

California Freedom

January 2006

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

■ Election 2006

LPC Fills Ticket for Statewide Offices

by **Ted Brown**

Chair, LPC Candidate Recruiting

I'm pleased to announce that the Libertarian Party of California will be offering a full contingent of candidates for statewide offices in Election '06. Twelve candidates for statewide office, including the four districts of the Board of

Photo: Laura Brown



• **Kenneth Weissman (left) and Art Olivier at Southern Calif. candidate training seminar on Dec. 10.**

President in 2000, taking the message of liberty across the nation.

Lynnette Shaw's bid for **Lieutenant Governor** has already garnered coverage in the *Marin Independent Journal*. Shaw is a professional musician from Fairfax (Marin County) who has been active in the medical marijuana movement. She served on the Marin Drug and Alcohol Abuse Advisory Board, and has been involved in litigation to protect the rights of medical marijuana patients. Currently she runs a legal cannabis club.



• **Gail Lightfoot**

Gail Lightfoot of Arroyo Grande (San Luis Obispo County) will run for **Secretary of State**, California's top elections official. Gail is a retired nurse who has been active in the LP for

over 30 years. She has served as chair of the LP of California, and is currently chair of San Luis Obispo County LP. She has run twice previously for Secretary of State, and has also run for U.S. Senator.

Donna Tello of Poway (San Diego County) will seek the State **Controller** position. A tax accountant by trade, Tello has been a long-time activist, and has previously sought state legislative office.



• **Donna Tello**

Marian Smithson, a CPA who was recently re-elected as West Covina city treasurer without op-



• **Marian Smithson**

position, will again run for California State **Treasurer**.

Kenneth Weissman, an attorney with offices in Beverly Hills (L.A. County), will run for **Attorney General**, California's top lawyer. Weissman previously ran for Board of Equalization in 2002.

Dale Ogden of San Pedro (Los Angeles County) will run for **Insurance Commissioner**. Ogden is an insurance consultant and actuary, and ran previously in 1998 and in 2002.



• **Dale Ogden**

California is the only state with an elected **Board of Equalization**. It consists of the State Controller and four district representatives, and it administers all state taxes except for the state income tax. Obviously, this would be a great

board for Libertarians to serve on. Libertarians who have announced for the four district seats are: **Kennita Watson** of Santa Clara County, **Willard Michlin** of Ventura County, **Ethel Mohler** of San Bernardino County, and **Monica Kadera** of Los Angeles County.

Counting local races, the LP is up to about 105 candidates announced so far across California (as of this writing). I look forward to working with all of the candidates and their teams as the LP of California gears up for Election 2006! ●

Ted Brown has run for public office more often than any other California Libertarian and has served as LPC Chair. Currently he serves our LPC Executive Committee as chairman of the Platform Committee and Candidate Coordinator. You may reach him via e-mail at TedBrown1776@Hotmail.com.



Equalization, have announced their candidacies for the 2006 election, and activists will be working to qualify them for the ballot during January and February.

Leading the state ticket in the race for **Governor** will be **Art Olivier**. A businessman and Realtor, Olivier served as Mayor of Bellflower in Los Angeles County, and has firsthand experience dealing with government bureaucrats. He was the Libertarian candidate for Vice

■ Property Rights

Eminent Domain: Our Imminent Opportunity

by **Jay Smith**

Chair, LPC Eminent Domain Committee

The upcoming election cycle will likely provide libertarians an opportunity that does not present itself in every election. In response to the failure of the U.S. Supreme Court to protect private property rights, through its decision in the *Kelo vs. New London, Connecticut* case last year, there are now three proposed initiatives that have been filed with the State of California for official title and summary, designed to define a "taking for public use" in a manner more protective of private property.

My purpose at this time is not to offer an exposition of the differences between the three

proposed initiatives. It is sufficient to say that, in my opinion, libertarians will be able to support any one—or all three—of these initiatives which may appear on the ballot. The questions we need to address are: what can the LPC do to ensure that these initiatives appear on the ballot and subsequently are passed by the voters, and how can the LPC benefit from that successful effort?

At the LPC Executive Committee meeting on Nov. 19, 2005, I was appointed to chair a newly formed Eminent Domain Committee. I have asked the county LP officers to help find at least one person in each active county to join this committee. It is expected that the person will be part of a similar county committee on eminent domain. Now, I'm

asking for your help—each and every LPC member—to achieve this first goal.

I envision the committee as a round-table group, rather than hierarchically. The goal is to gather information from each county about what has been efficacious for them, and to share that information with all other counties. In this way, I expect that the entire LPC can be kept abreast of the latest information. It will then be possible for the LPC, as a cohesive unit, to take the most important action at any given moment.

The goal of the Committee is to galvanize all parts of the LPC to take action. If we can all work in the same direction, the sum of our efforts will exceed a simple tally of the individual contributions. This Committee can enable the LPC to maintain a tight focus on the issue and

3 Competing Initiatives

To compare the three proposed Calif. initiatives triggered by the U.S. Supreme Court's *Kelo vs. New London* decision decimating private property rights nationwide, visit the Attorney General's web site, at <http://ag.ca.gov/initiatives/activeindex.htm>. Under "initiative measures—active," you may review the text of each measure and check on its status.

- SA2005RF0133: "California Property Owner Protection Act."
- SA2005RF0134: "The Homeowners & Private Property Protection Act of 2006."
- SA2005RF0135: "California Eminent Domain Limitations Act."

From a libertarian perspective, all three measures have worthwhile provisions. The LPC has endorsed the second one (no. "0134"), and we'll be watching to see which one(s) become qualified for next year's ballot.

• See **Domain** page 6

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SUBMISSION DEADLINES

All news stories, editorials, and announcements are due six weeks prior to the month of publication:

- March 2006: Due 1/18/06
- April 2006: Due 2/18/06
- May 2006: Due 3/20/06

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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Operation Breakthrough Renewed



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

We're entering an election year in California. Of course, with all the special elections we've been having lately, it seems like every year is an election year.

Ted Brown is doing a good job of recruiting candidates for our partisan races. By the time you read this, many of our partisan race candidates will be collecting signatures to get on the ballot. You'll be saving our candidates a lot of money in filing fees if you take the time to sign a petition.

Of course, you all know by now that my real love is local elections. If you are at all in-

terested in running for a winnable race, please e-mail me at StarrCPA@PacBell.net. I've managed campaigns where candidates have won, and gone on to help make their community a better, freer place. If you start planning now, you have an excellent chance of succeeding.

This year we're bringing back a winning formula for getting people elected to local office. It's a project I call "Operation Breakthrough." During a three-year stretch, we elected over 50 people to public office by matching registered Libertarian voters with low-level offices. It requires a massive campaign



where we contact tens of thousands of Libertarians by mail and phone, and enlist hundreds of them to run for office. It's a brutally hard task—we burned out two executive directors in the process.

We can be a debating society with ballot status, or a political party that elects people to office. I choose the latter.

The person spearheading the day-to-day operations has to be well organized, be able to work with databases, and understand the selling process required to enlist someone to commit to run for office and ultimately to file the paperwork. During these last few years we haven't had someone available with this particular mix of skills who could take the ball and run with it.

That's about to change. We

have been offered an amazing gift.

M Carling, a member of our board of directors, has agreed to uproot himself, move to Southern California, and work full-time on Operation Breakthrough...without a salary.

Now that's dedication to the cause!!!

From my personal dealings with Mr. Carling, I know he possesses the skill set needed to lead this effort. When he comes around to ask you for your support, please be sure to give generously. Remember, he's giving us his all.

We have one of two paths we can choose: either we can be a debating society with ballot status, or a political party that elects people to office. I choose the latter, and I hope you'll join me in this noble endeavor.

Our choice of the correct path will benefit us, our state, our country, and the generations who will follow.

—Aaron Starr
Chairman,
LP of California

Liberty at Sea '06



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is mid-December as I write this, and over 100 folks have already booked their spots for our "Liberty at Sea Convention '06."

In case you're wondering, last year at this time, the booked attendance for our 2005 state convention was...zero.

I hear that Libertarians are a notoriously last-minute group, so I can only surmise that this level of early participation denotes a high level of excitement among our members. What we're also finding is that "significant others" want to join us, very uncommon in the past. One of our attending members, a travel agent, couldn't believe the great rate that our Chairman, **Aaron Starr**, was able to negotiate for us. For one terrific fee, not only will we be able to devote a full day to business—steering our Party's direction for

the next year—but we'll also spend three wonderful nights sailing the Pacific enjoying fine dining, Broadway-style entertainment, and (how Libertarian-appropriate) legal gambling.



On Saturday, while we're docked in Mexico, there are great local cantinas, shops, and wine tours;

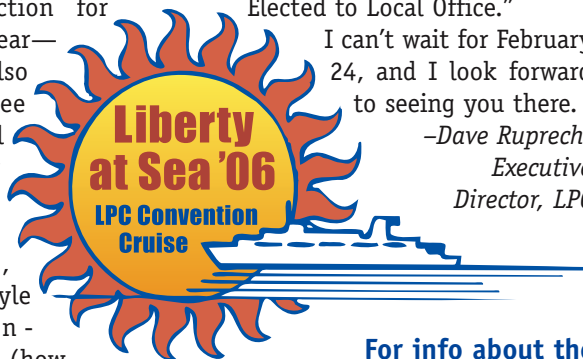
or some may decide to stay on board and enjoy the incredible array of activities available. I invite you to visit www.CA.LP.org/convention to learn more about those.

Our keynote speaker this year will be **Adrian Moore**, Vice President of Research at Reason Foundation.

In October, **Kevin Takenaga** and I heard Moore speak at Reason's Dynamic Cities Conference, and he is terrific! He oversees all of Reason's policy research on such topics as privatization, government and regulatory reform, air quality, transportation and urban growth, prisons, and utilities. Since we are a political party whose main thrust is to elect Libertarians to office, Adrian will be speaking on: "What You Can Accomplish After You're Elected to Local Office."

I can't wait for February 24, and I look forward to seeing you there.

—Dave Ruprecht
Executive
Director, LPC



For info about the
Feb. 24–27 convention:
www.CA.LP.org/convention

In Memoriam



Thea McLean Libertarian Freedom Fighter

Thea McLean was my Right Hand for 35 years.

When Thea, her son, Donald, and I returned from the Libertarian Party of California convention held in San Diego, in the 1970's, she began to read furiously about the LP, and soon became a member. The following year, we again attended the LPC convention, this time aboard the *Queen Mary*, and that was it: we began planning the convention in Oakland for the year after that.

Along with her work organizing and working at LP of California conventions, Thea maintained the database for the Contra Costa Libertarian Party, and edited their newsletter for three years. She was elected to a term as Treasurer of the California state party, and when Gail Lightfoot became Chair of the LPC, Thea took over Gail's role as database manager.

Although Thea didn't serve as Treasurer again, she did work as the LPC bookkeeper and was put in charge of membership renewal, to take the load off the

official Treasurer. When Mark Hinkle became Chair and then established an LPC office, Thea returned to being just an avid, loyal member.

At one point, Thea was elected as one of LPC's two representatives to the LP National Committee, and served a three-year term, due to a change in the rules.

Thea's activism wasn't limited just to the LP. Since our move from the East Bay to McCloud, Calif., she has been Treasurer of both McCloud Lions and the Chamber of Commerce, and was serving as a director of the McCloud Health Care Clinic at the time of her death on November 21, 2005.

Thea had a simply enormous list of Libertarians whom she loved dearly, and recently she'd been plotting to make it to more state conventions to renew acquaintance with her philosophical family.

Thea's memorial service was held in McCloud on Dec. 6.

—Hugh McLean

■ LPC Business

Report of Fourth Quarter Exec. Committee Meeting

by **Daniel Wiener**
Secretary, LP of California

The Libertarian Party of California Executive Committee held its quarterly meeting in Sunnyvale on November 19. Much of the time was spent on reports from officers, committee chairs, and the Executive Director.

Ted Brown announced that libertarians would again have a contingent in the annual Doo Dah parade, to be held on November 20 in Pasadena. LPC Chairman **Aaron Starr** reported that Reason Foundation's **Adrian Moore** will be the keynote speaker at the 2006 state convention, on the topic of "What You Can Accomplish After You're Elected to Local Office." Executive Director **Dave Ruprecht** reported that 397 people had responded to the September membership renewal mailing.

The Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA) has had its intended effect of protecting the Republican-Democrat political duopoly, and severely restricting the free speech rights of smaller political parties. Because of BCRA's legal limitations, the LPC has been prevented from inserting mail-in registration forms into *California Freedom*, and also has been prevented from showing a Libertarian TV commercial featuring Dave Ruprecht, who's not only our Executive Director but a professional actor. The Executive Committee had to go into closed session a couple of times to discuss various BCRA legal issues.

The LPC will be running advertisements on Google as an experiment. The state headquarters office suffered through another computer crash, but fortunately, most of the data were recovered. Minutes (or summaries) from 86 past Executive Committee meetings are now available for review on line at <http://snurl.com/excom>, along with minutes from 21 past state conventions at <http://snurl.com/convention>.

At the recent Libertarian National Committee meeting, representatives **M Carling** and **Aaron Starr** were successful in replacing the current members of the national Program Committee and selecting **Bruce**



Dovner as one of the new members. The Executive Committee also selected **Bruce Dovner** to be the LPC Program Coordinator, and **Ted Brown** to be the LPC Platform Coordinator. **Brian Holtz** was selected as our representative to the national Platform Committee, and **Kevin Takenaga** was selected as our



• **Clockwise from head of table: Aaron Starr, Chairman; At-Large Reps Allen Hacker, Bruce Cohen, Kevin Takenaga, and Bruce Dovner; Willard Michlin, Treasurer; Paul Ireland, At-Large Rep; Daniel Wiener, Secretary; Lawrence Samuels, Northern Vice Chair; At-Large Reps Mark Johnson, Rick Nichol, Ted Brown, Rich Newell.**

representative to the national Credentials Committee. **Jay Smith** was appointed chair of a new LPC committee on Eminent Domain.

A preliminary 2006 budget was approved unanimously. The LPC presently has net assets of \$106,000, a significant portion of which is earmarked for election-year activities and Operation Breakthrough in 2006. The budget was based on very conservative estimates, given the great uncertainties resulting from the end of the combined state-national LP Unified Membership Plan, the resulting extra costs of mailing *California Freedom*, and our assuming the membership and database functions from the national party.

A new Standing Resolution was approved to govern the rental of the LPC mailing list. **Ted Brown** reported that so far, he had recruited over 70 partisan LP candidates for 2006, including **Art Olivier** for Governor, **Lynnette Shaw** for Lt. Governor, **Donna Tello** for Controller, **Kenneth Weissman** for Attorney General, and **Dale Ogden** for Insurance

Commissioner. **M Carling** reported that a 4,000-piece test mailing would go out to four groups of registered Libertarians. **Richard Newell** reported that *The Libertarian Perspective*, the LPC's op-ed column, continues to be sent out to newspapers around the state on a weekly basis, and has been printed in several different papers.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be

held aboard a Royal Caribbean cruise ship during the weekend of the state LP convention, February 24-27, 2006. ●

■ Web Watch

The Libertarian Action Network

LibertarianActivism.com



Modern Libertarianism for Today's America" is the slogan of the Libertarian Action Network (LAN), which made its appearance on line around March, 2005. Conceived by some (apparently two) very private but very libertarian people, its intent is to be "a useful and informative resource for libertarians, political activists, and anyone who believes in the protection of civil rights and liberties for all, but without the corruption and abuse of the citizenry that invariably follows 'government intervention.'"

The LAN seeks to "inform, inspire, and invigorate the proponents of liberty, independence, and personal responsibility," and to that end, their mission includes these goals:

- Inform the libertarian activist community and the public about "the looming sociopolitical issues that are important, but not talked about on other web sites";
- To "stimulate action among our college and university student peers, and the community";
- To further libertarian and free-market capitalist causes; and
- To "do our part to preserve the peace of mind and sanity of dissident activists worldwide by assembling information and resources to safeguard personal privacy and anonymity."

They also promote, among other principles, "total and complete adherence" to the U.S. Constitution, a truly free and open economic and financial market, and creativity and independent critical thinking.

For newcomers to libertarianism, there's a page introducing visitors to the philosophy. It refers not only to the Party, but to several of the LPC's favorite allies, such as Advocates for Self-Government, Peacemakers Rock, Grow the LP, and DownsizeDC Foundation.

The site offers reviews of select books. Featured as of this writing is *How To Be Invisible: The Essential Guide to Protecting Your Personal Privacy, Your Assets, and Your Life*, by J.J. Luna.

The LAN's "Liberty Lamp" web log is "dedicated to the advancement of libertarian principles, and to the protection of activist groups' privacy and ability to 'be the change they want to see in the world.'" There they log a new entry roughly once per week, with commentary on such topics as 1960's fighter of oppression Malcolm "X" Little, Reinhard Heydrich, a brutal Nazi, a recent immigration conference, and the definition of "government," plus links to more comprehensive essays. ●

■ Correction

Local Elected Official Bill Thomasan

In the December issue of *California Freedom* ("Three LP'ers Win in Special Election", page 1) we reported that **William "Bill" Thomasan** had won his election for Truckee-Donner Resource Conservation District Board. But his victory was not this past November 8, but in the election of November 2, 2004, and the name of the board is the Truckee-Donner Public Utilities District (P.U.D.).

We apologize for the error, but *not* for having congratulated Thomasan on his success!

Thomasan, who had run for State Assembly in 2000, earning just over 3% in that partisan race, tells *California Freedom* that he placed highest among the five candidates (25.13%, or 3,206 votes) vying for only three seats on the P.U.D. His

campaign tactics included frequent play of a professional radio spot, extensive posting of simple signs which had impact, and participating in a televised candidates' forum, where only two of his rivals appeared.

After the first year of his four-year term, Thomasan reports, "I think we've changed the make-up of the board, to the point that we're starting to question management, and holding their feet to the fire."

Their current battle is over a proposed price increase of 7% for water and 7% for electricity. Thomasan emphasizes regularly that spending cuts should be their first plan of attack, and hopes that his repetition of that option will have the effect of minimizing what may be, unfortunately, an inevitable rate increase. A public hearing on

the matter is scheduled for Jan. 4, and Thomasan has promised to report on the results and on his experience influencing local politics.

As LPC Chair **Aaron Starr** reports ("From the Chairman," page 2), **M Carling** will be spearheading our next Operation Breakthrough project, whose mission is to get more libertarians elected to just such local offices. If the idea of joining Bill Thomasan in influencing government policy firsthand appeals to you, contact LPC Chairman Aaron Starr, at StarrCPA@PacBell.net.

If you know of other Libertarians in local office, whether elected or appointed, please let us know! Write to Editor@CaliforniaFreedom.org, or phone the LPC office at 1(877)884-1776. ●

■ Outreach

LPC Reaches Out to Youth at Largest JSA Convention Ever

by **Lawrence Samuels**

LPC Northern Vice Chair

The Junior State of America (JSA) had their largest Northern California convention yet—over 1,200 students piled into the Marriott Hotel in Santa Clara on Nov. 19.

The Junior State of America is the self-described “largest student-run high school organization in America, with over 16,000 members.... It is a nonpartisan group filled with members that are interested in politics, government, debate, the law, and education. What makes JSA so special is that students organize every aspect of it. Junior State conventions allow for an exchange of ideas between students through debates, thought talks, problem solving, open forum discussions, mock trials, political fairs, and many various simulations such as campaign workshops.”

The LP of California had a good crew at the Libertarian



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierty

Party booth. **Morey Straus** and **Starchild** trekked from San Francisco County to help out. Newcomer **Lois Garcia**

had found us on the web, and turned up at Santa Clara County LP's election night party, where she learned of our JSA participation. Also helping out were **Travis Griffiths** of Monterey County, and **John Inks** of Santa Clara County.

One young Junior Stateswoman said that she had read my book, *Facets of Liberty: A Libertarian Primer*, not once or twice but “three times,” and that she'd enjoyed it immensely. She mentioned that when she gets older, she plans to become involved in the libertarian movement. This may just give me the impetus to update and reprint the book, whose stock I've gradually been depleting by giving out about 800 at JSA conventions over the years.



Photo: L. K. Samuels

• **L-R: LPC activists John Inks (at chart), Morey Straus (partly obscured), and Lois Garcia responding to the inquiring young minds of Junior State of America members, on Nov. 19 in Santa Clara.**

Another student reported having read Robert LeFevre's *Fundamentals of Liberty*—given out at last year's booth—not at

all an easy read.

At the close of the convention, most of our team headed down the street to Pedro's

Restaurant & Cantina for dinner and conversation. First-time JSA assistants Starchild and Straus liked the event so much that they said they'd like to write some material for the next one.

Keeping our approach fresh certainly won't hurt in generating early interest in the Party of Principle among these bright young future statesmen. ●

LAWRENCE SAMUELS is editor and contributing author of Facets of Liberty: A Libertarian Primer, a collection of political, economic, and sociological essays. Samuels won honorable mention at the East of Eden Writers Conference in 2002 for his historical novel, Ferret: The Reluctant King. He is a member of the California Writers Club, and in the early 1980s was editor of Rampart Institute's quarterly magazine. Currently Samuels serves as Northern Vice Chair of the LPC.

■ Outreach

Outright Libertarians at Youth Empowerment Summit

by **Richard Newell**

LPC Media Relations Chair

Libertarians were the only political group represented at the Youth Empowerment Summit sponsored by the Gay-Straight Alliance Network on December 3 in San Francisco. The Outright Libertarians of the San Francisco Bay Area (OLSFBA) rented a table at the conference, which drew several hundred high school students from Santa Cruz to Sonoma, and as far away as the central valley, along with several dozen of their teachers. The Gay-Straight Alliance Network has about 200 chapters in California high schools, and 1,000 nationwide.

We displayed Ken Schoolland's and Lux Lucre's ISIL flash animation (www.ISIL.org/resources/introduction.swf) on a flat-screen monitor; that seemed to draw some people to the booth. The Outright Libertarian banner, used last year in the S.F. Pride Parade, looked swell high up on the wall. All in all, we had perhaps the best-looking table there—definitely the largest, after we homesteaded every square inch in sight!

We got a lot of heads nodding

up and down in agreement with the libertarian live-and-let-live approach, which resonated well with this group. A number of

instrumental in helping make a Libertarian presence possible at this event. First and foremost, Northern Vice Chair



Photo: Starchild


• **Richard Newell (left) answers questions from teens attending the Youth Empowerment Summit held on Dec. 3, at Horace Mann Middle School in San Francisco.**

teachers, too, were genuinely interested in our message. One teacher, who purchased a book, provided a nearly perfect explanation of what libertarianism is, before I had a chance to answer a student's question. If only our message were that well understood by every teacher!

Several Libertarian Party of California (LPC) members were

Lawrence Samuels deserves our thanks for having found out about this event, and for providing Outright Libertarians and the Libertarian Party of San Francisco (LPSF) with the right contacts. Samuels also personally provided a needed stash of political buttons, books, and

• See **Outright** page 5




Shopping for a home?

Tap into the Libertarian Network of Realtors and help boost income to the LPC!

Longtime Libertarian and Chair of Calaveras County Libertarians, Al Segalla, with his 25 years of experience as a Realtor, has created a way for you to work with Libertarian Realtors while benefiting the LPC. It's a Libertarian Realty Network! As directed by you, their Libertarian customer, Network Realtors will donate 20% of their Network commissions to the LPC or any other Libertarian cause you endorse.

Tap in! Visit www.BambiLand.com/NetWork.html

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



Albert J. Segalla, Realtor
Chair, LP of Calaveras County

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Outright

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brochures. The buttons were a big hit with the younger crowd, as he had predicted.

Kudos go to **Starchild**, who helped in making the arrangements, also brought materials, and manned the table the whole day with me. Starchild even registered a Libertarian voter! LPSF and Free State Project member **Morey Straus** arrived just in time to spell us so we could enjoy lunch. OLSFBA Vice-Chair **Michael Acree** and LPSF member **Mike Denny** made pledges that allowed us to refresh our stock of GLBT-oriented brochures at the last minute.

At next year's event, we may even participate in a workshop, in addition to renting a table. All in all, this was a successful event which I hope Outright Libertarians will repeat every year, and in other locales. ●

OUTRIGHT LIBERTARIANS USA is an association of gay, lesbian, bisexual, "queer" and transgendered Libertarian Party activists and supporters. We welcome anyone who believes in individual liberty and personal responsibility, and who wishes to actively promote Libertarian ideas and ideals to all those who love differently. Outright is not officially affiliated with the Libertarian Party of



• A student sports a simple image conveying the right to freely choose one's partner. Richard Newell in background.

California, though many members of Outright are also members of LPC. Those wishing to join with us, please visit our web site at www.OutrightUSA.org, or e-mail me at Richard@Newell.org. We are especially interested in starting a Southern California chapter to create a Libertarian presence at the Los Angeles Pride Parade and events like the one covered in this article.

RICHARD NEWELL is an At-Large Representative serving on the LPC Executive Committee, and Chair of the Media Relations subcommittee. He is also Chair of Outright Libertarians of the San Francisco Bay Area, and Vice-Chair of Outright libertarians USA.

What's the Latest?

For the latest activities and discussions of the Libertarian Party of California, and to link to your local region's site, visit our web site: www.CA.LP.org



Youth Commentary

Our Complacent Youth

by Ali Meyer

High School Student



In the past few months, I have been very politically active in my community. I started a petition against Prop. 73; I founded a political club at my school; and I've visited other high schools to share the political news as well. From all of that activism, I have come to one basic conclusion: our youth are complacent and passive.

I don't mean that there aren't caring individuals. After wading through thousands of uncaring kids, the few that really are concerned with the state of the world stand out. But

for the most part, despite slogans such as "Vote or Die," and the involvement in politics of celebrities such as Angelina Jolie, the youth of today do not find it necessary to occupy themselves with issues of local, national, or international concern.

I began to notice this trend last year, when I tried to found a Young Libertarians club at my school. The lack of interest transformed the club into the Alternative Political Parties Club. I saw this development as a good thing, not only because debate about current events would be much more diverse, but because I was (secretly)

A Better Way to Redistrict!

by Edward Teyssier

Chair, LP of San Diego County

Thankfully, Proposition 77, the legislative redistricting measure, failed in California's Nov. 8 election. But redistricting is still very much needed. Specifically, what is needed is a method of redistricting which eliminates the present "soviet-style" system, wherein the state legislators select their voters, rather than the other way around.

I'd like the State Bar associations to investigate and lead the way toward using the "single transferable vote" method of Proportional Representation (P.R.) voting, with legislative districts grouped into multi-seat "super-districts." P.R., in various forms, is the method of voting used by most of the non-English-speaking democracies around the world, particularly the newer ones. What I am proposing, and what I think is needed here, is the type of proportional representation used by the citizens of Cambridge, Mass., to elect their local city legislators—hence my use of the expression, "Cambridge-style P.R."

For example, in San Diego, there are six full State Assembly districts plus two half districts (since AD 73 partially extends into Orange, and part of AD 66 extends into Riverside). But they are gerrymandered to the point that none of them is considered a competitive seat, and the political party which

presently occupies them will continue to occupy them until the next redistricting, without any fear of any challenger having any effect. Incumbents can do what they want and have no fear of their constituents. This is soviet-style "democracy"! Clearly, gerrymandering needs to be eliminated.

In the example of San Diego County, I suggest that those six full and two half Assembly districts be grouped into one countywide "super-district," with seven seats, and that those seats be filled using Cambridge-style P.R. In other words, the existing demographic, economic, and political boundaries of San Diego County would be one "super district," but with seven (7) State Assembly seats. The other counties throughout the state would be similarly combined and/or consolidated along their own, existing county borders.

The district lines for Congressional and State Senate seats also would be similarly consolidated or combined into their own "super district," according to the same, or similar, existing county and/or geographic, demographic, political

boundary lines. Voting using P.R. means the election of the seats according to the percentage of voters voting for those seats. The present "plurality" method, if used, would require a simple plurality of voters to elect all the seats, thereby defeating the whole purpose of using "super-districts" for eliminating gerrymandering.

By eliminating political gerrymandering, and having instead district boundaries that follow existing geo-demographic boundaries, we would eliminate gerrymandering, thereby making the legislators responsive to their constituents—the whole purpose of a representative democracy, correct? ●

EDWARD TEYSSIER is founder & president of Microwave Solutions, Inc., a high-tech design & manufacturing company. He has served as Chair of the LP of San Diego for over 5 years. Teyssier recently passed the bar, and seeks to represent clients involved in Libertarian-related causes.



Happy New Year, California Libertarians!



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• See **Youth** page 6

■ Election 2006

LPC Backs Statewide Initiative Protecting Rights of Private Property Owners

The Libertarian Party of California (LPC) has thrown its support behind "The Homeowners & Private Property Protection Act of 2006," a state constitutional amendment initiative filed by Senator Tom McClintock, which would limit state and local governments' use of eminent domain to bona fide public purposes such as roads and public facilities.

The proposed amendment, which specifically bars the taking of private property either for transfer to another private owner, or where the "public purpose" is to increase tax revenue, also is supported by Jon Coupal, President of Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, and Orange County Supervisor Chris Norby.

"With the recent *Kelo* decision by the Supreme Court [*Kelo vs. New London, Conn.*, case no. 04-108], the federal government has abandoned private property owners in favor of aggressive local governments and politically powerful special interests, who now have carte blanche to condemn anyone's home or business in order to advance nearly any conceivable government objective," says LPC Chairman **Aaron Starr**. "The only recourse for the people of each state to put a stop to this runaway abuse of eminent domain is through state-level legislation

or constitutional amendments. This initiative does just that. It puts right in California what *Kelo* has broken."

Adds **Dan Wiener**, Secretary of the LPC, "People of all political stripes are justifiably outraged that local cities and agencies can forcibly take their homes, and then just transfer the property to another private

The LPC supports a state constitutional amendment initiative filed by Senator Tom McClintock. We encourage all eligible Californians to sign the initiative petition.

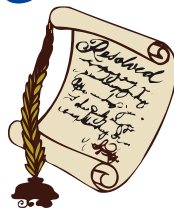
owner or corporation. Increased tax revenue is not the 'public use' people understood that eminent domain was reserved for. The Supreme Court gutted the Fifth Amendment in the *Kelo* decision, and "The Homeowners & Private Property Protection Act of 2006" has been carefully drafted to restore our rights. There are provisions that require the government agency to state

the public purpose which any condemned property is going to be put to, and protections against bait-and-switch tactics."

"The Libertarian Party of California wants to be among the first and fiercest supporters of this measure, which restores the primacy of private property rights amongst the protections provided by the state constitution," concludes Starr.

The Libertarian Party of California encourages all eligible Californians to sign the initiative petition and to vote for "The Homeowners & Private Property Protection Act of 2006." ●

See page 1 for the first in a series from the chairman of our newly formed LPC Eminent Domain Committee.



Domain

continued from page 1

to provide an organizational cohesiveness to the effort.

The Committee will strive to have at least one article in every issue of *California Freedom* and in every county LP newsletter. These articles need not be submitted to the Committee; we would merely urge that they be short on theory, and long on factual examples of abuse of eminent domain, with practical discussions about effective political action.

I would encourage county committees to research examples of the abuse of eminent domain in their localities.

The structure of the LPC has our candidates doing most of the political work. Examples of local abuse of eminent domain powers can be useful to the candidates, both as ammunition to support the initiatives, and to enhance their campaigns. Since all indications are that the initiatives will have popular support, our candidates should benefit from close association with them. We'll attempt to interest every one of our candidates in making the issue a centerpiece of

his or her campaign.

You can join two electronic groups for information about how to fight eminent domain abuse, updates on the initiatives' approval process, and instructions on how to support the initiatives, if there is no local LP presence active on this issue. On the Web, go to *Groups.Yahoo.com*; then under "Find a Group," search in turn for these two groups: *fight_ca_ed_abuse* and *LimitEminentDomain*. Click on the button labeled "Join this Group," and follow the instructions provided by Yahoo to get on board. I also welcome you to contact me at *JAE4Free@AOL.com*.

All libertarians can agree on the need to protect private property rights. In certain areas it may be necessary to work as individuals, and/or as part of other, related groups, but it would be an advance for the LPC if these efforts by local libertarians could be recognized as part of a statewide, organized, and supported LPC effort. Let's not let this opportunity pass! ●



Youth

continued from page 5



So, I changed the discussion. I assumed everyone at my all-girls school would know the significance of *Roe vs. Wade*, and (thankfully) I wasn't wrong. So I made the tie-in to Prop. 73, the proposition which would require parental consent for an abortion, and which was going to be voted on in about a month.

I figured this was probably one of the most pressing issues in girls' lives, even if it wasn't directly applicable to any particular girl. And since no individual could really object to a pro-choice stance in a room full of girls who basically cared about their rights, there was no protest when we began a campaign to oppose Prop. 73.

That was essentially the high point of political activism that I have seen in high school kids. From there, we tried to collect as many signatures as possible from teenagers (who obviously aren't yet permitted to demonstrate their opinion through a vote), and we planned to send the signatures to our Congresswomen, the governor, the media, and so on.

But collecting signatures was harder than expected. When a diatribe about individual rights

left most kids staring blankly, we resorted to giving away candy. At other schools, I think our doggedness, and not our words, forced signatures from people who didn't want to listen. Quite often we received a resigned sigh and a signature in the middle of a sentence, and were left eagerly talking to ourselves.

Help the Libertarian Party inform kids about current events. It is imperative that our youth care about the world.

When I first considered the idea of at least informing kids today, I thought it would be pretty easy. After all, Angelina Jolie, one of today's hottest actresses, is a goodwill diplomat for the United Nations. And lots of music lyrics, especially by so-called "socially conscious" rappers, deal with politics. Even popular television shows, such as "Family Guy," delve into that realm a little.

But most of the kids that I came into contact with were completely ambivalent about the world they will inherit.

Granted, it's not always considered "cool" to start up a conversation with an analysis of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, or the effect of U.S. troops on the economy in Uzbekistan. But for issues that youth should be concerned about, like abortion, or the war, or the presidency, I saw, essentially, a bunch of complacent teenagers.

So when you read this, don't be another complacent individual. Help the Libertarian Party inform kids about current events. It is imperative that our youth care about the world, because we are the ones that will have to inherit it soon enough. We are the next generation of voters, and statesmen, and cabinet members. If our youth continue to remain as unaffected as they are now, what will become of our fine nation?

This is a very important issue, and one that I try to work away at in my school, little by little, every day. Let's stave off the passivity of the next generation, for the long-term benefit of our country. ●

ALI MEYER attends an all-girl private school in Los Angeles. Meyer wrote for California Freedom during her summer break, while also doing volunteer work at a local hospital; this enterprising teenager, 15 at the time, was "too young to work"—for money, that is, according to the law.

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■ From the Southern Vice Chair

What is Your Meta Message? Effective Communication for Libertarians

by **Mark Selzer**

LPC Southern Vice Chair

The “meta message” is a phenomenon that has been joked about on TV sitcoms and in sales presentations, and now has entered the pantheon of our pop culture dialogue. But what exactly does it mean? It is an overt or larger meaning you are sending, that can be as loud as or louder than the text of what you are saying. Libertarians are often left in the dark when dealing with meta messages, especially when media professionals shine their light on us.

Let us say, for example, that you are calling in to a right-wing radio talk show. Inevitably, the first thing the host will ask you is, “You Libertarians want to legalize drugs, don’t you?” What is the meta message of this statement? In this case, it is very much louder than the question and everyone can hear it. If you listen closely and step back from the statement, you can see its larger implication: “You Libertarians are fringe whackos, way outside the mainstream of American ideas.” Usually, Libertarians will respond with a fact, statistic, or abstract concept, completely unaware of the meta message, like this: “Well, the Drug War is not working; it only creates a black market for drugs, raising the price, and thus the profit motive, making the problem worse, etc. etc. etc.”

I am sure there are several good responses to this question and its meta message; here’s one: “Yes; Libertarians believe that on September 11, 2001, the government should have been arresting terrorists instead of medical marijuana patients and people with overdue parking tickets.” This statement not only answers the question along with its meta message, but also adds my meta message: “Actually, it is the government that has become out of touch with the values and priorities of the American people, so bureaucratic it is out of synch with the goals, desires, and common sense of Americans as well as the rapidly changing world. We Libertarians have our priorities straight, and stand for common sense and mainstream values; and unlike the government, we are listening to the American



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

people.” You can say a lot with a meta message and dwarf your actual statement.

Why is it that certain Libertarians, such as **Art Olivier** and **Ed Thompson**, are able to get elected to office, when other Libertarians, who try endlessly, fail again and again? These people, after all, are just like us; they believe in—and state—the same ideas that sometimes make us unpopular. But, if you listen to them closely, you will hear it. No matter what issue they are talking about, whether immigration, taxes, or drug law reform, they have a much louder meta message of, “I am your good friend and neighbor; I am someone you’d like to have next door, and whom you could trust with your daughter.” They have a very positive meta message. These people employ this meta message instinctively, so it comes across naturally. The rest of us will have to learn to do it manually, by trial and error. Candidates with this quality are potentially the ones who can move up into partisan office, and those who are already in partisan office, like Sheriff Bill Masters, have it in spades.

You can apply this concept to everything you talk about, each time you do outreach. Let us look at an issue Libertarians like to talk about, keeping the meta message phenomenon in mind.

A better argument sends this meta message:

“Government Bad; Hurts Poor. Libertarians Good; Help Poor.”

“Abolish the minimum wage.” Here, the meta message is, “Libertarians do not value people, and want to pay them less.” Being unaware of this kind of negative meta message is one of the factors that has kept us firmly grasping the electric third rail of politics for so long.

How can we avoid this quagmire? Let’s just frame our ideas differently. Concentrate instead on what the government

is doing to keep wages down, such as the cost of excessive regulation making businesses too cash-poor to pay employees well. Talk about how corporate welfare keeps businesses in certain industries from having to raise wages to compete for the best workers in that field, in order to get ahead of competitors. Talk about all the things government is doing to suppress the buying power of your wages and to raise prices on the goods you need in order to live well. Instead of saying that we are “against the minimum wage,” which sends the message that “we are against the poor and the working man,” talk instead about how the Libertarian plan for the economy will make it so easy to start your own business that just to keep you, employers will have to raise your wages. The Libertarian plan would work to make minimum-wage laws obsolete—by making it easier for the little guy to earn money, by increasing the buying power of his money, as well as by making much easier his move from poverty to the middle class and beyond.

With these kinds of arguments, you send this meta message: “Government Bad; Hurts Poor. Libertarians Good; Help Poor.” Rather than the minimum-wage argument which sends the opposite message. This is no magic bullet, but is one of the techniques we have to learn in order to succeed.

How you dress can also send a meta message. Let’s say I’m attending a candidates’ forum, and I have never heard of the Libertarian Party. I would size up the candidates according to how they look. I might think, “Well, all of these candidates are telling me they have all the solutions to everything, and they all are quite convincing—except that Libertarian candidate who has not yet figured out how to dress himself or comb his hair.” Don’t let that happen to you. People want to know that you care enough about your ideas and your audience to dress properly for the occasion. Be aware of places where you are expected to dress up, as well as outdoor events or picnics where casual dress would be appropriate.

What is the meta message of a Libertarian using the words “liberal” or “conservative” in a negative way? A voter hear-

ing “liberal” used in a negative context, may think that the Libertarian Party is for conservatives only, and that those in the center and Democrats are not welcome. Since about a third of our members are ex-Democrats, as I am, that is not a good implication to make. Once a person perceives such a message, he will tune out immediately, before hearing that he may agree with us completely. Having adopted the mistaken impression that we dislike liberals, they may also

One technique when dealing with a hostile interviewer’s meta messages is to rephrase the question.

assume that we are in favor of the war and opposed to gay marriage—not very good communication is it? The same goes for voters who hear us use the term “conservative” in a bad way. They may think that Christians and conservatives are not welcome, which of course they are, as long as they do not want to use the government to promote their ideas. If they get the impression we do not like conservatives, they also may think that we are in favor of raising taxes and opposed to gun rights.

So you see, because of meta messages, if we use those words negatively, we have not communicated anything to anyone about anything at all; in fact, we may have done harm to our cause and our message, depending on who hears it. Best to use the phrase “economic authoritarian” when talking about liberals, and “social authoritarian” when referring to negative aspects of conservatism, because that is more specifically what we mean. The meta message of those terms is that we are against *authoritarians*, and conveying *that* message is never bad.

One technique when dealing with a hostile interviewer’s meta messages is to rephrase the question. If you are being interviewed by a reporter or talk-show host, or you’re taking questions from an audience, and you perceive a negative meta message you’re not sure

you can handle, or are not even sure what it is exactly, sometimes you can deflect it or remove the booby trap by repeating or asking the question differently yourself.

For example, if you’re asked whether you agree with Senator so-and-so, who compared the torture of prisoners by American soldiers in Abu Ghraib to Nazi prison camps, and asserted that our troops are somehow like the Nazis or the people who ran the Gulags? This carries a nasty meta message; no matter how you answer it, you will sound as though you are against our troops, or on the other hand that you condone torture. So re-ask the question something like this: “Are you asking me whether I think torture is wrong? Absolutely, under any circumstance. Are you asking whether I think the average American soldier would torture someone, even if ordered to do so by George W. Bush himself? No, of course not; I believe in the moral integrity of our troops and of the goodness of the American people.” The interviewer could come back at you with something like, “Are you saying that President Bush would order a soldier to torture someone?” In that case, you would just agree with the meta message and say, “That’s certainly a horrifying thought; I

Have a meta message of, “I am your good friend and neighbor; I am someone you’d like to have next door.”

could never even think of such an awful thing.” I am sure you will never get into this specific conversation, but the technique can be used anywhere to zap a negative meta message or a trick-question booby trap. Usually only media professionals will be savvy enough to use them on you, but you can also encounter people in any one-on-one setting—at an outreach table, or even in line at the post office—who may be aware enough of these tricks to try to trip you up.

So be aware, and look at the big picture of the question or statement. Soon I hope to read in *LP News* or *California Freedom* that you too have been elected to public office. ●

MARK SELZER has been serving as LPC Southern Vice Chair since 2001. Active in the LPC since 1998, this Internet business owner ran for State Assembly in 2000. He lives in Hollywood and hosts a cable access television talk show called “The Libertarian Alternative.”

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It's County Convention Time

Your county LP convention is not only for choosing your local LP leaders, but it's where you may be elected a delegate to the LP of California annual convention (being held February 24-27; see page 2 for details). Here is convention information for those counties reporting in at press time.

Orange County

March, 2006 (time and venue TBD). For info: Chairman Joe Cobb at Chair@LPOC.org.

San Diego

January 28, 11:00 A.M. – 7:45 P.M. (business 2:45-4:15); Marina Village Conference Center (1936 Quivira Way, San Diego). Speakers include **Sharon Harris**, President of The Advocates for Self-Government, **Jim Babka**, President of DownsizeDC

Foundation, **Bob Burg**, author and motivational speaker, and emcee **Richard Rider**, President of San Diego Tax Fighters. For info: www.SDLP.org; or contact County Vice Chair **Michael Metti** at Metti2@Cox.net, or at (619) 697-3075.

San Francisco

January 14, 3-6 P.M., Round Table Pizza (16th Ave. & Geary Blvd., San Francisco). For info: (415) 775-LPSF or www.LPSF.org; or Chair **Marcy Berry** at AMarcyB@Hotmail.com.

San Luis Obispo

January 17, 5:00 P.M. (business at 6:00), Apple Farm (2015 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo). RSVP by Jan. 13. For info: Chair **Gail Lightfoot** at SLOcoLP@AOL.com, or **Richard Venable** at (805) 481-3434.



San Mateo

January 19, 6:30 P.M. (business at 7:30-8:45), IHOP (510 El Camino Real, Belmont). For info: Chair **Jack Hickey** at (650) 368-5722.

Santa Clara

January 10, 6:00-10:00 P.M. (business at 7:30), Golden Wok (895 Villa Street, Mountain View). The keynote speaker will be **Susan Hamilton**, Executive Director of VTF Services, Inc., on "How a Free-Market Service Organization Works." For info: www.SC.CA.LP.org; or Chair **Allen Hacker** at (650) 465-7387, or Vice Chair **Allen Rice**, at AMRCheck@Yahoo.com.

Other Counties

For convention information of counties not listed here, check with your local officers directly. Visit the LP of California web site, at www.CA.LP.org. Under "Organization," click first on "Counties," and then on the name of your county. ●



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He's the LP's candidate to replace The Governor in 2006. Read more about him and our other statewide candidates on page 1.

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