

California Freedom

May 2007

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

LIBERTARIAN SUCCESS



SPECIAL POST-CONVENTION ISSUE

Photo: Elizabeth Briery



• Delegate Bruce Dovner of Los Angeles County speaks from the floor at the LPC convention in San Ramon.

Kevin Takenaga Elected Chair State Party Delegates Vote on Changes

by **Brian Holtz**

LPC Executive Committee

The Libertarian Party of California gathered at the San Ramon Convention Center the weekend of April 21. The weekend was packed with interesting panel discussions, but this reporter had to limit his attendance to the weekend business sessions only.

Saturday morning business was devoted to the Bylaws Committee Report. Delegates voted to codify the Bylaws Committee's practice of doing its work early, and to require 2/3 approval for any later changes.

Delegates rejected a proposal to let counties set their own membership requirements and make them set and collect their own dues, despite outgoing Chairman **Aaron Starr's** personal offer to donate \$15,000 to the counties if it passed.

A proposal was passed to allow each Executive Committee (ExCom) member to sponsor for convention credentialing a member who would otherwise be too new to be seated. Also passed was the elimination of county apportionment of convention delegates, so that any 90-day-tenured member

will be automatically seated at conventions. The time allotted for Bylaws work finished with only 11 of the 24 Bylaws Committee proposals having been considered. At the lunch break, the count of credentialed delegates hit its official peak of 101, compared to 91 at the 2006 convention.

The officer elections started with the Chair race. **Kevin Takenaga**, who had been database chairman and Santa Clara County Chair, lead a slate who promised to emphasize municipal- and county-level politics and coalitions. Takenaga won handily over the self-nominated **James Ogle**, 83-3-4.

Takenaga emphasized the need for coalition building, noting that it "doubles our manpower". His top priority will be development of county parties, since counties are "where all the action is at". He wants local Libertarians to "reach out to people within your own community", and pointed out that "everyone agrees with us on something—half agree with half of our positions, the other half agree with the other half".

Outgoing Northern Vice Chair



Photo: Elizabeth C. Briery

Lawrence Samuels nominated his successor, **Richard Newell**, the hero of *The Libertarian Perspective* media relations effort. Before being elected by acclamation, Newell gave an impassioned speech arguing for a bottom-up approach to LP electoral politics. He said the experiences of Badnarik and Smither in 2006 show that "the public is not ready to vote for us" even when our candidates have big-time money or the "perfect storm" of a write-in opponent with a hard-to-spell name. "The public is not going to put us into higher office until we've proven we can govern effectively at lower levels first. Let's get real." Newell cautioned

• See **Holtz** page 6

Secretary's Summary

by **Daniel Wiener**

Secretary, LPC (retiring)

Written reports from the Executive Committee officers and committee chairs were distributed on Friday evening, April 20th, at the LPC 2007 state convention; they will be included in the formal convention minutes, which are expected to be approved and posted on the LPC web site at in the near future.

Dr. Michael Edelstein gave a Saturday morning breakfast address on "How to Avoid Feuding and Burnout to Achieve Libertarian Success". Tom Tryon, who was first elected Calaveras County Supervisor in 1984 and is

now the fourth-longest serving supervisor in California, gave the keynote address on "How to Win Local Elections".

The number of credentialed delegates to the convention reached 101 on Saturday and 105 on Sunday.

Notable Bylaws changes included the following:

- Bylaws of county parties must be posted on the state website.
- A year-long schedule for the Bylaws Committee was formalized, with its report to be adopted and published on the state website at least 70 days prior to the convention.

• See **Secretary** page 8

Five LP Presidential Candidates Featured in Forum

After the Saturday night banquet, five candidates for the Libertarian Party 2008 Presidential nomination each gave half-hour presentations. They were, left to right in the photo, Mike Jingoian, Steve Kubby, Wayne Allyn Root, Dave Hollist, and Daniel Imperato.

Photo: Alan Lundegard



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PUBLISHER

Libertarian Party of California
14547 Titus Street, Suite 214
Panorama City, CA 91402-4935
Web site: www.CA.LP.org
Telephone: (818) 782-8400
Facsimile: (818) 782-8488

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Bruce Cohen
E-Mail: BCohen@CA.LP.org

STATE CHAIRMAN

Aaron Starr, CPA
Telephone: (805) 583-3308
E-Mail: StarrCPA@PacBell.net

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Angela Keaton
E-Mail: Director@CA.LP.org

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Muffet Laurie Brown

WEB SITE

Robert Obreczarek
E-Mail: WebTeam@CA.LP.org

ADVERTISING SALES

E-Mail:
Advertising@CaliforniaFreedom.org
Telephone: (818) 782-8400

CONTRIBUTORS

Elizabeth C. Brierty
Laura Brown
Brian Holtz
Angela Keaton
Alan Lundegard
Richard Newell
F. Aaron Smith
Dan Wiener

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:

Libertarian Party of California
14547 Titus St., Suite 214
Panorama City, CA 91402
(877) 884-1776

SEND NEWS, LETTERS, ESSAYS, PHOTOGRAPHS OR ADVERTISING TO:

Bruce Cohen
Executive Editor, *California Freedom*
14547 Titus Street, Suite 214
Panorama City, CA 91402-4935
Telephone: (818) 782-8400
Facsimile: (818) 782-8488
E-Mail: CaliforniaFreedom@CA.LP.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

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

- July 2007: Due 5/20/07
- August 2007: Due 6/20/07
- September 2007: Due 7/20/07

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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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What needs to be done? is the title essay "in which Lenin outlines the concept of the vanguard revolutionary party run according to the principles of democratic centralism."

Well, I'm not much on centralism or the tyranny of the majority, but I am quite fond of hard-working volunteers.

For those of you introverted computer nerds (which judging by the stats describes you, Gentle Reader,) you are in luck. We have several tasks that you can do from the comfort of your home office.

Assembly of information packs: Prospective new members contact us daily. Information must be sent out immediately while the prospect is still intrigued, outraged or searching for a new political home. Give the LPC Executive Office staff a call and we will send all you need to create a complete information pack.

Legislative alerts: The People's Republic of California is bombarded with lobbyists making demands for their special interests groups. Sending our staff a head's up on what fresh new hell awaits will go a long way in helping activists organize to stop oppressive legislation.

We will also need a few volunteers to create press releases, contact county officers and issue reports to libertarian email lists. The possibilities

What Needs to be Done?



are endless, and you may find information gaps that the staff and Executive Committee might miss.

Fund raising by phone: Personal solicitation is the most effective form of fund raising. Volunteers can help build the party by either setting up appointments for Executive Committee members and staff

For introverts, you're in luck— we have several tasks that you can do from the comfort of your home office

or, if the mood is right, ask for a donation. Use your natural charm as well as your networking skills and make a few calls for the Libertarian Party of California. The staff can provide names and numbers but sometimes the best work is done between friends. People are flattered when you ask for both their input and investment.

Meet and Greet: Given their drive and productivity, libertarians are busy people. Many registered Libertarians are not members of the state or county affiliates. Since the end of Unified Membership, many national members have fallen

through the cracks. We can provide you with names, addresses, stationery and phone numbers. Drop folks a line and let them know what your county is up to. Invite them to a supper club or a candidate forum. When using mail, a personal letter lets people know you want the recipient and not merely a datum point.

Home Activism: Let your imagination push the party forward. Do you like Google? Find out what the Greens are doing in your area. If other alternative parties are holding a forum on Instant Run Off voting, make a visit. Write up a few lines in your local newsletter and see what we can learn from their example. Local controversy, no problem. Carbon copy our staff on your letters to the editor or local officials. We love posting articles and information about

libertarian activists on the office walls. Keeps us informed and motivated.

Finally, drop the staff a line when you like what we're doing. While I have many amazing tal-

Drop the staff a line when you like what we're doing

ents, I can't visit every supper club—though I wish I could. Silence is not guiding. If you are happy with new policies, let us know.

We are here together in our fight for freedom. Let's work together for liberty in our lifetime.

Yours in Liberty,

—Angela Keaton
Executive Director



• Executive Director Angela Keaton and Alameda County's Cory Nott check in delegates so that voting thresholds can be ascertained at the LPC Convention. This year the power of each vote was magnified.

Chair's Column Returns Next Month



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

California Freedom went to press before newly-elected chair **Kevin Takenaga** could contribute a column. In the meantime, here is a little about his background.

Kevin consults in the software industry in Silicon Valley.

He has taken on roles of increasing responsibility within the local and state LP during the last several years. While serving on the LPC Executive

Committee, he led the Website & Infrastructure Team. Under his leadership, the LPC web site took on a sharp new look.

He also helped with the State Assembly Race for Zander Collier and several other Congressional campaigns.

To assume his new role, Kevin has just stepped down as Chair of Santa Clara County LP.

Kevin was the winner of the 2005 *Karl J. Bray Memorial Award* for conspicuous and meritorious activism on behalf of the LPC. ●



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

www.CA.LP.org



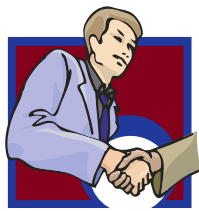
Sharpen your pencils!

Next month *California Freedom* will have a brand new Editor, Thomas M. Sipos.

A writer for *The Libertarian Perspective* last year, Sipos is also interested in reading what YOU have to say and printing many different viewpoints. Send your comments, photos, reports on libertarian events, and stories about the fight for Liberty to

CaliforniaFreedom@CA.LP.org





Welcome Aboard!

The LPC would like to give a big welcome to these 10 members who joined the Party recently. We hope to get better acquainted with each of you at your regional LP events. Join us for our statewide convention next April, or sit in on an upcoming Executive Committee meeting in your area.

Butte County	William Cross Oroville Mike Wacker..... Chico
Contra Costa County	Tim Ahern..... Lafayette
Los Angeles County	Adam Sroka Marina Del Rey Glenn Williams Los Angeles
Marin County	Joan Carroll Mill Valley
San Bernardino County	Paul Darr Jr Colton
San Diego County	Thomas Schade.....
San Luis Obispo County	Arla Stevens Cambria
Other Location	Tamara Millay..... St. Louis, MO

Get Well Soon, Kate O'Brien!

Today I found out one of my favorite Libertarians is ill.

I hope we all can take a moment to reflect on how much she brings to all of us, both as a Libertarian, and as a joyous human being.

Too many times we wait too long to let someone know how much we appreciate and love them. **Kate O'Brien** is one of those Libertarian heroes we ought to appreciate *today*, and not fifty years from now.

Kate is a rare Libertarian, able to make friends with all, and work with anyone.

She's one of those few Libertarians who's won office the old fashioned and hard way, in a toughly fought race. She raised money, and campaigned.

A genuine Libertarian celebrity, she also graced the *Ladies of Liberty* Calendar more than once.

I am sure even the atheists among us can spare a prayer for her health, well being and recovery.

Kate—We love you!

— Bruce Cohen
Editor

Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierty



New Office Manager — Ali Martin

by **Angela Keaton**
Executive Director, LPC

Government steals." Through her studies at the *Semester at Sea* program, world traveler and Maui native Ali Martin had the stark realization that government is inherently corrupt. "I saw the problems and kept thinking of the libertarian solutions." Shortly after, Martin changed her major from kinesiology to

political science. She's been a menace to campus socialists at Loyola Marymount University ever since.

Martin comes by her politics honestly. A second generation libertarian, her father, a land developer and member of the local planning commission, was influenced by the works of Ludwig von Mises. Ali Martin admits to being 'that kid'—the one who mentions Murray Rothbard in her footnotes and started writing term papers on

drug decriminalization in high school.

Through late night dorm sessions with her classmates, Martin finds that many of her peers from conservative family backgrounds are socially liberal. "They are libertarian without realizing it and when they do, they are not quite there. They are still afraid to "throw away their vote." Her efforts to spread the gospel of freedom however do not end with the classroom.

In early 2006, Martin interned at the Libertarian Party of California headquarters in Panorama City. After graduation, she returned to us in March as our office manager. Her duties include data entry, bookkeeping and answering the numerous prospective member inquiries the office receives daily.

When asked what she enjoys about the job, Martin answers with a smile. "I like seeing the instant gratification of *Operation Breakthrough*. Privatizing local functions and lowering taxes keeps me motivated."

Please join us in welcoming Ali back. You may write to her at AMartin@ca.lp.org ●



Photo: Alan Lundegard

• **Above: No, this great looking space is not at executive offices. (We make your contributions stretch much farther in Panorama City!) This is the foyer at SRVCC, after volunteers decorated for LPC convention 2007.**

• **Below: Cohen and O'Brien at a national convention.**



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Yes! I want to renew my membership in the Libertarian Party of California for the 2007 calendar year and subscribe to the *California Freedom* monthly newsletter. I will also receive a membership card.

Please sign me up at the following membership level:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,000 Life Member | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$55 Basic Member* | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Sponsor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Monthly Pledge (\$10/month minimum) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sustaining |

* \$25 is applied towards membership and \$30 goes to a subscription to *California Freedom*.

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.

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Please don't forget, we pay our Libertarian Party member dues to the State party now.

What's in the spotlight lately in your county?

Send us your success stories! Tell us what other LP activists, candidates, and county officers can learn from your recent activities, and send in photos of your members and events.

CaliforniaFreedom@CA.LP.org

■ LPC Convention 2007

Seen and Heard in San Ramon in April

• Representing Successful Libertarian Organizations on a Sunday panel were Casey Aplanalp, Lawrence Samuels, and Bruce Cohen, from Butte, Monterey, and Orange Counties, respectively.



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

• Allen Hacker (below) is the only known member of the LP to be serving on the judicial committees at the county, state and national levels simultaneously. He points to a photo of his biggest supporter, wife Laura Ferrer. The photo display was drawn from California Freedom archives by graphic artist Muffet Brown. Most of the photos on the wall were taken by Elizabeth Brierly. Top row depicts past LPC Chairs.



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly



Photo: Alan Lundegard

• Television personality Wayne Allyn Root (right) discussed his run for high office as a Libertarian.

• Presidential candidate Steve Kubby (standing) appeals to a Saturday night audience who guards our liberty as fiercely as our revolutionary forefathers did



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

• Dr. Michael Edelstein (below left) spoke on Saturday morning about how to manage one's emotions while working with others in organizations. He discusses his book, *Three Minute Therapy*, with Marin County architect Dan Goltz, who organized decorations for the convention.



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SOMEBODY'S GOTTA SAY IT
by Neal Boortz

Controversial Atlanta talk show host Neal Boortz has made a living speaking his mind, and that's just what he does in his new book, pulling no punches. Boortz has been mentioned as a possible Libertarian Party presidential candidate over the years, and he has said he might run “just for the hell of it” when he retires from radio. In this collection of Boortz's pet peeves and political positions, he addresses flag burning, evolution vs. creationism, Terri Schiavo, the pledge of allegiance, prayer in schools, arts funding, “giving back,” the war on drugs, government schools, and much more.

Boortz has an opinion on just about everything. Some you'll disagree with, but much of it is just what you've been hoping someone would say.
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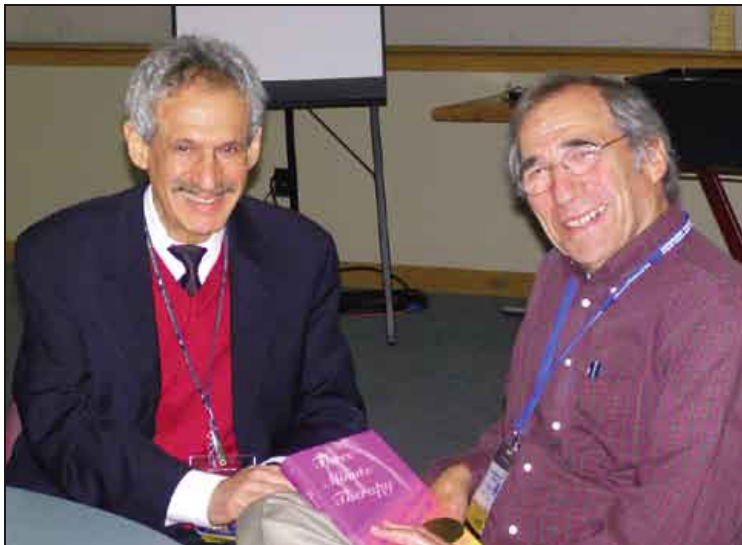


Photo: Alan Lundegard



Photo: Alan Lundegard

• Late Friday night, at an off-site party, LPC leaders like Bruce Dovner (above) and Beau Gain (below) showed their lighter sides with some karaoke.

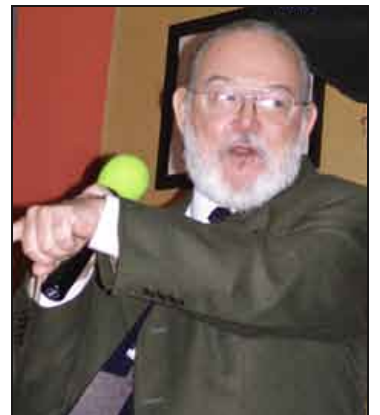


Photo: Alan Lundegard

A favorite quotation borrowed by Sunday morning's Candidate Workshop leader, Chuck Muth —

“Lincoln’s Law” of campaign organization:

“Divide the country into small districts and appoint in each a subcommittee. Make a perfect list of all the voters and ascertain with certainty for whom they will vote. Keep a current watch on the doubtful voters and have them talked to by those in whom they have the most confidence. And on election day see that every Whig is brought to the polls.”

—Abraham Lincoln, 1840



SPECIAL CONVENTION COVERAGE

It Takes Teamwork...

Volunteers from over a dozen different counties, not all of them in Northern California, made LPC Convention 2007, packed as fully as it was, possible. Convention manager and sponsor **Terry Floyd** gives an extra special thanks to the formal committee consisting of **Bruce Cohen, Angela Keaton, John Brady, Dan Goltz, Jim Eyer, Cam McConnell, Mike Denny, Starchild, Aaron Starr** and **Allen Rice**.

Organized panels & speakers— Starchild*, Jim Eyer*, Camden McConnell, Allen Rice*, Mike Denny and Pete Riopel *moderators

Liaised with Catering and accommodations— Terry Floyd

Web Site— Jim Eyer

Scheduled the program— Camden McConnell

Recruited tabling vendors— Cory Nott

Worked credentialing— Angela Keaton, Cory Nott, Kevin Takenaga

Worked on registration— Matt Turley, Pete Riopel, Paul Kelly, Ralph Hoffman, Terry Floyd, Lee Welter

Decorations— Dan Goltz, Terry Floyd; hands-on help from Matt Turley, Allisande Keating, David Kristensen (Marin LP); Lee Welter (Sacramento); T.J. Campbell (San Mateo); Casey Aplanalp (Butte), Matthew Shannon, Michael McMahon (San Bernardino); Gail Lightfoot (San Luis Obispo); Jose Castaneda (Los Angeles)

Tabling vendors—Cory Nott, Jimmy Ogle (The USA Parliament Party), James Uhler (National Tax Limitation Committee), Lawrence Samuels and Jane Heider (Libertarians for Peace).

Other vendors or non-LP collaborators— San Ramon Valley Conference Center Staff Julie Domm, Michele Clark, Brittney, Josh, Ursula, Joe and Steve; Graphic Artist Muffet Brown; Photographer John Brady; Videographer Ted Kamp of Burt Dubrow Productions.

Everyone who put in their time, talent and creativity to organize and manage an event such as this is a true hero of freedom. And that includes the 105 California LP delegates and over a dozen speakers and other guests who made the 2007 LPC Convention such a memorable weekend.

— Terry Floyd



Photo: Alan Lundegard



• Convention organizer **Terry Floyd** (above) has also been serving as the **Treasurer of the LP of Contra Costa County**

Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly



Photo: Alan Lundegard

• To top off fundraising for the weekend, outgoing Chair **Aaron Starr** persuades incoming Chair **Kevin Takenaga** to empty his wallet.

Photo: Alan Lundegard

• **Starchild** (standing) of the **San Francisco LP**; At a different time he organized an informal panel discussion about legalization of sex work to protect the rights of people involved in it, voluntarily or otherwise



• (R to L, below) Panelists **John Briscoe**—Orange County, **Jonathan Hall**—Kern County, **Jack Hickey**—San Mateo, **Frank Manske**—Contra Costa, and **Kate O'Brien**—Ventura discussed being successful elected Libertarians



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

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



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Holtz

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that there would be no LP landslide victories in D.C. or in state capitols, and pointed to Ocean View school board member **Norm Westwell** as a model of local success built on the hard work of speaking at public meetings and building credibility in municipal politics. He said "all the heavy lifting has to be done at the county level", and that the LPC should monitor Sacramento and do just the things that require economies of scale.

Zander Collier won Southern Vice Chair by acclamation, as did **Beau Cain** for Secretary. Outgoing LPC Secretary **Dan Wiener** received a richly-deserved standing ovation at the beginning of the Secretary election.

In winning Treasurer by acclamation, **Don Cowles** added a little spark to what

was the fifth straight effortless victory. He began his speech by dramatically and silently taking James Ogle's map of California's 12 virtual mini-states and setting it up near the stage—then suddenly stopped and said "I scared you guys, didn't I?"

The election for Executive Committee were next, with the top five winning 2-year terms:

- Ted Brown 70
- Camden McConnell 61
- Lawrence Samuels 58
- Brian Holtz 53
- Mike McMahon 52
- Matthew Barnes 51 (won 1-yr. term)
- Bruce Dovner 46
- Jesse Thomas 40
- Starchild 33

The Judicial Committee was chosen to be **Bob Weber**, **Allen Hacker**, **Dan Wiener**, **Rick Nichol**, and **M Carling** (later elected JudCom Chair). The ExCom Alternates election chose **Chuck Moulton** and **Jesse Thomas**. Moulton is the national LP Vice Chair, and was fortuitously available for a 1-year alternate slot because he



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

• **Paul Studier (left) talks to Norm Westwell, trustee for the Ocean View School District in Orange County. Westwell was the Saturday night banquet speaker.**

will be spending the next year at San Jose State University in a master's program in Austrian economics.

During the Sunday afternoon business session, the credentialed delegate count was 99, and the exits were informally guarded to help maintain a quorum of 49. This meant that any two or three delegates could block

changes to the Platform, which requires 2/3 of those voting but 50%+1 of the credentialed delegates. The room agreed to call for repeal of the federal Real ID act, but declined to oppose 1) any wall or fence on California's border with Mexico, 2) incarceration upon arrest when there is no immediate physical threat from the accused, 3) holding reporters in contempt for not revealing their sources, or 4) deployment of US

armed forces beyond America's borders.

There were no resolutions offered for consideration.

Informed that we were \$188 short of raising \$5000 in donations this weekend, Starr inspired the delegates to cough up many tens and twenties, and then persuaded Takenaga to empty his wallet for the cause. Retiring Chair Aaron Starr then handed the gavel over to incoming Chair Kevin Takenaga, in front of a dozen cameras and the loud applause of delegates grateful for Aaron's six years of service.

The new Executive Committee met after the convention adjourned. Executive Director **Angela Keaton** will be managing *California Freedom*, with *The Libertarian Perspective* contributor and Los Angeles County LP Vice Chair **Thomas Sipos** being appointed as editor. Bruce Dovner and the two ExCom alternates Chuck Moulton and Jesse Thomas were nominated to fill the three ExCom vacancies created by the election of Newell and Cowles and the resignation of M Carling to allow his service on the Judicial Committee. The three were elected without objection, as they were the top three vote-getters among ExCom candidates who finished "out of the money" (as Dovner put it). ExCom deferred the filling of the two alternate seats to a future meeting, but voted in an Operations Committee consisting of the five executive officers.

The ExCom passed resolutions thanking the 2007 convention committee and the outgoing officers, and set the next ExCom meeting for Saturday June 9 in San Diego. ●

Film Review

The Lives of Others

Freedom Triumphs over Government Oppression



by **Laura Brown**

2006 LP Candidate for AD 49

"The Lives of Others," the 2007 Oscar winner for Best Foreign Language Film, celebrates the triumph of freedom over government oppression. The metaphor of "The Wall" runs throughout: specifically, the Berlin Wall, but also the walls that separate people and their points of view. Libertarians will enjoy this fascinating story and its underlying message of hope in a time of Big Brother.

The story is set in East Germany in the early 1980s and explores the world of its secret police and their victims in the years just before the Berlin Wall fell. The Stasi, as they were known, kept totalitarian control at all costs and reportedly had more than 100,000 employees to monitor a population of just 17 million.

The plot is centered around a Stasi captain, Wiesler, who is a true believer in the sacrosanct power of the state. He ruthlessly pursues perceived dissidents, and trains recruits in his harsh police methods. A government official assigns the captain to spy on a playwright and his actress girlfriend, so Wiesler



Photo: Ted Brown

extensively bugs their apartment. Wiesler learns he is expected to find dirt on the playwright, Dreyman, because the official wants the actress for himself—but instead the spy becomes enthralled by the writer, listening with emotion to his music and surreptitiously reading his books.

It's cathartic for a Libertarian to watch a government bureaucrat being slowly won over to "the other side"—in this case, to the freedom of thought and expression that Dreyman represents. The police captain sympathizes with Dreyman's plight of trying to write within the "walls" of government censors, and looks the other way when his subject criticizes the government in an article. Wiesler makes an ambulance run of sorts to save the writer's skin, but tragic consequences ensue for him and the actress.

It's astonishing to realize that, in 1984, Orwell's nightmare vision was taking place every day in the GDR's own vast underground warren, where the

Stasi locked up people at whim, interrogated them for days on end, and isolated them behind walls. But by the movie's end, all the walls come tumbling down. We're shown Gorbachev's election, followed by ordinary people dismantling the Berlin Wall with great excitement in 1989. More walls collapse when Germany is reunited, and citizens are allowed to see their government files (when Dreyman requests his, they amount to a small library). Dreyman learns that Wiesler was instrumental in keeping him out of jail, and he expresses his gratitude in an ingenious way that dissolves the wall between spy and subject.

Libertarians will glean many insights from "The Lives of Others," most importantly, a renewed respect for the *Bill of Rights*, that slim document that remains our best armor against America's "Stasi," in all its forms. It's a movie that could make "Patriot Act" into an imperative sentence and renew our resolve to defend our civil liberties. If we fail to do so, then, as Pink Floyd says, "All in all, it's just another brick in the wall." ●

LAURA BROWN is a teacher and writer living in San Gabriel. She is a veteran candidate for State Assembly.



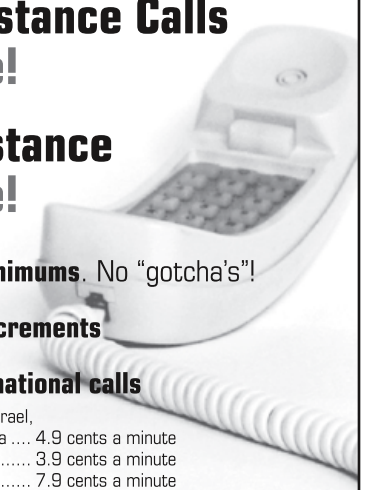
Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

• **Keynote speaker Tom Tryon is the longest serving supervisor of Calaveras County and a Libertarian.**

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New Executive Committee of the Libertarian Party of CA

Note: Names in red are new to LPC ExComm

Position	Name	Term
Chair	Kevin Takenaga	2 years
Northern Vice Chair	Richard Newell	2
Southern Vice Chair	Zander Collier	2
Secretary	Beau Cain	2
Treasurer	Don Cowles	2
At-Large Representatives	Ted Brown	2
	Brian Holtz	2
	Camden McConnell	2
	Mike McMahon	2
	Lawrence Samuels	2
	Mark Johnson	1
	Matthew Barnes	1
Judicial Committee	Bruce Dovner	1
	Chuck Moulton	1
	Jesse Thomas	1
	M Carling (Chair)	1
	Allen Hacker	1
	Rick Nichol	1
Next Meeting:	Bob Weber	1
	Dan Wiener	1



Takenaga



Newell



Collier



Cain



Cowles



Brown



Holtz



Samuels



Johnson



McConnell



McMahon



Barnes



Dovner



Moulton



Carling



Hacker



Weber

Photos: Alan Lundegard; except Carling and Johnson by Elizabeth Brierly; Holtz courtesy of Holtz

Next Meeting:
Saturday, June 9
in San Diego — All LPC Members Welcome to Attend

Medical Marijuana Legalization OC Finally Moves Forward

by **Aaron Smith**
 Safe Access Now

On April 17, the Orange County Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 to direct staff to draft a policy for local implementation of California's medical marijuana identification card program. The draft policy will be back before the board in 90 days for further direction.

Participation in the program would be voluntary for qualified medical marijuana patients and their caregivers; however counties are required to make the program available. The cards

Counties are required to make the program available

provide a mechanism for *bona fide* medical cannabis patients to identify themselves as legally able to possess, transport and use marijuana. Many choose to become cardholders because it reduces their risk of unnecessary arrest, detainment or seizure of property by state and local law enforcement—which conduct over 99% of marijuana arrests in California.

Unfortunately, the state law that created the program—Senate Bill 420—was enacted over three years ago but did not include a deadline for county implementation of the program. Consequently, some counties—

Some counties have been dragging their feet.

such as Orange—have been dragging their feet.

Over the last year, Safe Access Now has been working to lobby counties, such as Orange, to begin accepting applications for the medical marijuana ID cards. A somewhat narrow, but very important part of the California's political landscape surrounding medical marijuana.

One would think implementing a state-mandated program that enjoys widespread public support and helps law enforcement officers wouldn't be controversial. Unfortunately, that is not the case, at least in Orange County.

Building Coalitions

In the months leading up to the Orange County vote, Safe Access Now made con-

tact with, attorneys, physicians, local patient groups, politically "progressive" organizations, and concerned citizens. I even called on the help of LPOC Chair, Bruce Cohen—a man whom I had sometimes found myself fighting against during my time with the LPC—because I knew that we shared the same belief about medical marijuana and someone I knew had connections with some of Orange County's VIPs.

While the Orange County vote was only a very small victory for local patients, it was some much-needed progress in the campaign to ensure local governments comply with our well established medical marijuana laws. Orange County is

No progress could have been made without the coalition we built.

considered one of the most conservative counties in the nation, and law enforcement there is fiercely opposed to our medical marijuana laws. No progress could have been made without the coalition we built.

California's medical marijuana laws are not implementing themselves. It takes the hard work and dedication of patients and advocates willing to speak truth to power. Most importantly, it takes coalition building between groups that share the same belief on this issue—even when they may be otherwise land on opposite ends of the political spectrum.

Medical marijuana is one of many issues we can find com-

mon ground with other political interests. Libertarians should be reaching out to those groups to build coalitions that fight for positive change, rather than constantly fighting them on the issues we will never agree on.

AARON SMITH works for Safe Access Now, an advocacy group for medical marijuana patients. Formerly he served as the Sonoma County LP's chair. He also ran a professional campaign for State Assembly in 2004 under the Libertarian Party banner.

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Secretary's Summary

continued from page 1

Any later changes to that report, or proposed changes from the convention floor, will require a 2/3 vote of registered delegates to pass.

• Starting in 2008, the Judicial Committee will be elected to two-year terms. The Judicial Committee may choose to hold hearings via teleconference or video conference.

• ALL state party members who were members at least 90 days prior to a convention may be delegates to a convention. (In other words, all of the complex delegate allocation rules were eliminated.) In addition, each Executive Committee member may seat one member as a delegate. (In other words, a mechanism was created to allow up to 15 exceptions to the 90-day requirement. This was subsequently used to seat seven recent members as delegates.)

Another Bylaws proposal to create separate memberships and dues for the state and county parties was defeated.

The revised Bylaws for 2007-2008 have been posted on the LPC web site.

Kevin Takenaga was elected

Chair, **Richard Newell**—Northern Vice-Chair, **Zander Collier**—Southern Vice-Chair, **Beau Cain**—Secretary, and **Don Cowles**—Treasurer.

Ted Brown, Brian Holtz, Camden McConnell, Mike McMahon, and Lawrence Samuels were elected to two-year terms on the Executive Committee. **Matthew Barnes** was elected to a one-year term (filling out the remainder of **Angela Keaton's** term, now that Angela is Executive Director).

Chuck Moulton and **Jesse Thomas** were elected as Alternates on the Executive Committee.



Photo: Alan Lundegard

• **Television personality Wayne Allyn Root spoke in the Presidential Candidates Forum at Convention**

Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierty



• **Anthony Gregory, from the Independent Institute, drew a standing ovation & a crowd after his Sunday breakfast talk. He is also a regular writer for The Libertarian Perspective.**

M Carling, Allen Hacker, Rick Nichol, Bob Weber, and Daniel Wiener were elected to the Judicial Committee. M Carling was subsequently selected as Chair of the Judicial Committee; he can be reached at mcaring@gmail.com.

Norm Westwell, recently elected trustee for the Ocean View School District in Huntington Beach, gave the banquet speech on Saturday night. He described his efforts over the years to run for a variety of offices as a libertarian, and how he finally was elected.

Sunday morning's program

began with a breakfast address by **Anthony Gregory** on "Real World Politics and Success for the Principles of Liberty". Next were panels on "Successful (Elected) Libertarian Candidates for Office" and "Successful Local Libertarian Party Organizations". In parallel there was a sex-workers seminar.

Chuck Muth gave a campaign workshop on how Libertarians could be successful candidates.

Very little of significance, change-wise, happened at the Sunday afternoon convention session. The Platform Committee presented its report, but only a

bare majority of the registered delegates were present. This made it impossible to pass any items which were opposed by more than a handful of delegates. Hence several Platform Committee proposals were passed over when it became obvious that there was insufficient support.

A Platform amendment was approved which called for the repeal of the Real ID act and opposed the use of driver licenses as national ID cards.

A Platform amendment was approved which a paragraph regarding workers compensation in the Labor Relations plank.

There were no candidate endorsements or resolutions.

Over \$5,000 was raised for the LPC through a combination of Saturday night fundraising and some last-minute fundraising on Sunday.

At the Sunday afternoon meeting of the new Executive Committee, **Chuck Moulton** and **Jesse Thomas** were elected to fill the vacancies caused by **Richard Newell** and **Don Cowles** becoming officers. **Bruce Dovner** was elected to fill the vacancy caused by **M Carling** becoming a member of the Judicial Committee. ●

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Photo: Alan Lundegard

What's So Funny?

Lawrence Samuels (left) and his wife Jane Heider are amused by the karaoke performances at a late evening candidate reception Friday, April 20.

See more pictures of good times at LPC Convention 2007 on pages 4 and 5.

SPECIAL POST-CONVENTION ISSUE

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