

California Freedom

February 2006

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

Gov. Plans Spending Spree The Terminator Morphs into Girlie Man

by **Richard Rider**

Chairman, San Diego Tax Fighters

It's over. The giddy times of tossing out Gray Davis and replacing him with the tough Terminator are now behind us. After Governor Schwarzenegger's State of the State speech, stunned Democrats welcomed him with open arms. Democrat Assemblywoman Saldana offered him a voter registration card so he could officially change his party affiliation. He has become the very Girlie Man he so denigrated in times past.

The Governor is gone. We are left with an empty husk of a man, devoid of character or content. But those of us who opposed from the start the election of Arnold Schwarzenegger are not surprised.

There were two top-flight candidates, either of whom would have made a great governor: Republican State Senator Tom McClintock or Libertarian businessman Ned Roscoe. But the Schwarzenegger superstar status swept aside all opponents.

The key to understanding the dramatic swing in Governor Schwarzenegger's goals is to

grasp just why he ran for office. Quite likely, he was bored with film-making. An aging action actor, Schwarzenegger had all the money and fame a person could wish for, with only a declining film career to look forward to.

But there was more to it than that. As he grew older, surely he started thinking about his legacy. The unique Gray Davis recall election offered Arnold a short cut to the governorship—without party politics, a messy primary, or a long, drawn out campaign.

This opportunity opened up new area to excel, coupled with



Cartoon: Batton Lash, Exhibit A Press

the potential to do something more serious and lasting. Such as reforming government—and getting more buildings and highways named after him.

Aside from the obvious attributes Arnold Schwarzenegger

brings to politics—fame, muscles, money—he also offers another attribute that few recognized. Arnold has no principles.

• See **Spending** page 6

■ Election 2006

111 Calif. Libertarians Announce for Office in '06

by **Ted Brown**

Chair, LPC Candidate Recruiting

California Libertarians have responded in droves to requests that they run for office in 2006 to spread the Libertarian message. As of press time, over 110 candidates have announced for statewide offices, state legislative seats,

and the U.S. Congress. They have until February 23 to collect signatures from registered Libertarians in order to win ballot status while waiving the substantial filing fees.

This group of candidates consists of many experienced candidates, but even more newcomers. Several of our local Libertarian elected officeholders will be running for higher office this time: **Frank Manske** from Contra Costa County, **Verne Skjonsby** from Humboldt County, **Laurel Kienny** from Yolo County, **Teri Kahn** from Kern County, and **F. Forest Trowbridge** from Riverside County.

• **F. Forest Trowbridge**



• **Frank Manske**

Two of the candidates once served in office before becoming Libertarians: **Michael Dell'Orto**, a former Calaveras County Supervisor, who is running for Assembly District 25, and **Michael Fleming**, a former San Ysidro School Board member, who is running for Assembly District 79.

We have until Feb. 23 to collect signatures from registered Libertarians in order to win ballot status while waiving the filing fees.

A large number of school teachers and college professors are running this time. This is good news, since in the past, educators have been some of our



— Courtesy of the Ludwig von Mises Institute (on the Web at www.Mises.org).

best vote-getters. In Stockton, when candidates **Tom Alfieri** and **Bill Schubert** met, they discovered that Alfieri had been one of Schubert's high school teachers many years ago.

The candidates need volunteers to help them collect signatures. Please do your part to help! You can e-mail me at TedBrown1776@Hotmail.com to find out who the candidates are in your area. ●

Ted Brown is the LPC's most experienced candidate and has served as LPC Chair. He has been our prime candidate recruiter since 1988. Currently he serves our LPC Executive Committee as chairman of the Platform Committee and Candidate Coordinator. You may reach him via e-mail at TedBrown1776@Hotmail.com.



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Run for a Local Office and Help Transform the Party



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

With the nation taking a day off this month to celebrate Presidents' Day, it's easy for Libertarians to get lured toward thoughts of national offices—and the oval office. But it's important to remember that sometimes it's the little guy, the *local* guy or gal, who can make a huge difference in this country. You may not realize that for every politician elected to a partisan seat here in California, we have over 100 nonpartisan office holders. Yet we normally have 100 Libertarians running for partisan office for each one running for nonpartisan office.

There are several reasons for this.

It can be more of an ego boost to tell friends that you're running for State Senate, rather than the local water board.

The issues are often easier to discuss. Political issues at the state or federal level can be approached using sweeping

generalities, while it's more difficult to address the fine details of how to fund the infrastructure for a public works project.

A local campaign is winnable. Some Libertarians don't want to serve in office, so running for a difficult-to-win office is a fool-proof way not to have to do it. And if you know you're not going to win, you don't want to suffer the loss of putting a tremendous amount of personal effort into running a serious campaign.

Then there are cultural issues within our own party. Some members—a small and shrinking number, thankfully—discourage any Libertarian from serving in office because of their natural opposition to authority.

But running for office is not the way to move the



Winning office and serving your local community is the way to move the political ball down the field.

political ball down the field; winning office and serving your local community is the way to do so.

We will be further down the road of transforming the

Libertarian Party from a debating society to a political party when it's normal to have many times the number of candidates running for local office as the number of those running for partisan office.

If you want to assist with such a transformation, if you want the Libertarian Party of California to make tangible results, then it's time to step up to the plate and run for a local, winnable seat.

For those of you with your sights set on the White House or Capitol Hill, remember that each elected Libertarian implementing libertarian principles locally makes the job of the LP's Presidential candidate that much easier. The work we do today is what will bring us results tomorrow—at all levels.

—Aaron Starr
Chairman, LPC

What I ♥ about Libertarians



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In this month when we remember our loved ones, I wanted to share what I love about Libertarians.

1. Intelligent. Let's face it, you don't need brains to be a Democrat or Republican—you just need a pulse. Libertarians, on the other hand, need a pulse *and* an I.Q. above room temperature.... Gee, we actually read books!

2. Distrustful of politicians. Libertarians understand that 99% of politicians give the other 1% a bad name—and that, in the words of Richard Davies, they "should be changed regularly, like diapers, and for the same reason." Libertarians think politicians should be limited to two terms—one term in office and one in jail. Our belief in capital punishment means that everyone in the Capitol should be punished!

3. Freedom-loving. We think that any media worth banning are probably worth reading or watching. When someone asks whether we mind if they smoke, we want them to

be more specific. I know Libertarians who have a radar detector for their truck—a truck that shakes so bad it won't go over 50.

4. Independent. As we all know, organizing Libertarians is a lot like herding cats. So many great ideas! If you've ever had a heated discussion with someone who can't take *yes* for an answer, then welcome to our world! When ten Libertarians are in a room, there are eleven different opinions.

5. Want smaller government. We believe the problem with civil servants is that they're neither civil nor servants. As Michael Cloud says, "Libertarians want a government so small it'll fit on the side of a milk carton."

Have a wonderful Valentine's Day and see you at the convention!

—Dave Ruprecht
LPC Executive Director



I Want to Join the Libertarian Party!

☐ **Yes!** I want to become a proud dues-paying member of the Libertarian Party of California. I'll receive 12 monthly issues of *California Freedom* and a membership card. Please sign me up at the following membership level:

- | | |
|---|--|
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| ☐ \$50 Basic Member | ☐ \$500 Patron |
| ☐ \$25 Basic Member (introductory rate*) | ☐ \$250 Sponsor |
| ☐ \$ _____ Other Amount (\$50 minimum) | ☐ \$100 Sustaining |
| ☐ \$ _____ Monthly Pledge (\$10/month minimum) | |

* Special offer, available if you have never been an LPC member

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 ONLY DATE

☐ Check or money order enclosed. Monthly pledgers please include a voided check to authorize automatic monthly payments,

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LPC-2005-12-01

Play Cupid—
Match us up with new members!

The Libertarian Party of California
and its principles are for everyone.
Tell your friends and have them fill out
and send us the form at left.

■ LPC Convention 2006

Do's and Don'ts for a Fun Convention Experience



FROM THE EDITOR

The years fly! January marked the twelfth anniversary of my first Libertarian Party convention. Santa Clara County was holding its business meeting the week I finally found time to investigate in person. I'd been voting libertarian, so I felt right at home with this group who shared my values.

Like a kid in a candy store, I couldn't help but get involved—pronto. I joined the local discussion groups and business meetings; protested at the post office on April 15; and served as Campaign Manager for an all-out race for State Assembly against a Democrat with a quarter-million bucks.

Participating in California and national LP conventions is a great joy—I haven't missed a one. What a ball to surround oneself with people who reflect the rational, moral, and practical elements of one's values! But the business of the convention and its pace can be confusing, so for delegates to LPC's convention this month, I've jotted down a few handy tips.

Do:

...go! Trust me on this. You will not be bored on board.

...pack *Robert's Rules of Order* in your carry-on bag so you can bone up. This tried and true tool really does help large meetings run smoothly and stay on track.

...visit convention registration early. Know your county number to speed up your credentialing process. Check in with your region's chair; inform him or



her if you'll be away from the business session; check in upon return.

...review LPC's platform, program, and bylaws—at least so that you know the difference. Proposals will be put forth affecting them, so it helps to be familiar with them.

...accept and relish your status as "alternate delegate."

...hang out with other LP conventioners after hours! See what creative projects, discourse, costuming, and poetry your fellow innovators are up to.

Don't:

...be afraid to ask questions about the proceedings. Also, the microphone is your friend; if you use it, the Secretary will be, too!

...be surprised if a passionate delegate asks to suspend the rules to take up whatever this year's controversial issue is, nor if a rousing debate ensues.

...watch what you say. Let loose for a change! Libertarians are so polite and always holding back how they really feel; it's just heartbreaking.

...forget to explore all the shipboard amenities. This year, feel free to "rock the boat!"

Most of all, enjoy yourself. Be proud of your part in the libertarian community and all we're fighting for. You're in for a treat.

Toward greater liberty!

—Elizabeth C. Brierly
Editor



Afraid that Eminent Domain is Imminent in your Neighborhood?

You can do something! The LPC now has a special committee dedicated to closing for good the floodgates of eminent domain abuse in California. Get involved and save property rights!

You might volunteer, for example, to gather signatures to qualify an initiative for the ballot, while introducing voters to the Libertarian Party.

Contact Jay Smith, Eminent Domain Committee Chair, at (559) 225-5443, or via e-mail at Jae4free@aol.com.



Four Competing Initiatives

To compare the four (yes, 4!) proposed Calif. initiatives triggered by the U.S. Supreme Court's *Kelo vs. New London* decision devastating private property rights nationwide, visit the Attorney General's web site, at <http://ag.ca.gov/initiatives/active/index.htm>. Under "initiative measures—active," you may review the text of each measure and check on its status.

SA2005RF0133: "California Property Owner Protection Act."

SA2005RF0134: "The Homeowners & Private Property Protection Act of 2006."

SA2005RF0135: "California Eminent Domain Limitations Act."

SA2005RF0146: "Initiative re: Eminent Domain"

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

■ Web Watch

Ludwig von Mises Institute

www.Mises.org

It is the mission of the Mises Institute to restore a high place for theory in economics and the social sciences, encourage a revival of critical historical research, and draw attention to neglected traditions in Western philosophy.

Ludwig von Mises (1881–1973) was one of the most notable economists and social philosophers of the twentieth century. He spent six decades teaching, writing, and showing that government intervention is always destructive, whether through welfare, inflation, taxation, regulation, or war.

Ludwig von Mises Institute was founded in 1982 to carry forward his "vision of the free and prosperous commonwealth," and in 1995, its web site, at www.Mises.org, went on line as an abundant research tool in free-market economics.

This highly professional and intuitive web site features

study guides, bibliographies, biographies, foreign language materials, research tools, an on-line catalog of publications, and more.

The site offers a truly generous array of e-books and periodicals.

There's a calendar of the events offered at their Auburn, Alabama-based headquarters, such as classes at Mises University (you can watch a short video or sponsor a student), summer seminars (which this year include "Philosophy" with Roderick Long, and "Commerce and Culture" with Paul Cantor), and the Austrian Scholars Conference planned for March. Can't make it all the way to Alabama for these firsthand educational experiences? Not to worry—the site offers free audio and video Internet broadcasts of its conferences and seminars. You can even listen to *Mises Radio*, which has three channels of streaming audio from past lectures and seminars.

Editorials are posted daily, including such recently relevant pieces as: "Target: Google," "The Path to Lower Gas Prices: Free Trade," and "The Libertarian

Immigration Conundrum."

The site's "resources" page offers a truly generous array of e-books, from *History of Money and Banking in the United States: The Colonial Era to World War II*, by Murray N. Rothbard, to *Mises Made Easier*, by Percy L. Greaves.

On the site you're invited to subscribe to any of eleven different periodicals, including *The Free Market* (which is free on request), *Journal of Libertarian Studies*, and *The Libertarian Forum*.

Of course, nowadays, you're nothing without a 'blog, and this one has such practical 'blog entries as "Free Tax Deduction Software," alerts to appearances on television of John Stossel's "Give Me a Break" specials, and notice when the latest issue of *Econ Journal Watch* has been published, and where to find it.

But before the visitor has even noticed those entries, the 'blog page has regaled us front and center with Ludwig von Mises' choice of personal motto: *Tu ne cede malis sed contra audentior ito*, a verse from Virgil which means: *Do not give in to evil but proceed ever more boldly against it*. Mises Institute's web site is jam-packed with useful tools, information, and education, and is certainly worthy of a visit by every "boldly proceeding" libertarian. ●



Meeting Notice

The next quarterly meeting of the **LPC Executive Committee** will be held on

Sunday, February 26, 2005, upon the close of the annual LPC convention, aboard the *Monarch of the Seas*.

For more details, check our web site at: www.CA.LP.org

All LPC members at the convention are welcome to attend.



Photo courtesy of Mises Institute



• **Institute namesake Ludwig von Mises with books which likely became part of the Institute's multilingual, 30,000-volume, Massey and Ward Library.**

■ Activist Support Libertarian Leadership School Opens for Business

Washington, D.C.—On Jan. 3, the Libertarian Leadership School (LLS) was officially launched, opening registration to students for the inaugural semester.



The LLS is an on-line university created to train prospective candidates, campaign staff, volunteers, activists, and party members on a variety of subjects. The LLS opened with 11 course offerings, including F.E.C. Compliance, Ballot Access, Campus Organizing, Media Communications, Personal Health and Appearance, and even Blogging 101.

Classes for the first semester began on January 31. Each course is six weeks long and entails several reading and written assignments, followed by a timed test at the end of each week. The LLS is entirely on line. Students may access the school from any location, and attend classes on their own time to fit their own schedule.

The LLS was formed to aid the Libertarian Party in focusing on creating successful campaigns

and candidates. The school is one of many new programs the national LP has lined up for 2006.

"The Libertarian Leadership School is a significant step

LLS is an on-line university created to train candidates, campaign staff, and activists.

forward for the Libertarian Party. The school offers comprehensive training by instructors who are experts in their given fields," stated LP Chief of Staff Shane Cory. "The Libertarian Party is creating and deploying the tools that we need in order to win and break the two-party system."

For more information about the Libertarian Leadership School, visit www.LP.org/lls. ●

Editor's note: LP of California's Executive Committee member Bruce Cohen is on the faculty at LLS.

After two years in Washington, I often long for the realism and sincerity of Hollywood.

—Fred Thompson

Support for School Bonds Declining



by Jon Coupal
President, Howard Jarvis
Taxpayers Association



75 traditional two-thirds-vote bond measures (17% of all local bond measures), with 39 of those measures passing (52% pass rate). (Some school districts opt for the traditional two-thirds-vote bonds because there are no limits to the amount of indebtedness sought to be approved). The combined total has been 440 total measures, with 359 passing (82% pass rate).

The total amount of bonds approved since the passage of Proposition 39 has been \$39.38 billion, with \$37.34 billion of that amount coming from Prop. 39 bond measures.

Of the 440 combined total number of bond measures, 171 (or 39%) passed with less than a two-thirds vote. The total bond amount represented by these 171 Prop. 39-affected measures is \$23.93 billion.

Evaluation of the November 2005 ballot reveals a change in the level of support for school bonds, although the pass rate is higher than ever. There were 36 local school bonds on the November ballot, with 31 of those measures passing (86% overall pass rate). Of the 36 measures, 31 of the measures (86%) were Prop. 39 bond measures. Of the 31 Prop. 39 bond measures, 28 ended up passing (90% pass rate).

While education leaders and the tax-and-spenders have been citing these high passage rates of local bonds on the November 2005 ballot as justification for greater public support for public education, the real reason the passage rates were so high is the significantly lowered passing standard under Prop. 39. Only 36% of the local education bond measures on the November 2005 ballot received a two-thirds vote. In the five-year period just prior to the passage of Prop. 39 in 2000, more than 60% of the local bond measures received a two-thirds vote. The median support percentages (median "yes" percentages) were also significantly higher during the aforementioned five-year period, compared to the November 2005 elections.

The numbers reveal an electorate that is starting to get

irritated with all these local bonds, especially from districts that have proposed multiple measures. Of the five districts that were pursuing their second or third Proposition 39 bond measure this last November, none cleared the two-thirds

The numbers reveal an electorate that is starting to get irritated with all these local bonds.

vote hurdle, although all ended up passing with less than a two-thirds vote.

Although members of the "Billionaires Boys Club" that backed Proposition 39 have pledged to defend its more liberal bond passing standard with their last discretionary dollar, pressure for relief is building. It may be that property owners will be forced to defend themselves through an initiative which, at a minimum, limits the frequency that school bonds can be placed on the ballot in any one district. ●

Jon Coupal is an attorney, and president of Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, California's largest taxpayer organization, which is dedicated to the protection of Proposition 13 and promoting taxpayers' rights.

Reprinted with permission; originally published the week of December 26, 2005 by Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. See HJTA's web site for more information: www.HJTA.org.

Mystical references to "society" and its programs to "help" may warm the hearts of the gullible, but what it really means is putting more power in the hands of bureaucrats.

—Thomas Sowell

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School district officials have found out how easy it is to pass bonds.

Proposition 39 changed the entire dynamic. First, at the ballot box, those who have no tax liability now can more easily overwhelm the property owners who do. Second, the same level of care and attention previously put into bond proposals to maximize support is no longer necessary, since passage has become almost automatic. Third, now that school district officials have found out how easy it is to pass bonds, we are seeing many cases where they are coming back with a second, or even a third bond in just a few short years.

In the five years since the passage of Proposition 39, there has been a total of 365 Prop. 39 bond measures, with 320 of those measures passing (88% pass rate). There have also been

■ County LP Spotlight

Applauding Private "Charity" at Santa Clara Convention

Ibust myths. And I think the public needs to bust its own myths."

Susan Hamilton's words jibe so well with the principles of the Libertarian Party, that the Santa Clara County party invited her to speak at their annual convention, held on Jan. 10 in Mountain View. Hamilton is Executive Director of VTF Services, "a nonprofit organization providing service to the industrial community." So, what?

VTF Services is special because they find people with disabilities, train them in jobs ranging from tree spraying to assembly of software kits, and put them to work—for actual money, paid by actual busi-

nesses and individuals—and refuses to take a penny from taxpayers.

Hamilton's passion for her work was clear the moment she started her speech—she pulled a box of tissue from her bag in case she started to cry during her talk, and saying the audience was welcome to help themselves in case they too were moved by her speech. Then she explained how she'd taken her teenage outrage at bullies' taunting of disabled classmates, and combined that with a degree in Industrial Education, making her the perfect choice to direct this amazing organization. She said that being an advocate in the community means

taking a stand.

As for those myths that need busting, Hamilton shared how most of her staff members would usually be viewed as incapable of being productive workers. The organization's chief gardener, for example, is rather hunched over. She said they hire people with physical disabilities, as well as those with mental retardation but who are 50-60% high functioning.

"I'm very excited to help people see that our perceptions of disability are nonsense," Hamilton exuded. "People who have a job have pride in themselves." Assessing the Americans with Disabilities Act, Hamilton said, "I don't like how it was

written. It's too much, for too little."

The LP of Santa Clara has used VTF for several years to assemble and label its monthly newsletter, *Santa Clara Libertarian*. Says Newsletter Chair **Mark Hinkle**, "We've been so pleased with the attitude and responsiveness of VTF's staff, the turnaround time, and frankly, their reasonable rates. I can't imagine a better marriage of a privately-funded solution with our local party's needs."

In 2001, the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce awarded Hamilton their annual Athena Award, which was created to honor outstanding Mountain View leaders who have achieved a high level of professional excellence in both business and the community.

Also on the agenda at



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

• **Guest speaker Susan Hamilton of VTF Services is passionate about her organization's role in the community.**

the convention was the annual election of officers, committee chairs, and judicial committee members. Outgoing Chair **Allen Hacker**, who is an LPC

• See **SC County** page 6

■ Poli-Tips

Volunteers: Use 'em If You Got 'em



Whether during an active campaign or an "Interim Campaign," the main things to remember about volunteers are that they are hard to find, and that when you do attract them, you'd better be prepared to use them effectively, or they will become disillusioned. It is perfectly reasonable to make a choice *not* to seek volunteers, if funds are available to pay for all services. If not, however, volunteers can make a big difference.

One of the common images of a political campaign is a room full of people stuffing envelopes, making phone calls, drinking coffee, and eating stale pizza. In some campaigns, this image is reality. In others, volunteers play almost no role at all. The truth is that people seem to be busier than ever before, and volunteers for political campaigns are less available than they once were. If well utilized, though, volunteers can help stretch precious campaign dollars dramatically.

If you do plan to make volunteer activities a major component of the campaign, it is important that these activities be well designed and organized. Whereas volunteers will do almost any kind of work, from stuffing envelopes to making phone calls, they do not want to have their time wasted, and they are likely to be disappointed in the campaign and the candidate if there isn't something useful for them to do.

Here are some useful activi-

ties for volunteers, especially in local elections.

1. Help prepare mailings
2. Organize fundraising and other events
3. Staff a "constituent services" office
4. Prepare disclosures and other financial materials
5. Keep the Web site current
6. Deliver and put out yard signs
7. Visit your opponents' events to report what they are saying
8. Recruit voters

Make sure to keep track of those who do volunteer their help. This is best accomplished by entering their names into a database, where you can keep up with their contributions, and sending appropriate thank-you notes for their work. Communicate with them regularly and keep them "in the loop" to enhance their enthusiasm.

If your campaign really needs volunteers and is having trouble finding them, consider college and/or high school government classes, supportive interest groups (e.g., National Rifle Association, pro-life or pro-choice groups, environmental groups), church groups, and neighbors.

Finally, always keep in mind that your campaign and political office is more important to you than to anyone else. Do not be disappointed if the level of enthusiasm of others does not reach your own. Volunteers and supporters have their own

lives and challenges, and are not likely to become enthralled with your political fortune. This is not about you or your ability; it is a fact of life in every political race. Do not be disheartened by a lack of volunteerism.

Politically-e offers a customized political database to manage all your volunteers and to integrate them with contributors, prospects, and voters. The system offers automated volunteer tasking, tracking, and communications (mailing lists or free broadcast e-mail). Plus, the system is secure and web-based, so your volunteer leaders can manage the data (with your permission, of course) from wherever they have a PC with Internet access. Check out our features on our Web site, at www.Politically-e.com. ●

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What's Up this Week?

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



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SC County

continued from page 5

Executive Committee at-large rep, is staying on as Vice Chair after handing the gavel over to newly elected Chair **Kevin Takenaga**, also an LPC at-large rep and our Web Site and Infrastructure Chair. Locally, Takenaga has been working to found libertarian clubs in each city, while being hard at work

• **L-R: Santa Clara County LP Chair Kevin Takenaga, Vice Chair Allen Hacker, Secretary Mark Johnson, and Treasurer M Carling**

on the LPC's member database, since the split of the former national LP Unified Membership Program (UMP).

Mountain View Vice Mayor Greg Perry visited the convention to announce formation of a

coalition to oppose the proposed ¼¢ sales tax in the county to fund the expansion of BART to San Jose. The exorbitant project has so few redeeming qualities that even the Sierra Club is opposed. Perry welcomed several

LPSCC members who volunteered at the convention to join the coalition, Citizens for Sensible Transportation Solutions, which hopefully will succeed in aborting yet another burdensome government debacle.

Also wasting no time in recruiting volunteers, **Lionel Silva**, an LP candidate running for Assembly District 24, introduced himself and spoke about his campaign platform, which includes the ban of eminent domain abuse, and a

• **Lionel Silva**



Photos: Elizabeth C. Brierly

call for the Assembly to move to a part-time basis. With those principles, he had no trouble signing up signature gatherers from among the convention attendees. ●

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.

Spending

continued from page 1

Actually, the lack of principles can be quite valuable in politics. The ability to test the political breeze and to shift with the wind is indeed a valuable (if reprehensible) feature common to most successful politicians. Spendthrift George W. Bush comes readily to mind. Ditto for Bill Clinton in his first term in office.

Arnold has another problem—he craves to be liked. By everybody. All of his adult life

he has been an object of adulation—first in bodybuilding and then in acting. He thought that this superstar status would not only get him elected, but would then allow him to implement whatever changes he deemed appropriate. At the time he ran for office, there was strong popular support for real reforms, especially for reining in our runaway state government spending.

But once in office, Arnold faced a hostile, Democrat-controlled legislature. Initially he talked about bypassing this roadblock, using the initiative

process to get the needed reforms. Problem was, he just couldn't stand the fact that he was disliked by the Democrats. Perhaps his Democrat wife and Hollywood friends influenced him in this matter.

So the Terminator negotiated. He delayed. And he cancelled reform propositions that already had the needed signatures.

The Democrats were delighted to play this game, giving some small concessions while the honeymoon period of committed Arnold support slipped away. If he had come strong with the needed initiative reforms, placing them on the ballot for the regularly scheduled election of November, 2004, he might very well have done what he claimed he wanted to do.

By diddling around for an extra year, Arnold lost his momentum, and allowed the public employee labor unions to clean his clock with dishonest but omnipresent advertising. As a reformer, he failed.

Not to worry. Arnold didn't really care that much about those reforms anyway. He just thought that that was the popular thing to do. Freed from that misconception, he has now announced plans to become another Pat Brown—on steroids. The big difference is that Governor Brown paid for his infrastructure largely out of yearly revenue—but our Girlie Man will be putting it on the taxpayers' charge card.

Arnold is moving to issue mega bonds for any and all infrastructure improvements the state will ever need, and many it does not need. No money-saving reforms to reduce the cost of these projects are included.

For instance, the state's "prevailing wage" law requires that such government funded construction pay ridiculously high wages—exceeding even the sky-high costs of the federal

Davis Bacon Act. This law drives up the cost of such construction projects 30% or more. Arnold could have insisted on a suspension of this costly requirement in exchange for supporting these infrastructure bonds. But he didn't.



• **Governor Schwarzenegger visits workers building the Alameda rail line.**

As big as Arnold's public works shopping list is, not included is the proposed *forty billion dollars'* worth of bonds for the truly looney state high-speed rail system, which will probably go to the ballot next year. Arnold wants to wait until he's reelected before dropping that bomb!

The Governor is moving to issue mega bonds for any and all infrastructure improvements the state will ever need.

If Arnold were the tough guy he played in his movies, he would do three things:

1. Not run for reelection.
2. Spend the remainder of his term fighting for the people who put him in office—opposing runaway state spending, pushing for public employee pension reform, improving public education *without* more spending, and opposing more

taxes and bonds.

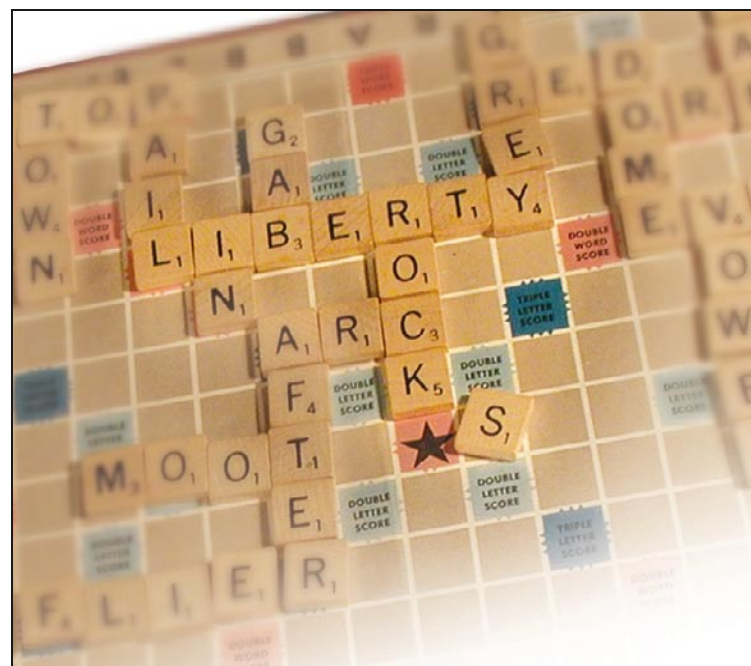
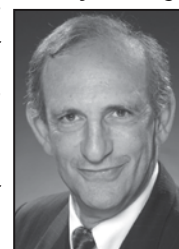
3. Use the powerful line-item veto on the budget. Astonishingly, so far he has not. Gray Davis used it more than Arnold has done.

Instead, this Girlie Man is obsessed with "leaving a legacy" to feed his enormous ego. Doesn't matter exactly what legacy it is, as long as it sounds good to posterity. He has only begun the transition to Gray Davis positions—expect more such concessions as the year goes by and the election approaches. By November, it will be hard to distinguish Arnold from his predecessor.

Indeed, Arnold will be *worse* than Gray Davis. The GOP legislators fought well against Gray Davis and Democrat spending, often holding their minority coalition together to block some of the state budget excesses. But now with Republican Governor Schwarzenegger applying pressure on GOP legislators to support his spending package, the Republican lawmakers will split, giving the Big Spenders the two-thirds' majority needed to pass even bigger and more irresponsible tax and spending plans.

The G.O.P. is too weak and afraid to send a serious challenger into the primary to oppose Governor Spendthrift. So in November we will get either a Democrat or a democrat as governor. I'm not sure which one deserves the bigger "D." ●

RICHARD RIDER is Chairman of San Diego Tax Fighters, and in 2005 ran for Mayor in San Diego's special election. A long-time Libertarian activist, Rider was the LPC's 1994 candidate for Governor, and in 1998 garnered 16% of the vote in his race for San Diego Tax Collector. He can be reached at RRider@san.rr.com.



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LPC's '98 Governor Candidate Kubby Keeps Fighting Legal Quagmire Threatens Family

• The Kubby family in 2004

The Kubby family thought that on Jan. 9, 2006, they might be granted some answers. But the Canadian judge presiding over former LP of California gubernatorial candidate **Steve Kubby's** convoluted

legal case—involving fabricated charges of drug possession in California, and two judges' illegal "upgrading" of Kubby's alleged violation from a misdemeanor to a felony—failed to make a decision about the

family's right to remain safely in Canada. He indicated he will be considering the case and has set himself no particular timeline, leaving them in limbo. Any day, the family could be extradited to California, where Kubby

will most certainly be denied the cannabis which for over 20 years has suppressed the deadly effects of adrenal chemicals produced by his tumors, which otherwise would be causing blood pressure attacks, resulting in



heart attack or stroke.

"I'm a lawmaker, not a lawbreaker," said Steve Kubby, pointing out the irony of his wrongful arrest. It was he who was the driving force behind the 1996 passage of Proposition 215, which created an exemption from criminal penalties for medicinal use of marijuana.

Michele Kubby has been compelled to carve out a new career as an attorney. But she says she needs help to continue to represent and defend her husband. Since their circumstances are so unstable, it has been virtually impossible for them to start a business, or even to obtain a loan. They need help to raise funds to cover all the expenses associated with the case: phone calls, gasoline, faxes, copies, office supplies, and importantly, legal research.

"I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all those who have sent us donations," said Michele. "It's only through these donations that I can keep these papers in front of the court. Most of our supporters are libertarian; they've been with us since the gubernatorial campaign. And without them, the family would not survive." The Kubbys have two daughters, now ages 9 and 6.

Michele said that there are two ways California Libertarians can help in this fight: first, send contributions so she can continue pursuing all legal avenues; and second, write to one or more of the four Ministers relevant to their case: Immigration, Health, Justice, and the Deputy Prime Minister. Since Canada's election is scheduled for Jan. 23, the identities of the Ministers are unknown at press time. But they are posted continually on the home page of the Kubbys' web site, "The KUBBY CHRONICLES," at www.Kubby.com. There you can learn about the three relevant questions the presiding judge will be considering, and how your letters can help. ●

Laws are like cobwebs which may catch small flies, but let wasps and hornets break through.

—Jonathan Swift

■ The Libertarian Perspective

How Can We Help Low-Wage Workers?

by Ron Getty

Chair, Initiatives Committee
LP of San Francisco

In 1914, Henry Ford voluntarily raised the pay of his factory workers to \$5 a day—twice what competitors paid—and shocked the automotive industry. Today, Wal-Mart associates earn \$68 a day; some observers are shocked at how low that amount is, suggesting that \$5 a day was great 100 years ago, but that now, \$68 a day is inadequate. Yet, to an unemployed or a low-wage worker, making \$54 or \$68 a day would be an improvement.

Entry-level, low-wage job experiences give workers a step up to "Big Box" employment. But politicians don't like that. If entry-level workers can get better jobs through personal productivity, politicians can't claim to lift people out of poverty with "magic wand," wealth-producing legislation. That legislation often comes in the form of hikes in the legal minimum wage. Yet, for decades, knowledgeable economists have been telling us that increasing the minimum wage actually costs jobs, as employers cannot afford to keep as many employees when wages go up, and some



employers even have to close up shop.

Who are these low-wage workers whose jobs the politicians will

gladly trade for votes? Most are under 25; they might be college students, first-time workers, or teenagers without diplomas or job skills. Others work in bars and restaurants and receive tips in addition to their wages. Some are unskilled or uneducated immigrants faced with language and technical skills barriers. In addition, many low-wage workers are elderly people supplementing their retirement incomes.

They might be first-time workers, or teenagers without diplomas or job skills.

Politicians and voters never consider the harsh impact of increased legal minimum wages. Such increases, along with rising local, state, and federal taxes, cause many low-profit-margin businesses to close or cut employment. Increased minimum wages also create pressures to raise the pay of older, experienced employees, further raising the cost of doing business. Sure, businesses can increase the price of products or services to cover these additional profit-eating expenses, but at the risk of losing customers.

For example, San Francisco now requires a minimum wage of \$8.82. To hire a full-time worker, businesses must net \$20,000 after mandatory matching taxes. The enacting legislation stated, "When businesses do not pay a livable wage, the community suffers." *An unhired worker suffers when the job this*

worker could perform doesn't generate \$20,000 of net business income, since the law bans him from being employed with less pay. To get around this law, businesses are hiring capable workers "off the books" and paying them "under the table."

Unions are circulating a ballot initiative to increase California's minimum wage to \$7.50 plus annual CPI increases. This deceitful initiative is an attempt to stop job competition for unions. It does *not* help minimum wage workers. Instead, it will create employment hurdles, causing increased unemployment for entry-level workers. If the initiative is successful, unions will use it to leverage increased pay for union members—at the expense of the non-union, entry-level workers.

Governor Schwarzenegger proposes to increase the California minimum wages of \$6.75 by 50 cents in September, and another 50 cents in July, 2007. Instead, he should be proposing a repeal of income taxes for low-wage workers and suggesting ways to make living in California more affordable.

The governor can help low-wage workers by cutting California's sales tax. At 7.25% statewide, plus a local sales tax of 1.00% to 1.25%, it is the nation's highest. This tax affects low-wage earners the most—they are the consumers who can least afford the extra hit to their wallets on each purchase. State and federal taxes take another 15% before they've even received their paychecks.

Ten years ago, the California budget was \$42 billion. Today, general fund expenditures are over \$86 billion, with \$27 billion more spent from "special funds" and bonds. The ever-increasing billions taken out of the California economy yearly is the major source of an increased cost of living. This makes California unaffordable for nearly everyone, not just low-wage workers.

Politicians and unions have

turned the minimum wage issue into a political football to score points. Sacramento doesn't need to increase the minimum wage to make living in California affordable. Instead, it must significantly cut state spending to reduce the cost of living.

Sure, businesses can increase the price of products or services to cover these wages, but at the risk of losing customers.

The best way for our state government to help low-income laborers is to repeal restrictive minimum wage laws, repeal their income taxes, and lower the regressive state sales tax (or tax only those purchases of over \$100).

These steps will make low-wage workers' dollars go further. And with the line held on employment costs, businesses will continue to employ their minimum wage workers and will be able to expand employment opportunities.

If we really want to help low-income workers, these are the solutions; increasing the minimum wage is not. ●

RON GETTY is the senior staff member of a tax attorney with his practice in San Francisco. He has an electrical engineering degree and 30 years in sales, marketing, and advertising. A Vietnam veteran, Getty brings a personal perspective to the treatment of veterans by the government. He believes in the rights of the Common Man to do what they must to protect themselves and their families.

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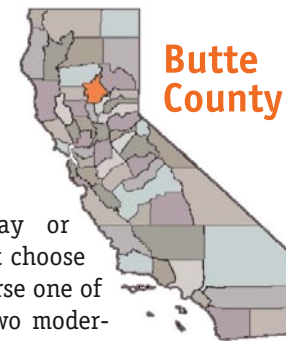
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■ County LP Spotlight

LP Sponsors Bipartisan Debate: A Butte of an Idea



Sure, the Libertarian Party has hosted debates before, but a bipartisan debate—with no LP candidate participating? The LP of Butte County will do just that.

Steve Wood, a member of the Butte County LP, had planned to run for Board of

Supervisors, District 3. But this county of 207,000 has an especially curvy, gerrymandered supervisorial district boundary, and upon closer inspection, it was discovered that although his neighbors vote in that district, Wood's street address actually lies just a hair outside

the district, thus he is ineligible to run. That leaves the race with just two contenders: liberal Maureen Kirk, a Chico City Councilmember, and conservative Anthony Watts, a member of the Chico Unified School District Board of Trustees. The outgoing incumbent, Mary Anne

Houx, is reportedly rather liberal, though she is registered Republican.

But after Wood's disappointment, instead of packing up and going home, the LP of Butte decided to take those lemons and stir up some lemonade. "We figured the LP could stay visible in the district by providing this debate as a community service," explained **Casey Aplanalp**, Chair of LP of Butte County, "since in this particular race, we are not able to have our own, Libertarian candidate on the ballot.

Both candidates seem eager to participate in the debate, and the press knows all about it. Two of the three moderators are from the Butte LP: **Kent Fowler**, Vice Chair, and **Mike Wacker**, Fundraising Chair. Jack Lee, an independent, will join them on the podium as co-moderator.

Aplanalp's evaluation of the candidates is that "Watts and Kirk are both mildly statist." He thinks that neither of them is at the extreme of their respective end of the political continuum.

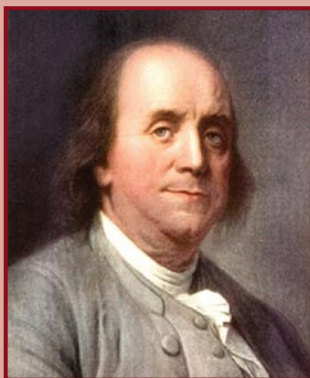
"We may or may not choose to endorse one of these two moderates for this nonpartisan office—it's unlikely, but it is an option." If the debate serves its purpose, and the candidates' positions are distinct from each other, that grey area may soon become either black or white.

The debate will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 6:30 P.M., at the city council chambers in downtown Chico (located at 4th and Main).

The LP of Butte holds its regular meetings on the third Sunday of each month, with their annual convention slated for next month, March 19 from 3:00–4:30, at the Chico Library (at 1108 Sherman). They will also be hosting a coordinated, multi-candidate signature-gathering party on Sunday, Feb. 12, from 3:00 to 6:00 P.M. (at the residence of Mike and Jan, 2676 Fair Street in Chico). For more details, contact Casey Aplanalp at (530) 894-8434. ●

A 300-Year Legacy

Though holidays focus on Presidents this month, it's worth mentioning the birthday of another great American leader. Benjamin Franklin, an entrepreneur, statesman, scientist, inventor, publisher of the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, author of *Poor Richard's Almanac*, member of the Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention, and signer of the *Declaration of Independence*, was born 300 years ago, on January 17, 1706. We honor this great man and thank him for his contribution to liberty in America.



Our new Constitution is now established, and has an appearance that promises permanency; but in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.

—Benjamin Franklin, 1789



They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.

—Benjamin Franklin, 1759

Libertarian Party of California

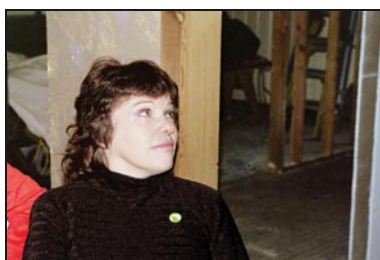
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California Freedom

Do you know this woman?

She's the LP's candidate for Lieutenant Governor, **Lynnette Shaw**, and quite a multi-faceted woman. In December, she led a meeting of her campaign steering committee here at the juice bar she is opening in Fairfax (Marin County), which is doubling rather efficiently as her campaign headquarters.



Not only a retail entrepreneur, Shaw is a professional musician; she has served on the Marin Drug and Alcohol Abuse Advisory Board; and she has been involved in litigation to protect the rights of medical marijuana patients. Most importantly, her bid for Lieutenant Governor has already garnered coverage in the *Marin Independent Journal*. See page 1 for updates on other LP of California campaigns in Election 2006.

Photo: L.K. Samuels

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