

California Freedom

May 2009 — The official publication of the **Libertarian Party of California**

Fighting the Welfare/Warfare State

Tea Party Unites Antiwar, Anti-Tax Protesters

by **Lawrence K. Samuels**

Hundreds of Tea Parties dotted the American landscape on April 15, confusing some and delighting others.

In Monterey County, the Libertarian Party and Libertarians for Peace helped organize a mostly spontaneous anti-tax protest, drawing some 600 teabaggers. I say “spontaneous” because we couldn’t get any press to promote the event beforehand. Except for KION 1460 AM radio, and libertarian Mark Carbonaro’s radio announcements, the public could only have learned of the tea party through word of mouth or the internet.

Teabaggers were upset over the skyrocketing debt, uncontrolled spending, higher taxes, socialized bailouts, and bloated

government. We tried to maintain that theme, though some people had signs protesting Obama’s administration.

Most attacks on Obama are misdirected. By criticizing Obama, rather than overall government coercion, teabaggers appear sympathetic to Republicans. We must dispel this mostly media-driven criticism of Tea Parties. One way is to set up tables, as did various Monterey libertarian groups, and distribute hundreds of libertarian buttons and flyers. We also brought pre-made signs, and a sign-making table with poster board and markers.

A few counter-protesters attended on the other side of the street. Ironically, they came because the local Peace Calendar had sent notices to protest

the event—yet Libertarians for Peace is a member of the Peace Coalition that runs the Peace Calendar.

Their website’s anti-Tea Party notice was taken down soon after we complained.

We knew some of the counter-demonstrators from past antiwar demonstrations. We crossed the street and distributed antiwar literature to them, stressing that antiwar and anti-tax people are natural allies. Some of them lightened up, and accepted our invitation to our side of the street. After all, we were embracing our principles with “End the War, Cut Taxes” signs.

Counter-protesters did not have a single antiwar sign, only placards that said they were

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Photo: Lawrence K. Samuels

2009 LPC Convention Report

Delegates Stay the Course

by **Thomas M. Sipes**

Seventy-seven delegates of the Libertarian Party of California convened for their annual convention at the Visalia Holiday Inn over the weekend of April 24-26th. The chief business occurred on Sunday, April 26th, when delegates chose the officers who will serve the party for the next two years.

Kevin Takenaga, Richard Newell, and Zander Collier III were reelected as Chair, Northern Vice Chair, and Southern Vice Chair, respectively. Because none faced an opponent (apart from None of the Above), all three were re-elected by acclamation.

The day before, Beau Cain and Don Cowles had each announced that they would not run for second terms as

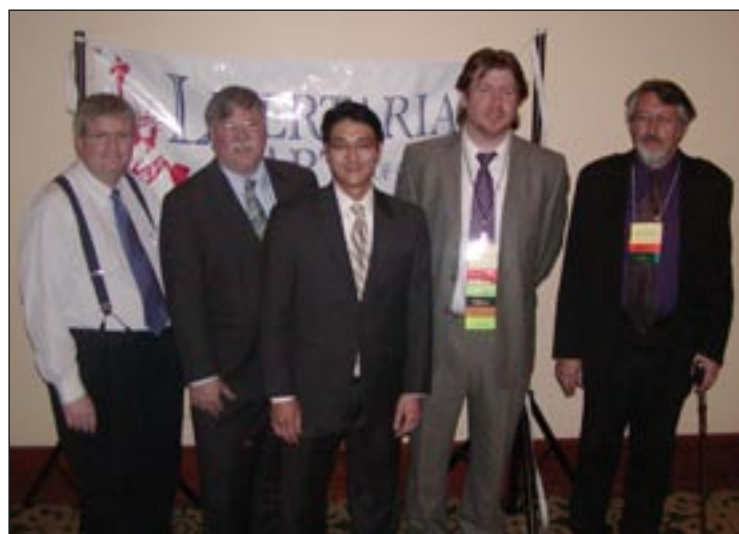
Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. On Sunday morning, delegates were still wondering who, if anyone, would fill those offices.

Seemingly at the last moment, two men were nominated for Treasurer: Gale Morgan and Brian Darby. Darby won, 31 to 30 votes. Two ballots had listed None of the Above along with candidates’ names, and were thus not counted.

Gale Morgan was then nominated for Secretary. Facing no opposition, he was elected by acclamation.

Although no longer Secretary, Cain will still manage the LPC’s Panorama City office. As office manager, Cain is the party’s only full-time paid employee.

Elected as At-Large Repre-



L to R: Brian Darby, Richard Newell, Kevin Takenaga, Zander Collier III, Gale Morgan

sentatives to ExCom, by the following vote totals, were: Matthew “Boomer” Shannon

(52), Michael Seebeck (49), Jill Stone (48), Terry Floyd (43),

continued on page 2...

LPC ExCom Recommends:

- Prop 1A — **NO**
- Prop 1B — **NO**
- Prop 1C — **NO**
- Prop 1D — **NO**
- Prop 1E — **NO**
- Prop 1F — **YES**

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Photo: Thomas M. Sipes

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PUBLISHER

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

EDITOR

Thomas M. Sipos
E-Mail: Editor@CA.LP.org

STATE CHAIRMAN

Kevin Takenaga
E-Mail: Chair@CA.LP.org

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Brad Reynolds
E-Mail: BradleyYes@aol.com

WEB SITE

E-Mail: WebTeam@CA.LP.org

ADVERTISING SALES

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

CONTRIBUTORS

Lawrence K. Samuels,
Ivan Eland, James P. Gray,
Jason Gonella

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:

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

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

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

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

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Tea Party Unites

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"proud tax-paying Americans," and Obama banners. One sign appeared to be pro-war, proclaiming: "Support the Troops: Pay Your Taxes."

Now that Obama is escalating troop strength in Afghanistan and asking for another \$83 billion for both war zones, it seems that Democratic sympathizers in the various Peace Coalitions are less inclined to criticize the war. Seems it's okay for Democratic politicians to engage in war, but not for Republicans.

We soon hope to highlight this contradiction with a speech by Antiwar.com co-founder and long-time libertarian, Eric Garris. The planned speech is entitled: "Is the new boss the same as the old boss?"

Libertarians must be in the forefront of this pro-taxpayer, pro-freedom protest movement. We must denounce both the past abuses of the recent Republican administration, and the new abuses of the current

2009 Convention

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Mark Selzer (40), and Alan Pyeatt (38). Failing to win was Mark Hinkle (37).

After being nominated, Hinkle had expressed ambivalence about running for ExCom because he already serves on the Judicial Committee.

Tricia Marcos was elected as ExCom's First Alternate (30), and Savva Vassiliev was elected Second Alternate (26).

Most of the new names on ExCom had expressed antiwar sentiments in the past. Their election reaffirms the LPC as a majority antiwar party.

On Saturday, Rob Power of Outright Libertarians introduced a resolution for ExCom to rescind its support for the Domestic Partnership Initiative (DPI) and instead work toward the repeal of Prop 8. Power's resolution failed. The delegates reaffirmed DPI. Then they passed a resolution calling for the repeal of Prop 8.

This means the LPC's official position is to support both DPI and the repeal of Prop 8. Some delegates see this as contradictory. Others see it as supporting different paths toward the same goal.

Wayne Allyn Root, one of the convention's guest speakers, stated his intent to run for LP national chair in 2010 (should Bill Redpath not run), and to run for president in 2012.

Democratic administration.

Teabaggers are talking about forming a Freedom Coalition, comprising dozens of local organizations, similar to the county-based Peace Coalitions that sprung up during the Iraq War.

As with the antiwar movement, the freedom movement will have a long and rocky road to travel. It makes for a better journey if we have a roadmap.



Lawrence K. Samuels is Chair of the Monterey County LP. His email: lawsamz@hotmail.com.

Letters to the Editor

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Start at the Top

Since my involvement with the LP, and my increased knowledge of things since my healing began, I have always had a different perspective on events here and afar.

Most have read the columns I was writing for *California Freedom*. I want to make it clear, the paper did not drop my column. It was my choice to stop. My writing created too much dissension and division within the party, instead of drawing it into a united front to stand for True Freedom.

We seem to be focused on beginning at the bottom rung in government. On a path of electing local candidates, a bit higher, a bit higher, until one day maybe President. Concentrating on policies and legislation to create our freedoms, instead of the goal that would resolve all other issues, once and for all.

All our efforts should be for this main goal: electing a President that will serve the people as our Founding Fathers envisioned when this nation was born. We must start at the TOP before the rest can be restored.

To accomplish this will take uniting all the independent political groups into backing one candidate that all can agree upon—the only way to beat the two party system.

United We Stand, Divided We Fall!

This once great nation has become deeply divided. We are being led further and further into enslavement through taxation and legislation. There is no time left to start at the bottom and work our way up. If we don't do it now, we may never get another chance—especially with this push for a New World Order, One World Leader, One World Bank in 2012.

This is part of the message I will spread during my cross country horse ride. I will speak of the truth of things; that which is still to come and what they must do to prepare for the rocky road ahead.

I had to delay this journey so I can see my granddaughter graduate from JHS, but all plans are coming together nicely. I look forward to this wonderful adventure that HE has set me to do for His Children of the World.

God Bless each and everyone, be you a believer or not.

— **Barbara "Joy" Waymire**
Calaveras County, CA



Alan Pyeatt and Jill Stone, newly elected ExCom At-Large Reps, attended in their Tea Party formal wear.



Newly elected First Alternate Tricia Marcos tends to her baby dogs, who barked fearfully upon seeing Starchild (page 8).

YOUR Letters Welcome!

But we can't publish
what we don't receive.

Please submit your
letters to:

editor@ca.lp.org





Letters to the Editor

On Marriage and War

For the first time in a long time, I enjoyed *California Freedom*.

The lead article by Laura Brown on the Harvey Milk movie was a welcome eye-opener on the LP's reluctance to embrace marriage equality. I hadn't realized that Bob Barr had authored the infamous Defense of Marriage Act, and haven't felt a part of the LP since witnessing a thunderous vote-down of a marriage equality proposal at the LP convention many years ago.

A great letter from Brian Holtz, offering the reasoned "Case for War in Iraq." Voices like Mr Holtz's have been notably absent from LP publications for years, and I now have a glimmer of hope that the LP still holds a few individuals like myself. I had given up on the LP after seeing so much parroting of anti-Bush, MoveOn rhetoric in the pages of the *LP News* and *California Freedom*.

There are times when wars must be fought. Israel is in that position now. If Iran succeeds in building an atomic bomb, the odds are high that hundreds of thousands of Israelis will die. Israel cannot wait until after the detonation to take action. WMDs alter the old arguments concerning when it is justified to launch a war.

— Steve Mims
Palo Alto, CA

End Marriage Licensing

Regarding "The Milk Man Rings True" [CF March 2009], aside from Harvey Milk being no libertarian, I question the statement: "Another posting last August on the LPC's website argued that government has no place in marriage—a Utopian view that ignores the way things are and leaves gays in the lurch."

Perhaps Laura Brown doesn't know that marriage licensing laws were created by governments to prohibit "whites" from marrying "blacks" circa 1867 in Massachusetts. Thankfully, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the last of those racist laws in *Loving vs. New Jersey*.

That's right, the origins of the marriage licensing laws are racist.

In the days of our country's founding, when two people

wanted to get married, they found a priest or preacher, signed their names in the family Bible, said "I do" and "I do" and they were married. The State wasn't involved in the marriage contract.

The idea of a marriage license, and the associated fee (i.e. tax), would have our Founding Fathers' ridiculing such nonsense.

Why is that Utopian, to remove the State from the marriage of any two, or more (OH NO!!!), people?

Why is it Utopian to want to remove an unwanted third party (i.e. the government), from the marriage act?

Silly me, but I thought Libertarians wanted to minimize the role of government in our lives.

— Mark Hinkle
Morgan Hill, CA

Safer Hard Drugs

Why not legalize hard drugs? Would it not have the same effect as regulating alcohol and marijuana? Would heroin and other hard drugs have their strength controlled by private businesses who sell them?

Yes, businesses have incentive to make their product as safe as possible so that more customers buy their product. This makes drugs safer and allows us to control how strong they are, as opposed to street dealers who haven't the foggiest clue.

If [hard drugs] were legal and regulated, couldn't scientists and doctors take the drug to the next level and remove some, many, or all of its harmful products?

Yes, if it were legal to be experimented on, scientists could begin developing ways to make it more harmless, less addictive, or at least safer than the dirty bathtub-meth that's being cooked today.

If heroin were legal, couldn't we give addicts and users free needles so they'd stop using their dirty needles and spreading HIV/AIDS?

Yes, studies in the Netherlands show lowered STD transmission rates with needle exchange programs in effect. We could either let them keep sharing dirty needles, or encourage them to trade them in for clean needles. This would also save many lives of users.

If hard drugs were legal, couldn't we establish specified locations for drug use where users

got together in a safe, controlled, and monitored area, and did their respective drugs?

Yes, Needle Park was such a place in The Netherlands. Users gathered here from all over to do drugs in a carefree, safe, and childless environment. Death rates rose, which is an obvious effect of allowing the drug use, so the park was closed and the users went back to doing it on the streets, in alleys, and around children.

Many people have lost family members or friends to harder drugs. I ask you to identify who's really to blame? If drugs were legal, we could make them so they were far less dangerous, but the government's prohibition makes them relatively deadly substances.

People have to look beyond the black and white and see the gray. If we tell people not to do drugs, and they still want to do drugs, then they'll do them; everyone else should realize this and do their best to regulate and control it, as opposed to banning it and creating a whole jungle of new problems.

The DEA and other law enforcement agencies waste countless hours on drug ordeals, and more countless billions of dollars on keeping drugs off our streets, but they continue to be there and run rampant; now more dangerous than ever. Crack cocaine is being cut more and more with drugs besides cocaine, and is increasing in the risk factor exponentially.

Would you rather buy cocaine from a safer, more reliable business with rules and regulations, or a dealer off the street who will cut it with any form of white powder to spring a profit? Also, businesses can't sell to minors, as opposed to the dealer who can.

— Logan Hinkle
Morgan Hill, CA

Another LNC Purge

Once again, some of our National Committee is trying to expel a lifelong freedom fighter, dedicated activist, and Libertarian National Committee member.

First, it was Angela Keaton. Two valuable meetings were consumed with abusing her. Now the target is Lee Wrights.

The posted emails from Secretary and Chair to Lee are factually correct here: <http://bit.ly/zlKSh>. Essentially, Lee's Sustaining Membership lapsed, something of which he was unaware. Within one hour of the lapse, Lee was notified that he'd been removed from the LNC, and his seat was offered up to the

StateChairs list.

LP staff claims to have sent two snail mail notices to Lee, but Lee has moved recently. *Other members receive email notifications that their memberships are about to lapse.* And Lee's email address and phone number haven't changed in some time—both staff and the LNC have those. Lee's information was on the LP Leadership page.

By the time I opened the email that announced a vacancy (1 hour later), Lee's name and picture had already been removed from the lp.org website.

It seems to point to a systematic purge. And sets a precedent: if some of the LNC don't like you, no matter that you were elected by a majority at National Convention, that you have poured heart, soul, Time, Treasure and Sacred Honor into the movement, the party, the people—you can be picked off, expelled by someone who feels they have the authority to decide.

You, or your favorite activist, could be elected to LNC, dedicate vast amounts of Time, Treasure and Sacred Honor to Liberty, and then have staff either lose your contact information, or lose your dues check, or forget to change your renewal date, and you open your email one day to find that you've been expelled.

Whether you like Lee or not, I am looking for contact information—names, email addresses (preferred), or phone numbers—for people who are sick of the controversy. If you value the old LP, the current LP, the movement, or the activists—I need to hear from you, and your friends and contacts. Please put together a list of contacts, send it to me, AND send this letter to them.

We need to build a network of people who are ready to fix the LP. To return it to its roots, founding principles, to the vision of David Nolan... to a place where free people can work together to achieve more freedom. Where acts of aggression are not welcome.

This is a tipping point. The freedom movement is gaining speed again. We lost ground during the Campaign for Liberty/Ron Paul controversy, and lost a valuable opportunity. Let's not miss this one!

Help us to build a party, rather than destroy one?

My cell: 206-769-2492 cell. My email: lpwa.com1@gmail.com. My LNC Region 7 blog: www.LNCRegion7.blogspot.com.

— Rachel Hawkridge
Seattle, WA

More on LNC Purge

And people wonder why we can't get ourselves organized enough to get anyone elected to serious office.

I'm rapidly coming to the conclusion that the LP, more precisely the LNC, is a lost cause. Ironic that a political party, especially one so steeped in supposed anti-authoritarianism, should be torn apart by literalism, political backbiting and using the letter of the law to defeat the spirit of the law, but there it is.

What, do we have another pair of nearly Republican lapdogs waiting in the wings to take Lee's position and then Rachel's?

Whatever happened to the LNC being subject to the will of the delegates at national who elected the very people who are being drummed out, one after another?

Have the members of the party no recourse here at all?

— Carolyn Marbury
San Bernardino, CA

Tea Parties Baffle Pelosi

April 15th, 2009, the Tax Day Tea Party was organized by the smallest minority. The individual. By way of the most modern conveyance.

On KTVU channel 2, Rep. Nancy Pelosi knows of which she speaks. Astro Turfing. Her protests are paid for by payroll from her taxpayers-funded group, Acorn.

I do not have to take payroll from anyone to protest the likes of Nancy Pelosi. The demagogue Democrat social engineering, by way of the nine million words Federal Tax Code, is enough.

KSFO 560 radio did not organize the Tax Day Tea Parties. They were asked to cover the Bay Area Tea Parties, not the other way around.

Nancy Pelosi is deluded and out of touch with reality if she thinks there is no grass roots movement. She wouldn't know a real grass roots movement from Astro Turf if it hit her between those big eyes.

— Irvin E. Chambers
Menlo Park, CA

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“The spirit of this country is totally adverse to a large military force.”

~ Thomas Jefferson

Hollywood Libertarians

They hope to produce one 30-minute episode at a cost of \$300,000, with additional episodes on specific topics (guns, drugs, sexual freedom, etc.) if money permits. A slick Hollywood show produced through the animation production house, Six Point Harness, rather than a low-budget affair that cuts corners.

Lumpkin is an agent at International Creative Management. His client, Uhl, has worked as an assistant director and writer. Their website: Wheresmydream.com.

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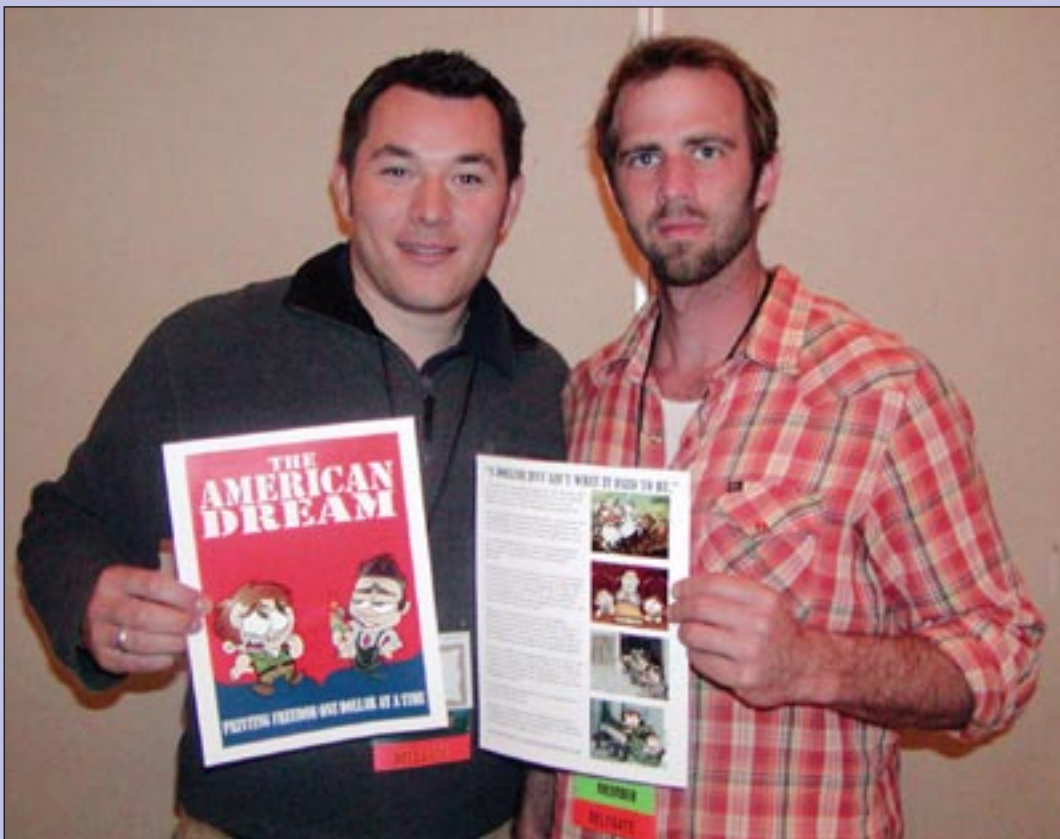


Photo: Thomas M. Sipos

Party of Goths

In his younger days, before assuming the responsibilities of work, marriage, and fatherhood, Jason Gonella attended Goth clubs. Today this practicing Wiccan is an LPC activist. He's the longtime Chair of the Antelope Valley LP, and a frequent contributor to California Freedom.

Air Force from 1996 to 2000, and in the California Air National Guard from 2001 to 2007. Like many Americans who've actually served in the military (as opposed to Neocon chickenhawks), Gonella is a peacenik. He has only one gripe about California Freedom.

Gonella served in the U.S.

"It's too pro-war," he complains.



Photo: Thomas M. Sipos

Pennywise

Outgoing LPC Treasurer Don Cowles leaves the party on sounder financial footing as he concludes his two-year term of office—and he's got the pie graphs to prove it!



Photo: Thomas M. Sipos

During his tenure, the LPC's income rose from \$77,387 in 2007, to \$82,912 in 2008. Expenditures fell from \$105,757 in 2007, to \$88,092 in 2008. And 2009 started off strong, with the LPC posting a \$9,726.80 first quarter profit.

"We're not the government," explains Cowles.



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



Povertarians Unite!

High-rollers who bought a “banquet package” enjoyed a swank evening meal with libertarian celebrity speakers. But those who opted for the el cheapo “business session only” package were not left to starve in the wilderness—thanks to the San Bernardino County LP!—which hosted a hospitality suite

on Saturday evening. Povertarians crowded into the suite, feasting on cold cuts and beer, salsa chips and jelly beans. Discussion topics included investing in gold, the voluntary financing of government services, and the comparative merit of the various Batman films.



Photo: Thomas M. Sipos

Where's YOUR Story?

Are you engaged in Libertarian activism? Promoting ideas, pounding the pavement, pressing the flesh, speaking at events, tending a booth, campaigning as a candidate?

Where's YOUR article? Articles—especially with photos!—of your activism are welcome. Please submit to: editor@ca.lp.org.



Thomas M. Sipos
Editor, *California Freedom*

“To announce that there must be no criticism of the President, or that we are to stand by the President, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public.”

~ Theodore Roosevelt

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 kick-off. A Coffee Club member donates a minimum of \$42 per month or \$500 or more each year.

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
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| Beau Cain | Terry Floyd | Paul Studier |
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LPC activists are fighting statist repression and speaking truth to power—but LPC dues don't cover all expenses. We need YOUR \$\$\$ to kick statist butt! Join our Coffee Club!

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Please Join our Coffee Club

Supporting Equal Rights

LPC Backs Domestic Partnership Initiative

The LPC's Executive Committee has endorsed the Domestic Partnership Initiative (DPI), a proposed state measure that would replace the word "marriage" with "domestic partnership" throughout the California constitution and statutes. The DPI was approved on March 9, 2009 by the California secretary of state for petition signature gathering.

Under the proposal, legal rights for all domestic partners, in same or opposite sex partnerships, would be identical and would include the rights currently afforded to married persons. Marriages would become a matter for religious and other civil institutions rather than a province of the state.

Supporters need approximately 700,000 signatures by August 8, 2009 to have the initiative proposed constitutional amendment and statute placed on the 2010 ballot.

The LPC endorsed the measure at a regular meeting of the party's 15-member Executive

Committee. The endorsement required a two-thirds vote to pass.

Ali Shams, a pre-law senior at the University of California, San Diego, and one of the authors of the Domestic Partnership Initiative, appeared in person and presented his case to the board. "People on both sides of the same-sex marriage issue support our initiative because it gives equal rights to everyone, with the same legal benefits as marriage currently bestows," Shams said. "No one has to settle for second-class status, with one word used for one group, and a different word for another. Yet, anyone that wishes can still have a traditional marriage ceremony performed by their church. The emotional and spiritual bond this represents is in no way affected by our initiative."

When questioned about allegations that California married couples would lose rights in other states or countries if the initiative passed, Shams

replied that this is a false dilemma: "In Denmark, my parents were joined in a civil union. What they had in actual fact in Denmark is called a marriage here. When they moved to the United States, they had no trouble getting it accepted as such. The same should be true for Californians moving to other places."

LPC Chair Kevin Takenaga said, "A marriage is a union between two people, a union they may choose to have blessed by their chosen higher authority in a religious ceremony. There is no place for the state in this relationship. By introducing the government into the sacred institution of marriage, which should be a purely personal and religious matter, we have spawned an ongoing cultural war that pits American against American. The Libertarian Party of California is proud to support the Domestic Partnership Initiative so that all Californians can be treated equally before the law."

"Fascism is opposed to classical liberalism that denies the State in the name of the individual. Fascism reasserts the rights of the State as expressing the real essence of the individual. The maxim that society exists only for the well-being and freedom of the individuals composing it does not seem to conform with nature's plans. If classical liberalism spells individualism, then fascism spells government."

~ Benito Mussolini

(common among presidents, who want to make federal budget projections look better than they are) and the upcoming entitlement crisis, in which the Social Security and Medicare systems become insolvent, and Obama's promise to halve these record deficits (even bigger than Reagan's red ink) becomes even more difficult.

To reduce the deficit, in 2009 standing at an amazing 12% of GDP, Obama must consider the non-entitlement portion of the budget (i.e., discretionary spending). The Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid entitlement programs are examples of the government on autopilot—and are very difficult to reduce.

Over half the discretionary budget is defense spending (slightly less than \$700 billion per year), making it a big and deserving target for cuts.

Security spending—which, in addition to defense spending, should include budgets for the State and Homeland Security Depts, the V.A., and the interest on the national debt that arises because of this security spending—is yet a third higher, coming in at almost \$900 billion. These departments should also be cut back.

But since defense is the biggest chunk, let's focus on that huge pie. During the Bush years, even after the Cold War had long ended, national defense spending ballooned a whopping 78%. Recently, Congressman Barney Frank (D-Mass.) made the bold proposal to cut defense spending 25%. That sounds about right, and here's how to get started on achieving that goal.

Obama has proposed withdrawing all combat forces from Iraq by August of 2010, but this only saves about \$14 billion because he is leaving them in Iraq three months longer than his campaign promise of a 16-month withdrawal, is retaining as many as 50,000 troops in that country and simply re-labeling them into "non-combat" roles, and is simultaneously escalating the war in Afghanistan.

He should withdraw from Iraq faster and abandon the nation-building quagmire in

Afghanistan, which is only inflaming anti-U.S. Islamism in Southwest Asia and the rest of the world.

More boldly, Obama should realize that with the economic meltdown, we can no longer afford the expansive U.S. overseas empire. By withdrawing from Iraq and Afghanistan, and vowing to end imperial policing and nation-building, he could scrap the expensive plan to increase the Army and Marine Corps by 92,000 troops. Personnel costs already make up two-thirds of the Pentagon's budget and adding people is expensive.

Additionally, Obama should make each of the services cancel major unneeded or excessively expensive weapons systems. Some suggestions: The Air Force's tanker aircraft and F-22 fighter, the Navy's Littoral Combat Ship, the Marine Corps' V-22 tilt-rotor aircraft for transporting troops, the Army's Future Combat System (a fleet of fighting vehicles needed for fighting a future great power rival, which doesn't exist), and the Joint Strike Fighter, a fighter that the Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force are working on together.

Although Obama's promise to eventually cut the deficits seems problematic with all of the added stimulus and other spending, surprisingly, most modern day Democratic presidents have been better at cutting deficits and government spending as a portion of GDP than Republicans, who usually increase government spending as a portion of GDP, thus rendering their perennial tax cuts to be fake.

Because Obama has a tough row to hoe to equal his Democratic compatriots Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton at deficit reduction, he needs to start with big cuts in the defense budget.

Peace Brings Prosperity

Erase Red Ink: Slash the Military

by Ivan Eland

A front page article on *The New York Times* starts out: "The budget that President Obama proposed on Thursday is nothing less than an attempt to end a three-decade era of economic policy dominated by the ideas of Ronald Reagan and his supporters."

Not so much.

Reagan, despite his carefully crafted "small-government" image, and all of the GOP presidents after him, were big-government Republicans. They all increased government spending as a portion of the nation's GDP. In nominal terms, Reagan doubled the size of government.

George W. Bush crowed

about the benefits of small government, while turning on the spigot for the largest hikes in non-defense spending since Lyndon Johnson's Great Society. This included a \$700 billion dollar bailout of banks, along with their partial socialization.

Obama's spending is more of the same, rather than a sharp break with the past.

Like Bush, and many presidents before him, Obama is using a crisis to justify other, unrelated things. Bush used the tragedy of 9/11 to dupe the nation into an unrelated, unneeded, disastrous, and costly invasion of Iraq. Obama is using the economic meltdown to attempt an expansion of

government into health, education, and energy. His \$787 billion stimulus package, plus extra spending, will bring the federal budget to \$3.6 trillion in 2010.

Yet with economic stagnation, which lowers the federal government's tax intake, and fighting two simultaneous and expensive foreign wars, the government can afford only two out of every three dollars it spends. This leaves a whopping \$1.2 trillion deficit in 2010. (With Obama's stimulus package and Bush's bank bailout, the deficit in 2009 is an even more humongous \$1.75 trillion.)

Add in Obama's overly optimistic economic forecast

Ivan Eland is Director of the Center of Peace & Liberty at The Independent Institute. His latest book is *The Empire Has No Clothes: U.S. Foreign Policy Exposed*.

Because Ideas Matter

Quiet Conscience Makes One Strong

by Judge Jim Gray

In many ways, our great country is now at a crossroads. Will we continue to build on the values that helped to make us great, including a reliance on our native ingenuity, creativity, and work ethic? Or will we get soft and look evermore toward bigger government to take care of us?

Today we are facing daunting challenges to our economic way of life. So it's naturally important for our general feelings of economic confidence to believe that government is "doing something" positive about the situation. But this also brings upon us the risk that we, and the government, will see government as the solution to all of our problems. And that is a dangerous course to take for our future, and for the future of our children.

Alexis de Tocqueville, after his famous tour of the United States in 1831, drew attention to this problem when he said that people are constantly excited by two conflicting passions: they want to be led, and they wish to remain free. So people strive to satisfy both at once, and that leads to irresolvable problems. Then de Tocqueville said that democracy would eventually collapse when the people's elected officials finally learn that they can bribe the people into voting for them with the people's own money.

We are close to that situation today. It is time for us to be aware of this fact and to take action to ensure it doesn't happen. How can this be done?

First, we must understand that government is not the answer to our problems. In fact, as stated by President Ronald Reagan, in many ways government really is the problem because it tends to destroy private initiative.

Second, we must not accept mediocrity or laziness—in anyone or anything, beginning with ourselves. I once had a clerk who had a handwritten sign on her desk that said "If it's to be, it's up to me." This means, among other things, that if a system or a government program is not working,

it is up to us to fix it.

For example, if you think a television program is harmful for your children because it shows too much violence or sexual content, don't rely on government to act: Monitor what your children watch, and turn off the television if the program is unsuitable.

Let's also work to get government and its never-ending laws more out of our lives. For example, employers don't hire people just so they can discriminate against and harass them for racial, gender, or sexual-preference reasons and then fire them. That makes no sense in real life. In fact, in almost every wrongful termination case, the employers have already "passed the test" by hiring those employees. So we should change our laws to allow an employer to fire any employee within the first year or two—for any reason at all.

What would be the result of changing this employment law? More of these protected classes of people would have jobs. Today, if an employer gets sued for discrimination, that employer, whether found liable or not, is likely to think: "Who needs it? Why should I take a risk in the future by hiring such a person?" But if a period of immunity existed to see whether the employee was

able to be productive, even if he or she didn't work out, the employer would not be deterred from hiring someone similar in the future. The current law actually works against equality in employment.

There is a story that, at the close of the original Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin was asked what type of government the delegates had agreed upon for our country. He responded: "A Republic, if you can keep it." Our Founding Fathers established for us a government ruled by law but based on the individual—"We the People" as the sovereign.

But each of us must do our part. If we don't vote and oversee government, some special

interest will.

As Anne Frank wrote in her diary, which became a literary classic: "A quiet conscience makes one strong." She is right. We need that quiet conscience now. We must rely on ourselves and our innate abilities and ethics to overcome our problems of today. And we must not give in to the false but

seductive allure that the answer lies with the all-knowing and all-protective government.

If it's to be, it's up to me.

James P. Gray is a retired Orange County judge and former LPC candidate for U.S. Senate.



Volunteers Needed

Outright Libertarians L.A. has officially organized. Our first event is a booth for L.A. Pride. Our new Vice Chair, Elinor Brandt, is providing the table and folding chairs. We need people to service the booth and donate OPH materials.

The festival runs

**Saturday, June 13th, noon to midnight, &
Sunday, the 14th, 11a.m. to 10 p.m.**

Volunteers may contact:

Angela Keaton at angela@angelakeaton.com.

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Fighting the Welfare/Warfare State

GOP Hijacks Tea Party

by Jason Gonella

I hope that most Tea Parties in the U.S. are more representative of a true anti-tax and anti-government attitude than in Lancaster, CA. Despite the best efforts of the Campaign for Liberty and Libertarian Party, the Antelope Valley Tea Party in Lancaster, held on April 11th, was little more than a GOP pep rally.

Perhaps I shouldn't have expected much, given that prominent local politicians were involved. Attending were two State Assemblymen and one State Senator, all Republican, and the chairman of the local GOP. The mayor of Lancaster was supposed to have been there, but bowed out at the last minute.

The mayor of Palmdale, a relatively better Republican, was conspicuous by his absence in any of the event literature. Not that he's better enough to be Libertarian, but better than the average Republican.

Kind of like saying "taller than Danny DeVito," but I mean it in a nice way. He did have the gall to oppose a ruling family Republican in a primary race, not long ago.

Event planners ensured there would be no question and answer session. I should have known politicians would not have appeared if they'd faced the risk of an unprepared question with the press there to cover it.

I started distributing flyers with twelve pointed questions about the GOP's support for the recent California tax increases, and ballot Proposition 1A, which would extend those increases from two years to four years. Then I was told that I could not distribute flyers in the official Tea Party area, but had to do it in the parking lot.

It was good to see the people heckling Assemblyman Steve Knight. He'd voted to put Prop 1A on the ballot.

The next speaker, Assemblyman Cameron Smyth, seeing how Knight was fiercely heckled, instead talked only about our valiant troops overseas defending our freedom. I "heckled him," trying to get him to explain why he voted to put Prop 1A on the ballot. Someone nearby hushed me for "not supporting the troops."

I later cornered Assemblyman Knight. Seems he knows my name, because as soon as I introduced myself, he talked to everyone but me. But I can be patient, and after every single last distraction had finished talking to him, he angrily defended his voting to put tax hike Prop 1A on the ballot. He said the bill had good stuff and bad stuff, and for the sake of the good stuff, he voted for it. He added that he endorses the Republicans who voted to raise taxes, because otherwise the Democrats would get 2/3 in the legislature and taxes would

be raised.

Most of the rally, after the speakers had finished, focused on how illegal immigrants were causing all our financial problems, or how we should concentrate all our attention on the Democrats in Washington. Almost no attention was paid to the Republicans and Democrats in Sacramento. It would seem natural for local politicians to discuss local issues, but that would reflect too poorly on their own behavior.

The last thing on anyone's mind—except for LPers and C4Lers—was how the GOP contributed to this mess. This pep rally was mostly Republicans trying to convince themselves that they are not to blame for the mess they made.

Sorry, I didn't fall for it.

I hope other Tea Parties are better, but Antelope Valley is where ideas go to die.



Jason Gonella is Chair of the Antelope Valley LP, one of the Los Angeles LP's eight internal regions. His email: AynRKey@aol.com.

Libertarian Party of California
14547 Titus St., Suite 214
Panorama City, CA 91402

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Photo: Thomas M. Sipos

Starchild's outfit terrified Tricia Marcos's dogs, drawing laughter and applause from delegates.

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