

## Election 2008

Chris Bennett,  
LP VP Candidate

by Angela Keaton

I interviewed Chris Bennett, the Illinois LP's Legislative Chair, who's running for the LP's Vice Presidential slot.

AK: You've been active in the LP more or less since you could vote. Did you ever think you'd be a candidate for VP?

CB: My mother's been grooming me to become an elected official since I was twelve. She has over the years shed most of her Democratic ideals and become more "libertarian."

My first LP campaign was Marrou/Lord, when I lived in Colorado. I didn't have a "role." I helped set up events. My goal was to get young people to come hear him at these events.

AK: The LP is based on profound principles, but on a practical level, which issues move you most?

CB: Four issues. Restoring our civil liberties. Ending the occupation in Iraq and

Afghanistan. Ending the "War on Drugs." Abolishing the Income Tax.

The LP's strength is that we have the ideas and platform to solve America's woes. Our weakness is that we're not diverse. I'd like to see more women and minorities in our party.

We need to continue the "revolution" Ron Paul started, and get youth involved. Without young blood, our party will wither into obscurity.

AK: You're graduating with a degree in political studies from the University of Illinois at Springfield, with a political consultant career ahead of you. What's your advice to first time LP candidates?

CB: Run for local office. County board, city council, school or zoning board. Be involved in the community in some positive aspect.

AK: What was your favorite local campaign?

CB: When I ran for school board in 2003. I believe I was the first African-American candidate for local office in Effingham County. I got 10% of the vote.

AK: What's the biggest lesson you took from the Badnarik campaign?

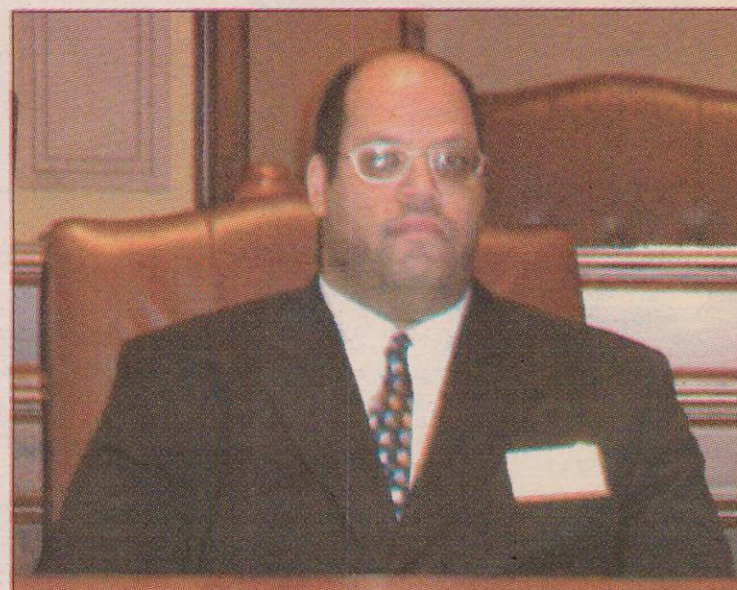
CB: To take a risk. Badnarik took a risk when he got arrested in St. Louis. I respected him more after that. He took a risk to ask for a recount in Ohio. Because of that, we learned that Bush "stole" Ohio.

AK: Tell me about your family.

CB: My wife, Evonne, a special education aide for the Springfield, Illinois 186 school district, and my mother, are my biggest supporters. My children, Charity 9, Brandon 7, don't understand what or why I'm running for VP, but they're becoming little "libertarians."

I hope my children will inherit an America where they don't have to work half a year to pay off Uncle Sam, an America where our rights and freedom are fully restored. The biggest burdens on American families are inflation, the rising national debt, and growing nanny-state.

I met Aaron Russo at the Illinois LP Convention in 2004.



LP Vice Presidential Candidate Chris Bennett

Photo: Chris Bennett

AK: You've worked with some influential California Libertarians in Richard Boddie and the late Aaron Russo.

CB: I was introduced to the LP by Richard Boddie. I was disgusted with the Democrats, and I was channel flipping on my 19th birthday when I noticed him speaking at the 1991 National Convention which aired on C-Span. The day after, I contacted the Colorado LP and became a member.

I met Aaron Russo at the Illinois LP Convention in 2004.

I expected him to be distant, arrogant, cold, because of his celebrity status. Was I ever fooled! He was passionate, caring, thoughtful, motivating me to keep fighting even when all seems lost.

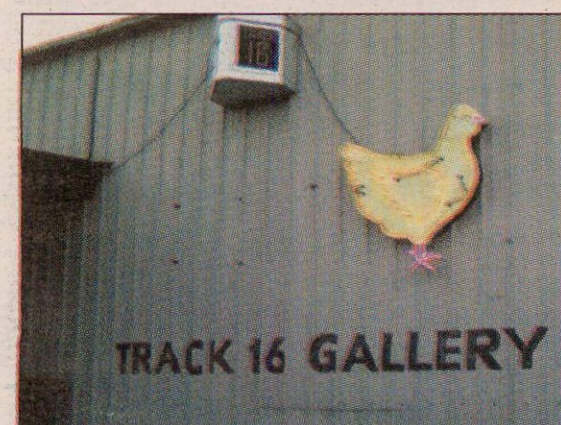
I worked on Aaron's campaign as Scheduling Coordinator. He became a close friend of the family.

For information on Chris Bennett and his campaign, call (217) 801-3367 or visit: [www.chrisbennett2008.blogspot.com](http://www.chrisbennett2008.blogspot.com).

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California Freedom



Track 16 art gallery at 2525 Michigan Avenue, in Santa Monica, site of the March 21st antiwar discussion panel.  
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Jeffrey Smith  
665 S 13th St  
San Jose CA 95112-2364



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## California Freedom

April 2008

The official publication of the Libertarian Party of California

## Libertarian Elected Officials



Kate O'Brien is one of the LPC's many successful elected officials

## Kate O'Brien's Secrets to Electoral Success

by Angela Keaton

The biggest surprise about Kate O'Brien's stint in political office was winning at all. The Libertarian director of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District won her November 2000 race by three votes against the well-financed son of a high-profile Democratic Party operative. Outspent, out-advertised, and not nearly as ostentatiously heralded as Simi Valley native Jim Dantona, Jr., O'Brien still won her very first electoral race.

O'Brien had expected to place 5th. Stunned at the \$1,500 voter statement fee, and forced to compete against billboard and theater ads, she spent not a dime—despite running for both the park district and water board races as part of the controversial Operation Breakthrough.

As former LPC Chair, Dan Wiener wrote for the *Free Republic*:

"Jim Dantona's father (also Jim Dantona) is a well-connected Democratic political

consultant who raised somewhere between \$25,000 and \$40,000 (we estimate) to enable his son to run a high-powered professional campaign for Park Board. This was unheard of in Simi Valley, where the most anyone ever spends for a Park Board race is a few hundred or a couple of thousand dollars, for lawn signs and a voter pamphlet statement. Dantona sent out four city-wide mailings, include slick full-color brochures, plus had cable TV advertising, and in general campaigned as though it was a city council race."

In office, O'Brien has been the charming but lone voice for lower taxes and less regulation over the past eight years. According to LPC Chair Kevin Takenaga, "The Hon. Kate O'Brien is a public servant with the utmost dedication to her constituents, and makes me proud to call her one of our top elected officials in the Libertarian Party of California."

Originally a music major (piano) at San Francisco State, O'Brien graduated from

Cogswell Polytechnical with a degree in civil engineering. She met Objectivists and fledgling libertarians on the Berkeley campus in the early '70s before the Libertarian Party was recognized in California. ("I still remember when Hospers got the one electoral vote.") The ideas were an easy sell for O'Brien. "I knew neither major party was for me. I thought about the Peace and Freedom Party—my two favorite things, peace and freedom."

She also dated a Randrom in college. "I broke up with him. He wasn't rational enough."

Prior to living in Simi Valley, O'Brien was appointed to an advisory arts commission, where she learned the rough and tumble of local politics. "Very fractious," she says.

"Kate was one of the most dedicated activists in Northern California," says Eric Garris, former LPC executive director and managing editor of Antiwar.com. "It's no surprise to those of us who worked with her that she went on to be that rarest of birds—the libertarian officeholder."

O'Brien's first meeting was standing room only, with park rangers assigned to maintain order. "People were very upset about tennis courts."

continued on page 6...

Candidate Steve Cottrell  
Hopes to Fire Himself

by Thomas M. Sipos

Nevada City councilman Steve Cottrell, a Libertarian whose fourth term ends in June, is running for City Clerk—an office he hopes to eliminate if elected!

"The City Clerk's office was relevant once," said Cottrell, "but under the recent reorganization at City Hall, the City Clerk's financial duties were absorbed by our Finance Director and the County Clerk handles most of the election work. The only essential duties left for the City Clerk are to maintain minute books, ordinances, and custody of the City Seal—and that can be handled by staff."

Cottrell noted that from 1851 until 1926, the position of City Clerk was held by a member of the Town Board of Trustees (now called City Council). "Each May, trustees chose a clerk, and it worked fine for 75 years," said Cottrell. "Then in 1926, citizens voted to make the office elective. But times keep changing. Nevada City 2008 is not Nevada City 1926."



Nevada City's Libertarian councilman, Steve Cottrell

and ledgers that date to the 1850s. He'd also encourage a ballot measure for 2010 that would give the City Council authority to assign all remaining City Clerk duties to staff.

Cottrell has completed

California Election Form 470, pledging to spend less than \$1,000 on his campaign.

"As strange as it might sound," he said, "I'd be hon-

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## Successful Libertarian Activist

### Lawrence K. Samuels Receives Bray Award

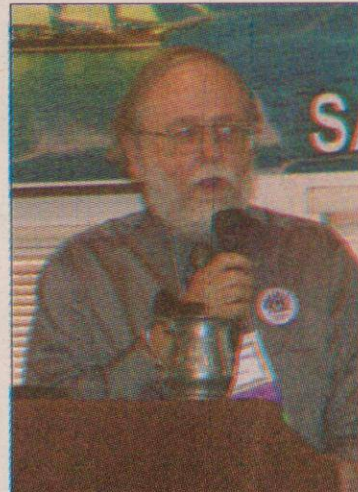
by Jack Dean

The first Karl J. Bray Memorial Award for Activism was presented at our 1980 state convention, and it has been the Libertarian Party of California's premier activist award ever since.

Karl Bray was a charismatic libertarian leader and tax rebel who died of cancer in 1978. He was one of the founders of the national Libertarian Party, and he served as an early member of the National Committee.

A year after Karl's death, one of his good friends and admirers, past California state chair Bruce Lagasse, established this award in his honor. When Bruce retired and moved out of state, the Samuel Adams Society took on the responsibility for the award.

This award is designed to honor effort "above and beyond the call of duty" during the previous year. It is designed to recognize the unsung hero...



Lawrence K. Samuels accepts the Karl J. Bray Award at the LPC's 2008 state convention in San Diego

Photo: Thomas M. Sipos

goals of the Libertarian Party of California during the past year.

Recipients must be chosen unanimously by the three-member award committee, and therefore the award is not made every year; however, because the award is not competitive in nature, but rather is based on individual merit, some years have seen multiple recipients, of which there have been 25. The most recent recipient was Kevin Takenaga for his activism in the year 2005.

I'm pleased to announce that this year we do have a recipient.

This year's recipient is someone I first met in activist mode nearly 30 years ago, so he's no newcomer to the freedom movement.

Like most Bray Award recipients, continued on next page...

Because of his increasing duties building the party, Kevin Takenaga no longer has time to write a monthly column. He will continue to submit columns on an intermittent basis, determined by whether he has something significant to report.

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

## FROM THE EDITOR

## Uniting for Peace and Liberty

by Thomas M. Sipos

On March 21st, I participated in an antiwar discussion panel at Santa Monica's Track 16 art gallery. I was there as a contributing writer to *Cost of Freedom*, an anthology of antiwar activism [California Freedom, February 2008]. With me on the panel was Michael Palecek, one of the book's editors, and two of the other 75 or so contributors, poet Rex Butters and artist Elena Siff Erenberg.

I'd been asked to MC the event, and I kept the conversation flowing between the panelists and the audience. Palecek described his experiences as a "federal prisoner for peace," having been imprisoned several times in the 1980s for trespassing onto military bases during his protests. His story drew one of the loudest round of applause from the audience, matched only by the applause for the anti-Bush/antiwar poem read by Butters.

Erenberg lamented that, because few people today visit galleries, antiwar artists have limited influence. Nevertheless,

her artwork may be seen at: [ElenaMarySiff.com](http://ElenaMarySiff.com).

Whatever its faults, the Nolan Chart demonstrates the error of dividing people into only two political camps. Ron Paul and Dennis Kucinich are closer to each other on war and civil liberties than either is to Clinton or McCain. Palecek was the Democratic Party's candidate for Iowa's 5th Congressional District in 2000. After the panel discussion, an audience member introduced himself and his lady friend to me as "huge Ron Paul fans." This young man also thanked me for quoting from Randolph's Bourne's "War is the health of the state" essay.

Some libertarians wish the LP would ignore the war and focus on economic issues—"Things we all agree on."—but war is an economic issue. Anarchist playwright Ben Pleasants [California Freedom, October 2007] spoke from the audience about how the war is "bankrupting" this country, and discussion turned to whether the U.S. was headed for inevi-

table economic collapse due to the extravagant borrowing and spending to fund our endless wars.

The panel discussion was followed by a social mixer. Two women expressed curiosity over my Porcupeace button, asking if it was "the Libertarian mascot." I explained that the Porcupeace combined the twin

Lawrence!). The flyers bore the Porcupeace sign, the websites for Libertarians for Peace and the state and national LP, and LPC membership forms.

One woman loved the buttons, and took one of every flyer. "You've inspired me to become a libertarian!" she said. Yet to attract and keep people like her, and the young couple



Thomas M. Sipos, Michael Palecek, Rex Butters, Elena Siff Erenberg at Santa Monica's Track 16 Art Gallery

Photo: Thomas M. Sipos

principles of self-defense and non-aggression. The porcupine was no predator, but it would defend itself if attacked.



I'd stacked free Porcupeace buttons (and other antiwar/antistate/anti-IRS, anti-Drug War, etc. buttons) on a table alongside antiwar flyers courtesy of Lawrence K. Samuels (thanks,

who love Ron Paul, the LP must be loudly pro-peace and pro-civil liberties.

Threats to both peace and civil liberties were addressed at Track 16 and in *Cost of Freedom*. It's this appreciation for peace and liberty that united the people at Track 16. The enemy are not ordinary Americans who disagree on some issues, but growing state power, which is inevitably misused and abused.

*Cost of Freedom* co-editor Whitney Trettien, an MIT graduate student and Green Party activist, had earlier expressed continued on page 6...

## Hollywood Libertarians

### Artists & Entertainers Wanted

by Angela Keaton

Libertarians for Arts & Entertainment seeks artists, musicians, and other creative talent within the Libertarian Party!

The current Libertarian National Committee has a sculptor, a singer, two members of an '80s rock band, and an art teacher as members. The LPC executive director's seat has in the past been filled by an actor, a performance artist, and an orchestral conductor. One of the LPC's most beloved elected office holders is an accomplished pianist. The

editor of this very paper is a novelist.

Whether you're in the humanities or the performing arts, join us! We are an outreach organization which will spread the good news of freedom to those artists not just here in Hollywood, but wherever song, poetry, and music flourish. For details: [angela@liberatedspace.com](mailto:angela@liberatedspace.com).

Angela Keaton is an At-Large Representative of the LNC, and a former Executive Director of the LPC.

### Porcupeace cont'd from p. 1...

surprise to me that any libertarians supported the war. Every libertarian she'd met opposed it. A hopeful sign.

*Cost of Freedom* is an inspiring book, a celebration of those with the courage and ideals to protest against statist lies and aggression. Although I'm a contributing writer, I received "only a" contributor's copy; no monetary pay or royalties. I'm told that "a portion

of the proceeds from the sales of the book is set aside to supplement funds for the work of national peace and antiwar organizations."

Details at: [costoffreedom-book.blogspot.com](http://costoffreedom-book.blogspot.com). Those interested in using the Porcupeace on their literature or merchandise should contact Lawrence K. Samuels: [lawsamz@gmail.com](mailto:lawsamz@gmail.com).

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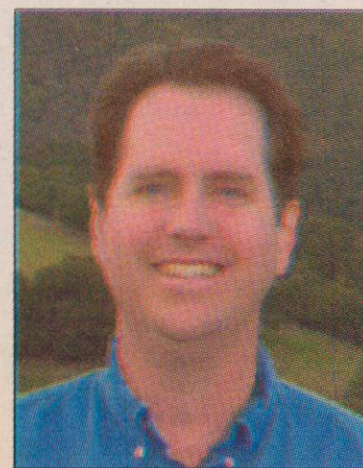
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### LPC Platform Committee continued from page 4...

to replacing it with the committee's novel language. As head of the Restore04 caucus, Nolan was requested by the committee to submit a draft the 2004/2006 hybrid platform that the caucus has reportedly been working on.)

The committee's current report and draft will be available at: [www.lpconvention.org/platform\\_committee.php](http://www.lpconvention.org/platform_committee.php).



Brian Holtz is an At-Large Member of the LPC ExCom, and Secretary of the 2008 LP platform committee. His email: [brian@holtz.org](mailto:brian@holtz.org).

"I find war detestable, but those who praise it without participating in it even more so."

Romain Rolland  
1866-1944

### Join the LPC!



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

## Sacramento Events

The LPC will gather its candidates for a rally at the State Capitol in Sacramento, Friday, April 11, 3 - 4 pm.

A social event follows at the Stoney Inn. Then on Saturday, there's a Freedom Festival and State Capitol Tour. And on Sunday, ExCom meets.

Members are encouraged to attend all these events. Details: [http://ca.lp.org/article\\_283.shtml](http://ca.lp.org/article_283.shtml).

### Samuels' Bray Award continued from page 3...

Lawrence is Chair of FED-UP (Foundation to End Drug Unfairness Policies; [www.fedupfreedom.org](http://www.fedupfreedom.org)).

He organized the March 16 speech of Nikos A. Leverenz titled "Drug Policy Status in Sacramento" in Seaside. Leverenz is the Sacramento office director of the Drug Policy Alliance.

He co-organized a speech by libertarian author Doug Bandow on "Why the U.S. Government Should End Its Interventions Abroad" at the Sand City Borders Bookstore on Feb. 13, 2007.

By now, I suspect I've provided enough specific information that most of you know who

I'm talking about. It is with great pleasure that I present the Karl J. Bray Memorial Award for Activism for the year 2007 to an outstanding activist from Monterey County... Mr. Lawrence Samuels.

Jack Dean delivered his above speech to the assembled delegates at the LPC's state convention in San Diego, on February 24, 2008. His email: [JackDean@WebCommanders.com](mailto:JackDean@WebCommanders.com)

"Before a standing army can rule, the people must be disarmed; as they are in almost every kingdom of Europe."

Noah Webster  
1787

## End the Drug War

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

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## Protecting YOUR Loved Ones

### Orange County LP Defends Pet Owners

by Norm "Firecracker" Westwell

The following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Libertarian Party, Orange County Central Committee, on 1/8/08. It was also adopted earlier by the Orange County Democratic Central Committee. This illustrates the broad-based opposition, by both conservatives and liberals, to this proposed liberty-robbing ordinance.

Whereas (1) the Declaration of Independence states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness," (2) the Fourth Amendment states, "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and (3) The 14th Amendment makes the 4th Amendment applicable to state and local government, and

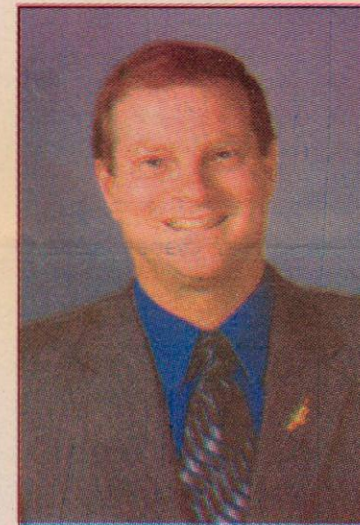
Whereas, pet owners must already comply with existing regulations and have the right to determine appropriate veterinary procedures in the best interest of their pets, and (1) studies show that those to spay/neuter carry grave risks and potential complications, (2) people and children are often happier and live longer when they own dogs and cats, (3) the purpose of a dog is to provide

joy, happiness, and protection, (4) part of the joy of owning a dog is to show that dog in a dog show, something not allowed if the dog is spayed or neutered, (5) dogs and cats are very useful in helping the disabled and in healing the sick, (6) recent studies have linked micro chipping to cancer in animals, (7) cancer can kill dogs and cats, and (8) fines and fees imposed for the privilege of owners to determine spay/neuter of their family pets are illegal intrusion and unfair taxation, (8) the value of a pedigree dog or cat is dramatically diminished when that dog is spayed or neutered and forced spaying or neutering results in a destruction of the value of personal property owned by people and children, (9) when dogs and cats are within the privacy of a home, they are part of the effects that are referred to by the 4th Amendment, (10) spaying at six months of age is dangerous to the health of those dogs or cats so spayed, and (11) costs of pedigree dogs are prohibitive for many lower middle class people and children, and (12) there are already so few pedigree puppies available in California that those seeking to acquire a quality AKC puppy in California often have to fly in puppies from out of state at exorbitant costs, and

Whereas, (1) strays can be controlled without punishing responsible pet owners, and (2) without endangering the health

and even lives of family pets

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Libertarian Party of Orange County (1) calls on all levels of government to avoid or refrain from any laws requiring or forcing the spaying of dogs and cats, which have homes, and (2) to respect the 4th Amendment Right of the people (and children) to be secure in their persons, houses and effects, which includes their dogs and cats, and (3) opposes any government intrusions into homes to inspect the virility of pets, and (4) opposes any attempt by any government to mandate potentially harmful or carcinogenic procedures or implants in family pets.



In 2006 Norm "Firecracker" Westwell was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Ocean View School District. His email: normw@modempublic.com.

### Los Angeles Events

#### • Election Night Party

Philippe's Restaurant,  
1001 N Alameda Street, Los Angeles.  
Across the street (and a few blocks north) of  
Union Station.  
June 3rd. 6 - 9 pm

#### • County Convention

The Los Angeles County LP will have its County  
Convention at Shaker's Family Restaurant,  
801 N. Central Avenue, Glendale.  
Lunch is \$20, open menu.  
Shaker's phone: 818-246-4994.  
June 7th. 1 - 4 pm

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O'Brien continued from page 1...

O'Brien's first term had a sharp learning curve filled with data, details, and dog parks. FEMA, anti-smoking nannies, and the ACLU are all part of a typical park district meeting. "At this level it's not so much about reducing government, but keeping what one has running well. They know I'll vote no on taxes, and I'm usually out voted." She takes it in stride. "People were frightened in the beginning, but the park is actually better."

Not all park district business is playgrounds and puppy clean up. O'Brien and her fellow directors had to find a private property compromise when the ACLU challenged a hugely popular cross on public land.

In 2007, O'Brien became

chair of the park district. Asked the secret of her success, she notes that, unlike most libertarian candidates, she's an extrovert who listens to her constituents irrespective of ideological differences. "I go among the people. I get but-ton-holed at Trader Joe's. They know I'm a Libertarian, but I don't beat them over the head with it."

In the spring of 2007, O'Brien fought off thyroid cancer. The radiation treatment was put on hold when over one hundred gall bladder stones were painfully discovered. "I didn't know how lucky I was to have health," she says. "You don't miss it until it goes. Friends praying and sending good vibes. I appreciate life after having the cold hand of death on the back

of my neck."

Lessons in everyday politics, compromise, and the value of good health are not the only things O'Brien has gained as a public official. Soon after her 17-year-old cat Bubbles died, a stray appeared at park district meetings. The scraggly abandoned cat would wait by O'Brien's chair, sit in her lap, and follow her around the office. The affectionate, fluffy calico, Patches, was adopted by O'Brien and her partner, Aaron Starr.

"Bubbles sent her," says O'Brien. "She suits us."

To volunteer for O'Brien's reelection campaign, call (805) 583-3308.



Angela Keaton is an At-Large Representative of the LNC, and a former Executive Director of the LPC. Her email: angela@liberatedspace.com.

Cottrell cont'd from page 1...

ored to serve as Nevada City's last elected City Clerk. We should administratively join the 21st century, and eliminating the City Clerk's office would be a logical step in that direction."

Cottrell is also a former Nevada City mayor. He may be contacted at: exnevadacitymayor@gmail.com.

**Please  
Join our  
Coffee  
Club**

## Letters to the Editor



Perhaps "contracting out" is part of the answer?

Many communities successfully do this. However, it is politically difficult, and could be a character test of our elected officials. The test starts now.

— Albert J. Segalla  
Copperopolis, CA

### Privatize Building Permits

Regarding cost overruns in the Calaveras County Community Development Department, it was reported that \$1.6 million is paid annually by taxpayers to subsidize the planning and building departments. These services are normally supported by permit fees.

There is a staff proposal to jack up the fees. However, the building industry is suffering major reductions in activity from the boom of 3 years ago. Many property owners object to unreasonable charges for permits, and would cancel or postpone building. Also, the real estate industry smells a rat and wants an investigation, and the supervisors seem to agree, though they may have caused the problem in the first place.

To return to fiscal sanity, we need to look at this public animal a little closer. A major question: Is it reasonable to expect county government entities to operate efficiently and be responsive to changes in the economy?

The answer is no, according to studies by the Reason Foundation and others. The squander factor intrinsic to government usually runs between 30 and 50% compared to similar activity in the private sector. This does not include the substantial losses caused by bureaucratic delay, or abuse of police power whereby property owners are unreasonably denied the right to build.

Lawrence K. Samuels cont'd. from previous page... ients before him, he wore many hats last year. In fact, after reading about all the things he did to promote Liberty and the Libertarian Party in 2007, I was so exhausted that I had to take a nap!

Following is the amazing list of his accomplishments as provided by his nominators:

\* On October 13, he conducted a Libertarian Party assembly in the Monterey/Carmel area for the first time there in recent history. The assembly was known as "Mini-Con: 'Is Freedom Dead in America?'"

\* He is a member of the writing team originated by Richard Newell for the LPC *Libertarian Perspective*. His articles have been published in a number of newspapers, including the *Los Angeles Business Journal*.

\* He is a frequent contributor to the state party newsletter, *California Freedom*.

\* He co-hosts the Libertarian Monday show on Air America station KRXA and on the Internet every other Monday.

\* He is an elected board member of AMP (Access Monterey Peninsula) local pub-

lic TV station. He arranges for weekly libertarian TV programs on Channel 24. The shows come from Richard Fields's *Libertarian Counterpoint* out of Sacramento or Mark Selzer's *Libertarian Alternative* out of Los Angeles.

\* During 2007 he helped organize against—and defeat—three tax increase measures in Pacific Grove. He arranged for guest columns in the *Monterey Herald* that opposed the tax increases, plus:

1. He was the campaign manager for the Defeat Measure R Committee, the one-cent per dollar sales tax increase.

2. He raised money to buy 250 "No on R" lawn signs and conducted a letter-to-the-editor campaign with Seaside Taxpayers Association. He also wrote the ballot argument against Measure R.

3. He was active in the campaign that defeated Measure A in Monterey County on June 5. He opposed the initiative because he believed it would have stopped construction of new homes in all but 3% of Monterey County. He has been fighting rigid land-use restrictions in the county's General Plan every year since 2000.

In late 2007, he founded the Citizens Against Eminent Domain. He co-organized a rally and petition drive against a major eminent domain project in Seaside: a 250-room hotel and convention center proposed by Reggie Jackson that depends on the Seaside City government stealing homes, churches and businesses at below-market prices. He was recently elected to a citizen-led redevelopment advisory committee in Seaside to advise city

government on this matter.

He organized Libertarian Party literature tables at two Junior Statesmen of America Conventions on April 28 and November 17 at the Santa Clara Marriott. Over 1,000 high school students attend this event. He has been doing this twice a year for almost six years.

He has been active building bridges with leaders of the Democratic and Republican parties on issues of common interest.

He is co-chair of the Monterey County Libertarians for Peace which is the voice of libertarianism in a broad-based group known as the Peace Coalition of Monterey County.

He wrote the LPC Executive Committee resolution that endorsed the October 27 peace rallies that took place across California, and he also assisted the LP of San Francisco with several of their peace rallies.

He co-organized the Oct. 27 statewide Peace Rallies in Monterey County.

He co-organized the "Impeach for Peace" rallies in

Monterey County throughout 2007.

He co-organized the 9/11 memorial peace rally in Monterey and organized libertarian participation in the City of Monterey's 4th of July parade.

He spoke at the March 19 Iraq War annual protest in Monterey, representing Libertarians after a funeral march through downtown Monterey.

He has served as Northern California Vice-Chair of the LPC for four years. At the April 21, 2007 LPC State Convention, he stepped down and won a position on the LPC Executive Committee. He is vice chair of the Monterey County LP.

He spoke at "Quit Torture Teach-in & Vigil" on Sunday, November 18 in a grassy area outside the gates of the Monterey Presidio.

He spoke many times in front of city council members in Seaside, Marina, and Salinas to oppose their proposed bans of medical marijuana dispensaries. Sadly, all three cities passed the ban.

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## 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).

## I'm Joining the Libertarian Party of California!

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

- |  |  |
|--|--|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 250 *  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100 *                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 55 * Subscribing Membership                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25 Basic Membership Dues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ 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  
Notice: Political contributions are not tax deductible.

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OR: ☐ Bill my credit card

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## Internal Business

## LP Platform Committee Proposes Draft

by Brian Holtz

The national Libertarian Party platform committee met Feb. 15-16 in Las Vegas to fill holes created by the 2006 LP convention in Portland, where delegates voted to keep only 7 of 62 planks, leaving the platform without planks on property rights, taxation, monetary policy, the environment, health care, welfare, education, labor, national defense, foreign policy, free trade, and electoral reform.

Since then, a Reform Caucus committee proposed replacing the entire platform with about a dozen single-sentence planks on issues where libertarian ideas are most popular. Traditionalists and radicals argued that the Portland deletions should instead be undone, yielding a platform with scores of detailed planks.

The 2008 Platform Committee found each approach inadequate; uncomfortable with a non-comprehensive platform that leaves fundamental principles backstage and only spotlights a few popular, near-term policy proposals, but also disfavoring the old platform's laundry list. They instead spelunked through a dozen old LP platforms, all the way back to 1972, seeking to build a "Pure Principles" platform that states for each policy area the timeless libertarian principles

## Raise your Cup to 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 Foster
Suzanne Bell	Daniel Imperato
Philip Berg	John Inks
Ted Brown	Brian Miller
Beau Cain	Chuck Moulton
T.J. Campbell	Rich Newell
Ed Clark	Alan Pyeatt
Alicia Clark	Jeffrey Sommer
Zander Collier	Aaron Starr
Don Cowles	Paul Studier
Michael Denny	Kevin Takenaga
Bruce Dvner	Chuck Tolman
Terry Floyd	Bob Weber



(L to R) Bonnie Scott, Dan Grow, David Aitken, Adam Mayer, Donny Ferguson, Alicia Mattson, Brian Holtz, Hardy Macia, Audrey Capozzi, Vicki Kirkland, Guy McLendon, Henry Haller, John Howell. Not shown: Steve Dasbach, Robert Capozzi

that are consistent with both incremental reform and radical ultimate goals.

Platform Committee interim Chair Alicia Mattson surveyed past and present LP members and delegates, finding that over 75% of likely convention delegates want a platform that "states our positions [even where] mainstream Libertarian thought is at odds with what most voters want," but that also provides "little to no implementation detail [rather than] comprehensive detail." Sixty percent agreed that we should "delete the old planks and start from a clean slate" rather than "amend the existing language."

The Platform Committee recommends a platform of about 25 planks, organized into three sections: Personal Liberty, Economic Liberty, and Securing Liberty. Included are

three one-sentence planks as placeholders for Education, Environment and Resources, and two recommendations to amend its gay rights and financial markets planks with some novel language. The gay rights amendment benefited from the advice of two alternates, both officers of Outright Libertarians.

The committee also proposed: (1) Replace all abortion language with: "We recognize that abortion is a sensitive issue and that people can hold good-faith views on both sides. Taxpayers should not be forced to pay for other people's abortions, nor should any government or individual force a woman to have an abortion," and (2) Remove the "cult of the omnipotent" sentence of the Statement of Principles. (LP founder David Nolan recommended this as preferable

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## News You Can Use

## How YOU Can Affect Local Government

by L. Lawrence Baird

It's easy to bring libertarian thinking into government. I applied to the Los Alamitos Block Grant Committee in 1978. I think everyone who applied got in. I was chairman for ten years because no one wanted the job.

That seems typical with city committees. Everyone wants the title, but few want the work. Often, not enough people want even a title to fill every open spot. As in Moreno Valley, where I currently serve as Traffic Safety Commission Chairman and Accessibility Board member.

Most committees have five to seven members, so you'll be a small voice of reason amid statist drones just itching to spend taxpayer dollars. You may have to quietly tolerate much nonsense till you can get like-minded folks on board.

I was that one small voice during my first year on the Moreno Valley Parks & Recreation Commission. The others were like bobble head dolls. They'd nod in agreement to every city staffer's proposal.

Most committees run by *Robert's Rules*, so grab a copy by your first meeting. But just because they say they're run by *RR*, doesn't mean they are. I once asked a chairperson if she made up the rules as she went along. Her response floored me.

"Of course I do. Isn't that the chairperson's job?"

Still, I've also met many like-minded people and made

good friends. One person convinced me that I wasn't a Republican—but a Libertarian!

You can make a difference. One Moreno Valley park director requested a hike in park fees every year. Finally, we fiscal conservatives became the majority on the commission. That was over ten years ago. Park fees haven't risen a penny since!

Check your city's website for committee openings. Or tell your city council representative of your willingness to serve.

Traffic safety is a great place to start. Many cities are discovering the "cash register justice" of Red Light Ticket Cameras, and "Safety Check Points" where automobiles are confiscated due to minor violations like expired drivers licenses and lack of insurance.

Avoid the planning commission or other paid slots. They're filled with people to whom the council owes favors.

Apply to as many commissions and committees as your town will allow. We need more Libertarians in government!

L. Lawrence Baird is webmaster of the Riverside County LP. If you need help applying to a local commission, email him: bairdco@aol.com.

**"You don't have to be straight to be in the military; you just have to be able to shoot straight."**

Barry Goldwater

## 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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OR: ☐ Credit card number and expiration date

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## DVD Review

## When States Regulate "Free Trade"

by Thomas M. Sipos

Bordertown

Cast: Jennifer Lopez, Antonio Banderas, Martin Sheen, Maya Zapata, Sonia Braga.  
Director: Gregory Nava.

Hundreds (some say thousands) of women have been murdered in the Mexican town of Juarez over the years. Their raped and mutilated corpses scatter the desert. This is not fiction. The "women of Juarez" are real. Their murders continue to this day.

Who murdered them? NAFTA!

That's according to *Bordertown*, a Hollywood "message movie" that tries to be entertaining as it preaches, and mostly succeeds. Its politics are so confused that libertarians, anarchists, feminists, Marxists, paleo-conservatives, anti-globalists, and Gibby the cat should all find something to cheer.

The film has a typical "message movie" structure. An Outsider investigates an issue, educating us along the way. In this case, Jennifer Lopez is a Chicago reporter assigned to cover the Juarez murders. Her editor (Martin Sheen) rattles off statistics, sounding less like a jaded journalist than an activist/actor lecturing to us. Lopez dislikes the assignment because Mexico is a career dead-end. But after she relents, she reconnects with her Mexican roots, discarding her blond hair dye to accept her authentically black tresses.

Lopez learns that Juarez, just across the Texas border, is a creature of NAFTA. A town full of *maquiladoras*, factories that assemble TVs and computers for the U.S. market. Maquiladoras exist all along the Mexican side of the border.

How are maquiladoras to blame for the murders of women?

*Bordertown* informs us that maquiladoras "hire mainly young women because they work for lower wages and complain less about the long hours and harsh working conditions. Most maquiladoras operate 24 hours a day. Many women are attacked while traveling to and from work in the late night and early morning. The companies provide no security for the workers."

You see, factories are responsible for workers' safety, not only on the job, but while they're commuting. (And perhaps at home, too?)

Yet there are libertarian nuggets in this film. By morally obligating businesses to protect their workers *offsite*, this film admits that the state has failed in its core duty. And *Bordertown* pulls no punches; its corrupt Mexican police not only fail to protect, they also cover up murders and frame innocent suspects.

So much for relying on state protection—these women need guns! Yet when Lopez enters a dangerous situation undercover, she arms herself... with rocks. *Sic!*

*Bordertown* offers other libertarian insights. One rape victim/factory worker (Mexican actress Maya Zapata) says she'd rather live on her farm, but the government keeps raising taxes to push people off their land, pressuring them to accept low-wage jobs out of desperation. "We cannot pay the taxes, so they tell us, go to the border and work in the maquiladora. Make money to keep your land. But there is no money here. The government and the factories take everything. All the money is for them. For us, nothing."

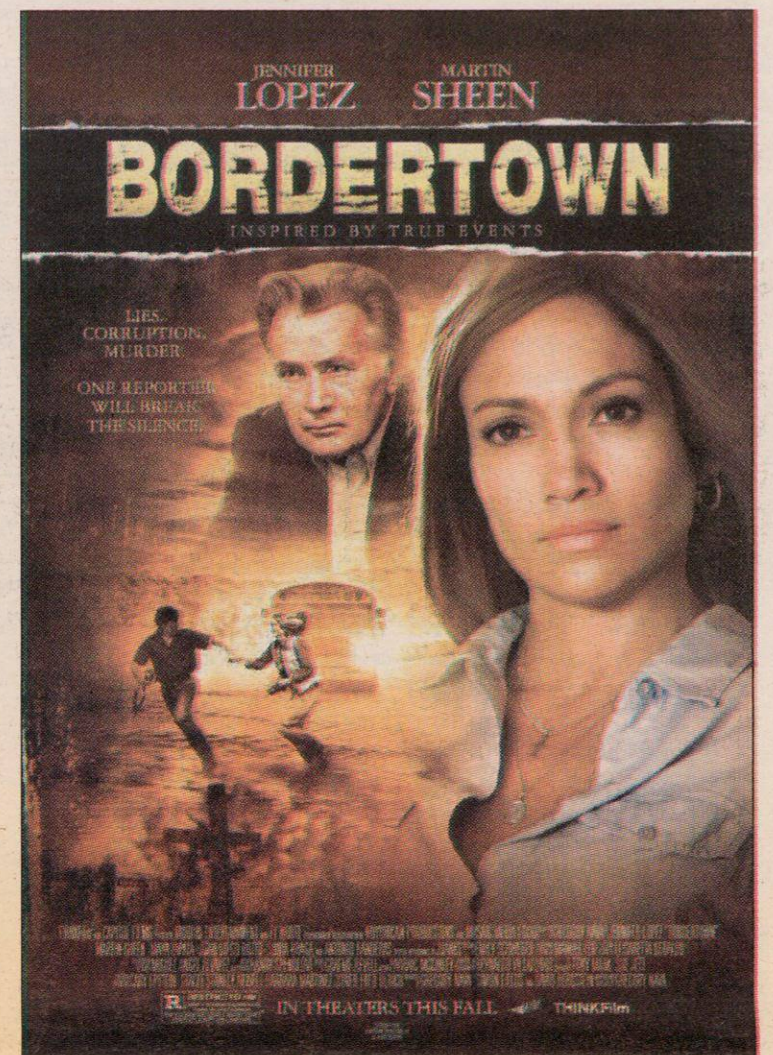
Well, she gets \$5 a day, so when she says "nothing," she presumably means wages are so low, she can't pay the taxes. Taxes raised not for revenue (people can't pay them), but to create cheap labor. Thus does the government collude with business (perhaps for kickbacks?).

Marxists call this *market exploitation*, but libertarians will recognize it as *market distortion*.

The U.S. government is also condemned, for not mandating worker protections in NAFTA. "The screams of the women of Juarez are silent because no one will listen," Lopez writes in her news story. "Not the giant corporations who make their profits from the labor of these women. Not the governments of Mexico and the U.S. who benefit from the free trade agreement. All the evidence points to the fact that there are many killers. A whole culture of murder that gets worse the more it's denied and covered up. Covering it up is less expensive than protecting these women. Everything is about the bottom line. And so the death toll mounts."

Lopez is right about there being many killers. "You want to kill a woman for any reason, you come to Juarez," a local journalist tells her.

Juarez is a bad town. Most slums are. And police rarely expend resources on poor victims. But this is an old story. It has nothing to do with NAFTA.



A U.S. Senator and the newspaper's corporate owner pressure Sheen to kill the story. They want to expand NAFTA to Central America, and don't want bad press. Sheen tells Lopez that corporate America's news agenda is "free trade, globalization, and entertainment." Lopez snaps, "It isn't free trade. It's slave trade. It's a goddamn scam."

She means low wages and no protections, yet she inadvertently has a point. Libertarian Party presidential candidate Harry Browne too opposed NAFTA, as a form of managed trade (i.e., a scam), saying, "Free trade can not be achieved through committee negotiations and lengthy regulations."

A Mexican industrialist tells Lopez, "I buy politicians on both sides of the border." State and industry collaborate in *Bordertown*. Marxists see this as global capitalism, but libertarians recognize it as statist corporatism (i.e., economic fascism).

I recommend this DVD. It highlights important issues. The women of Juarez are real and deserve attention, irrespective of *Bordertown's* confused politics.

Special features include Jennifer Lopez accepting an

Amnesty International award for *Bordertown* at the Berlin Film Festival; a documentary about a murder victim and the innocent suspect arrested and tortured by police (Most of the maquiladoras shown here are Asian—Sony, Sanyo, Hitachi—so why doesn't *Bordertown* condemn the Japanese government?); and a documentary that follows a woman's attempt to illegally cross the border into the U.S.

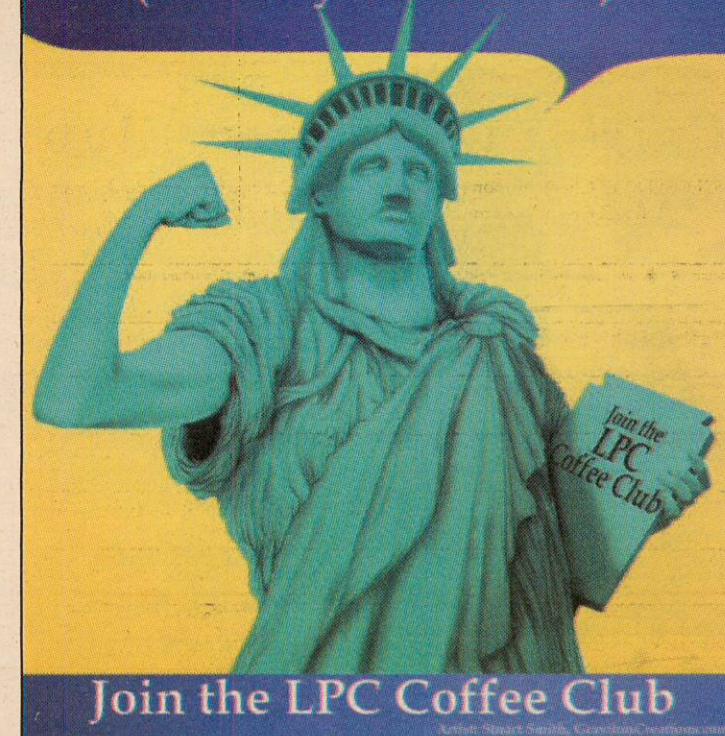
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