

California Freedom

March 2008 — The official publication of the **Libertarian Party of California**

Smooth Sailing at 2008 LPC Convention

by Thomas M. Sipos

Delegates of the Libertarian Party of California convened for their annual convention at San Diego's Marina Village Conference Center over the weekend of February 22 - 24th. The 73 state delegates elected officers and national delegates, fine-tuned the LPC platform and by-laws, honored Lawrence K. Samuels with a Bray Award, and voted in a presidential straw poll.

Five LPC Executive Committee At-Large Members' terms had expired: Matthew Barnes, Bruce Dovner, Mark Johnson, Chuck Moulton, and Jesse Thomas. Terms for both Alternate Members had also ended: Dan Minkoff and Mark Selzer.

Delegates elected (or re-elected) five "new" At-Large Members with the following vote totals: Matthew Barnes (62), Jesse Thomas (59), T.J. Campbell (49), Rob Power (46), and Eric Bresson (39). Failing to win were Mark Selzer (37) and Starchild (29).

Los Angeles County LP Vice Chair Bruce Dovner declined to run for re-election because,

he said, he'd like to focus on building the county party. Newly elected Rob Power is San Francisco LP Chair, and National Chair of Outright Libertarians.

Delegates elected two Alternates: Donna Orlando (55) and Mark Selzer (31). Failing to win were Starchild (30), Barbara Joy Waymire (16), and None of the Above (1).

All five Judicial Committee members' terms expired this year, so delegates elected: Alan Hacker (55), Daniel Wiener (53), Rick Nichol (49), Less Antman (47), and Mark Hinkle (42). Failing to win was M Carling (32).

Delegates reviewed proposed changes to the party platform and by-laws. As every year, time expired before the respective committees' proposals could all be considered, leaving delegates no time to make their own proposals from the floor.

The platform's relatively "open immigration" stance was strengthened with new language condemning a government fence along the US border. Former LPC Chair



Photo: Thomas M. Sipos

LPC Southern Vice Chair Zander Collier III moderates a presidential debate
Seated: George Phillies, Steve Kubby, Wayne Allyn Root, Jim Burns, Michael Jingoizian

Aaron Starr moved to delete the entire Immigration plank, for being controversial and divisive, but his motion failed to come to a floor vote, for parliamentary reasons.

Delegates also elected delegates to the upcoming national LP convention in Denver, to convene in May. LPC members not elected as delegates may still be elected as alternates

at the national convention itself, provide enough open slots exist -- which, to date, has always been the case. Alternates enjoy equal voting powers with delegates.

The Karl J. Bray Memorial Award for Activism was presented to Lawrence K. Samuels, Vice Chair of the Monterey County LP and co-chair of Monterey County Libertarians for Peace. In recent years, Samuels has been especially active in fighting both eminent domain abuse and US

involvement in the Iraq War.

Five LP presidential candidates participated in a debate moderated by LPC Southern Vice Chair Zander Collier III: George Phillies, Steve Kubby, Wayne Allyn Root, Jim Burns, and Michael Jingoizian. A straw poll was scheduled for after the debate.

Daniel Wiener moved that the poll's rules be changed to Instant Runoff Voting. The motion carried, resulting in some confusion as to what names, or how many, one may write

continued on page 4...

Teaching Liberty on the Air

Libertarian Monday Radio Show

by Lawrence K. Samuels

Since mid-2007, David R. Henderson and this author have been co-hosting (on alternating Monday mornings) *Libertarian Monday* on KRXA 540-AM in San Diego, California, with the show's host, Hal Ginsberg.

KRXA is an Air America affiliate, owned and operated by Ginsberg, which runs well-known progressive talk shows. Ginsberg, a former attorney from Washington DC, originated *Libertarian Monday* in hopes of giving progressives a taste of libertarian thinking. He became interested in libertari-

anism after helping this author promote a series of antiwar demonstrations in Monterey, California.

Libertarian Monday proves that local talk radio desires good, provocative material. If libertarians can snag a one-hour show on a radical left-wing radio station, it should be a piece of cake to get onto a conservative station.

Lawrence K. Samuels is Vice Chair of the Libertarian Party of Monterey County. He co-chairs Monterey County Libertarians for Peace with Prof. David R. Henderson, an economist with the Hoover Institute. Samuels's email: lawsamz@hotmail.com.



Photo: Lawrence K. Samuels

Radio host Hal Ginsberg of Libertarian Monday

INSIDE

Prop 98 Defends YOUR Property Rights **3**

Teaching Liberty to Youth **4**

Darknets Protect YOUR Privacy **5**

Broadway for San Diego City Council **6**

Hollywood Libertarians **7**

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Who Won the Revolution?

Starchild van Winkle, great-great-great-great grandfather of San Francisco LP activist Starchild, was a surprise attendee at the convention, looking refreshed from what he called “a long slumber.” Van Winkle had come to circulate petitions against President Adams’s proposed penny per bushel excise tax on imported hemp.

When Van Winkle learned that hemp was no longer legal—but that many new taxes were—he departed for the Port of San Diego, seeking passage to “the relative freedom of King George’s England.”



Photo: Thomas M. Sipos

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Away On Business

Because of a busy work and travel schedule, LPC Chair Kevin Takenaga was unable to submit a March column. He expects to update members on his party-building efforts in April.

fense (whatever you wish to call it) LPers still back Root. This suggests two possibilities: Either they believe Root *secretly* supports the war. Or they have nowhere else to go. At least Root (unlike Steve Kubby) hasn’t called for the impeachment of Dick Cheney.

It seems Root is trying to appeal to both pro- and antiwar libertarians, offering a quiet, back-of-the-bus, non-interventionism (he plans to emphasize economic issues if nominated) as opposed to in-your-face, stop the war rhetoric. It may be why he won the convention’s straw poll. He held his pro-war base, while gaining among moderate non-interventionists.

mine.) An LPC ExCom member deleted Gibby when posting the results on blogs. He told me it was because Gibby was ineligible, but I suspect it was because he worried that Gibby’s vote would cast the LPC in a frivolous light. He was unhappy that I planned to report Gibby’s vote in *California Freedom*, but I believe those of you who weren’t at the convention have a right to know what went down, unsanitized.

This and recent issues of *CF* have featured articles from libertarian activists around the state. Many were directed to me by Kevin Takenaga. He tours the state, learns of members’ projects, and directs

FROM THE EDITOR



Peaceniks Reverse Root

by Thomas M. Sipos

Wayne Allyn Root approached me at the LPC convention, wanting to set the record straight. I’d blogged against his presidential candidacy, because of his pro-war remarks (“Iraq is the wrong war. Iran is the right war.”).

Root told me he’s changed. He’s been educating himself, reading libertarian thinkers such as Rothbard. Root says he now agrees with the LP’s non-interventionist stance. He also claims he’d said “Iran *might be* the right war,” but in any event, that was last year. He currently does not believe that war with Iran is necessary.

Root has also called the Iraq War “a mistake.” I’ve seen photos of scorched and limbless Iraqi children, of blind or limbless U.S. vets. This war begs for stronger condemnation than calling it “a mistake.” Still, it’s a start.

Root was friendly and personable to me. He said that were I to know him better, I’d

find much to like about his economic views. That may be. Although before entering the race, Root had endorsed a McCain/Lieberman GOP ticket, so it seems Root has evolved economically as well.

The question arises: Is Root sincere in his conversion to non-interventionism? I can’t read his heart, but either way, Root’s reversal is a victory for LP peaceniks.

If Root’s conversion is sincere, it demonstrates the intellectual strength of classical libertarianism. The power of our ideas caused a 180° shift in this man’s worldview. If he’s lying, it demonstrates the political clout of the LP’s antiwar faction. That there is at least a perception that one can’t win the LP’s nomination unless one opposes empire.

Root’s reversal proves the LP, far from being “significantly divided,” is a majority antiwar party. But I think everyone already knew that.

Curiously, pro-war/pro-de-



Photo: Thomas M. Sipos

Art Olivier and Wayne Allyn Root at the LPC Convention

I’m not comfortable giving our top spot to a newcomer who’s still learning and evolving. (That would include Christine Smith.) I’d rather Root continue his education, and prove his sincerity by supporting the LP in other ways. He can always run in 2012.

“Gibby the cat” won a vote in the straw poll. (No, it wasn’t

them to contact me. Kudos to Kevin.

Kudos also to English libertarian Stuart Smith. The Coffee Club graphic on page 4 was drawn for us by him, free of charge. Convention delegates applauded Stuart for his work. Please visit Stuart’s website: www.GravitionCreations.com.

Letters to the Editor



LP Shouldn't Be Antiwar

Mr. Atheian couldn't have said it better. [Letters to the Editor, January 2008] While fully subscribing to most Libertarian positions, our enthusiasm for the Libertarian Party has fallen significantly. The decline is related wholly to our sense that the party is unequivocally antiwar.

We agree that pursuit of war in Iraq has much to be debated. And the expected outcomes are possibly naive. But we strongly support the aggressive pursuit of terrorism aimed at the United States. Mr. Atheian's recommendation—"Let's stick to the issues that unite us."—should be seriously considered.

— Joseph & Francine Welstand
Pinole, CA

Antiwar Rag

It's a shame how badly you [Thomas Sipos] have done with *California Freedom*. And it's a further shame how dishonest you have been with the content, on top of your poor job as editor.

I think you should apologize and resign.

Never once did I [as *CF*'s former editor] use the magazine as my own personal soapbox. It was all about promoting success within the LPC. You, on the other hand, have turned it into a themeless, rambling, and pointless antiwar rag that's not really related to the Mission Statement.

I'm so embarrassed for you. You're really a Democrat. While you're at it, would you please resign from the LP and join the Donkeys as you vote for Obama and McCain?

— Bruce Cohen
Orange County, CA

More Soapbox, Please

Just wish to say how much I enjoy the regular "From the Editor" columns by Thomas Sipos. The February 2008 one was up to their usual high standards with an unusually thoughtful analysis of the Nolan chart.

Keep those valuable columns coming, Thomas!

— Michael R. Edelstein
San Francisco, CA

Judge Gray Fan

Our drug laws have failed and the huge prison population is merely the tragic symptom. The more things you make illegal, the more crime you will have. Every legislator should read *Why Our Drug Laws Have Failed* by Judge James Gray.

— Ken Obenski
Honaunau, HI

June 3rd Election

Defend Property Rights – YES on Prop 98

by Gene Berkman

Cities and counties throughout California are taking private property via eminent domain powers, so that politically-connected special interests may build sport stadiums or shopping centers on our former homes, farms, and businesses.

Even if your property is "safe," everyone pays taxes for these "redevelopment" schemes.

On June 3, 2008, you can limit governments' eminent domain powers by voting YES on Prop 98—the Property Owners & Farmland Protection Act.

Prop 98 prohibits eminent domain for economic development or private use, restricting it to public uses only—roads and other infrastructure, parks, schools, etc.

Even better, Prop 98 also increases protections in public use takings by guaranteeing that property owners receive just compensation, as determined by a jury, in any eminent domain taking. And if eminent domain is used for public purposes, and the project is canceled, the original owner will have the right to buy back his property at the "just compensation" price he was paid.

Many Californians don't know we have a second primary this year, so the Riverside County LP will mail postcards to registered Libertarians—as we do before every election—to urge a YES vote on Prop 98.

Please, get a list of registered Libertarians from the Registrar of Voters in YOUR

county—and use it to bring out Libertarian voters!

Of course, voters of any party affiliation can vote YES Prop. 98. If you're active in a local taxpayers group, gun owners group, or Ron Paul Meetup, encourage the members to vote YES on 98.

You can get more info from the YES on 98 campaign at (916) 556-1110 or www.yesonpropertyrights.com.

The RCLP has produced an issue paper, *Community Redevelopment: Corporate Welfare in Your Hometown*. Libertarian activists may receive copies by contacting this author at renbook@earthlink.net or (951) 369-8843

Volunteers Needed

- **Researchers.**
To investigate primary election results. Should be internet and phone savvy.
- **Webmasters.**
To update our state and county websites.

Please contact LPC Chair Kevin Takenaga (chair@ca.lp.org) or Secretary Beau Cain (secretary@ca.lp.org).



Photo: Thomas M. Sipos

Gene Berkman owns *Renaissance Books* in Riverside. He is Chair of the *Riverside County Libertarian Party*.

I'm Joining the Libertarian Party of California!

Yes! Start my membership in the Libertarian Party of California *this month*. Dues plus my dated signature below grant me *twelve months* of membership.

- \$1,000 *
- \$ 500 *
- \$ 250 *
- \$ 100 *
- \$ 55 * Subscribing Membership
- \$ 25 Basic Membership Dues
- \$ _____ Monthly Pledge (\$10 * monthly minimum for credit cards)

* Includes a concurrent 1-year subscription to *California Freedom*

The Libertarian Party is the party of principle.

To publicly affirm our belief and ensure that our party never strays from our principles, we ask members to proudly sign and date 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.

Dated signature required for membership in good standing ↑ Date ↑
Notice: Political contributions are not tax deductible.

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Teaching Liberty on Campus

Columbia College Students Learn to Breathe Free

by Albert J. Segalla

On January 31, 2008, the Associated Students of Columbia College sponsored a political forum featuring speakers, plus information about California's seven ballot propositions. Dominic Torchia and Joseph Day represented the Democratic and Republican parties, respectively. The Barack Obama Campaign sent Jay Bell. I spoke for the Libertarian Party.

We also had a table, staffed by Barbara "Miss Joy" Waymire, CLP candidate for the 25th Assembly District. She administered the Nolan Chart quiz to about 30 people. Most found it interesting.

My talk generated the most audience response. Many students agreed that we must end drug prohibition. Many agreed that we must end government welfare handouts—for both corporations and individuals.

I demonstrated the safety of electrical appliances that are assured by Underwriters Laboratories—a non-governmental quality assurance firm—by *clenching an electrical cord between my teeth!* I offered UL as a successful model for the protection of public safety in lieu of government regulation, which must lessen if we are to restore liberty.

Regarding law and justice, I compared common law to regulatory law; the former protects individual rights, unlike the latter. Pollution should be a trespass problem, not a regu-

latory one. Private ownership, not regulations, saved the once endangered buffalo.

I discussed my political awakening during the 1964 Goldwater campaign, which a few audience members in this college crowd still remembered. I recalled flying gliders in Fremont back then, and how clear the air suddenly became when climbing over the smog—much like the clarity of vision expressed in libertarian principles, which are clear, reasonable, and the basis for all prosperous civilizations throughout history.

I ended by inviting everyone to join me in climbing out of the collectivist smog, and breathe the free, clean air of libertarian principles—and then follow those principles to build a better America and a better world.



Albert J. Segalla's email is: alsegalla@mindspring.com.

LPC Convention continued from page 1...

on one's ballot. "It's your ballot," ruled LPC Chair Kevin Takenaga, "You can do whatever you want with it."

The straw poll's results: Wayne Allyn Root (20), Steve Kubby (12), Ron Paul (12), George Phillies (8), Jim Burns (3), Karen Kwiatkowski (2), Mary Ruwart (2), Christine Smith (2), Gibby the cat (1), Michael Jingoian (1), None of the Above (1).

Without a majority winner, the IRV process then counted delegates' lower ranked votes, some of which were cast for Art Olivier, Walt Disney, Harry Browne, Boomer, Bob Barr,

Don Gorman, Bob Jackson, Daniel Imperato, Karl Hess, Dave Hollist, and Angela Keaton.

When the IRV dust had settled, the final official vote was: Wayne Allyn Root (31), Steve Kubby (21).

**Please
Join our
Coffee
Club**

Teaching Liberty in High School

YOU Can Sell Liberty to Students

by Roberto Leibman

Every January, McClatchy High School in Sacramento invites California's political parties to address students. Each party gets an entire class session (30 to 45 minutes) to sell themselves. Republicans, Democrats, Greens, American Independents, Peace & Freedom, and Libertarians usually all participate.

Social sciences teacher George McAdow prepares his students by displaying the traditional one dimensional political spectrum on the board, with a list of political issues and where the Left and Right stand on each.

I begin my presentation by distributing the "World's Smallest Political Quiz," teaching students that Libertarians do not fit onto a one-dimensional chart. I present a brief history of the LP, address the issues on McAdow's board—and those not there—and then I answer questions.

My presentation includes the "traditional" Libertarian platform, and contentious issues (e.g., the war, abortion), emphasizing that one can have a rational and friendly discussion on these issues by standing squarely on the non-initiation of force principle. I also try to be fair to Libertarians whose views differ from mine.

The most controversial issue

is usually the drug war. This amazes me. Many of these kids see this war's ravages on their communities. Yet they cannot get past the government's propaganda. They're shocked that Libertarians want to legalize *all* drugs.

"But," one kid says, "if drugs were legal, everyone would do them!" (This is usually from one of the "straightest" students.)

I ask, "Do you use Crack? Heroine? Meth?"

"No."

"Would you use them if they were legal?"

Click!

I demonstrate that the drug war is *not* working. I ask them to raise their hands if they can obtain any drug within 30 minutes. *Everyone* raises their hand.

I discuss the drug war's side effects, and that the "cure" is worse than the disease.

Education privatization is another tough subject. (I fear Mr. McAdow may stop inviting me for this issue alone!) Yet I cite the school my own kids attend—the Roseville Community School—as an example that one can obtain a high-quality education at reasonable cost.

Many of these kids are from immigrant families, so I present the LP's three-pronged approach to immigration.

1. Eliminate welfare incentives;
2. Close the *back door* tightly

to protect our borders; 3. Open the *front door* wide so that people can enter to work with minimal hassle.

Sure, some kids don't pay attention, yet there are always a few who engage me, even if they disagree. Those whose youthful passion hasn't yet been extinguished by The System. One or two always tell me that I was the best speaker, or that he agrees with the LP most.

In the end, more young people understand Libertarianism, and can make a conscious choice to accept or reject it.

You can help! Either by *contacting schools* or by *volunteering to speak!* Or both!

Contact every social science high school teacher in your surrounding area, and suggest they implement a similar program. The sell is easy. All the teacher need do is make some phone calls, do a few prep classes, and then relax for the next several classes.

Roberto Leibman is Chair of the Placer County Libertarian Party. His email: roberto@leibman.net.

**I'll Kick Statist Butt!
(You Buy The Coffee)**

Join the LPC Coffee Club

This image available for purchase at www.cafepress.com/libertykicks

Your \$\$\$ Buys Liberty

LPC activists are **fighting statist repression and speaking truth to power**—but LPC dues don't cover all expenses.

We need YOUR \$\$\$ to kick statist butt!

Join our Coffee Club!

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California Freedom

Donate!

To purchase back issues of *California Freedom* for your outreach events, please contact the editor.



Protecting YOUR Privacy Darknets

by WillPC

In the beginning, there was the Internet. Everyone happily connected to it, and swapped information freely, without concern for privacy or safety. But soon, this began to change. The fascist regime began to pass legislation, shackling once-free information, and spying on the once-free people. The lightnets were shut down by law enforcement or legal action. Even the decentralized networks, such as BitTorrent trackers, fearing attack, began to become seclusive and private.

The Technology

This new wave of totalitarianism calls for the next generation on file sharing technologies, darknets. Thus far, there have been roughly speaking three generations of file sharing technologies, each with a fundamental flaw leading to its demise.

The first generation was the centralized and semi-centralized lightnets, such as Napster and even the World Wide Web. However, due to their centralized nature, they were shut down by criminal charges or legal action of some kind.

The second generation consisted of decentralized networks, such as gnutella and BitTorrent. Although the decentralized networks are a great improvement over the centralized networks of yesteryear,

they, like their ancestors, are flawed. Decentralization was created to combat the legal attacks which destroyed networks like Napster. However, many things were overlooked in their design, namely anonymity and encryption. In the wake of ISP monitoring and RIAA [Recording Industry Association of America] lawsuits, decentralization is not enough. Individuals are being targeted, in order to spread fear.

The Resistance

The third generation of file sharing software is the most important: darknets. A darknet is a private encrypted virtual network for a small group of people. The goal of a darknet is a small, completely encrypted network, completely invisible to anyone who doesn't know about it. Not even your ISP can tell what files are being moved through the heavily encrypted darknet.

Motivations for a Darknet

There are several advantages to darknets. In a small network, with only trusted users, IP farming technologies used by the RIAA and similar organization are useless. Darknets are heavily encrypted, so they are immune to ISP monitoring tools. Darknets can be "bridged" by users who belong to multiple darknets (see Small World Theory). Because darknets are small networks set up by groups who know

each other, key distribution becomes a non-issue.

Darknets fix the vulnerabilities suffered by their predecessors, but not without expense. Darknets have one weakness: people. The security of a darknet is based on trust of those using it. Before you invite someone into your group, ask yourself if you really trust that person. Also, set strict rules regarding members inviting new people into your darknet. One lapse of judgment could compromise the security of your darknet. With a tight-knit group of people you trust, and weapons-grade encryption, darknets are the safest, most robust file sharing available.

Building a Darknet

There are a number of ways to build a darknet. Unfortunately, there isn't much software available to do it. Freenet (freenetproject.org) and WASTE (waste.sourceforge.net) can both be used to create darknets. However, both of these create decentralized darknets. This may seem like a good thing, and in many situations it is. Before deciding on a decentralized network, take into account the size of your network, and how often people keep their computers running. Make sure there is a root node which will always be on, preferably with a static IP.

The second option is a centralized network. Unlike large centralized networks, darknets are not only small and private but also disposable. A larger

continued next page...

Protecting YOUR Property Libertarians Fight Eminent Domain in Seaside

by Lawrence K. Samuels

When baseball legend Reggie Jackson recently plunked down \$50,000 to begin building a 250-room hotel and conference center in Seaside, California—amid a crowded commercial district dotted with homes, churches, and businesses—local politicians trumpeted the additional tax revenue they'd collect from the prospective "redevelopment project."

Astute community observers knew that was the code word for "eminent domain."

Libertarian leaders held a rally to gather signatures on petitions and express opposition to eminent domain. Because of this public protest, the Seaside Redevelopment Agency canceled their next public meeting, claiming it had been improperly advertised.

The *Monterey Herald's* editor understood the problems of taking land for private use, yet wanted the city to retain that power for redevelopment purposes. His editorial called the association's threat to re-



Photo: Lawrence K. Samuels

Anti-eminent domain activist Tim Cunha talks to Monterey Herald reporter Andre Briscoe

The Seaside Taxpayers Association, chaired by local Libertarian Party member Eugene Lee, immediately issued a press release calling for the recall of any city council member who votes to reinstate eminent domain powers.

Local merchants and liber-

call over eminent domain "the fringes of political debate," and said the taxpayer group was "lining itself up in crackpot territory," and that the recall would be an "abuse of the ballot box."

The editorial failed to mention the abuse arising from

continued next page...

Raise your Cup to New Coffee Club Members!

We want to thank the following members who have stepped right up and joined the LPC Coffee Club since its March kick-off. A Coffee Club member donates a minimum of \$42 per month or \$500 or more each year.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Bob Barr | Brian Miller |
| Suzanne Bell | Chuck Moulton |
| Philip Berg | Rich Newell |
| Ted Brown | Alan Pyeatt |
| Beau Cain | Jeffrey Sommer |
| T.J. Campbell | Aaron Starr |
| Zander Collier | Paul Studier |
| Don Cowles | Kevin Takenaga |
| Michael Denny | Chuck Tolman |
| Bruce Dovner | Bob Weber |
| Terry Floyd | |
| Brian Foster | |
| Daniel Imperato | |

Here's My Pledge to the California Coffee Club!

Yes! I'll donate the price of a cup of coffee every working day and pay for it with a monthly pledge.

- One cup a day = \$ 42 monthly
- Two cups a day = \$ 84 monthly
- Three cups a day = \$ 126 monthly
- Five cups a day = \$ 210 monthly

Political contributions are not tax deductible. Federal law requires us to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and employer of each donor who contributes more than \$200 per calendar year. →



Please Join our Coffee Club

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News You Can Use

Get YOUR "Letters to the Editor" Published

by Richard Rider

Submitting letters to the editor (LTEs) is the most cost effective thing an individual can do to influence an issue. The public, media, and politicians heed LTEs. Indeed, some studies indicate that the LTEs section is the most frequently read section of newspapers!

Some pointers on how to write and submit LTEs:

1. Short, concise letters are more likely to be published than long, meandering ones. Keep them under 150 words—for big papers, under 100 words. Longer letters are also more likely to be edited; it's better you do your own editing.

2. Ever notice how you read LTEs? Most people read shorter letters first, and then perhaps they'll read the longer ones. Thus, shorter letters have a better chance of being both published and read.

3. *What to write about?* A current news story. Every day offers us many stories on which to comment. Replying to editorials (agree or disagree) is also effective.

4. Be timely. Respond within a day or two of an article's publication.

5. Pick an issue of importance to you. Show some passion. And humor.

6. *Briefly* state the argument you're rebutting or responding to. Don't do a lengthy rehash; it's a waste of valuable space, and boring.

7. Stick to one subject. One issue per letter.

8. Offer two or three solid points for your position. We all have 23 reasons why our viewpoint is correct, but don't list them all.

9. Don't be shrill or abusive. Editors often discard personal attacks.

10. Logically organize your LTE. Briefly recite the argument you're opposing, then

state your position, then present your evidence. Close with a short restatement of your position, or a pithy comment. (*"Jimmy Breslin says possession of firearms should be limited to law enforcement officers. I say when only the police have guns, the police state is just around the corner."*)

11. Facts and figures raise your LTE above the "sez you, sez me" category. (*"Anthony Lewis calls for taxing the rich to balance the budget. Is he aware that if we confiscated the entire income of the top wage earners in this country (those earning over \$200,000), this would run the federal government for exactly 8 days?"*)

12. Expert testimony bolsters your case. (*"George Will claims we need the draft to defend America. But General Edward C. Meyer, Army Chief of Staff, recently stated..."*)

13. Proofread for errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Newspapers often edit to correct mistakes, but your LTE will more likely be published if it's already "clean."

14. Edit. Some say a letter shouldn't be mailed right after it's written. Put it aside for an hour or more. Rereading it later will often help you spot errors in reasoning, stilted language, etc. Read your LTE to a friend for objective input.

15. But don't let your letter wait too long and lose its timeliness. The internet has made the prompt submission of LTEs ever more important.

16. Try to view your letter from the reader's perspective. Will your arguments make sense to someone without a special background on this issue? Did you use technical terms not familiar to the average reader?

17. Should your letter be typed? Yes!

18. Ideally, submit your letter



Richard Rider

by email and fax. Faxes have higher editorial visibility (and are faster than snail mail), while emails are easy to "copy and paste" (and protect you from human error in transcription).

19. In newspaper columns (and most emails), a paragraph should rarely longer than three sentences. Preferably no more than two. People don't read long paragraphs—including editors!

20. Direct your missives to "Letters to the Editor," or a similar sounding title. Name the specific paper in the greeting so they don't think it's been sent to other publications.

21. Include your name, residence address, email address, daytime phone number, and signature (if on paper). Papers don't publish this info, but they may use it to verify that you wrote the letter.

22. Most important—*write!* Don't aim for a perfect letter. Just give it a good effort and send it.

23. Letter writing is the one thing any one of us can do on our own, without the need to work through a group. No committees necessary.

24. Don't be discouraged if your LTE isn't published. You've still given the editor a better sense of public opinion on an issue—and some strong arguments.

Richard Rider is a former LPC candidate for governor of California. He is Chair of San Diego Tax Fighters, and a paid columnist for the North County Times. To get his free weekly "Rider Rants," email him at RRider@san.rr.com.

Peace.

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Darknets continued from previous page...

darknet can be composed of smaller networks, with connections made through shared members, preferably connecting through some sort of proxy in order to protect the identities of the users. A centralized darknet could be constructed in a number of ways, such as an encrypted NFS drive and a secure connection like an ssh tunnel; an encrypted FTP service where each user is

given an account which can write to the service; specialized software which uses a hub to cache data (I am writing such software); or a directory, such as a torrent tracker, where all the files are encrypted.

Libertarian Candidate

Broadway Runs for San Diego City Council

Libertarian Paul Broadway is running for San Diego City Council District 3 in the upcoming June 3rd election. He is one of seven candidates currently verified by the City Clerk's office.

Broadway is a US Navy veteran and former federal public safety officer. He's also a former small businessman. Along with his wife, Marcia, Broadway ran a popular local tavern, *Sparky's*—the city's first after Prohibition. *Sparky's* closed in 2006 after 71 years

of operation.

Campaigning before the Adams Avenue Business Association, Broadway promised that, if elected to city council, he would not seek re-election. He also pledged to accept no monetary contributions, adding, "You won't be getting any junk mail from me."

Broadway may be contacted at (619) 284-2331 or www.broadwaypub.com.



Photo: Paul Broadway

"Like many in our district and our city, I proudly served in the United States Navy," says Paul Broadway

Eminent Domain continued from previous page...

longterm government threats to seize property. Nor did the paper explain the problem of plummeting property values in active redevelopment zones. (Sellers must disclose all relevant facts about their property or face possible litigation by unhappy buyers.)

This author has been fighting eminent domain for over 30 years, beginning in the late 1970s with firebrand Chris Norby, who later became Mayor of Fullerton on a campaign promise to stop eminent domain in his city. (In 2002, Norby was elected to the Orange County Board of Supervisors.) Ironically, this author's own small commercial building—which he intends to turn into a Freedom Center upon his retirement—is in Seaside's targeted redevelopment zone.

Last January, several anti-eminent domain advocates ran for the 15-member Public Advisory Committee (PAC) that provides input to the local Redevelopment Agency. This author, and another eminent domain protester, Tim Cunha, won the election.

The protests are working. One Seaside city council member acknowledged that they received many calls from upset land and business owners. City staff claim they have no intention of using eminent domain *unless they have to* (i.e., they still intend to steal private property for private development, but hope to reassure you so you'll stop paying attention).

Without street protests, petition drives, and threats of recall, City Hall would do as they've done in the past. They'd declare that a landowner had refused their low-bid offer and therefore they had no choice but to confiscate the property.

Fortunately, it only takes a small band of dedicated citizens to cripple government's attempts to increase their power and tax revenue.

Lawrence K. Samuels is Vice Chair of the Libertarian Party of Monterey County. He is currently also battling Measure R, which would increase the sales tax in Seaside by 1%. His email: lawsamz@hotmail.com.

Hollywood Libertarian Updates

by Thomas M. Sipos

Libertarian actress Darcy Halsey [*California Freedom*, July 2007] stars in new web comedy series, *Polly G*.

"It's about a young woman who marries everyone in her head," says Halsey, "so she starts a 12-step relationship program to detox from men. Prepare to see strippers, mimes, lawnmower pinatas, and motorboats (not the kind you think)."

Halsey co-wrote and co-produced *Polly G* with Alison Daddo through their production company, Comadre Productions.

Polly G may be seen on YouTube: <http://youtube.com/watch?v=uPF7hf16uLY>

More details: www.DarcyHalsey.com.



Darcy Halsey



Photo: Donald McCoy

J. Neil Schulman receives his plaque and complimentary bottle of Tommy Bahama rum at the San Diego Black Film Festival.

On February 2nd, libertarian filmmaker J. Neil Schulman's *Lady Magdalene's* [*California Freedom*, June 2007] won for Best Cutting Edge Film at the San Diego Black Film Festival, an annual fundraiser of the Black Historical Society of San Diego.

Starring Nichelle Nichols (*Star Trek's* Lt. Uhura), *Lady Magdalene's* is an action-comedy about an IRS agent (Ethan Keogh) who takes charge of a Nevada brothel that owes back taxes, only to unearth an Al Qaeda plot. Schulman's film

lampoons political correctness in the government, while celebrating private gun ownership and legalized prostitution.

Lady Magdalene's is represented by Jeffrey Leavitt of the Leavitt Talent Group, and is currently seeking distribution.

Lady Magdalene's will next screen on April 3, 2008 at the Backlot Film Festival, at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Culver City, CA.

More details: www.LadyMagdalenes.com.

End the Drug War

The Drug Policy Alliance seeks signature gatherers to get the "Nonviolent Offender Rehabilitation Act" (NORA) onto California's November ballot. Deadline: April 21. Contact: nora@drugpolicy.org. Info: www.drugpolicy.org/statebystate/california/nora/

Wacky Costume Amazes Crowd

Scruffily dressed libertarians were shocked upon seeing LPC Chair Kevin Takenaga attend Saturday's convention banquet in this bizarre outfit.

Takenaga explained that his outlandish attire was known as a "tuxedo." He further amazed libertarians by insisting that "tuxedos" were not unique to him, but rather, had been worn by millions of men over the past century, usually at formal events.

Puzzled libertarians then asked Takenaga to explain this strange thing called a "formal event."



Photo: Thomas M. Sipos

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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Libertarian Party members are also welcome to join the list and receive our media e-mail missives!

Join the LPC!



Libertarian Party!

How Is It That Pillows Are Still Legal?

Violence erupted at the 2008 LPC convention when a heated debate over a by-laws provision turned ugly. Before the eyes of terrified delegates, Libertarian Party national Vice Chair Chuck Moulton and LNC At-Large Representative Angela Keaton went neocon on each other, shrieking competing interpreta-

tions of *Roberts Rules of Order* during a savage pillow fight.

Fearing that hostilities may escalate into soft cushions and comfy chairs, libertarian on-lookers began debating

(1) whether the use of pillows violated the non-aggression principle, and

(2) whether stopping the fight would violate the non-in-

tervention principle.

One Objectivist insisted that dropping a nuclear bomb on the combatants in order to prevent the proliferation of pillows in the hands of anarcho-fascists would be moral—provided they were not nuked for altruistic reasons.



Photo: Thomas M. Sipos

Riverside LP Convention

The Riverside County LP convenes on Wednesday, **March 19, 2008**, at Hot Rod Pizza, 4750 La Sierra Ave, in Riverside, from 7 to 9 pm

Agenda includes election of officers and support for Prop 98, the "California Property Owner & Farmland Protection Act," on the June 3rd primary ballot. Attendance is free and open to all.

For details, contact Gene Berkman at (951) 369-8843 or renbook@earthlink.net.

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California Freedom



Photo: Thomas M. Sipos

Monterey Libertarians for Peace Co-Chair Lawrence K. Samuels received the Karl J. Bray Memorial Award for Activism at the 2008 LPC Convention

INSIDE

Prop 98 Defends YOUR Property Rights **3**

Teaching Liberty to Youth **4**

Darknets Protect YOUR Privacy **5**

Broadway for San Diego City Council **6**

Hollywood Libertarians **7**