kevin Takenaga	Dennis Umphress	Bruce Cohen	Bruce Dovner

Awards

continued from page 1

in a positive light.

- Participated in three "Operation Politically Homeless" booths, for two hours or more per day at each.

- Delivered three speeches to non-libertarian groups such as service clubs, classrooms, Toastmasters, or political rallies.

The award is accompanied by a handsome "Lights of Liberty" certificate, recognition at the "Lights of Liberty" 2004 honor page (at www.TheAdvocates.org/lights.html), visited by



thousands of people each day. Each year's honor page remains posted through the years, to inspire others.

Winners also receive discounts on Advocates' extensive selection of libertarian products and workshops. This year the discount may be applied toward their gala 20th anniversary cele-

bration this fall. Winners' names will be entered into a drawing for libertarian prizes, such as books, tapes, and T-shirts, as well as for a fabulous grand prize: the "Libertarian Library" —autographed copies of every LP presidential candidate's book since John Hospers' in 1972, a collection normally given only to those who contribute \$250 or more to Advocates' in their fund raising.

Write those letters and make those speeches! Let's get more California Libertarians into the winners' circle for 2005! ●

■ Opinion

The Time is Now to Enhance your Public Speaking Skills

by **Mark Whitney**
Chair, LPC Marketing &
Branding Committee



Photo: Chris Whitney

I just put the finishing touches on a simple web site for Liberty Toastmasters. For 25 years, Liberty Toastmasters has offered a workshop environment for individuals interested in improving their speaking and listening skills.

We Libertarians are lousy listeners. We are also lousy at delivering a message that resonates, a message that's relevant to people's lives. Our general inability to communicate with relevance is, in my opinion, one of the reasons we are the bottom-feeders; notwithstanding the fact that we have the best platform in U.S. politics.

When we appear as candidates, if we can learn to put aside our individual pathologies and speak as one voice, we may begin to make some actual headway in the political marketplace.

I came to Liberty Toastmasters (www.LibertyToastmasters.org) as a guy with a background in theater, television and radio news, sports, commercials, corporate training, stand-up com-

edy, political activism, and more. Mine is a 25-year, communication-based career. With all this background, some might wonder what I could possibly learn from this affiliate of Toastmasters International. The answer: improved finesse, enhanced listening skills, fine-tuning of my critical thinking and writing skills, and much more.

Toastmasters is also a great forum for testing speech material. Toastmasters will make you a better candidate, regardless of your current communication and listening skill levels. If you're serious about putting your best foot forward as a candidate, I would respectfully invite you to prove it, by joining Toastmasters, and religiously attending the weekly meetings.

When you appear in public as a Libertarian candidate, you speak for the party, not yourself. You may be all about tax reform, gun rights, gay rights, due process, or property rights. With all due respect, save your obsession for your book, web log, or screenplay. Your indi-

vidual obsessions have no place on the campaign trail. You are out there to do the party's bidding, not your own. And, that's how it has to be until this party evolves into a threat. It is critically important that our candidates speak as one voice. The multiple, unilateral voices that serve to define our party have earned us single digits at the polls.

Take the Catholic Church. It doesn't matter whether it's Sunday Mass for the town drunk in some backwater village or a funeral Mass for the Pope. It's always done the same way, word for word. It's been the same for centuries. Everyone knows what they're going to get. The same predictable message is repeated over and over again, to such an extent that most people would agree it's actually boring. But, the Church knows that the core message always bears repeating. And that message is repeated verbatim, in perpetuity, by first-year priests and 80-year-old cardinals from around the globe. No matter their individual wisdom, their personal experiences or pathology, the core message, the Catholic Mass, is *always* the same. No one is

allowed to put their individual spin on the core message. They wouldn't dare.

The Catholic Church knows more about marketing and branding than any organization on the planet. And the packaging! Billy Graham wears a suit. The Pope and Cardinals wrap themselves in elegant vestments so there's no question they are all on the same team, speaking as a single, highly credible voice, selling an intangible. No question they are part of something grand; something much bigger than any one individual.

How many people can name even one religious leader outside their own faith? But, everyone

When you appear in public as a Libertarian candidate, you speak for the Party.

knows the Pope. A billion members, centuries old, yet in many respects, the Catholic Church still behaves like a start-up,

desperate to establish market share. We Libertarians should take a page out of their book.

So, here's the question: as a candidate, are you sincerely interested in building momentum for a viable political party that will eventually win real elections? Or are you more interested in fragmenting the market, and diluting our message with the sound of your own voice, regardless of how counterproductive it may be to have Libertarians responding differently to the same question?

Think about it. And, while you're thinking, get yourself to a Toastmasters meeting—this week—so that the Libertarian Party has a prayer! ●

Mark Whitney is the Vice Chair of the LP of San Diego County, and this year was elected to the Executive Committee of the California LP, where he serves as Chair of both the Legal Committee and the Marketing and Branding Committee. He is CEO of TheLaw.Net, which develops and markets highly affordable research tools for attorneys, judges, paralegals, and corporations. Find a Toastmasters club near you by visiting www.Toastmasters.org, and clicking on "Find a Club."

Liberty in our Lifetime

Free State Project

What is the Project About?

The Free State Project is a plan in which 20,000 or more liberty-oriented people will move to the state of New Hampshire and work within its political system to reduce the size and scope of government.

The project will reduce burdensome taxation and regulation; reform state and local laws; opt out of federal mandates; and press for the restoration of constitutional federalism.

The Free State Project will show the world what liberty can accomplish!

Where & Why?

The state where we will move was decided by a vote of the FSP membership after we reached 5,000 commitments. Population was the critical factor. Our research so far indicates that 20,000 activists could heavily influence only states with under about a 1.5 million population, or which spend less than \$10 million on political campaigns in any given two-year election cycle. New Hampshire met the population criterion, and its distaste for big government and a generally welcoming attitude toward the Free State Project were pluses.

Liberty in Our Lifetime

We don't want to wait decades for most citizens in the US to realize that the nanny state is an insult to their dignity. For those of us who already understand the debilitating effects of a government bent on reducing liberty rather than increasing it, the Free State Project aims at liberty in a single state.

What do we mean by liberty? We believe that being free and independent is a great way to live, and that government's maximum role should be to help individuals defend themselves from force and fraud.



Get Involved!

Join the Free State Project and take part in a rapidly growing movement aimed at securing liberty in our lifetime. To learn more, you're invited to visit our website at www.freestateproject.org. Check out our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page, and visit our articles sections which contain more detailed information about the project. Whether you wish to become a full-fledged member or are sympathetic but unable to relocate, the Free State Project wants you!

www.freestateproject.org Call Toll-Free 1-888-532-4604

■ Regional Report

Marin County LP is Alive and Kicking!

by **Matt Turley**
Chairman, LP of Marin County

San Francisco is the national epicenter for liberals. Marin County, which lies across the Golden Gate Bridge north of San Francisco, resembles the City by the Bay with a vast Democratic majority. However, the county that gave birth to Birkenstocks and tree-hugging is now home to California's newest regional Libertarian Party: the Marin LP (Region 21).

In April of 2004, **Dan Goltz**, a local architect and businessman devoted to reducing government's size and power, met **Lawrence Samuels**, Northern Vice Chair of the state LP, at a rally for **Judge James Gray**, who had announced his candidacy for U.S. Senate. Samuels was trying to revitalize Region 21, inactive for many years.

He asked Goltz to take over as Chairman pro tem. He agreed, and developed a plan to reactivate the region.

Goltz identified 127 regional LP members, only 30 of whom were active, dues-paying members of the LP of California. He contacted them to determine whether they were interested in reactivating the Marin Party. 24 members expressed interest.

Goltz attempted to contact the remaining 97 by mail, and received positive responses from only four. Undeterred, he compiled the documents necessary for reactivation (a constitution and set of bylaws), and arranged a meeting in January of 2005. With assistance from Samuels, Goltz and the other attendees approved the constitution and bylaws, reactivated the Marin LP, and elected a board—all at the January meeting.

Goltz volunteered to stay on

as Publicity Chairman, primarily to serve as media advocate. **Chuck Lavaroni** was elected Treasurer and has raised sev-

We will grow, one Libertarian at a time.

eral hundred dollars already. **Pip Stuart** agreed to serve as Secretary, even though he lives in another county! **Lynnette Shaw** and **Eric Pivnik** joined the board as at-large members. And I am proud to be the newly elected Chairman of this fledgling region.

My one New Year's resolution for 2005 was to become more active in the Libertarian Party. Late in 2004, coinci-

dentally, I received a letter from Goltz inviting me to the January meeting. Now I look forward to meeting many more Libertarians, learning how to increase our membership, and expanding our impact in the overwhelmingly Democratic S.F. Bay Area.

While still in the formative stage, our growing team remains focused on Article 3 of our constitution, which states our purpose as, "...peacefully repealing statist law and restoring civil and economic liberty and property rights..."

Our next meeting will be held Monday, May 16. We plan to discuss taxation, among other things. As of this writing, we're planning to distribute flyers at local post offices on April 15, to invite those mailing their tax returns to attend our May meeting.

We've been told that if we can achieve Libertarian progress in Marin County, then we can achieve it anywhere. We welcome this challenge, and would appreciate any support or guidance that our Libertarian

colleagues might offer us. I've been impressed already with the passion and cooperation I've witnessed from members in other counties.

If you know someone in Marin County (or the Bay Area) who might be interested in what we're doing, please invite him or her to contact me (MATurley@Comcast.net, 415/786-6687), or send me their contact information, and I will get in touch with them myself.

We will grow, one Libertarian at a time—and we will make a difference. ●

Matt Turley became a Libertarian in 1992, while studying economics at Golden Gate University in San Francisco with two brilliant Libertarian professors. He runs his own project management consulting firm, and teaches project management part-time. He serves as Chair of the LP of Marin County, where he lives with his wife, Sue, and their daughter, Hanna.



Photo: Matt Turley

Sink or Spend: False Choice for CA



by **Dave White**
Internet Radio Host

Most of us are aware of the plight of California's financial ship of state as it navigates through turbulent monetary waters. From the crow's nest, one can see the dark clouds of deficit stretching to the horizon. The winds of revenue are becalmed; the hold is filling rapidly with the brackish water of debt; the crew of the public are turning mutinous; the previous captain has been forced to walk the plank; the galley of the treasurer's office serves only the stale crust of a once fresh and full fiscal pie; and through it all, the ship's officers of the state legislature continue to debate the arrangement of the deck chairs, and the starting time of the shuffleboard tournament.

Arising from this chaos, we hear the siren song of those who feel that only the lifeline of new and higher taxes can rescue our vessel from the rocky shoals of bankruptcy, tow us to safety, patch the tattered sails, repair the leaky hull, and launch us once again upon the placid waters of a balanced budget.

This suggestion is made most frequently by prominent Democrats and editorial writers of certain metropolitan newspapers, persons whose confidence in their ability to fashion solutions remains undiminished by their long history of failure to do so.

We hear the siren song that only the lifeline of higher taxes can rescue our vessel.

And to these fine folks I say this. Drain your banks accounts; mortgage your homes; peddle your automobiles; max out your credit cards; cash in your life insurance; liquidate your investments; auction off your belongings; redeem your aluminum cans; donate your blood; prostitute your bodies and sell your souls; but leave the rest of us alone.

Take the proceeds from these actions and rush them to the hackneyed politicians in Sacramento in whom you have such overwhelming confidence.

Then spend the remainder of your days feeding the pigeons in the park and meandering the streets seeking a dry doorway within which to spread your cardboard mattress. Spend your nights shivering beneath a blanket of old newspapers, comforted with the knowledge that though the flesh be chilled, the spirit be warmed, cozily nestled within the soft folds of civic sacrifice. Share bus stop benches with other recently impoverished, public-spirited citizens, and congratulate each other on the worthiness of your propitiation, taking solace in the knowledge that through your sufferings, the gears of state government were kept grinding for another two seconds.

And while you savor this glorious triumph, we less selfless persons will be forced to console ourselves with mere creature comforts such as indoor plumbing and central heat. And thus, through this voluntary solution, each will receive their just rewards.

No more taxes! ●

David White hosts a talk program on Internet radio station KSAV (www.KSAV.org). He can be reached at Talk@KSAV.org.

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

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■ Opinion

Fight the Power!



by **Jascha Lee**

LP Candidate for U.S. Congress
2002

Where are you most likely to encounter the heavy hand of government? Could it be while you are minding your own business, infringing on no one? There's a good chance the answer is "yes." I'm talking about those law enforcement types, wearing mirrored sunglasses, who hide beneath overpasses and behind bushes, waiting to selectively enforce the "law." Yes, that's right: your friendly neighborhood traffic cop.

Traffic safety experts, even government-paid ones, agree that the 85-percentile speed is the optimum speed for traffic to flow. This is the speed at which 85% of drivers drive, basically "the flow of traffic." This reality collides with the fact that it is relatively hard to raise taxes, and relatively easy to be "tough on crime." So government officials, in the name of "safety," deliberately set speed limits below this (under-posting), low enough so that on average only 30% of us are in compliance with the posted speed limit. They in effect create criminals out of most people. On the other hand, they are able to raise revenue—a lot of revenue. There is now about a 200% tax on traffic fines. This adds up to millions of dollars each year.

"So what?" you ask. The government has plenty of ways to separate us from our money; what's the big deal with traffic tickets? One word: justice. As courts and cops are used more and more as tax collectors, justice and due process suffer. A law that deems everyone guilty, must, by necessity, be selective in its enforcement. Since the vehicle code is thick enough

and speed limits low enough, traffic law falls into this category. We then rely on the particular police department's local policy—or a particular officer's likes and dislikes when filling his quota. But it doesn't stop there.

The government has gone so far as to invent a whole new category of crime to facilitate the shakedown: infractions. The main purpose of this innovative category is to make it easier to find large numbers of people guilty. They do so by depriving us of our right to be tried by jury, in exchange for saying they won't throw us in jail when they do find us guilty. It can be a powerful tool.

The government has invented a new category of crime to make it easier to find large numbers of people guilty: infractions.



Here's an example of this tool unrelated to traffic violations. In the city of Berkeley (yes, that Berkeley) was a troupe of actors. Now, this troupe of actors, for whatever reason, performed in broad daylight, in the nude. This really ticked off the city fathers (yes, even Berkeley city fathers can be ticked off). The problem was that the crimes of public nudity, indecency, etc., were classified as old-fashioned *misdemeanors*. That meant jury trials. And the people (a.k.a. jurors) of Berkeley were not as ticked off as were the city fathers, so those performers would not be found guilty. So Berkeley cracked down by reclassifying their activity as an

infraction. No jury; easy to extract monetary penalties; city fathers pleased.

But even infractions are not easy enough. Many places have decided that parking tickets do not deserve even the remaining due process afforded by infractions. So they have decided to do away with your right to confront the witness against you—even without a jury—in open court, for parking tickets. How much longer before this moves up the chain and affects more serious crimes, such as driving 36 mph in a 35 zone?

Did I mention, "witness against you"? Even that, they are beginning to do away with. Some places are hiring companies to set up photo-radar units. The company will situate the unit (sometimes with its driver present, but often completely unmanned) along one of those under-posted streets, and it will capture photographs of the cars driving by. They'll send any offending drivers a letter instructing them either to pay up directly, or to submit a form saying (*i.e.*, admitting) they are guilty and then to contest the ticket. I am not making this up. The company and the city split the take. (The instructions fail to mention the other option: ignore the letter.)

Then we have the red-light cameras. Often, after their installation, the next thing the powers that be will do is to decrease the duration of the yellow light. Reason being: almost all red light violations occur during the first two seconds, and a shorter yellow will increase the number of violations. Yeah, but what about safety? Improperly engineered intersections are to blame for most safety issues; the National Motorist Association has a wealth of information on this subject.

All of this weighs heavily on my sense of justice and fair play. I figure that, even though our George now goes by "President," not "King," and the officers no longer wear red coats, the phrase, "He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their substance" still applies. So over the years, I've tried to be a little rebellious whenever I've been selected to pay my "T" tax. I've fought parking tickets, seat belt tickets, and speeding tickets. I once participated in a protest against the 55-mph speed limit. This protest gar-

nered news coverage, because we protested the law by obeying it. The irony of a law you can protest by obeying is enough to give pause to even the staunchest statist.

It's amazing how few people will even try to fight their tickets. Sitting through a busy arraignment in a place like Marin County, person after person pleads guilty and has several hundred dollars taken from him without even a murmur. Me, if I'm going to be paying, I want to get my money's worth.

I was pulled over once not too long ago. When the cop asked me how fast I was going, I replied, "I was traveling at a reasonable and prudent speed for the current conditions." Forget about actually being read your rights (that applies only to common criminals, not us taxpayers), but it is true that "everything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law." Cops will look for us to incriminate ourselves, but I won't bite. He pressed me, saying he needed something for his notes.

"I see," I replied. After more pushing, I finally stated, "I don't wish to discuss my case any further." From the back seat, my six-year-old asked, "Aren't policemen superheroes?" I re-

plied—loud enough for the cop to hear me—"Traffic cops are never super heroes," and I explained the "taxing" nature of traffic laws. Soon after signing up for a court date, I received a form letter in the mail saying my case was dismissed "in the interests of justice." Maybe I was wrong about traffic cops.

Luckily for us, we still have some shields against arbitrary power. Two of them being: we're innocent until proven guilty (such that the case will be dismissed if the cop doesn't show), and we are not compelled to testify against ourselves (ditto). But it's only through the exercise of our rights that we will retain them. As more and more people are content to simply pay up and go, it's only a matter of time before we wake up without any exercising left to do. ●

Jascha Lee ran as the LPC's 2002 candidate for U.S. Representative, District 17. He has served also on the LPC Executive Committee, and



and at the local level, as Newsletter Chair for Santa Clara County. Lee works as a software engineer for Yahoo!, and he lives in Santa Cruz County with his wife, Sheryl, and their two sons.

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Meeting Notice

The next quarterly meeting of the **LPC Executive Committee** will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2005 10:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. at the **Santa Clara Marriott Hotel** 2700 Mission College Blvd. Santa Clara, CA 95054.

For details and last-minute changes, check our web site at: www.CA.LP.org



All LPC members are welcome to attend.