



The Los Angeles Libertarian

Vol. 9, Issue 4

Newsletter of the Los Angeles County Regions, Libertarian Party of California

July - August 2004

"Are We There Yet?:"

A de-briefing from the Freedom Road Trip (Vegas to Atlanta and back)

by Edward Bowers

Sherman's March, Not

No, you probably didn't hear about the "It's Right Here, Man" Freedom Road Trip, unless you attended the special **Samuel Edward Konkin III** Memorial meeting of the Karl Hess Club or visited my page on Showtime's American Candidate website. The "blog" on that webpage announced that I had bought a new (used) car and was road tripping it all the way across this great big country of ours to the LP's Presidential Nominating National Convention and that I was bringing my video camera along with the idea of making a documentary of my trip that would be entitled "It's Right Here, Man," in answer to the title of **Michael Moore's** latest book.



Edward Bowers

Well, without getting into all the ups and downs (some literally, just ask the clutch on my Insight), opportunities and failures—and surprises—on the trip, I must report that Mr. Moore and his reputation as the country's premiere mockumentary filmmaker are safe ... for now.

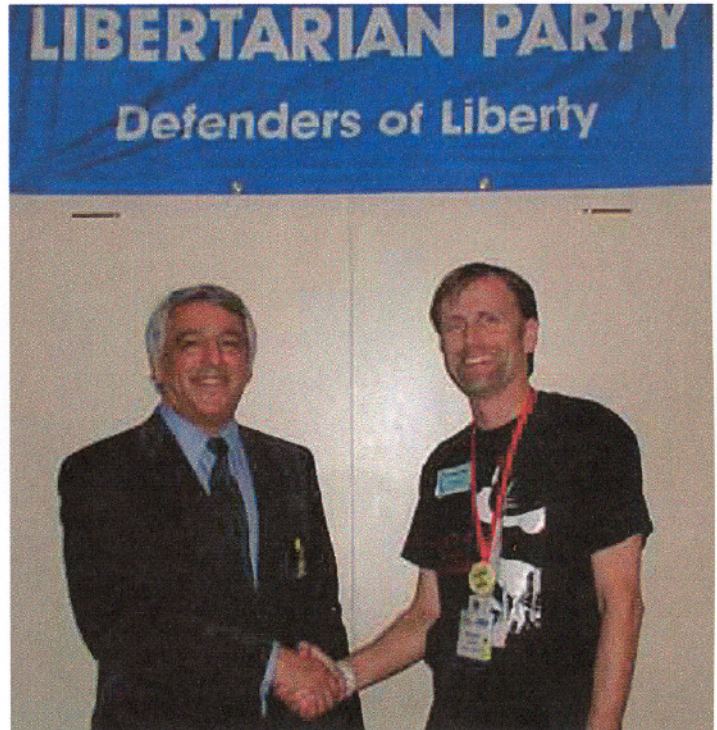
Vegas, Baby

I took my sweet time getting to Atlanta, two weeks to be exact. Although the convention (held over an extended Memorial Day weekend) was the keystone of the cross-country adventure, the trip was front-loaded, with an extended stay in New Orleans and, of course, the obligatory stop in Sin City.

I wasn't the only libertarian obliged to spend May 13 through 15 in Las Vegas. The 2nd annual Freedom Fest, the brainchild of **Mark Skousen** during his one-year term as president of FEE, brought about a thousand liberty-lovers to Bally's and Paris (as well as other less-expensive hotels and motels on or near The Strip). I had gone in, thinking this might be a convention of neo-cons (whatever those are), but that was not the case.

Keynote speaker **John Mackey**, CEO of Whole Foods Market, was a terrific and encouraging stand-in for **Ben Stein**, to name just one of the highlights. Just like Vegas has far too many hotels and attractions for you to experience them all, there were up to seven rooms going at the same time with speakers and panels, leaving you with at least one tough choice as to which one to attend. For completists, many of the sessions were recorded, so you could

See *Freedom Road trip*, p. 5



Edward Bowers, Reg. 61 chair and LPC ExCom representative, was a California delegate to the LP National Convention held May 27-31 in Atlanta, Ga. During the convention, Bowers had the opportunity to meet and congratulate **Richard Campagna** (left), of Coralville, IA, on his nomination as the U.S. Vice President candidate. Fluent in six languages and holder of five college degrees, Campagna is an attorney and teaches an MBA program in Health Care.

Photo by Elizabeth Brierly.

Convention turnout disappointing

There was a disappointing turnout of delegates from California as well as from Los Angeles County for the LP National Convention in Atlanta, GA, this past May. With an allowance of 226, only some 60 Californians showed up as delegates or alternates.

Among those attending from Los Angeles regions were **Ray Acosta**, **Edward Bowers**, **Ted Brown**, **José Castañeda**, **Dan Fernandes**, **Pam Maltzman**, **Thomas Sips** and **Dr. Randall Weissbuch**.

Message from the Chair

Stick-to-it-ness

by David Larkin

On Sunday afternoon of the Memorial Weekend, I was at **Mike Everling's** house.



Dave Larkin

I don't have cable TV so I was not able to watch our national convention on C-SPAN. I asked Mike what the results were and he gave me the vote by vote details, building up the suspense for the

final vote. What he told me about knocked me off my chair: **Michael Badnarik** had won the party's nomination over **Aaron Russo** and **Gary Nolan!**

"No way!" I thought. It was a warm day and possibly the heat had gotten to Mike and he was delirious. We watched a re-broadcast of the final vote from the convention and it confirmed Mike's story. "Incredible!" I thought. I had voted for Gary Nolan in the state primary. Gary won by a

Deadline near for writing opposing ballot arguments

California LP Secretary **Dan Wiener** recently sent out a reminder that in addition to a number of major initiatives which will be on the ballot this November, many counties and cities and school districts and other special districts will have their own measures on the ballot.

Usually these will be tax increases of various kinds, or else new regulatory proposals. This is always an excellent opportunity for Libertarian Party regions to write opposition ballot arguments which will appear in the voter pamphlets. But time is growing short. The deadlines for submitting such arguments will be sometime in July, depending on your locality.

Reg. 63 chair and candidate coordinator

large margin and I don't even remember Michael Badnarik on the ballot.

All three candidates spoke at the California Convention. In a straw poll conducted shortly before the close of the convention, Badnarik scored a distant third. Practically a non-entity. At that point I wouldn't have given him a snowball's chance in hell. I spoke with him outside the meeting room and he seemed relaxed and not bothered by the results. Apparently, he knew something I didn't.

So what happened between the California and the National Conventions? Well I can't give you the details, but I have a pretty good idea. Just plain old hard work. He must have contacted many of the national delegates and convinced them he was the best person for the job. He convinced enough people to win the nomination. Amazing!

The lesson in this is that hard work can deliver good results. Too often we think that our goal is hopeless, so why try. We can succeed if we use our heads and work hard. The people who screwed up this country worked hard. Why can't we work hard and set it straight? □

Ted Brown or LPLAC chair **David Larkin** are generally in touch with the County Registrar and will be aware of ballot measures that deserve opposition arguments. If you know of any in your locality and want to be involved, contact either Larkin at 818.899.3211 or Brown at 626.286.6124. They will know about requirements and deadlines for writing opposition ballot arguments.

Unless you act, a lot of these measures may be unopposed and will effectively win by default. □

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LPLAC now has a **Pay Pal** account. The ID is lplac@earthlink.net. Use this easy way to make a donation to the party by logging onto www.lplac.org and clicking on the link

Libertarian Party of Los Angeles County

www.lplac.org

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To be announced

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<http://home.earthlink.net/~jamiranda/contents.html>

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*These conventioners were concentrating deeply on floor matters at the May 27-31 LP National Convention in Atlanta, Ga. Behind U.S. Senate candidate **James P. Gray** (center left) are **Thomas Sips** of Santa Monica and **Gail Lightfoot** of San Luis Obispo. **Dr. Randall Weissbuch** of Arcadia (right foreground) is backed by **José Castañeda** of San Gabriel and **Rodney Austin** of Fresno.*

Photo by Richard E. Venable



Badnarik to tour Southland

Presidential candidate **Michael Badnarik** will tour Southern California twice: July 11-16 and again beginning Aug 23 in Bakersfield through Aug. 29 in San Diego, with stops in San Luis Obispo, San Bernardino, Los Angeles (2 days) and Orange County.

Check www.lplac.org for details. □

The Los Angeles Libertarian

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Send changes of address to:

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of Los Angeles County
P.O. Box 341227
Arleta, CA 91334-1227

Chipping away at freedom

Smoke-free beaches in Los Angeles County

First, you were prohibited from smoking in public (government) buildings; then it was commercial businesses such as department stores. Then the ban was extended to include bars and restaurants.

Now you won't be permitted to light up while strolling on some California beaches.

The Cities of Los Angeles and Santa Monica have joined in an effort to make a 13-mile stretch of beaches smoke-free. From Manhattan Beach in the south, the smoking ban will include Venice, Cabrillo, Dockweiler and Will Rogers beaches. (What, they overlooked Zuma Beach?) The only exception will be Santa Monica Pier, where smoking will be limited to designated areas, an apparent concession to business owners.

Apparently the ban was not widely advertised. **Michael Binkley**, who recently moved to Torrance and is a candidate for the 36th Congressional District, said he had only heard a little about the proposed ban. Binkley called the move "political over-reach, which is control, extending their own power." He went on to say that the ban won't work. "There are already laws in place about littering, and they are not enforced," he said.

Aside from second-hand smoke, one of the biggest complaints about smoking on beaches is the number of cigarette butts found during clean-up drives. Another complaint is people who throw away still-burning cigarette and cigar butts that can be stepped on by unsuspecting barefooted beachgoers.

The Santa Monica city council is waiting for review by City staff and the Pier Restoration Corporation before it designs and locates the designated smoke-free areas.

The smoking ban in all likelihood went into effect in late May. However, the Council amended the law to allow for a 90-day grace period during which violaters will be warned rather than cited if they put out their cigarette. After the grace period, those caught lighting up in banned areas will be fined \$250.

Smoke-free beaches have been initiated in other Eastern states. The City of Solana Beach, midway between San Diego and Oceanside, is the first California city to do so.

Don't relax, smokers. There is a move to outlaw smoking in one's private automobile, especially when children are passengers. □

First presidential candidate is 85



John Hospers

Dr. John Hospers celebrated his 85th birthday on June 9.

He was the first Libertarian candidate for U.S. president in 1972.

Hospers is Professor Emeritus of philosophy at the University of Southern California, where he still teaches occasional extension course in ethics, aesthetics and philosophy of law. □

Possible half-cent tax increase in works for LA?

As the Los Angeles Libertarian went to press, the fate of a ballot initiative to boost the sales tax by one-half cent in Los Angeles County was still in limbo.

The initiative needs 171,000 signatures to qualify to be on the ballot. Two weeks before the June 21 deadline, the organizers had collected only 130,000. Nearly two-thirds of those were gathered by paid petitioners. So far, organizers have spent \$332,000 from a war chest of \$500,000. Purportedly, they have commitments for an additional \$200,000.

If it qualifies for the November ballot and is approved by voters, the initiative would increase the Los Angeles County sales tax from 8.25% to 8.75%. It would join Alameda County and the City of Avalon on Catalina Island in having the highest sales tax in the state. Los Angeles's current rate of 8.25% places it among the small select group of Contra Costa, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties and the City of Calexico in Imperial County. The sales tax in many California counties is 7.25%, with others going up to 7.75%.

The initiative is backed by Sheriff **Lee Baca**, who has staked considerable political capital in pushing it, and stands to get hurt if it does not qualify. Baca first came up with the initiative in 2002, but shelved the idea when the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously against it. He revived his proposal this past September, saying local governments cannot count on the state to provide adequate funding for public safety.

In its latest budget, the Sheriff's Department has been told to slash \$35 million - to cover increased workers' compensation and other employee costs - on top of \$167 million in cuts made during the previous two years.

Baca estimates the sales tax increase would generate an additional \$500 million in revenue for law enforcement. That revenue would be divided three ways: the Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Police Department and the county's smaller police departments.

Some have suggested that the county could make up the shortfall by charging millions more to the 40 cities that contract for Sheriff's Department services. That is problematical, because many of those cities are caught up in the same type of budget crunches.

Baca has received endorsements from some Los Angeles City Council members and LAPD Chief **William J. Bratton**. However, county supervisors still have reacted coolly to the measure.

A telephone call to the Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters' office on Friday, June 18, disclosed that if the 171,000 signatures are turned in on June 21, the time required for signature verification and certification could still possibly cause it to miss the late August deadline to qualify for the November ballot.

Ted Brown, Reg. 63 chair and initiative watchdog, said that even if the initiative fails to collect enough signatures to qualify,

the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors could still place it on the ballot. Despite the cool reception the Board has given the measure in the past, members might look at the projected revenues and the budget cuts and figure out that with some budget adjustments it could be worthwhile.

The fate of this initiative is worth regional leaders keeping a weather eye on it. We are opposed to taxes in principle. The fact that it is a tax initiative and needs a two-thirds majority to pass also helps our cause.

The other side can use the emotional appeal of "public safety" to put their point across.

That could be countered by asking about the propriety of a government official, Sheriff Lee Baca, heading up such an effort. Do the taxpayers really believe that Baca is ramrodding this campaign only on his own time and is not using department personnel and resources as well?

As was mentioned earlier, this is a matter to keep an eye on and be prepared to fight.

8.75%

proposed sales tax –
a half-cent increase
for "public safety"



College Libertarian group contacts

Claremont Colleges Students for Liberty

Kevin Herms
kherms@pomona.edu

CSU - Northridge

Joseph Miranda
jamiranda@umahexagon.com

Pepperdine University

Robert Brunner
rbrunner@pepperdine.edu

USC

Kevin Dooley
kdooley@usc.edu

UCLA

Mike Binkley
mrmikebinkley@aol.com

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x - 0704

Freedom Road trip – from p. 1

catch what you might have missed live. I was there to see **Harry Browne** in fine form debating the merits of empire, but I still might buy the video, since I managed to get the last question in edge-wise, which prompted Harry's opponent to quip, "It's too bad we didn't cut off the questions one question earlier." I heartily recommend everyone's participation next year, and, though **Mark Selzer** was there sharing a booth to promote his "Libertarian Alternative" show, the LP really should have had an official presence there, too.

Hot 'Lanta

What happened? I was running around with my video camera, getting shots you didn't see on C-SPAN, including one of **Gary Nolan** pacing the back hall alone during the first role call vote. (BTW, if anyone has a tape of the C-SPAN coverage, please contact me.) It wasn't until **Aaron Starr** waved me over to see **Dan Wiener's** computer screen with the running tally that I realized the race, thanks to a good showing by **Michael Badnarik**, was a virtual three-way tie. **Aaron Russo** finished with a slight lead and his supporters started celebrating far too prematurely, particularly in light of the fact that Nolan was in danger of finishing third. Considering the dislike most Nolan supporters had for Russo (and likewise the Russo people had for Nolan), the only hope either candidate had was for them to be the last two standing on the ballot after every other nominee was eliminated (a process expedited by a motion from Pasadena's own **Ted Brown**). In retrospect, for Russo to have a chance, 5 of his supporters should have voted for Nolan on the second ballot to keep Nolan from finishing behind Badnarik and being eliminated. But Libertarians just aren't that sneaky, and there wouldn't have been much room for error. Or maybe Russo could have run his exact same campaign (which had a definite insider backlash element to it), except without the actual personal Nolan-bashing. Oh, well. Oops.

Tomorrow is Another Day

As I write this, I have no indication that Aaron Russo is going to run as an independent and I'm sure Gary Nolan's bid for the White

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*"...Badnarik
is as fine a
nominee as
I have ever
seen..."*

House is ended, too. As is mine. Thanks to some persistent phone calls from San Bernardino's **Paul Ireland**, I became one of 20 libertarians who applied for Showtime's upcoming "reality" show, *American Candidate*. In early June, I received the email that said I would not be one of the 12 finalists to get on TV this Summer. That's okay, but did one libertarian make it? (*Ed. note: Yes, at least one did. See side bar story below about Richard Mack.*) After our governor candidates got a whopping 3500 votes last year, I wouldn't blame Showtime if they shut us out, but, then again, they do put on that show with **Penn & Teller**. A San Diego libertarian, **Eric Phil**, did have over 29,000 online supporters and looks presentable. The winner gets \$200,000 to run for office. Hopefully our party's candidate will get and spend more than that.

Some fear that many **Aaron Russo** supporters will pick up their toys and go home (and hold on to their money). In his concession speech, Russo urged everyone to put their money where their mouth is. And I for one consider every vote cast for Badnarik by a former Nolan supporter to be a pledge by that person to write as big a check as they can to Badnarik for President.

I did just that, although I didn't vote for Badnarik on the final ballot. How big a check did I write (with the last check in my checkbook, I might add, and me 2100 miles from home)? That's nobody's business, but I will say as big as the one I wrote out to Judge Jim Gray for Senate. Michael Badnarik is as fine a nominee as I have ever seen, with constitutional backbone to spare. He deserves everyone's support and enthusiasm. And all those who ran but did not capture the nomination deserve our appreciation for their hard work and sacrifice. I bet they still read their email. Send them a quick word of thanks.

Bowers is Chair of Reg. 61, and represents that region on the LPC Executive Committee. □

Two Libertarian presidential candidates?



Richard Mack

Delegates to the LP National Convention nominated **Michael Badnarik** of Texas to carry our presidential banner in opposition to incumbent **George W. Bush** and Democrat **John F. Kerry**.

In a different venue, another Libertarian was selected to compete for that same office.

Libertarian **Richard Mack**, former two-term Sheriff of Graham County, Ariz. now living in Utah, was selected as one of the 12 finalists for president on the Showtime "reality" show, *American Candidate*.

Mack dropped out of the race for governor of Utah to compete.

Let others know what you are doing
Send articles and photos of your activities to
Los Angeles Libertarian
LPCNews@aol.com

Regional Happenings

Reg. 61

San Fernando Valley

Meets Fourth Thursday –

Supper Club: Carrow's Restaurant, 18355 Ventura Blvd., Tarzana. 7:00 p.m., dinner; 8:00 p.m., speaker.

Monthly business meeting is the second Thursday of each month, also at Carrows. Generally, this is for region officers, but all are invited. Contact **Edward Bowers** at ebowers@adelphia.net or voicemail 323.414.4444 to RSVP and for time.

Jul 22 – **Speaker: Kelley L. Ross**, cand., 28th Cong. district..

Aug 26 – **Speaker: Norma Jean Almodovar**, of COYOTE..

Reg. 62

West Los Angeles

Meets Third Tuesday –

Supper Club: Dinah's Restaurant, 6521 Sepulveda Blvd., corner of Centinela Ave. in Westchester. Supper, 7:30 pm; program, 8:30 pm. Speakers TBA.

Jul 20 – TBA

Aug 17 – TBA

For more information, call **Bob Weber** at 310.204.0612 or e-mail: RWeberjr@cs.com.

Liberty Shooters:

Jul 25, 4:00 pm. Place TBA.

Aug 22, 4:00 pm. Place TBA.

Contact: **Bob Weber** at 310.204.0612 or e-mail: RWeberjr@cs.com

Keep those
pledges
coming in!



Can't get enough?

For those on the west end of the Valley who just can't get enough supper clubs, check out the Libertarian Party of Ventura County, which meets on the third Wednesday of the month in Camarillo. Call **Saul Rackauskas** at 805.987.5597 for information.

Reg. 63

Pasadena/Glendale

Meets Second Wednesday –

Supper Club: Baker's Square Restaurant, 473 N. Rosemead, Pasadena. Dinner and conversation, 7:30 pm; meeting, 8:00 pm.

Contact chair **Ted Brown** for information at 626.286.6124. E-mail: tedbrown1776@hotmail.com, or go to www.lplac.org/63.htm.

Reg. 64

Central Los Angeles

Meets Fourth Wednesday –

Supper Club: Denny's, 5751 Sunset Blvd. (at Hwy. 101) in Hollywood. Dinner, 7:00 pm; program, 8:00 pm.

Jul 28 – TBA

Aug 25 – TBA

For more information, contact chair **Houman Shadab** at hshadab@yahoo.com.

Web: www.lplac.org/64.htm.


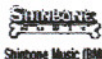
Reg. 65

Southeast

Meets First Tuesday:

Supper Club: Coco's Restaurant; 11510 E. South St., Cerritos, located just east of the Los Cerritos Shopping Center.

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Dinner, 7:30 pm; meeting, 8:00 pm.

Jul 6 – TBA

Aug 3 – TBA

For more information, contact chair **David Bowers**, 10620 Dolan Ave., Downey, CA 90241. Phone: 562.862.6083. E-mail: davebo1000@aol.com, or go to: <http://hometown.aol.com/davebo1000/myhomepage/politics.html>.

Reg. 66

Long Beach/South Bay

Meets Third Thursday –

Supper Club: Raffaello's Restaurant, Fourth St. at Pacific Ave., San Pedro. Dinner, 6:30 pm; speaker, 8:00 pm.

Jul 15 – **Speaker TBA**, Amend the Three Strikes Law.

Aug 19 – **Michael Binkley:** How to Create a Libertarian Revolution..

For information, contact chair **Dan Sherman**, 310.719.8909, E-mail dshermanhome@aol.com. Web site: www.Liberty66.org.

Reg. 67

E. San Gabriel Valley

Meets Fourth Tuesday –

Supper Club: Denny's at Grand Ave. and 210 Fwy, Glendora at 7:30 pm.

For more info, contact Chair **Dan Fernandes** at dfernandes@adelphia.net, or log on to <http://libertarian-ca-la-67.netfirms.com>.

Reg. 68

Antelope Valley

Meets Third Thursday –

Business meetings are fun and informative as well as productive. Greenhouse Cafe, 1233 West Avenue P, Palmdale. **Supper club** at 7:00 pm; **Bus. mig:** 8:00 pm.

Contact chair **Jason Gonella**, tel: 661.948.3654. E-mail: AynRKey@aol.com. Website: www.avlp.org.

Pub Club

Meets Third Friday –

Pineapple Hill Saloon, 4454 Van Nuys Blvd. (corner of Moorpark), Sherman Oaks. Tel: 818.501.9191. 7:00 p.m. until ?

LPLAC

Meets Fourth Monday –

Phillipe's, at Ord and Alameda Streets, Los Angeles. 7:30 pm. Contact Chair **David Larkin**, phone 818.899.3211.

Karl Hess Club

Meets Third Monday –

Marie Callender's, corner of 90 Expressway and Lincoln Blvd. in Marina Del Rey. 7:00 pm.

Good food and rousing discussion. \$20.00 program and dinner. For info, contact **Mike Everling** at mikeeverling@earthlink.net.

Sundowners



Meets First Friday –

Crown City Brewery, 300 So. Raymond Ave., corner Del Mar Blvd., Pasadena. Time: 7:00 p.m. until ? Tel: 626.577.5548.

Great conversation, good food, fine microbrewed beers and ales, in an outdoor atmosphere. Smoking invited.


July 2004

Visit our website – www.LPLAC.org
for updated event information

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Historical Birthdays: Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776 Robert A. Heinlein, July 7, 1907				1	2 <i>Sundowners</i> U.S. Army Air Corps Est. 1926	3
4 	5	6 <i>Reg. 65</i>	7	8 Dominion Day	9	10
11	12	13	14 <i>Reg. 63</i> Bastille Day	15 <i>Reg. 66</i> <i>Reg. 68</i>	16 <i>Pub Club</i>	17
18	19 <i>Karl Hess Club</i>	20 <i>Reg. 62</i>	21	22 <i>Reg. 61</i>	23	24
25 <i>Liberty Shooters</i>	26 <i>LPLAC</i>	27 <i>Reg. 67</i>	28 <i>Reg. 64</i>	29	30	31

August 2004

Los Angeles Libertarian deadlines for July-August issue:
1 - Ad copy 10 - Editorial copy

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1	2	3 <i>Reg. 65</i>	4	5	6 <i>Sundowners</i>	7	
8	9	10	11 U.S. Coast Guard Estab. 1790 <i>Reg. 63</i>	12	13	14 VJ Day 1945	
15	16 <i>Karl Hess Club</i>	17 <i>Reg. 62</i>	18	19 <i>Reg. 66</i> <i>Reg. 68</i>	20 <i>Pub Club</i>	21	
22 <i>Liberty Shooters</i>	23 <i>LPLAC</i>	24 <i>Reg. 67</i>	25 <i>Reg. 64</i>	26 <i>Reg. 61</i>	27	28	
29	30					Historical Birthdays: Peter McWilliams, Aug. 5, 1949 Col. William B. Travis, Aug. 9, 1809 Ray Bradbury, Aug. 22, 1920 Lee DeForest, Aug. 26, 1873	

Calendar of Events



Los Angeles Libertarian

Libertarian Party of California

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What's inside this issue

Page 1 – Freedom Road trip

Page 4 – Half-cent tax increase?

Page 2 – Chair's Column

Page 5 – Two Libertarian

Ballot argument deadline

Presidential candidates?

Page 3 – Smoke-free beaches

Page 6 – Regional Happenings

Badnarik tour scheduled

Page 7 – Calendar of Events

"Conquering any difficulty always gives one a secret joy, for it means pushing back a boundary-line and adding to one's liberty." — *Henri Frederic Amiel, Swiss philosopher 1812 - 81*

DATED MATERIAL

Libertarian Membership and Contribution Form

The Libertarian Party of Los Angeles County (LPLAC)

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Arleta, CA 91334-1227

818.980.1333



Yes! I want to become a dues paying member of the Libertarian Party. I have enclosed my yearly dues of \$25. I will receive the National LP newsletter, *LP News*, and as a California resident, I will also receive the state's *California Freedom* and the *L. A. Libertarian*.

Additional contributions:

\$ _____ Monthly Pledge to LPLAC

\$ _____ One-time Donation to LPLAC

\$ _____ Total

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To affirm publicly what we believe – and to assure that our party never strays from its principles – we ask our members to proudly sign the following statement:

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Payment

___ Check or money order enclosed (*payable to Libertarian Party*).

___ I will pay by PayPal (ID is: lplac@verizon.net)

___ Please bill my ___ VISA ___ Mastercard

___ Discover ___ AmExp

Account # _____

Expiration date: _____

Name on Card (please print) _____

Signature _____

For more information, see our web site:
www.lplac.org