

California Freedom

June 2005

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

Annual LPC "Party at the Post Office" Enables Outreach

One of the quintessential Libertarian outreach activities is to meet fellow taxpayers on April 15, that evening on which we're all in the same boat—sinking into the abyss of government addiction to both bureaucracy and our money. Since citizens are

In the mere fifteen minutes in which **Roberto Leibman**, LPC's 2004 candidate for State Senate District 1, demonstrated at a West Sacramento post office (in **Yolo County**), he was able to hand out 50 or so anti-tax brochures he'd downloaded from the national LP web site.

Spanish—while I was holding my daughter. So, it was a good media moment." He was pleased to have connected the conversation to immigration policy, a salient issue for California's Spanish-speaking community, in addition, of course, to getting in a few words about taxes.

In **Santa Clara County**, the LP demonstrators' favorite line to pose to frazzled taxpayers was, "Are you happy tonight?" That usually elicited a chuckle, and helped them engage with people just long enough to give them an LP flyer, accompanied by a smile.

Bob Goodwyn, LPSCC's Activities Chair, brought stacks of the newspaper-style outreach flyer, *Libertarian Viewpoint*, to hand out. "We had four volunteers at the post office," Goodwyn reported. "We handed out two big bundles of the flyer, not one of which got tossed on the ground. We held up a big sign that read: *Is stolen money put to good use?*"

"Most people seemed to get it. We also wore my little circle-slash things."



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

• **Bob Goodwyn (l.)**, LPSCC Activities Chair, was joined by **John Inks** at the San Jose main post office on April 15. Handing out LP flyers, they encouraged taxpayers to check their assumptions about government funding.

Goodwyn meant the large stickers he had created, with the universal symbol for "no" laid in red over the word "taxes." They stood out quite well on volunteers' clothing.

"At one point, there were also some Green Party activists out there, protesting. That was O.K. with me," continued Goodwyn. "It is interesting to note that there was not a single Republican at the tax protest."

Still think that the Republicans are Conservative?"

Elizabeth C. Brierly, who also fights excessive taxation in her role on the board of Silicon Valley Taxpayers' Association (SVTA), tried a new tactic, which was to hand out both LP and SVTA literature. "At first, I wasn't sure whether I was risking diluting our message, or

• See **Post Office** page 2

Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly



• **Brittany Corey, 19**, a student filing taxes at the San Jose main post office on April 15, was receptive as LPSCC member **Al Newman** offered LP literature to her and other filers.

all in it together, **Scott Wilson** of the LP of the East Bay has dubbed LP's perennial tax day outreach event a "tax commiseration" instead of a "tax protest." [See Wilson's tax day report from the East Bay region, starting this page.] Here, LPC activists throughout the state share their experience of this year's "commiseration."

"I was there with my family," Leibman explained. "The great thing is that I was interviewed by Univision [television]—in

Commiserating Tax Day

by **Scott Wilson**
Former Editor, *LPC Monthly*

Since the founding of the Libertarian Party, thousands of activists have protested taxes on April 15 at post offices throughout the country. It's an honored LP tradition.

For the last seven years, I have shaved my beard into a goatee, put on my Taxman costume—Uncle Sam's evil twin—and passed out lollipops and literature to last-minute filers. Once, I had my picture in the newspaper, accompanied by an interview, and sometimes we

snare a few seconds on the eleven o'clock news.

Do I think that the politicians are listening? No! But the people who laugh when I give them a Dum-Dum Pop, a piece of literature, and a smile, asking them, "Do you feel like a sucker tonight?" are listening! It's not that we're protesting—we're commiserating, because we too pay taxes. We also give taxpayers a chance to voice their frustration. "Honk if you hate taxes!"

Other than at LP conventions—where we preach to the choir—there is no time in the entire year when we have an audience more receptive to the

Libertarian message. On tax day, almost everybody mailing letters is libertarian!

This year, four of us from the East Bay LP gave out about 1,000 pieces of literature in less than four hours. No advertising budget in the world can beat a smile and a handshake. Handing someone literature is a handshake by proxy, and often it's an opening to a conversation.

This was the first Tax Day Commiseration (or any other protest) for our new Chair of our new Contra Costa County chapter. Retired Lt. Colonel and current engineer **Cam McConnell** was dressed in his best suit, full of apprehension yet enthusi-



Photo: Terry Floyd

• **Scott Wilson** of the East Bay LP innocently asks tax filers, "Do you feel like a sucker tonight?" while handing out lollipops.

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FROM THE CHAIR

When you are representing the Libertarian Party, what you do, what you say, how you do it, and how you say it reflect on all of us and set the level of significance with which fellow Libertarians, non-Libertarians, and the media view us.

Have you ever noticed how people like to associate themselves with winners? Me, too.

When it comes to politics, image is everything. If people view us as being respectable, and believe that we are making progress, they are much more likely to support us.

Recently, a ranking member of our party was arrested while protesting the income tax system. Should we assist this per-

Winners or Whiners

son? Sure. Should we publicize the arrest? Absolutely not.

I didn't always hold this point of view.

I remember how, in 2002, Ron Crickenberger, then the LP's national political director, along with several other people, was arrested for blocking the doors of the Department of Justice (D.O.J.) to protest federal raids on medical marijuana patients. The protestors went so far as to chain themselves across the entrance of the D.O.J. office on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. Crickenberger was shown on local television during the evening news.

At first, I thought the publicity was a good thing—until I spoke to Mark Schreiber, a

professional marketer hired to assist the national party with marketing and branding. (At the time, unfortunately, the national party had insufficient financial resources to fully fund his efforts.)

I learned that the image we create from such stunts is that of a party of protesters and complainers, not a party which accomplishes changes in the political environment. People who protest and complain do not have power. People do not want to vote for people they perceive as being unable to achieve progress.



I've come to understand how publicizing protests and the arrests of our people, even when for a noble cause, will hurt our image.

We need to publicize our successes, especially those which matter to people. We need to publicize how we defeated a tax, how someone we elected implemented our policies, and so forth.

I realize it's easier to protest and complain than it is to win and implement policy, but often it is the more difficult trail that leads us to success.

Toward liberty!

—Aaron Starr
Chair

Post Office Party

continued from page 1

confusing folks even more than their Form 1040 already had! But I tested the waters by first handing the person one piece of literature, seeing how they responded, and then handing them the other one, while saying, "These are two organizations trying to lower our taxes." I think the message actually may have come across stronger that way."

LPSCC's **Al Newman**, a die-hard income tax fighter and regular participant in Free Enterprise Society's annual Tax Freedom Rally, didn't mince words. "We were out there handing our Libertarian literature to the anxious sheeple, who were paying tribute to the rapacious state, so that it could continue its misadventures throughout the world!"

"I did enjoy talking to a fellow from, I think, the Greens, who had a catchy sign and was standing near my spot," Newman continued. "Even though there were fewer last-minute filers than in previous years, and a significant number declined our literature, I still think that this is a good opportunity to air our ideas, and I appreciate the work that Bob [Goodwyn] did to organize this activity."

John Inks, a longtime LPSCC activist, observed, "Overall, tax-night post-office patronage has dropped off considerably over the years because of 'e-file'—which I like to call 'e-vile.' Even traffic for free Papa Murphy's pizza was slow, with slices waiting in the cold."

"One thing hasn't changed, though," Inks continued. "Every year, you see those who bring their W-2 and calculator, grab a Form 1040, and do their taxes at the post office."

"This may not be printable," Inks warned, "but two young dudes were hysterical, if not unabashedly profane. They were using the edge of a trash barrel outside for writing space. One, a tall jock, was struggling with line 7 — wages, salary, and tips—with his buddy trying to help. Big problems developed at lines 9 and 10. The conversation went something like this:

"What the f--- is this? It says subtract 9 from 10. This totally sucks! I don't owe \$300!"

"You moron—you subtracted 10 from 9!"

"Bulls---! I took f---in' line 9 from line 10!"

"The friend took the form and recalculated that line's entry on the form. Both still were puzzled."

"How can I f---in' get this done tonight, man?"

"Dude, you have to do it. You shouldn't f---in' wait 'til the last minute."

"My boss told me I don't have to pay! F--- this s---!!!"

Gentlemen, many Libertarians share your sentiments.

In **Los Angeles County**, about ten LPC members demonstrated, including **Paul**

Blumstein, Program Chair for the LP of San Pedro; Blumstein's wife; **Paul Ireland**, LPC's Candidate Support Chair; **Edward Ronquillo**, Fund Raising Chair of South Bay LP; and **Daniel Sherman**, the South Bay region rep to the LP of L.A. County.

Paul Ireland was arrested that evening while handing out literature, apparently for declining to leave private property

after having been asked to do so by a rep from the Public Affairs & Communications Department of the USPS. With the USPS being a government-sponsored monopoly, there are possible ambiguities about the legal status of its

property. Ireland is confident that his case will be resolved in his favor. It is to be hoped that his case will, at worst, be dismissed on a technicality—of which there may be more than one—or at best, be decided in his favor, and serve as another small victory toward the LP's advocacy of Americans' first amendment-protected right of free speech.

Witnessing Ireland's arrest being captured by the TV news crew stationed there that evening, **Mark Selzer**, LPC Southern Vice Chair, introduced himself to the reporter, with the objective of tempering any bias that might sneak into the coverage. After giving the reporter his LPC business card, Selzer did land an interview. The story was broadcast that evening, with

Libertarians receiving about 20 seconds of air time, according to Selzer. The voiceover during pictures of Ireland's somewhat calm arrest process indicated that Libertarians have long opposed the federal income tax. Selzer was glad to report that the broadcast portion of his interview included, "We Libertarians are here today exercising our free speech in protest of the IRS and excess taxation."

Rick Nichol, LPC Executive Committee member, reports from **San Bernardino County** that over a dozen LP members turned out at the regional post office in Redlands.

Matthew Barnes did a fine job coordinating that event, which included: the burning—simulated, that is—of coin and currency in an oversized Uncle Sam hat; a man reduced to begging for money, carrying a sign indicating that he had just paid his taxes and had been left penniless; others sporting signs posing such questions as *Got Taxes?* and *What's LEFT in your wallet?*

"We handed out fake money with our LP contact info on the reverse," Nichol reported, "as well as 'Get out of hell, free' cards, fashioned after the popular board game cards." On Thursday evening, they had gathered for a sign- and costume-making party to prepare for the event, which had libertarians on the sidewalks from the afternoon until the stroke of midnight.

"No one got arrested," said Nichol, "but we did garner a great deal of attention—overwhelmingly favorable—from both the patrons and the employees of the Postal Service." ●



Letters to the Editor



Irrigation Police

Rather than have irrigation patrols trying to catch misdirected or broken sprinklers at all hours of the day and night, as suggested by some as the solution to water waste, I believe it would be less expensive and more effective to provide flags. Since sprinklers are often timed to work during the wee hours of the morning, many owners are unaware of problems. I correct misdirected sprinkler heads, but I've often been frustrated trying to find the correct property owner to notify of a broken sprinkler or irrigation pipe on commercial property. I now keep some of the little flags gardeners and irrigation companies use to mark sprinkler locations, and use them to mark defective sprinklers, so their owner will take note of them. Unfortunately, the flags don't say, "Problem here!"

The libertarian solution is private, rather than government, water suppliers. Then, water will go to the most valued need rather than the political need, where it is subsidized for

some at the expense of others, and accordingly wasted like the millions of gallons farmers allow to flow unused through their fields just to maintain their government quotas. Where market demand increases water cost, people will naturally pay more attention to water waste, so they can spend their excess production on things other than water.

If government do-gooders want to spend tax dollars on reducing water waste, they should provide little flags on wires to whoever is motivated to keep them in their vehicle, in the event they see water waste. Ideally the flags would be bright yellow-green, and come with an black, waterproof marker, so the problem can be specified. This includes sprinklers whose spray bounces from overgrown plants to the sidewalk.

—Bill Holmes
Lancaster

Herding Libertarians

A perennial feature of the LP involves our philosophical plurality: anar-

cho-libertarians, limited government libertarians, Christian libertarians, consequentialist libertarians, Randian libertarians, utilitarian libertarians, and more, all allied to shrink the oppressive state. Yet in his thoughtful Opinion article ("The Time is Now to Enhance your Public Speaking Skills," *California Freedom*, May 2005, p. 6), Mark Whitney decries the "multiple...voices that serve to define our party," and exhorts LP candidates to "speak as one voice."

Talk about herding cats and teaching a pig to sing! Yes, a herd of cats and singing pigs may be marvelous sights to behold, but does [such an endeavor] oppose the essential nature of cats and pigs?

I suggest, instead, that we more realistically practice acceptance of our differences, while remaining true to the brand of libertarianism we're passionate about, and which energizes us to committedly work for liberty.

—Dr. Michael R. Edelstein
San Francisco



Welcome Aboard!

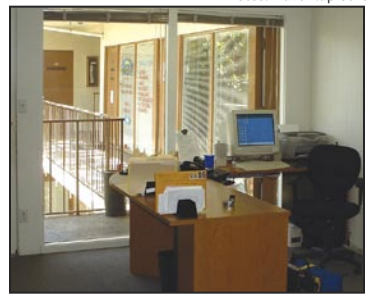
The LPC is pleased to welcome these 17 Californians who joined the Party of Principle in April. They include investor Michael Harper, software engineer Aaron McDaniel, photographer Mark Schwebel, general contractor Cory Frenkel, and Matthew Nelson, a technology assistant. Be sure to come on out to a local LP meeting or event, and introduce yourselves to us compatriots in the drive toward increased individual liberty and smaller government. We look forward to meeting you soon!

- Mark Bolliger Blythe
- Rob Childress Stockton
- Cory Frenkel Santa Barbara
- Christian Friedland Chico
- Michael Harper San Diego
- Aaron Mcdaniel San Diego
- Edward Metzler Elk Grove
- Shawn Michael Los Angeles
- Matthew Nelson Covina
- Cory Nott Concord
- Bob Pendergraft Sanger
- Paul Polson Arroyo Grande
- Mark Schwebel Palmdale
- Augustus Suiter San Bernardino
- Lewis Trout Barstow
- Adam Wagener Santa Maria
- Sam Wells Lancaster

...and somehow we overlooked Brian Perry of South San Francisco, who joined in November. We blame the database, but extend a belated welcome aboard to you, too!

Thanks go to eagle-eyed member Jonathan Zwickel for suspecting that Bellflower's "Arthur Oliver" welcomed in our May issue was in fact a renewal by Art Olivier, former mayor of that city (1998), and LP's 2000 vice presidential candidate. We withdraw our welcome, and instead thank Mr. Olivier for his renewal!

Photos: Dave Ruprecht



• The reorganized reception area is now professional-looking and, we hope, more welcoming to visitors.

Economic freedom is...an indispensable means toward the achievement of political freedom.

—Milton Friedman

Your "New" Headquarters



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



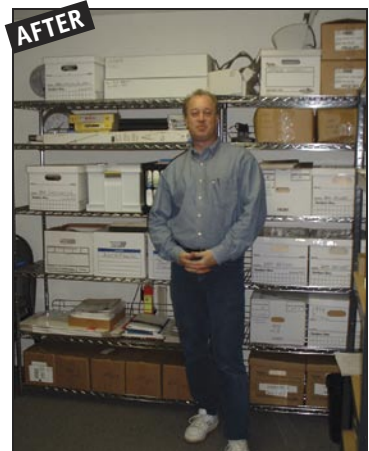
was authorized to buy an "experienced" lateral filing cabinet, and two "baker's racks," so we could organize our records and equipment, and create a more hospitable working environment—with no more boxes, machines, and cables all over the floor.

That hard-working group gave up their Sunday, and, while Dovner focused on restoring our aging computers to good working order following The Big Crash (described in my May column), the rest swarmed over

the place like ants at a picnic. Files were organized; discs were catalogued; and no-longer-used contraptions were dispatched to the dumpster. The results of these men's efforts are stunning, as you can see in our "before" and "after" snapshots.

Please, if you're ever in the Northridge area, stop by and say hello to me in your "new" headquarters.

Once again, I want to thank a dedicated group of Libertarians for working so hard and so



• Bruce Cohen looks none the worse for wear, after having participated in the monumental task of assembling new shelves and rearranging the back storage room.

Well, our lack of a headquarters where we could proudly welcome volunteers and prospective members so vexed Kevin Takenaga, Web Site and Infrastructure Committee Chair, and Bruce Cohen, Member Communications Committee Chair, that they decided to act.

Cohen organized a work crew, composed of Edward Ronquillo, Bruce Dovner, Eric Fine, and Dr. Sandor Woren. I

selflessly, in the interest of making the Libertarian Party of California the best in the nation! ●

Want to see FRESH FACES in California Freedom?

How about yours? See your region's activism in print right here. Send us your photos, reports on local libertarian events, commentary, reviews of books on politics or economics, etc.

CaliforniaFreedom@CA.LP.org —or— Editor, *California Freedom*
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San Jose, CA 95161-1021

Commiserate Tax Day

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astic. He and Tax Day veteran **Terry Floyd** covered the front door, while East Bay Region LP Chair **Curt Cornell** (with Uncle Sam riding on his back) and I, the Taxman, danced the dashed white line for the drive-through. Afterwards, McConnell observed, "That was a lot of fun. I had several really great conversations. I think that we did some good!" Bet on it.

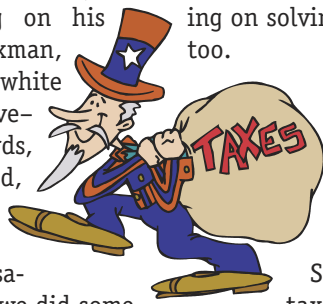
Was McConnell's apprehension unmerited? No. In Los Angeles County, **Paul Ireland**, Chair of the LPC's Candidate Support Committee, was arrested that night doing much the same thing that we were: exercising our First Amendment right of free speech. He wasn't the first, but it takes guts to peacefully stand up to Uncle Sam and say, 'I believe that you are violating my Constitutional Rights.'

I feel that our judicial system is not always about justice and restitution to victims of crimes. It's about laws (most victimless), technicalities that lawyers alone can un-

derstand—which may be what will determine the outcome of Ireland's case—and retribution. The Libertarian Party is working on solving these problems, too.

Everyone, get out there next April with your smiles, handshakes, LP literature, and conversations. Show your fellow taxpayers that we in the Libertarian Party commiserate with their tax day plight! ●

After participating in Harry Browne's 2000 Presidential exploratory committee, Scott Wilson became active in his local LP (East Bay). He served as regional newsletter editor for five years, editor of LPC Monthly, and Contra Costa County Chair. He ran for Congress in 2002 (District 7), and Mt. Diablo Health Care District in both 2000 and 2004. Along with Frank Manske, he is active in Alliance of Contra Costa Taxpayers, an ally of LP in defeating a \$650 million sales tax increase.



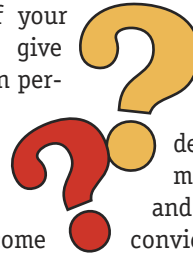
The Hungry Man— a.k.a. The Libertarian Stress Test

by **Major William H. Howcott**
Retired USAF Lieutenant and Engineer

This one-question test will press the limits of your Libertarianism and give you insight into your own personal Libertarian views.

You're a traveler, walking alone through a forest and carrying two hamburgers, when you come across a hungry man sitting on a log. The man is starving to death; he's about to die from

lack of food. You are aware that if you give him one of your hamburgers, he'll live. But if you pass him by without giving him food, he'll starve to death. His life is in your hands.



Here is the question: If you decide not to share your food with the hungry man, and thereby cause his death, should the government have the authority and power to prosecute and convict you for the death of the hungry man?

This one-question Libertarian Stress Test pits liberty against

the government's duty to protect innocent life. What do you think is the correct Libertarian answer...and why? I would be interested in your answer and in your reasoning. ●

MAJOR WILLIAM H. HOWCOTT, USAF Ret., left the military in 1982 after over 20 years of service, and took employment as a mobile communications systems engineer. He designed one of the world's first cellular communications systems. He retired from engineering in 2002 to pursue his real interest, political philosophy. He lives in New Jersey, and welcomes your feedback at WHowcott@OptOnLine.net.

Opinion

Is Libertarianism Mainstream America?

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

It is easy, when one considers Libertarians' lack of success at the polls, to conclude that we are in fact just one more fringe group nipping at the heels of the establishment. However, nothing could be further from the truth.

Like the majority of Americans, Libertarians:

- wish their tax burden was significantly lower
- wish their health and drug expenses were significantly lower
- wish the government would treat a tax dollar as if they had earned it
- wish the government would stop spending money it doesn't have
- want to choose from a menu of educational options for their children
- want the government out of their bedroom, their hospital room, and their deathbed
- are not informing against their neighbor
- do not want their neighbor informing against them
- do not fear their law-abiding neighbor who happens to own a firearm
- do not want the government surreptitiously snooping around their computers and recording their phone conversations
- do not want a military draft

- believe that minority voices are worthy of majority protection
- believe that individuals should be able to participate fully in society, regardless of sexual orientation
- believe that legislators should actually read new legislation before voting on it
- believe that a national debt of nearly \$500,000 per American cannot be justified
- believe that "liberty and justice for all" means what it says.

Like most Americans, Libertarians understand and appreciate that, because we live in a constitutional republic, we are at liberty to:

- speak, write, and create freely
- choose our friends and associates
- go to court
- question elected officials and government bureaucrats
- own and defend our property
- create a business
- force the government to meet its burden of proof, should we be wrongfully accused
- choose what we watch, what we listen to, and what we read
- participate in any religion or no religion
- raise our children consistent with our individual values.

Millions of Americans:

- are thankful to live in a country where the Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, and the federal and state constitutions impose heavy obli-

gations on the government to protect our inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness

- are disappointed that the government frequently thumbs its nose at this responsibility
- believe that when the infrastructure which supports our constitutional republic is at risk, it should be defended.

Like nearly all Americans, Libertarians are tired of Republican and Democrat politicians who patronize us with their "say one thing, do another" approach. We're weary of airbrushed talking heads who never answer a question. We're worn out by bureaucrats who think they are above the law. We are sickened that our state and federal legislatures are teeming with millionaire lawyers who make it more difficult for others to become millionaires.

In light of the foregoing, why has the Libertarian Party been marginalized? ●

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. Reach Whitney via e-mail at Libertarian@TheLaw.net.



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California Bids Farewell to Two LP Heavyweights

On May 13, Libertarian activists and friends gathered at the Atrium Hotel in Irvine to wish two long-time Libertarian Party luminaries and their spouses a fond farewell. LP cofounder **David Nolan**, with his wife, **Elizabeth Nolan**, and 1984 LP Presidential candidate **David Bergland**, with his wife, **Sharon Ayres**, are packing up and leaving California.

Jack Dean reports that "the Nolans are moving to Tucson, Arizona, and had been thinking about doing so for awhile. The Berglands decided rather suddenly to move to Washington state after Sharon received word that her son and his wife are expecting a baby."

It was in his own home that David Nolan cofounded the Libertarian Party in 1971 with a circle of disillusioned Republicans, Democrats, and political newcomers • **David Nolan**



seeking to create an alternative to the old parties. Nolan also devised the "diamond" chart, which cracked the traditional paradigm of the left-right political spectrum.

David Bergland ran for President in 1984, when the LP was on the ballot in 39 states. He and VP running mate Jim Lewis came in third in the race for the first time in the LP's history. He is the author of *Libertarianism in One Lesson*, which is used by the LP today as an introductory text.

Sharon Ayres, in her own right, is an active Libertarian. She worked on the Browne for President campaigns in 1996, as Campaign Director, and in 2000.

We wish both couples the best of luck as they create their new homes. We invite them not only to stay in touch with their



• **David Bergland**

■ Youth Commentary

What You Don't Learn in High School

by **Ali Meyer**
High School Student

Traditionally, high schools and colleges are liberal campuses. Everyone supports Democrats, hates Bush, and wants Nader to die a painful death. It seems like the entire student body is united under its liberal stance.

But is it really that uniform?

I recently tried to start a Young Libertarians Club at my high school. The knee-jerk reaction to it was astounding! I couldn't believe that people were so opposed to decentralized government. It didn't seem to make sense, since as a rule, teenagers try to assert their independence. So why wouldn't they support personal choices?

family in the California LP, but to continue their invaluable work toward the rise of individual liberty. ●

Why didn't their political views reflect their love for freedom?



The answer is the environment which surrounds them. Teachers, right or wrong, impose their political views on impressionable students. Parents discourage rebelling, so many kids blindly follow the same political parties their parents support, even if they don't know anything about it.

When I wanted to start my club, a few kids came up to me and said they wanted to join, and that they were so glad there was another liberal club out there. They'd been misled by the name! At that point, I realized I had my work cut out for me. I was going to inform the whole school about the Libertarian Party's vision of America before the school year ended. As I write this, that's in five weeks.

I still haven't converted the whole student body to libertarian views. In fact, I'm not even

close. But now people are informed. They know what the Libertarian Party stands for. And that's what's going to turn the tide for the next generation.

The more people know about libertarian ideas, it seems, the harder it is to resist. Simply informing people of the possibilities, and getting past the knee-jerk reaction, will do wonders for the Libertarian Party.

So go out and spread the word! ●

ALI MEYER, 15, attends an all-girl private school in Los Angeles. She first heard of the Libertarian Party during a debate in history class, when a substitute teacher remarked that her arguments sounded libertarian. When contributing this article, Meyer observed, "It seems to me that the LP [could] become a lot stronger if you include the next generation. Kids today are angry at the government and they want to do something. The LP should really take advantage of that." Meyer hopes to continue writing for California Freedom during her summer break, while also doing volunteer work at a local hospital; this enterprising teenager is "too young to work"—for money, that is, according to the law.

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

Libertarian School Opens Second Campus in Calif.

Next month will mark the opening of the second campus of the California-based **School of Choice**, founded and run by libertarians **Robert and Suzanne Arne**. The school, started in 1999 and teaching gifted students in grades 6–12, has announced its expansion to Oakland. Their Silicon Valley campus recently moved from San Jose to Sunnyvale.

"We started the School of Choice to gain and preserve academic freedom: the ability to teach the greatest books and ideas available, including ideas on liberty, which were going untaught and unappreciated,"

said Robert Arne, who serves as headmaster. Their pupils are likely to be exposed to Rand in an A.P. literature class, Hayek in economics, and Sowell in history.

"We worked after school at first," Arne recalls, "training mostly Chinese students at levels of one to three years ahead of their counterparts in the public schools. Then we opened a day school to work with the 'whole child,' to give them drama, student government, and social life, as well as academics. This lets us play the role of a modern Moses, bringing the people to freedom."



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

• **Allen Hacker (left), LPSCC Chair, thanks Suzanne and Robert Arne for sponsoring a local candidates' forum at the Silicon Valley campus of their School of Choice; April, 2004.**

The devoted Arnes assert that Oakland's public schools have been ignoring the needs of gifted and motivated students. The couple is well qualified to make such an assessment. Robert holds degrees from Berkeley, Oxford, and Chicago, and brings experience as a college history, ELD, and English instructor. Suzanne, with a degree from Loyola University, taught middle and grade school levels, as an ELD and music instructor, for over fifteen years in Chicago Public Schools, as well as Daley College's English Language Development program.

They publish a quarterly magazine, *Bay Area Gifted Students*, addressing the needs of Bay Area parents who seek superior educational choices for their gifted or highly motivated children.

The school's new Oakland facility includes five classrooms with a beautiful view of San Francisco Bay, a playground, and proximity to fields, parks, and equestrian sports. For more information, visit www.SchoolOfChoice.com, or telephone (408) 887-5108 or (510) 610-7784. ●

Attention: Butte, San Bernardino, and Placer Counties!

We all know that Libertarians deserve special attention. Well, at least those in these three counties do, since your meeting schedules were not included in last month's list of county meetings around the state. Please mark your calendars!

Butte County	General Meeting When: 3rd Sunday, 3:00 PM Where: Chico Library, 1108 Sherman, Chico Contact: Casey Aplanalp, Chair, at (530) 894-8434
San Bernardino	Dinner/Speaker/Business Meeting When: 2nd Sat.; 6 PM dinner, 7 PM spkr, 8 PM business Where: Denny's in Colton, off Hwy. 10, between Rancho and 9th Contact: Juanita Ramirez, Vice Chair, at Kitaro1866@AOL.com
Placer County	General/Social/Business Meeting When: 2nd Thursday, 7:00 PM Where: Round Table Pizza, 8755-A Sierra College Blvd. Granite Bay Contact: Roberto Leibman, Chair, at Roberto@Leibman.net , (916) 213-1969

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Planning to Run (Again)?

Whether you are an incumbent or simply would like to be one, now is the time to plan your next race, if you haven't already started. It's never too early to begin planning, because from now until the election, whether this year or next, everything you do or say can impact your race either positively or negatively.

You wouldn't attempt to run a business without a plan, and you shouldn't attempt to run a public office without one. By helping make the most of scarce resources and scarce time, a good plan can help you be a better public official. (And, coincidentally, a better public official is more likely to be re-elected!)

A good management plan for conducting the business of a public official and preparing for your next campaign can make both tasks easier and more successful. And it certainly beats the alternative of simply responding to one crisis after another, never having time to be proactive in either arena.

We offer tips on how to use your time in office to be a great public servant and candidate at the same time. Some of the areas we cover in our Politically-e Campaign and Office Management System on line (Politically-e.com) are: Contact List Management, Financial Disclosure, Slogans, Photography, District Analysis and Demographics, Fund Raising, Earned Media, E-Mail Communications, Scheduling, Speeches and Public Speaking, and Event Planning.

In this issue, we discuss what we consider an office management basic.

Forming and Utilizing a Constituent "Roundtable"

Many public officeholders find it worthwhile to form a "constituent roundtable," composed of citizens from various walks of life, who come together from time to time to discuss important issues and offer "unofficial" advice. Not only do these citizens sometimes come up with extremely good ideas, but they usually become strong supporters of the official who seeks their input.

There are many ways to organize a roundtable, but one of the most effective is to name people who have expertise in various issues that are important to the particular office. For example, a local government official, such as a mayor or member of the city council, might want people who are interested in, and knowledgeable about traffic, zoning, schools, crime, and other such topics. A member of the General Assembly might want citizens from many different walks of life, because so many different kinds of issues are considered in that body.

Be careful to put on the committee people who are generally compatible. Having a committee composed of unhappy people will do no one much good. Also, make sure that the meetings are well organized and have an agenda. Keep the meetings short—no longer than 90 minutes on average. Make sure that the people serving on the roundtable feel that their contributions are given due consideration, and that their time is being well spent. Have regularly scheduled meetings (not too often) and send members

timely reminders with agendas attached by mail or e-mail.

Another important function of any interim campaign is making sure that the campaign follows all of the pertinent local, state, and federal laws, including financial disclosures, when and where yard signs can be put up, and the appropriate disclosure "tag lines" on paid advertising. Someone—preferably an attorney—should be designated as the campaign's Compliance Officer to

keep the campaign aware of, and in compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal laws governing campaigns and elections. This could be an important position on the roundtable.

Be sure to issue a press release that mentions all of the members and praises them for agreeing to serve on this important committee. ●

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■ Commentary

Just Say "No" to Prohibitionist Laws

by **Dave White**
Talk Radio Host

Increasingly, our newspapers are filled with articles and reports detailing the purported rise in criminal gang activity in California and around the nation.

Community leaders whip up public hysteria, as they wring their hands and offer dark predictions of societal demise, should we fail to act swiftly. Citizens enter the debate by suggesting that the criteria which govern housing development should be altered, asserting that certain types of dwellings are conducive to the increase of gangs. It won't be long before law enforcement leaders will declare a "War on Gangs" to parallel the infamous "War on Drugs." This new war will achieve the same dismal results.

No doubt, we will have special task forces, special training, special prosecutors, and special legislation as we gird for the coming battle. Our once pleasant streets will take on a shocking similarity to those of Baghdad, as police officers, outfitted more as military shock troops than as local cops on the beat, assault the soon-to-be-prolific gang fortresses, while news cameras record the exploits of heroism for publication and display to an anxious

public. Politicians will promise more draconian laws; conservatives will declare we must "get tough"; and another round of ludicrous remedies and ridiculous regulations will commence. In order to combat gang graffiti paint, permits will be required to carry and use crayons and magic markers. No longer will art be taught, so as to deprive gangs of this manner of expres-

The only factor which makes trafficking in illegal substances profitable is their illegality.

sion. Tattoos will be outlawed, and everyone will wear uniforms so as to eliminate articles of clothing which gangs might use for identification. I will not even speculate on what solutions may be concocted to prevent people from flashing "gang signs."

One more cynical than myself might be tempted to see this as another way for certain unscrupulous individuals to steal more of our liberties and to rob us of even more of our money. For it requires money to fight a "war," and the gullible among us will soon be

lining up to empty their pockets for the benefit of selected agencies. More manpower, more weapons, more equipment, more jails and prisons, and more laws will be the requirements. More violence, more hatred, and more failure will be the result.

For one facet of criminal gang activity will not be addressed: the cause.

Organized crime evolved as a direct result of the prohibitionist laws which previous generations passed in a vain attempt to legislate a moral society. Outlawing alcohol meant that outlaws would be the providers of same. When the alcohol prohibition laws were repealed, the outlaws moved into narcotics, for when a vacuum is created by legal stricture, it must of necessity be filled by those outside the law. Those forming our drug policies are attempting to repeal the law of supply and demand. The only factor which makes trafficking in illegal substances profitable is their illegality. Repealing our failed prohibitionist laws concerning drugs would immediately remove the price supports which are financing and propelling these criminal enterprises called "gangs."

When I advocated such an approach in a previous article, my suggestions were met with derision. One respondent declared that drug users are

getting what they deserve. Invoking such buzz words as "personal responsibility," this warmhearted individual seemed to revel in the suffering of oth-

Do we deserve to have our public officials corrupted, our public energy sapped, and our public treasuries drained?

ers. She declared that drug addicts made the choice, and now are receiving their just desserts. Apparently, in this person's view, should someone take a wrong turn at one fork in the road of life, he deserves to be compelled to travel the downward path into the valley of despair, there to be exiled forevermore. What a fine display of Christian charity. Are not those who have chosen to become ensnared in the destructive life

which these substances create suffering sufficiently as it is? Must we pile on more suffering as well, just for good measure?

But even if you agree that those suffering from their self-inflicted addictions are "getting what they deserve," are the rest of us getting what we deserve? Do we deserve to watch our schools, our highways, our public buildings, our parks, our waterways fall more and more into disrepair, as ever greater quantities of our resources are squandered on the futile pursuit of failed moralist policies? Do we deserve to have our public officials corrupted, our public health put at risk, our public energy sapped, and our public treasuries drained? Do we deserve to have the arrogant among us continue to create a burgeoning class of misdemeanor outlaws to be vilified and persecuted? Do we deserve to have our societal cohesiveness attacked and destroyed for the purpose of advancing a political agenda? We do not!

Just say "no" to prohibitionist laws! ●

DAVID WHITE hosts a weekly talk program on Internet radio station KSAV (www.KSAV.org). He can be reached via e-mail at Talk@KSAV.org.

Not Running for Office this Time? CALPiC Needs You!

by **Kristi Stone**
Chair of CALPiC, Candidate Coordinator for San Diego LP

Have you run for office before, and now just want to help out? Are you someone who wants to support and lead candidates to victory this coming election? CALPiC and CALPiC leaders need you!

California Association of Libertarian Political Coordinators (CALPiC), is looking to grow and support candidate coordinators throughout California. We understand that supporting and growing more Libertarian leaders is the first step toward recruiting and supporting quality candidates—candidates who understand that we need to present a professional image, candidates who want to com-

municate real-world Libertarian solutions, candidates who want to work as a team and promote a targeted message, candidates who ask people for their vote and mean it, candidates who know that to win, we have to want to win.

We will not be reinventing the wheel every year, trying to recruit and support candidates. We are working actively on our Candidate Coordinator's Manual, so that you'll be able to benefit from the years of experience of past candidates, and so that you'll have the opportunity to share your experiences, too.

CALPiC wants to provide you the support and outlet you need, to lead and grow candidates in your area. Consider becoming your county's Candidate Coordinator. First talk with your



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

• **Kristi Stone announces CALPiC's formation at LPC convention, Feb. 20, in L.A.**

county's Chair; then call me with the good news that you are joining this dynamic team of active candidate coordinators.

Change starts with you. Just do it!

We're looking forward to hearing from you. ●

You may reach **KRISTI STONE** by telephone at (760) 633-3012, or by e-mail at Kristi@KristiStone.org.

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School Tax Defeated! LP of San Mateo Sets Example in Tax-Fighting Victory

Libertarians in San Mateo County defeated a parcel tax of \$17 million in the Redwood City School District on May 3, saving each property owner \$425 over the next five years. Owners of apartments, commercial, or industrial property would have paid even more—up to \$12,500 over the same period.

The proponents waged a “big lie” campaign, steadfastly maintaining that the District’s budget had been cut, for five years in a row, and that the District would be forced to reduce class sizes, if voters didn’t approve a tax increase.

In fact, the District employed 150 more teachers than it had classrooms, plus an additional 350 ancillary employees, including 100 clerical and administra-

tive workers, to tend only 17 schools! While financial data for the last two years are not yet final, the District’s budget for the previous three years showed an aggregate increase of 25%.

How did the San Mateo LP fight back? With ballot arguments, newspaper interviews, letters to the editor, and e-mail to voters—all of this spearheaded by their Chair, **Jack Hickey**, and Secretary, **Christopher Schmidt**.

The ballot arguments can be found on the Smart Voter web site at www.SmartVoter.org/2005/05/03/ca/sm/meas/V/.

In recent years, San Mateo County libertarians have defeated numerous parcel taxes, bonds, and even a sales tax, in local cities and districts; totaling approximately half a billion dollars.

You can do it too! When you read in the paper about a city or local district calling a tax election, get in touch with your county registrar of voters to learn the timetable and procedure for the election right away. Typically there is a 10-day window of opportunity to file ballot arguments—and there is a very good chance you could be the sole filer.

We may lose more elections than we win; nonetheless, our victories add up to being the most effective opposition to higher taxes in San Mateo County. ●



• **Jack Hickey**
Chair, San Mateo LP

San Francisco “Pride” Celebration June 25-26

Outright Libertarians of the San Francisco Bay area are leading the effort for Libertarian representation at the 2005 Pride Parade and Celebration. On June 25 and 26, the street fair and exhibitors, including Outright’s “Operation Politically Homeless” booth, will open at noon, with the world-famous San Francisco Pride Parade stepping off on Sunday morning at 10:30.

“The Pride Parade and Celebration is our main outreach activity each year,” said Richard Newell, chair of the local chapter of Outright Libertarians. “The local and nearby county affiliates of the Libertarian Party always provide a great turnout to help with both the booth and the parade. With their well-appreciated support, we hope to have another great event this year. It’s always a lot of fun, and a lot of people form a more



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierty

• **Libertarians Terry Floyd (l.), and Sandy Pierre, as Lady Liberty, marched in the 2004 SF Pride Parade.**

favorable opinion of the Party because of our participation.”

Libertarian Michael Badnarik rode in the parade in 2004, as part of his Presidential campaign tour through California. He was the only Presidential candidate to participate in Pride, which in part stands for the right of individuals to equal treatment under the law, regardless of their sexual orientation.

The celebration runs from noon until 6:00 on Saturday, and until 7:00 on Sunday. Outright Libertarians has tentatively been assigned booth D12, on Grove Street near the library.

For information or to volunteer, please contact Marcy Berry, Chair of LP of San Francisco (AMarcyB@Hotmail.com), or Rich Newell, Outright’s local chair (Richard@Newell.org). For more on San Francisco Pride 2005, visit SFPrize.org. ●

• **Rich Newell, local chair of Outright Libertarians**



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierty

Outreach LPC at JSA Convention

The LPC spanned the entire width of the exhibit hall at the annual convention of the Junior State of America (JSA) on April 16. Several political parties and other vendors vied for the fresh, open minds of high school and college students fascinated by politics and government.

Allen Hacker, LPC Executive Committee member and Chair of the LP of Santa Clara County (LPSCC), was joined at the event, held at Santa Clara’s

Marriott Hotel, by fellow LPC Executive Committee member **Kevin Takenaga** (also LPSCC Campaigns Chair), and fellow LPSCC’ers **Bob Goodwyn** (Activities Chair), **David Hacker**, and **John Webster**, and by LPC Northern Vice Chair **Lawrence Samuels**, a veteran of these conventions.

“After three or four years of distributing libertarian materials and buttons,” Samuels observed, “I have discovered that the students appear more



Photo: L.K. Samuels

• **Allen Hacker and young conventioners of the Junior State of America examine their distribution across the political spectrum after having taken the World’s Smallest Political Quiz. Youthful idealism seems to veer these prospective politicians to the liberal and libertarian camps on the Nolan “diamond” chart; April 16.**

accepting of our ideas. Many have read my book—*Facets of Liberty*—and find much to agree with. Some want to discuss a particular chapter. Others say that their JSA highlight is going through our large pile of buttons. One girl sported several of our buttons on her purse. Since we had just set up our booth, I wondered out loud where she had gotten them. She said that the buttons have been stuck

• **LPC Northern Vice Chair Lawrence Samuels (r.) explains the fallacy of prohibition, and the failure of the War on Drugs, to young prospective statesmen; April 16.**

to her purse since the last JSA convention in November. Talk about good advertising!”

As the LP gave away buttons and literature, at the opposite end of the hall, the Green

Party, whose platform includes the advocacy of socialism, was requesting that students pay for their Party propaganda. ●

Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierty



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