



Santa Clara Libertarian

Volume 32, Issue 6 June 2004

News of Local Libertarians' Efforts and Feats

Santa Clara Delegates Trek to Atlanta for National Convention

The 2004 convention of the Libertarian Party was too good to pass up for some Santa Clara Libertarians. We were inspired by libertarian speakers and celebrities; we learned new political tactics in many informative workshops; we danced to lively rock and blues music; and we debated by day on the convention floor, and chewed the fat long into the night with fellow Libertarians of every stripe and every state.



Photograph: Elizabeth C. Brierly

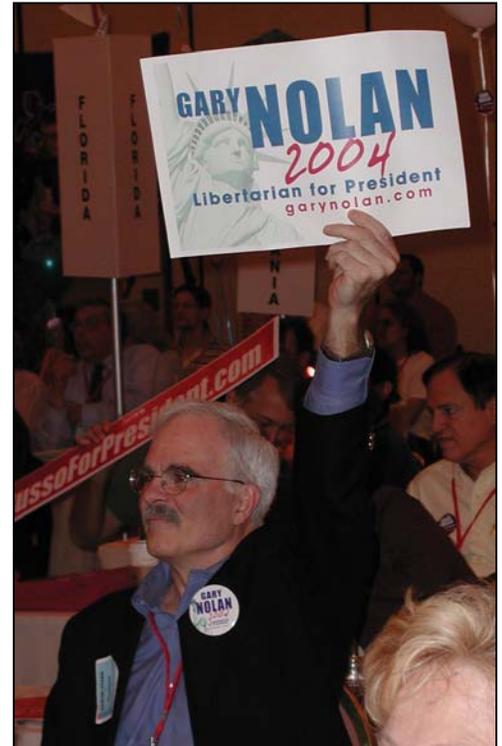
LPSCC Chair Allen Hacker takes the microphone during a convention business session.

We worked hard to carry out the business of the convention, voting for new Platform planks, new Party leadership, and most scintillating, to elect the LP's 2004 Presidential candidate. We cheered for our able candidates, such as Judge James Gray, and we browsed for books and tapes in the vendor area.

The LPC once again did not fill its allowed delegation, so everyone from the LP of Santa Clara County is heartily encouraged to run for a delegate slot in 2006, and to take in that year's convention and the joys of a long weekend of basking in like-minded philosophers and activists.

It's the ideal event to glean renewed vigor, and to share what's working and what's not, so we don't all reinvent the same wheel, but so we can be exceptional in our effectiveness. ■

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Photograph: Elizabeth C. Brierly

Ray Strong, immediate past chair of LPSCC, promoting Gary Nolan, the Presidential candidate who did draw the votes of a majority of California delegates, but not overall. So Nolan was dropped after losing to Aaron Russo and the eventual nominee, Michael Badnarik.

Photograph: Elizabeth C. Brierly



Former Chair of the LP of California, Mark Hinkle, his wife, Linda, and Laura Ferrer enjoy the Friday night concert. Performing were Dan Litwin, Poker Face, and the featured celebrity performer, Jimmie Vaughan. All of these bands waxed libertarian in their music. Dan Litwin is a fellow California libertarian who has been using his music to convey messages of peace and liberty. He has several albums available for sale on his web site, at www.PeaceMakersRock.com.



Elizabeth Brierly, editor of Santa Clara Libertarian, meets libertarian radio host Neal Boortz, whose program has returned to the Bay Area, on KSRO 1350 A.M. Despite recent disenchantment among LP members over his view on the Iraq war, Boortz seemed well-received as a breakfast speaker at the convention.



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Volume 32 ■ Issue 6 ■ June 2004

Santa Clara Libertarian is the monthly newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County.

PUBLISHER

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Issues from 1998 are available on line at www.SC.CA.LP.org/scl/.

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■ **Message from the Chair**

What a Ride!

Well, that was the best convention of any type I've ever attended!

Atlanta, Ga., 2004, was the setting for intensity, discovery, surprise, and just plain delight. Talk about a stroll through the purpose of Life!!!

Sure, some in the press and certain detractors in the old guard paid too much attention to our relatively small numbers (fewer than 900). But it was the quality that counted.

Nowhere was the quality more evident than in our candidates—especially the three running for president. What a debate those three gave us. No doubt you know the result by now. Still, what some of you may not know is why it went the way it did. The best way to answer that is for you to watch the debate! Visit www.SC.CA.LP.org, and use the "LP Presidential Debate!" link near the top* to download the entire 90-minute debate. You will see what the delegates saw, and you'll understand.

And now, back to the future.

Every month since becoming Chair, I have exhorted you to grow our membership through word of mouth; every month, your Executive Committee has sought promotional solutions to create members. Every month, the frustration has continued: no discernable growth spurt. I have argued with myself as to why, and I am happy to report that I won and lost that argument.

I have come to agree with members of your Executive Committee, and the Republicans and the Democrats, that our number of members doesn't matter. In evidence of that—you may not believe this—the California Republican Party has only 1,500 paid members. By membership, we are almost four times greater! That and \$5 might get you a cup of coffee.

The magic number is not members—it is registrations. Which is better? It's just too simple. Millions of registered Republicans and Democrats don't even know they aren't members of their parties. But they vote, contribute, and volunteer more or less with their chosen parties, and that makes all the difference.

This explains a lot. Why have we so habitually focused on membership? Answer: Because that's where our money has been. That's right, we have been trying to build a national party on paid memberships while the major parties fly past us every election year on the fuel of millions of registrants and donors unaware of party membership.

* After our new site has been launched, you'll go instead to the "Candidates" section.

Now—I'm stepping on sacred ground—there's a perfectly bad reason for this error. We Libertarians don't merely abhor government interference, we hate being regulated with a passion unlike any other to be found in politics.

The feds, and to some extent the states, have passed restrictive campaign finance laws. The Libertarian reactivity is to avoid surrender, and in manifestation of that impulse, we refuse to meet "their" mandates. We find ways to avoid filing their forms and meeting their unholy rules.

But what does that look like? Like simply not taking any action that would require us to file those forms, and to comply in general. And what does *that* look like? Like not raising money, and not spending money. That's right: solicit nothing; spend nothing; report nothing. That's the ticket we've stuck with for far too long.

Well, bad news: it isn't the ticket to liberty, but to a horrific circus ride through an interminable



Photograph: Elizabeth C. Brierly
LPSCC Chair Allen Hacker and his wife, fellow Libertarian Laura Ferrer, serve as LPC delegates to national.

agony of mediocre existence as a never-to-be wannabe. Strange—our most intense passion is also our most powerful enemy!

But wait—there's good news!

Your Executive Committee has broken out of that trap. How? By accident, of course. We spent some money and brought down upon us all sorts of reporting requirements. Remember those two pages of advertising we bought in last spring's *San Jose Mercury News* Voter Guide? We paid \$2,600.00 for those, and because two of the candidates we mentioned were federal-level candidates, we became subject to all those draconian reporting requirements we had avoided for lo these many

■ See *Ride* page 3

To Do: File 1040 Renew driver license Enter these events to my PDA!

■ The **S.F. Pride** parade will be held on Sunday, **June 27** and will be attended by Libertarian Presidential candidate **Michael Badnarik**. How about you?! For parade information, visit www.SFpride.org, and for information on the LP's participation, e-mail Chair@LPSF.org or visit www.LPSF.org.

■ The annual **International Freedom Summit** hosted by **International Society for Individual Liberty** (ISIL) will be held **July 21–26** in New Zealand. The event will feature former Mongolian Prime Minister **Elbegdorj Tsakhia**, described by some as "Mongolia's Thomas Jefferson." For more information, visit www.ISIL.org.

■ **Pacific Research Institute** of San Francisco advances free-market policy solutions. On **July 13**, they will host a breakfast discussion featuring political and public affairs columnist **Daniel Weintraub** of the *Sacramento Bee*. For details, visit www.PacificResearch.org.

■ Campaign 2004

Local Candidates Gear Up with Strategies and Stump Speeches

On June 10, the LPSCC held the quarterly meeting of its Speakers' Bureau. Three energetic representatives from our region's notable slate of 2004 candidates for partisan office addressed the intimate gathering which included one very open-minded Republican.



Allen Rice (left), running for State Senate, District 11, is a stolid advocate of a political strategy of incrementalism. After explaining that we need to fight our battle where it is *now*, not at a past time when we had more freedoms, he offered plausible examples of tactics

aligned with Libertarian values, while not requiring a leap to a pure libertarian society, too daunting for the average voter to approve.



For example, instead of exhorting that a gasoline tax is theft—which of course we don't deny—and should be abolished immediately, we could work to ensure that the existing gas tax revenues be funneled only to road maintenance. And given that school bonds require only a 55% majority, we could insist on oversight committees and very specific budgets.

Zander Collier (above), running for State Assembly, District 24, gave his stump speech, demonstrating both passion for libertarian principles and ways in which the typical Silicon

Valley voter will be able to relate to him as their representative.

Michael Laursen (right) is running for State Senate, District 13. Not only did his opening



statement—an observation that the “average person has forgotten how to be free”—have a big impact, but it underscored the value of the incremental approach introduced by fellow candidate Rice. Laursen gave updates on education issues in the Bay Area, including the work of California Parents for Educational Choice (CPEC), who have agreed to serve these candidates as campaign consultants.

Each candidate ably entertained questions from the audience about their views, and they

Photographs this page: Elizabeth C. Brierty



Candidates Collier, Rice, and Laursen (center three) share a camaraderie of spirit as well as their united campaign strategy, in which they eschew as ineffective the LP's usual purism and all-or-nothing demands. They are flanked here by LPSCC's new Campaigns Chair, Kevin Takenaga on the left, and LP of Santa Clara County Chairman Allen Hacker on the right. Takenaga also serves as Treasurer on the Collier for Assembly campaign.

Visit these Candidates on the Web:

www.ElectCollier.org
VoteLaursen.org
Rice4SD11.org

welcomed feedback on how to make their respective messages more powerful.

The next Speakers' Bureau meeting is planned for September 9 at 7:00 to 9:30 P.M., and the venue will be our much-acclaimed Coco's Restaurant in Sunnyvale. For more details and changes, visit www.SC.CA.LP.org. To offer suggestions for speakers, e-mail Allen Hacker at Allen@LawfulGov.org. ■

Ride *Continued from Page 2*

unfruitful years. And thus, we have begun to do that reporting, to fill in those forms, to establish ourselves as a real political entity.

I tell you, we had better watch out: if we keep up, this little club of ours is going to burst from its sleepy cocoon and become a legitimate political party.

I'll tell you this, too: I don't care if all of you never bring in a new member again. Just encourage your friends to register to vote Lib-

ertarian. Encourage them to tell the pollsters, if they get the chance, that they are leaning heavily toward voting for Michael Badnarik for President. Push up the easy numbers. Registration and voting. Those are the key. They are the key to money and they are the key to growth. And the key to getting our candidate into the national debates.

They are also the key to an expanding membership. Even if we no longer care about that. ■

—Allen Hacker, Chair

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Next Meetings!

July 8 Business
 Aug. 12 Guest Speaker

LPSCC meetings are held 7:00–9:30 P.M., usually at **Coco's Restaurant**, Sunnyvale. Venue and other details subject to change! Confirm at www.SC.CA.LP.org.

■ Campaign 2004

LP Presidential Candidate to Pound Pavement in Bay Area, June 25–27

Michael Badnarik, the 2004 Libertarian candidate for President of the United States, will be a featured speaker at a candidates'



*Learn more about the **Badnarik for President** campaign by visiting www.Badnarik.org.*

forum being coordinated by the East Bay Libertarian Party on June 25.

Badnarik, who teaches classes on the Constitution in his home state of Texas, was nominated on May 30 at the national LP convention in Atlanta after one of the closest races in party history, with three of the most qualified presidential candidates ever.

Badnarik's background ranges from chemistry and computer programming to telemarketing. He hopes he can use his communication skills to convince the general public that *most*



Photographs this page: Elizabeth C. Briery

Michael Badnarik's victory in Atlanta has been attributed in part to his exceptional performance at the Presidential debate in Atlanta on May 29.

of what our government does is unconstitutional. "It is time for us to relearn the principles that made our country great, and...[I am] determined to return this country to its original greatness."

Also on the program are ten regional candidates: **Mark Stroberg**, **Harland Harrison**,

and **Jim Eyer** (Congress); **Peter Von Pinnon** and **David Rhodes** (Senate); **Ron Colfer**, **Kevin O'Neal**, **Christopher Maden**, and **Frank Manske** (Assembly), and **Scott Wilson**, candidate for Mt. Diablo Healthcare District.

The forum will be held at 7:00 P.M. at the **Westover Vineyards** in Castro Valley. Admission is \$20.00. Rounding out the evening will be lively music, hors d'oeuvres, and two intimate hours with Mr. Badnarik.* For this special event, Westover will be offering a 10% discount on purchases of wine. For details and more Badnarik events the same weekend, visit www.EBLP.org or send e-mail to Chair@EBLP.org. ■

* A \$100 donation is requested from those wishing to participate in the special session with Mr. Badnarik.

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Read our article, *Proactive Liberty!*
 Free on the Web, or \$2.00 by mail.

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