

California Freedom

March 2007

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

Get Ready for the 2007 State Party Convention

The Libertarian Party of California (LPC) and the Northern California Convention Committee cordially invite you to the 2007 LPC Convention to be held April 20-22, 2007. This is an Executive Committee election year. So every LPC member who has something to say about the Libertarian Party of California should be in attendance.

This convention's theme is "Libertarian Success." We want to create an environment that allows all California Libertarians the opportunity for a good discussion of what defines Libertarian Success, who has been successful, and how we can all be more successful together.

tion to two-year terms of all Libertarian Party of California officers, and election of Executive Committee members. Voting upon many other platform and program issues will also take place, so any Libertarian with a voice who wants to be heard needs to attend.



• **Michael Denny**

In addition to Party business, sessions will focus on how we Libertarians can be more effective as candidates, party organizers, activists, and advocates for freedom.

The committee organizing the convention is led by northern Californians **Michael Denny** and **Terry Floyd**. Other committee members who have

worked hard to make it all come together include **Aaron Starr, Jim Eyre, Allen Rice, Cam McConnell, Starchild**, and others. Libertarian Party presidential candidates, activists and experts from around the coun-



**April 20-22
San Ramon Valley
Conference
Center**

Photo: San Ramon Valley Conference Center

try have been invited to attend and participate in the convention programs.

The attendance options available are shown in the advertisement on page 7. A 10% early purchase discount applies to paid registration completed before March 17, 2007; so make your reservations early!



• **Terry Floyd**

Events for the general membership kick off Friday at 6pm with a no-host cocktail reception. LPC officer elections occur Sunday afternoon.

Speakers at press time include **Tom Tryon**, Calaveras County Supervisor; **Anthony Gregory**, Independent Institute;

Roderick T. Long, Dr. Michael Edelstein, and campaign consultant Chuck Muth. (Read more about Muth on page 6.)

More details about the convention program, volunteer opportunities, and registration is available at www.CA.LP.org.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2007 Libertarian Party of California convention! ●

are told by the Schwarzenegger administration that the tax on employers to pay for health care really isn't a tax, but is really a "fee."

Dead Parrots; More Taxes

by **Jon Coupal**
President, H.J.T.A

In a classic Monty Python sketch, a man is duped into buying a dead parrot from a pet shop. He quickly discovers the expired nature of his purchase and returns to the shop demanding a refund. There, the owner of the shop tries to convince him that the bird is not dead.

We feel a bit like the buyer of the dead parrot when we

We know taxes. We have dealt with them for our entire professional careers. Without any doubt, the proposed exaction on employers is a tax.

The "exaction," to be precise, is the 4% payroll tax (excuse us, "fee") imposed on businesses which do not currently

• See **More Taxes** page 4



The convention will be held at the San Ramon Valley Conference Center just 25 miles east of the Oakland/San Francisco Bay Area. To learn more about the venue, visit: <http://www.sanramonvalleyconferencecenter.com>.

The program includes elec-

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• Well-lit meeting rooms like this one will provide a comfortable setting for Party business at the 2007 LPC Conference.

Libertarian Wins Water Board Seat in Sacramento

Libertarian **Tim Healey** is a new Director for the Fair Oaks Water District, the Sacramento *Bee* and Sacramento LP Chair **Art Tuma** both report. Mister Healey will help run the Water District which serves about 40,000 Californians in Northeastern Sacramento County.

Mister Healey is also one of our newest LPC Members, and both the California and Sacramento LP welcome him.

Tim is a Commercial Pilot by trade and resides in Orangevale, California. ●

– Submitted by Art Tuma

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SUBMISSION DEADLINES

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

- May 2007: Due 3/20/07
- June 2007: Due 4/20/07
- July 2007: Due 5/20/07

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. All contributions subject to our editorial guidelines.

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Happy Libertarian New Year!



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

First, I'd like to thank **David Ruprecht** for his two years of service as Executive Director. Dave is a real standup guy and we all will miss him. We certainly wish Dave well in all his future endeavors. Personally, I hope that he'll run for city council in his hometown of Sierra Madre.

Secondly, I'd like to introduce you to **Angela Keaton**, our new Executive Director. Angela has agreed to step down from her position on our Executive Committee and take on this mostly thankless job. I believe she will do us proud. She has extensive professional

experience for this job in many aspects. Angela has been the General Manager of a successful radio station, and has organized volunteers for non-profit organizations, among other things.

Third, I want to tell you what's next for the California LP.

One of our main focal points will be running Candidates for office. Successful campaigns have many benefits to the Party, as well as the political direction of California.

One challenge in running Libertarian Candidates is finding out what seats are up for election, and where they are.

Soon we'll be compiling a list of all elected offices, along with a database showing what precincts are in each district.

In theory, if we know which precinct a potential candidate lives in we'll be able to tell what office(s) they can run for!

This makes it possible to recruit Libertarians earlier than ever before.

And in Campaigning, the sooner you begin; the more likely you are to succeed.

We'll also be working on a mailing list of all the elected officials in California.

This will have many valuable uses for the California LP.

To do this, we've just sent letters to half-a-dozen counties to gauge their response. We're expecting some push back by the various county election officials. But, we be-

lieve we're entitled under the California Public Records Act. If necessary, we'll get legal.

If we succeed, we'll be able to reach out to elected officials, providing them with the Libertarian view of the issues. There are many elected officials who are disaffected with their current political party. We plan on converting some to our team.

In all, I'm excited about 2007 and 2008 for the California LP. Voters are ready for our message, and we plan on being in the right place at the right time.

Please consider meeting me in person at our San Ramon Convention, this coming April.

Thank you,

– Aaron Starr
Chairman,

Libertarian Party of California



Meet Angela Keaton



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Members of the Libertarian Party of California,

I'm both pleased and proud to have been appointed as your Executive Director. As such, I look forward to serving you, the Party, and our candidates. Together we can further our goals of a freer California and America.

For those of you who don't know me, I'm a second generation Libertarian. I've been active in the freedom movement since I was old enough to collect signatures on a street corner. My experience includes working as a law journal editor and a professional graduate student. As well, I have an M.A. in political science and have produced, promoted and hosted libertarian and other public affairs programming. My political experience includes successfully campaigning for both the LP National Committee and the LPCA Board at their 2006 conventions.

It's fair to say that libertarianism is the story of my life. I've been active in the LP since the early 90s in Florida, Texas, and now here in California. For years I was the sole libertarian

voice at one of the nation's most avowedly leftist radio stations. There in Austin, I hosted Texas KOOP-FM 91.7's prime drive-time libertarian news and interview show. The show's success led to me becoming their station manager.

The California LP faces many challenges in the years ahead. I intend to be efficient and responsive in serving our members and candidates. We will all work toward a higher profile, greater vote totals and more elected officials. There is much work to be done here at our Panorama City Headquarters.

My focus is on you, the members and volunteers, without whom, we'd be nothing.

I want to help your County, Officers, Candidates and you!

Please call me, I'd like to meet you all.

Finally, I'd like to ask each of you reading this to attend our upcoming Convention this April the 21st and 22nd. Covering just one weekend, it will be an exciting and rewarding event, where I hope to shake each of your hands in person.

– Angela Keaton
Executive Director,
Libertarian Party of California

877 884-1776 Toll Free
818-782-8400.



Thanks for the Memories

by Dave Ruprecht

Past Executive Director, LPC

As many of you may know, I am no longer serving as your Executive Director. Angela Keaton has taken over that position and I know she will do a terrific job for our California Party.

My two years working at our headquarters and around the state were extremely fulfilling and, at times, inspiring. What amazed me most was the dedication and commitment shown by the tireless volunteers who give so much of their time and energy as we try to spread Liberty throughout the Golden State.

I am tempted to single out individuals who specially impressed me with their hard work, but I fear I would leave someone out. Suffice it to say, on both the state and local levels, we California Libertarians are extremely fortunate to have these men and women who are willing to give so much of themselves.

I also want to thank the hard working Executive Committee. It's members and officers give us so much of their time... time

I'm sure they'd love to spend with their families, friends or

careers. Not only do they decide the nuts and bolts of running our state party, but they also carefully guide it along the political path it follows.

Tireless leaders likewise head up County parties. I'm particularly excited by the progress I see in three of them. Contra Costa County's leadership has forged coalitions with other groups. They have also worked successfully to block some idiocies local politicians tried to sneak through. Orange County is building its membership base by leaps and bounds. They also have the classiest and most exciting meetings that I've attended. San Diego County continues on as a vibrant organization.

Again, I want to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve you these past two years. I look forward to helping in any way I can as we work to inflict Liberty on California.

– Dave Ruprecht
Former Executive Director



■ Opinion

Patriots and Freedom Fighters: Rosa Parks and Marie Kolasinski

by Don Hull
LPC Member



Editor's Note: The Piecemakers principals are registered Libertarian Party with the Orange County Registrar of Voters.

The Piecemakers Store's Marie Kolasinski's ongoing battle to run her kitchen and tea room to satisfy her customers, instead of the regulators, is reminiscent of Rosa Parks' battle with unjust laws. Marie is a true American and deserves her status as a genuine hero for Freedom.

Marie's moral courage may approach that of Rosa Parks—world famous for standing up against unjust laws and triggering the Civil Rights revolution. Not to denigrate Parks, but the courage of one's convictions can also be measured by how much one is willing to lose. Marie and her 26-people crew, have built a 7-figure business on crafts and apple pies with their Country Store, so she has a lot to lose. As do her 26 workers. Yet they all stand up in unison for their Constitutional rights against the onslaught and smears of the Orange County government's propaganda machine and violent raids of their store.

With no M.B.A. or business experience, Marie and her people have built their store into a success that boasts a worldwide clientele. This is why she gives God the credit for her store's success. She feels she isn't "qualified" to manage such a substantial enterprise, yet it is succeeding. But the government propaganda machine twists her humility into arrogance, saying she thinks she's above the rest of us because of her willingness to give God the credit.

Government violence against Marie isn't just punishing Marie, but her 26 employees, as well, and all the customers, and even the suppliers, of her store.

I am one of those customers. And I resent it to high heaven that an arrogant bureauRat in the County Government, can deprive me of the simple freedom to enjoy Marie's kitchen. I like dining in her tea room. It's like going home to Grandma's for Thanksgiving. Her food is all home-made, including the bread, and especially the pies. And I WANT IT BACK! Yet the Government has arrogated to itself the power to interfere

The Piecemakers are a quiet, introverted Christian group, mostly older, who make their livings through a communal effort. They have a large, retail quilting and craft store in Costa Mesa, Orange County. They served soup, sandwiches and desserts. All were prepared in their on-site kitchen, which, like the "restaurant" area, were spotlessly clean.

The leader of the group grew frustrated with the Orange County Health Department's unmerited harrassment. After the health department wrote them up over and over again for the most picayune things, she posted a sign on the front door that "Government Agents" were not welcome.

This started a blood feud with the team of the OCHD and the DA, who made it their mission to make this group of quilting grannies submit to the power of the state.

The Orange County Register newspaper chronicled the abuses, while the Libertarian Party of Orange County offered support, and attended many of their court appearances.



with this peaceful behavior, and it has committed personal violence against her by locking



Welcome Aboard!

The LPC would like to welcome these members who joined the Party during October through January. We hope to get better acquainted with all of you at your regional LP events, as well as our state party convention in April.

Fresno County	Michael J. Clark..... Fresno
Los Angeles County	Scott deHart, Ph. D..... Los Angeles Glenn R. Williams..... Los Angeles
Orange County	John P. Devon Orange Michael Heather..... Orange Jacqueline Yunker..... Orange
San Bernadino	Richard Wismer..... Mount Baldy
Santa Clara County	Ronald Pavellas..... Bromma, Sweden (San Jose - Ex Patriot)
San Diego County	David Gettis San Diego

her in jail for refusing to configure her kitchen to the tastes of the code enforcers.

Speaking for hundreds of customers of the Piecemakers Store and Tea Room, my message to DA Rackauckas and the OC HCA thugs is, "LET MARIE OUT OF JAIL IMMEDIATELY. STOP VIOLATING HER CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS to live and work peacefully. She is no threat to anyone."

A Supreme Court Justice once said, "There is a Constitutional right to be let alone." In the name of the Constitution, and all that is moral, I say to the regulatory nazis, "LEAVE THESE PEACEFUL PEOPLE ALONE!! And

get the hell out of all of our lives. Take your 'swarms of officers who harrass our people and eat out their substance,' and go to hell!"

An eminence no less than Thomas Jefferson said, "Rebellion to tyrants, is obedience to God." Marie thinks that Thomas Jefferson is a far better role model than the thugs in the OC Health Agency, the CMPD, or the DA's office, who think she should worship them instead of God. I agree! ●

Don Hull is a member of the Libertarian Party of Orange County. He is a frequent letter to the editor writer for the Costa Mesa/Newport Beach Daily Pilot and the world famous Orange County Register Newspapers.

The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, in a period of moral crisis, maintain their neutrality.

- Dante

The good, the bad...

Letter to the Editor in Los Angeles Daily News Re: "Congress in hands of Dems today" (Jan. 4):

Good news: A bunch of deficit-spending, opportunity-wasting, big government-loving politicians were not returned to their jobs this week.

Bad news: They were replaced by Democrats.

- Edward Bowers
Libertarian Party of San Fernando Valley

I Want to Join the Libertarian Party!

Please sign me up at the following membership level:

- \$2,000 Life Member
 - \$55 Basic Member - one year*
 - \$25 Basic Member (introductory rate**)
 - \$_____ Other Amount (\$50 minimum)
 - \$_____ Monthly Pledge (\$10/month minimum)
 - \$1,000 Benefactor
 - \$500 Patron
 - \$250 Sponsor
 - \$100 Sustaining
- * \$25 is applied toward membership, and \$30 goes toward subscription to California Freedom.
** Special offer, available if you have never been an LPC member.



I want to become a proud, dues-paying member of the Libertarian Party of California. I'll receive a year of California Freedom, a membership card, and opportunities to vote at meetings of my County Party and to be a delegate to the State Party convention.

The Libertarian Party is the party of principle. To publicly affirm what we believe — and to ensure that our party never strays from our principles — we ask our members to proudly sign this statement:

I certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

Signature Required for Membership Purposes Only _____ Date

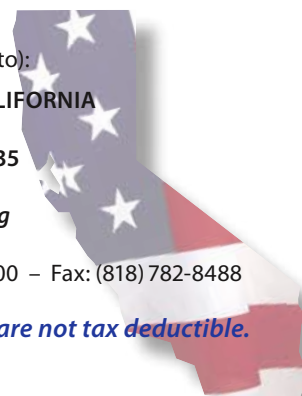
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Official Response to Governor's 2007 Plans

The Libertarian Party of California offers alternative solutions to the problems the governor is trying to address in these excerpts from the press release issued January 9 by the LPC. It is available on the web at www.CA.LP.org/preleases.shtml

January 9, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger gave his annual State of the State address, and once again demonstrated the arrogance that is at the root of many of the state's problems.

Contrary to the governor's claim that the speech was about "our vision, because I think we all want the same thing for California," Libertarians believe that only *individuals* are able to determine what is in the best interest of themselves and their families.

The governor's speech was wide-ranging. He discussed additional infrastructure spending for public safety, education, waterways and reservoirs. He spoke of California's efforts to curb global warming and force production of cleaner fuels. He spoke of the broken health care system, his next fiscal year budget, and of the need for redistricting reform.

"Libertarians agree that there are many problems in California that need to be fixed," said Aaron Starr, LPC chairman. "In some cases, the governor's proposals are a step in the right direction, but his top-down, central-planning proposals are doomed to fail or create new problems like most government attempts at solutions do."

Following are several ideas Libertarian candidates would bring to the Assembly, Senate,

and Executive branch on the issues the governor discusses in his State of the State address: Public Safety and Justice System Reform

California's incarceration rate is the highest in the country, which itself has the highest incarceration rate in the world. Between 1984 and 1996, California built 21 new prisons. The governor claims the current prison system with 175,000 inmates was built to hold 100,000.

"The governor rightly points out that the prisons are overcrowded, but the solution is not just to keep building more," said Starr. "All those convicted of non-violent drug offenses and other victimless crimes, such as prostitution, should be released immediately. Then, ending the War on Drugs would reduce the number of drug-related crimes, violent and non-violent, going forward."

Education Reform

The education bond initiative that passed in November 2006 was promised to support construction of 10,000 new classrooms and renovation of 38,000 more. Now, the governor says those are only enough classrooms to accommodate two year's growth. As a result, he is asking for funding to build another 15,000 classrooms and renovate an additional 40,000. In the six years since FY 2000-01, K-12 spending per pupil has risen from \$6,801 to \$10,748 (source: California Department of Finance budget highlights).

LPC Chair Starr responded to Schwarzenegger's call for re-

doubling education infrastructure spending by saying, "We can eliminate the infrastructure spending by contracting out to private schools for quality education. The problem with the education system is not that of too little *money* - it's a problem of too little *choice*. When public schools have to compete for dollars, they will provide more caring, quality education for our children. Libertarians would propose a dollar-for-dollar California tax credit for any payments made directly to public or private providers of K-12 education, with an offsetting decrease in state education expenditures. That way, the funds would go directly to the kids and local schools and not to extend the bureaucracy in Sacramento."

Global Warming

The governor expressed gratitude to the legislatures for passing his proposal to limit greenhouse gas emissions, and asked them to appropriate the funds to implement it. He proposes work on a low-carbon fuel standard to replace carbon-based fossil fuels in California.

"As large as California is, it is foolish for the governor to think that a state with 34 million inhabitants can significantly affect the greenhouse gases emitted by a world comprised of 6.5 billion people," said Starr. "These initiatives will foster state-sponsored corporatism with some favored fat guys getting fatter and higher fuel prices at the pump for everyone else. California's working families and small businesses will be hurt the most, while billions of people around the world continue to use fossil fuels. Only the world-wide free market can provide a solution to alternative energy sources, not a state government, no matter how arrogant it may be."

The Health Care System

Schwarzenegger called for health care reform, referring to his proposals made earlier this week in which he would require employers of 10 or more to provide a health insurance benefit, and everyone, including illegal aliens, would be required to have coverage.

"The spiraling costs of health care are a concern to most of us," Starr said. "Prices are so high that many people choose to go without even enough health insurance to cover catastrophic illnesses. And who can

blame them? The choice may be between eating or rent or education, and an insurance that might never be needed. One reason for the ever higher cost of health care is the fact that so many people's health expenses are paid directly by third parties such as insurance companies, and thus they don't feel any need to shop around for prices.

"Only the world-wide free market can provide a solution to alternative energy sources, not a state government."

- LPC Chairman Aaron Starr

"Likewise, in an environment of legal torts, a hospital may feel they need to order many frivolous tests, so they aren't later sued. Reforms to tort law, coupled with a partial tax credit for high-deductible insurance could help rein in health industry costs and provide the safety net people feel they need. By using tax-exempt health savings accounts funded by individuals or their employers for pre-deductible expenses, further savings could be had.

"But to really solve our health care problems, we need to increase the number of medical professionals, facilities and medical nonprofit and for-profit organizations by amending or

repealing regulations and licensing standards that unnecessarily or unreasonably impede the supply of health care."

Budget

The governor claimed great progress on the budget, reducing the deficit from \$16.5 billion when he took office, to \$4 billion last year, to "dramatically lower" in the budget to be proposed tomorrow.

"It is disingenuous for the governor to take any credit for reducing California budget deficits," says Starr. "He has presided over a record-breaking growth in state-level spending. Don't let the improving economy and rising state revenues camouflage this fact. A good first step for a Libertarian governor would be to roll back state spending to the level it was at when Gray Davis left office, 'just' \$101 billion, compared to Schwarzenegger's \$131 billion, roughly 30 percent higher than only three years ago."

Political Reform

The governor disparaged the current system of drawing district lines, saying it was "of the *parties*, for the *parties*, and by the *parties*," rather than the *people*.

Said Starr: "Here is a subject on which we can heartily agree with the Governor. The current system of redistricting is clearly broken. Libertarians support his efforts to provide reform in this area."

In addition, Libertarians propose that Instant Runoff Voting, such as is currently used in San Francisco, be implemented so that voters can express their true preferences. ●

More Taxes

continued from page 1

provide health care coverage. In a perfect world, all California businesses would flourish in an environment relatively free of government interference and thus could probably afford to provide health insurance. But this is California. For small businesses in particular, the environment feels like being on the top of Mount Whitney in the middle of winter wearing a T-shirt. Some businesses might survive this new tax increase. Many will not.

That the Governor would jump so quickly on a tax increase that will hurt the economy is surprising. He deserves

substantial credit for recognizing—and tackling—the whole workers compensation mess. And he has certainly presided over a rebounding economy which has led to record low unemployment and record high tax revenues (with a bit of help from the Bush tax cuts, thank you). But what the Terminator giveth, the Terminator can taketh away.

Perhaps we would not be so offended if there were a bit more intellectual honesty here. If you are going to raise a tax, please say so. But do not attempt to cover this tax increase with the fig leaf nomenclature of a "fee." A true "fee" is an exaction on a person or business

• See **New Taxes** page 8

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Milton Friedman: Right on Marijuana Policy Reform

by **Dan Bernath**

Assistant Director of
Communications,
Marijuana Policy Project

Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton Friedman's death November 16 at age 94 inspired a deluge of articles and commentaries—largely from conservative circles—celebrating his many achievements, which included helping shape economic policy for both the Nixon and Reagan administrations.

Many stories framed Friedman's support for regulating marijuana, when it was mentioned at all, as a sort of eccentric departure from his otherwise conservative ideology.

But the idea that Friedman, a lifetime dues-paying MPP member, should have raised any eyebrows by his outspoken criticism of prohibition reveals a misunderstanding of marijuana policy reform as strictly a liberal—or simply hedonist—cause.

To Friedman, political affiliation had nothing to do with it; marijuana policy was a problem in need of an effective, humane solution. And no objective analysis of the social and economic impact of prohibition could deny this simple fact: Prohibition is a failure, and prolonging that failure is destructive, wrong-headed, and immoral.

"I think almost every economist would agree that government gets itself in trouble when it tries to interfere with voluntary behavior," he said shortly before his death. "Making prohibition work is like making water run uphill; it's against nature."

So why would anybody have been surprised when Friedman joined more than 530 other economists endorsing visiting Harvard University professor Jeffrey Miron's June 2005 report calling for a system of marijuana taxation and regulation to replace prohibition?

After all, Miron's analysis concluded that taxpayers were flushing away about \$7.7 billion a year enforcing laws that do more to upset the lives and families of responsible adults than to curb drug use. Is it a conservative or liberal value to favor forfeiting approximately \$6.2 billion in potential marijuana tax and licensing revenue to the criminal market?

The money saved by repealing prohibition would be enough to secure all loose nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union in less than three years, according to Defense Department estimates. Is a Republican more likely than a Democrat to want to make locking up marijuana users a higher priority than stemming a potential nuclear crisis?

While marijuana policy reform does have support from many liberals, Friedman was far from the only conservative or the only Republican to be appalled by prohibition for its wastefulness, its ineffectiveness, and its disregard for individual freedom and dignity. Many of conservatism's most influential voices find prohibition an affront to their beliefs in limited government, individual

freedom, and an unhindered free-market economy.

Conservative author P.J. O'Rourke articulated the values of small-government conservatives when he wrote: "Marijuana never kicks down your door in the middle of the night. Marijuana never locks up sick and dying people, does not suppress medical research, does not peek in bedroom windows... Prohibition has done far more harm to far more people than marijuana ever could."

Conservative icon William F. Buckley Jr. once argued in a *National Review* column that conservatives should resist their tendency to embrace tradition, and instead embrace marijuana policy reform in the name of self-determination.

Reagan administration Secretary of State George Shultz, like Friedman, has long argued that prohibition does nothing more than foster an environment for a violent, illegal drug market to thrive.

Friedman himself worked to convince fellow Republicans to abandon prohibition as a lost cause that was destroying America.

"Every friend of freedom, and I know you are one," he once wrote to self-proclaimed moralist and then-Drug Czar William Bennett in a 1990 letter, "must be as revolted as I am by the prospect of turning the United States into an armed camp, by the vision of jails filled with casual drug users and of an army of enforcers empowered to invade the liberty of citizens on slight evidence."

Friedman reminds us that replacing prohibition with compassionate, sensible marijuana laws that work is not exclusively a liberal or conservative endeavor. It's for anyone offended by the U.S. government's insistence on clinging to a policy that wastes resources, encourages violent crime, and persecutes responsible citizens for what they do in the privacy of their own homes. Some might call those traditional values. ●

For more information, contact:
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Today's Events

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A Candidate's Reflections on Recent Election

by **Cam McConnell**

Candidate for Congress, 2006

I had fun in my first go at seeking public office. I studied the numbers describing the District demographics. It was important to know, for example,

that there are 270,000 registered voters of whom 150,000 are registered as Democrats, which relates to the District's being "safes" for the Democrat incumbent, George Miller.

I also studied its geography, from Richmond to Pittsburg and from Vallejo and Benicia to Vacaville.

• **Cam
McConnell**

Research is an important part of undertaking a campaign.

I wanted to get in front of the media and public as much as

possible, so, I accepted every invitation to speak or appear that I received. As a consequence, I got to meet Candidates and Elected officials and trade views on stage. As I talked to groups and individuals, I got the impression that our views were very well received.

After my campaign, I'm convinced America is ready for our views, if we express them in a logical and friendly manner. I was very encouraged by the feedback I received from all sources, even my fellow candidates.

The next step for me to be elected is to improve my name recognition. I plan to do so by getting out and explaining what's wrong with our government, and how Libertarians would fix it. We must offer people a logical and beneficial alternative. We need to explain why we would all be better off relying on ourselves than on government, which should

resonate with the people, since most Americans already distrust government.

If I run for Congress again, I would immediately speak to as many groups as possible. Two years will pass too quickly and soon it will be election time again. Indeed, for those who are thinking of running, we're only a year away from signature collection for nomination!

I hope all of us will support this effort, either by becoming a candidate, or by helping those who do. ●

CAM McCONNELL is a structural engineer on industrial building projects serving the transportation sector. He lives in Pittsburg, and is Chair of the LP of Contra Costa County. He was the LP candidate for Congress, District 7, in 2006. McConnell was recently appointed to the LPC Executive Committee, to replace Angela Keaton when she became the State Party's Executive Director. He is also part of the committee organizing the 2007 LPC Convention.

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Chuck Muth: The Cure for the Common Candidate

Future LP candidates for public office should not miss Sunday morning, April 22, at the LPC's statewide Convention. That is when Chuck Muth will be leading a Workshop for Libertarian Candidates.

Muth's focus is on the science of political campaigns, and while he's very passionate about issues, the convention event will not go over opinions, but the strategy and tactics of effective Campaigning.

Chuck gave a keynote address at the 2005 LPC Convention in Los Angeles. It was enthusiastically received by Convention attendees.

Our convention's theme is "Libertarian Success", and it's hard to argue with the kind of success candidates coached by Muth have had over the years.

Chuck Muth is President and CEO of Citizen Outreach and is a professional political consultant. He also is a former executive director of the American Conservative Union, a former National Chairman of the Republican Liberty Caucus, a former county GOP chairman, state party executive director, communications director, press secretary, direct mail fundraising consultant and legislative

candidate.

His extensive political education background includes: The Republican National Committee's "Campaign Management College" and "Campaign Finance School," as well as the Leadership Institute's "Direct Mail School," "Grassroots Activists School," "Public Relations School," "Campaign Leadership School" and "Campaign Internet School."



• Chuck Muth

Mr. Muth is a professional campaign trainer and volunteers as a national field instructor for numerous groups and organizations. He is also the publisher of various online newsletters, an author and a featured columnist who regularly appears on political TV and radio programs.

Mr. Muth lives in Carson City, Nevada. ●

Editor's note: When capital "L" Libertarian Doug Bandow was fired from his previous position, he was immediately brought on by Chuck. Doug now finds his journalistic home at Chuck Muth's Citizen Outreach.



LPC Convention 2007 - April 20-22 - San Ramon
LIBERTARIAN SUCCESS



• A typical guest room at the San Ramon Valley Conference Center. Guest rooms are comfortable singles.

■ Opinion

A Radical Suggestion

by Allen Rice

Candidate for State Senate

Once again an election year in California has passed, and the Libertarian 'Party of Principle' achieved lackluster results. What can be done to improve this in future?

"The great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving" – Oliver Wendell Holmes

The Libertarian Party of California (LPCA) seems to be going backward. Its registration figures, stagnant for the last 8 years, currently (10/26/06) show it to be the fifth largest party in California, behind the American Independents at almost 4 to 1 and the Greens at 5 to 3.

Winning requires candidates and Party leadership to take campaigning seriously.

Dues-paying membership has dropped by about 20%. During this period, a million voters left the Democratic and Republican Parties, swelling the Decline to State numbers, without affecting ours.

The Party needs to provide meaningful candidate support. The Party needs to provide candidates with a written Candidates' Guide. County Chairs must provide Candidates with up-to-date lists of regis-



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brieley

tered libertarians and Party members. We can improve Candidate results success so much, with only a little more support!

Political Party: "A voluntary organization formed expressly to secure and manage the offices of government by winning elections."

Winning requires candidates and party leadership to take campaigning seriously. For candidates, the Party should raise the bar, ensuring candidates are committed and able.

Every candidate wanting Party endorsement must be expected to:

- Apply for endorsement, with a set of qualifying credentials and a campaign plan.

- Submit the maximum allowable set of information to all major voter information websites.

- Create a personal campaign website, with minimum requirements.

- Include, on voter and Candidate websites, at least 3 position papers on real and current issues, with detailed solutions.

- Create a candidate's business card and handout to be distributed at campaign appearances.

- Attend all of the scheduled candidate forums to which the candidate is invited.

- Respond to all PAC questionnaires.*

The leaders of the LPCA, to provide a foundation on which

all candidates can base their campaigns, need to:

- Create a Candidates Guide.

- Create at least 8 position papers on issues of the day, with solutions specified, to be used by candidates and personalized.

- Approve and suggest campaign website providers.

- Provide artwork for business cards.

- Request each County Have a candidate support Chair.

- Provide every endorsed candidate with an up-to-date list of Party members and registered libertarians within their district.

- Have these ready to go by June of the year before the Primary election, and announce it California Freedom.

- Provide a Campaign Calendar for Candidates, with suggested timelines and action schedules.

If it means to be a political party, the LPCA's primary goal must be to win elections. The Party must provide solid support for candidates, then expect every one of those candidates to actively campaign—with the expectation of building a political base that will eventually win. ●

ALLEN RICE was the 2004 LP candidate for State Senate, District 11. He has been Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer for the LP of Santa Clara County, and served on the LPC Executive Committee. He is also on the organizing committee for the 2007 LPC Convention. Allen founded the Willow Glen Libertarian Alliance, on the web at www.wgla.org

*Editor's note: Some candidates may decline to answer questionnaires from clearly anti-Libertarian organizations.

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Options to Reduce Your Convention Costs

by Staff
with Daniel Wiener
 Secretary, LPC

The Libertarian Party of California's 2007 state convention will be held at the San Ramon Conference Center. This beautiful facility specializes in conventions and conferences, and promises to add to this special event.

The convention begins for the general membership Friday evening, April 20th. We'll continue our efforts through Sunday afternoon, April 22nd. California Libertarians are especially interested in this year's Convention, as Party elections take place at the event. If you wish to have a say in the next year's leadership and policy, please be sure to attend.

Convention Admission

Complete Convention packages cost only \$193.50/night. There's an early bird 10% discount available until March 17. This includes meals, accommodations and more. (Note: the Conference Center only has

single person rooms.)

There's no way to beat the convenience of lodging on site, but for those thrifty Libertarians among us, or ones wanting to share a room, you can stay at an off-site hotel for a lot less. You'll still need a convention Day Use Pass. A Day Pass without meals is just \$55 per day. A Day Pass including breakfast, lunch, dinner, and two snacks is \$91/day, only \$36 more. Early bird discounts are also available for Day Use Passes. Remember, you will need a Day Use Pass for each day you attend.

Airfares

The closest airport to our site is Oakland International, about 25 miles away, but you also can check fares to San Francisco (44 miles) or San Jose (40 miles).

Ground Transportation

The Conference Center is at 3301 Crow Canyon Rd, San Ramon, CA 94583. This is about half a mile east of the Crow Canyon exit from the 680 Freeway.

Getting from an airport to San Ramon will require either

a taxi ride or a BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) ride or renting a car.

The AirBART shuttle goes from the Oakland Airport to the Coliseum BART station and costs \$1.50. The BART train from the Coliseum to the Dublin/Pleasanton station costs \$3.20 and takes less than half an hour.

BART from San Francisco Airport to Dublin takes a little over an hour. Trains leave every 15 or 20 minutes throughout the day and evening (a complete printable BART brochure and schedule in PDF format can be downloaded at www.BART.gov/docs/BART010106.pdf).

The last leg, between the Dublin BART station and the San Ramon Conference Center, is less than 9 miles. It takes about 15 minutes by car when there is no traffic. Public transit riders may take CCTA County Connection Bus #121/"Walnut Creek BART" from Dublin BART to Camino Ramon and Crow Canyon Rd. The bus costs \$1.75 each way, and takes about 40 minutes. More details are at <http://nclpc.org/convention>.

Scholarships

A Special Fund is being set up to pay Convention fees for delegates unable to pay. The numbers of delegates covered are limited by contributions received, so donations are appreciated. Those interested in either receiving this benefit or contributing to the fund, please contact the Willow Glen Libertarian Alliance. They can be reached at pr@wgl.org or by calling (408) 267-1142. Thanks for this go to the WGLA.

Lodging Alternatives

See <http://snipurl.com/16bv9> for a detailed listing of the closest hotels and their rates. In particular, note Extended Stay America Hotel is right across the street, within easy walking distance.

The following list was provided by Secretary Dan Weiner. The LPCA makes no guarantees as to room or rate availability. This information was the best available at the time.

(0.1 miles) **Extended Stay America** - 2100 Camino Ramon, San Ramon, CA 94583; (925) 242-0991; \$75/night

(1.1 miles) **San Ramon Marriott** - 2600 Bishop Dr, San Ramon, CA 94583; (925) 244-6171; \$76/night

(1.4 miles) **Homestead Village** - 18000 San Ramon Valley Blvd, San Ramon, (925) 277-0833; \$75/night.

(1.5 miles) **Courtyard by Marriott: San Ramon** - 18090 San Ramon Valley Blvd, (925) 866-2900; \$80/night.

(1.3 miles) **Residence Inn by Marriott: San Ramon** - 1071 Market Place, San Ramon; (925) 277-9292; \$94/night

(0.5 miles) **Sierra Suites Hotel San Ramon** - 2323 San Ramon Valley Blvd, San Ramon, CA 94583; (925)743-1882; \$94/night.

(2.5 miles NW) **Best Western Danville Sycamore Inn** - 803 Camino Ramon, Danville, CA 94526; (925) 855-8888; \$76.50/night.

(5.1 miles SE) **Amerisuites Bay Area Dublin** - 4950 Hacienda Dr., Dublin, CA 94568; (925) 828-9006; \$94/night.

(5.7 miles SE) **Radisson Hotel Dublin** - 6680 Regional Street, Dublin, CA 94568; (925) 828-7750; \$79/night. ●

Don't wait to sign up for the Libertarian Party of California's Statewide Convention next month. A 10% early bird discount is only available until **March 17**. Standard Day Passes and Full Passes *must* be purchased before **April 10**.

Schedule highlights include:

- Friday 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. — Welcome Reception
- Saturday noon — LP Presidential Candidates' Forum
- Saturday 7 p.m. — Dinner and Silent Auction
- Saturday afternoon — Elections of LPC Officers and Executive Committee
- Sunday morning — Candidate Workshop

All LPC officers are up for election this year to 2-year terms.

The Convention is also your big chance to hear the LP Presidential candidates before California's early primary.

Sneak Preview:
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Registration Options

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Basic Day Pass¹ Day access; no food, drinks, meals, or snacks. Friday includes evening event.	\$55.00	\$55.00	\$55.00
or			
Standard Day Pass (must purchase before April 10th ²) Day access plus the package of meals and snacks served by the San Ramon Valley Conference Center. Friday includes pm snacks and evening event. Sat. & Sun. includes 3 meals, a.m. & p.m. snacks.		\$91.00	\$91.00
or			
Full Pass (must purchase before April 10th ²) Includes on-site lodging and event admissions. Dinner and evening event the night of <i>stayover</i> ; day access plus breakfast, lunch, and a.m. & p.m. snacks the following day.	\$193.50	\$193.50	

There will be a 8.25% tax on food packages and accommodations, as well as a 7.25% room tax.

1 Note that the conference center charges for "day use," and this charge is almost entirely for those costs.

2 This is the hard deadline imposed by the SRVCC catering department for meal reservations.

For more information and to register, visit the website

<http://nclpc.org/convention> or contact Terry Floyd, 510-351-0973, tfloyd@lmi.net

WGLA Grants Candidates' Website Awards

On November 20, the Willow Glen Libertarian Alliance named the recipients of its Candidates Website Awards for 2006. The WGLA plans on recognizing three Libertarian Party districted candidates in each election. The Award will be given to those presenting themselves in the most professional manner using the Internet.

Significant weight was given to candidates who identified issues important to California and who presented policies addressing them.

The winning candidates this year were:

First place (\$100): **Jim Keller**, House of Representatives, District 29, website: <http://www.votekeller.org>

Tied for second (\$50): **Andy Favor**, State Assembly, District 73; and **Rich Belitz**, State Assembly, District 77, <http://shark-fins.com/assembly77.htm>

Third place (\$25): **Pamela Brown**, State Senate, District 20. www.CAWantsFreedom.com

- Tied for 2nd place was the website of **Andy Favor**, (at right)



- Candidate home pages pictured at right:
1st Place – Jim Keller
2nd Place – Rich Belitz
3rd Place – Pamela Brown

The WGLA believes people who give time and money as candidates should get the best possible support from the entire libertarian community. Those candidates going the extra mile, engaging other parties in debate over issue and policy, are essential to establishing the LP as a credible political party. These in particular need to be especially recognized. Congratulations to the winning candidates, and all contenders.

The Willow Glen Libertarian Alliance (WGLA.org) is a General Purpose Committee (FPPC #1288888) based in San Jose, California. WGLA is not affiliated in any way with the LPC or the LP of Santa Clara County.



New Taxes Don't Fly

continued from page 4

in exchange for a direct benefit to the fee payer, to mitigate a harm caused by the fee payer or to pay for a regulatory program directly related to the fee payer's activities.

This tax fails on all three counts.

An additional payroll tax on small business to offset increased costs to society for the provision of healthcare services to the uninsured does not benefit small business (at best it benefits those without healthcare coverage), it does not mitigate a harm caused by the small business (operating a small restaurant does not "cause" a need for healthcare services) and it certainly does not pay for any regulatory activity of the small business.

Now, granted, the notion of a "fee" was substantially liberalized by the California Supreme Court decision in *Sinclair Paint v. State Board of Equalization*. But even in that case, there was found to be a "nexus" between the manufacturers of products containing lead (who had to pay the fee) and the funding

of programs to assist lead-poisoned children. For this levy, there is no more "nexus" than that found between Aristotle and Britney Spears.

In proposing this tax, some have said that the Governor has broken his no tax increase pledge in record time. We will simply let the facts speak for themselves. He threw a lot of ideas out there regarding health care reform; some good, some bad and some ugly. For taxpayers, redemption may be found in quickly deflating the tax increase trial balloon.

But one thing is clear. As a tax increase, this proposal—even assuming it is ever reduced to legislative language—will require a two-thirds vote of each house. While others might find ambiguity in the nature of this levy, we doubt the courts will.

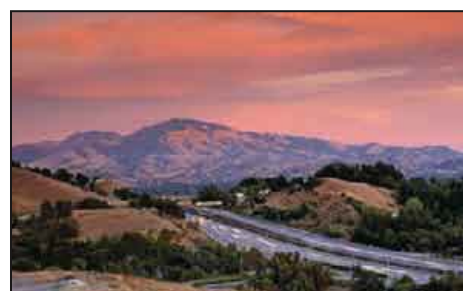
JON COUPAL is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association—California's largest taxpayer organization—which is dedicated to the protection of Proposition 13 and promoting taxpayers' rights. Visit their site at www.HJTA.org



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LPC Convention 2007

San Ramon, in the lovely foothills of the Diablo Range, in Contra Costa County, is the site of next month's State Party Convention.

- See page 7 for registration and cost details.
- See pages 1 and 6 for photos of the conference center facilities.

INSIDE

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