

Monthly



The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California

June 1999

LPC Fights Ballot Access Legislation

Juan Ros testifies against bill before committee



Juan Ros

The state legislature is discussing passage of a bill that would increase the burden on minor party candidates trying to get on the ballot — and the LPC is fighting it. The bill — SB365 —

makes a key change in the signature-gathering procedure for candidates.

Under current law, candidates are required to pay a very large filing fee in order to file their Declaration of Candidacy — an impossible hurdle for some minor party candidates. Alternatively, candidates can collect signatures in lieu of the filing fee. The number of so-called “in-lieu” *(continued on page 8)*

Repeal the Car Tax!

Please note that this issue contains a petition in support of AB 1776, a bill that would repeal California’s car tax. The LPC has officially endorsed this bill and urges all of its members — including you — to stand behind it by completing and processing this petition ASAP!

Introduced by Assemblyman Tom McClintock (R), AB 1776 would *(continued on page 4)*

Action Item!



Prop. 215 Website

Libs create on-line petition to pressure gov’t to uphold medical marijuana law

The Libertarian Party of California has launched a new web site — www.215Now.com — designed to pressure government officials into fully implementing Proposition 215, the medical marijuana initiative passed by voters in November 1996, LPC Chair Mark Hinkle recently announced.

“Two years and six months have passed since Prop. 215 went into effect, but patients and physicians continue to be harassed, arrested and prosecuted for simply exercising their lawful rights,” said Hinkle. “Enough is enough. The government must implement Prop. 215 now and stop ignoring the will of the voters.”

The idea for the 215Now site was first proposed by the LPC Prop. 215 Blue Ribbon *(continued on page 6)*

LPC 2000 Convention Update

Save the date for next year’s state party conventions

It may be eight months away, but it’s not too soon to begin planning for the LPC’s 2000 Convention, to be held Presidents’ Day

weekend, February 18-21, 2000, at the Doubletree Hotel-Mission Valley in San Diego.

“We want this to be the biggest state convention in LPC history,” said LPC Executive Director Juan Ros. “With the expected membership growth resulting from the national party’s Project Archimedes, the presidential election year interest, and the high level of visibility for Libertarians in San Diego, there’s every reason to expect this convention will shatter attendance records!”

To help plan the convention and coordinate logistics, the LPC has hired event planners The Balcom Group, who worked on the *(continued on page 5)*



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- ▶ *Campaign 2000*
- ▶ *Columns, Letters & More!*

June 1999

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From The Editor:

A Changing of the Guard

by Perry Martin

As most of you are aware, I have resigned as Editor/ Publisher of *LPC Monthly* — effective with this issue. Unfortunately, my schedule no longer allows me the time to produce this newsletter.

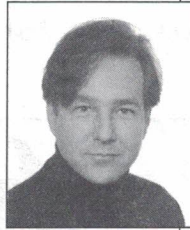
As I write these words, the LPC Executive Committee is in the process of selecting my successor; as you read them, the decision will have been made. Next issue, you will see a new name on the masthead, and I trust that you will provide my successor with the same generous level of support and encouragement that I have enjoyed!

Although I am resigning, I am not walking away from the Libertarian Party or *LPC Monthly*. As the newly appointed LPC Publications Oversight Chair, I will be providing support and guidance to the new Publisher/Editor, helping him/her to provide you with a high quality newsletter.

Before I close, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to this publication over the past two and a half years. There are far too many of you to mention by name, of course, but I know who you are and greatly appreciate your support. Without it, *LPC Monthly* would not be what it is: one of the most highly regarded state Libertarian Party newsletters in the country.

I would also like to extend a special note of thanks to my Associate Editor, Joe Dehn. From the beginning, Joe has regularly provided me with his input — proofreading copy, checking facts, contributing articles, and more. His dependable nature, keen eye for detail and incisive reasoning have been invaluable assets to me.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you — the members of the LPC — for giving me this opportunity to serve you. Publishing *LPC Monthly* has been a wonderfully rewarding professional experience for me. It has also brought me into regular contact with many members of this organization — the most thoughtful, principled and courageous group of people that I know. It is a pleasure and an honor to call you my friends. ■



LETTERS

Wanted: More Reg-Libs

The recent Green Party victory for a state assembly seat got me thinking about what our Party can do in order to get more of our candidates elected.

As a registered (since 1995), card-carrying member (which I show to all the college Political Science classes I have taught just to let them know up front where I am coming from politically) I feel we need to spend more time and money in order to boost our registration numbers.

While Project Archimedes is bringing in dues paying members, I feel it is vastly more important to boost our registration percentages. We should send our information out to all independents and people just turning eighteen who are not yet registered to vote.

As Nathan Mathew's excellent letter in March's *LPC Monthly* shows, there is a vast untapped generation of potential voters who react favorably to our Party's stands on the issues.

Just think of the day in the near future when we have even as little as 5-10% of the registered voters in this state and nation? There is no way the media could ignore us! And more media attention will bring more contributions and, an even happier thought, more registered Libertarians! Which will eventually guarantee partisan elected Libertarian office holders.

JOHN ALAN VICTOR
Martinez, CA

Gay Libertarian List

I am an active member of the Libertarian Party of North Carolina, and currently serve as our Gay Community Outreach chair. I think it is very important for the Libertarian Party to do all that it can to reach out to this very politically active community.

I would assume that you have a lot of gay people involved in the California LP, so I wanted to write and ask your assistance in spreading the word about a mailing list I moderate: The Gay Libertarian List. Members can access it at <www.onelist.com/subscribe.cgi/gaylibertarian>.

CHRISTOPHER COLE
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LPC Monthly

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Hollywood, CA 90078

E-Mail: LPCMonthly@aol.com

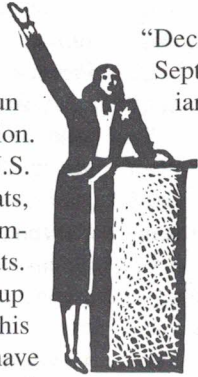
Candidates Needed for Campaign 2000

The LPC is now recruiting candidates for the next election

by Ted Brown

Libertarians are needed to run for office in the 2000 election. The races on the ballot will be U.S. Senator, 52 Congressional seats, 20 State Senate seats (odd numbers) and 80 State Assembly seats. Since the Legislature moved up the primary to March 7, 2000, this means that the filing deadlines have moved up also. The first date to take out papers is October 1, 1999.

The legal requirements for running include being registered to vote as a Libertarian by December 9, 1998 (if registered in another party before). If you are not registered to vote, or are registered



“Decline to State,” you have until September 9, 1999 to register Libertarian. Congressional candidates do not have to live in the district, but State Legislative candidates must. Of course, you need to be familiar with the Libertarian philosophy (and agree with it).

Running for office is easier than you may think, can be lots of fun — and is one of the most productive ways that you can help the

Libertarian Party: good candidates are our #1 outreach tool.

If you are interested in running or want more information about what is involved, contact Ted Brown at (626) 614-0630 or e-mail to <tebrown@earthlink.net>. ■

LPC Plan for Budget Surplus

“Give it back” to taxpayers, say Libertarians!

With a projected \$4 billion state budget surplus for the 1999-2000 fiscal cycle, the Libertarian Party of California has proposed a “spending” plan that would return the excess revenue to taxpayers — \$330.58 each, to be exact.

“We call it the ‘Give It Back’ plan,” LPC Chair Mark Hinkle announced in a recent press release. “Give back the entire surplus to everyone who filed an income tax return. No meaningless tax cuts, no new pork projects — just a full refund. It’s the right thing to do.”

According to the most recent annual report from the Franchise Tax Board, roughly 12.1 million personal income tax returns are filed annually. Assuming a \$4 billion surplus this year, the Libertarian plan would refund each taxpayer \$330.58.

Hinkle says such a plan would benefit the California economy, increase the quality of life for all Californians, and end the squabbling between Democrats and Republicans over how to spend the unexpected windfall.

“The term ‘surplus’ is a euphemism for ‘We’ve taken too much,’” Hinkle explained. “The state has overcharged taxpayers, who are now entitled to a refund. Since individuals know how to spend their money better than the government does, our plan would allow taxpayers to save or spend as they see fit, thus benefiting themselves and the economy at the same time.”

Governor Gray Davis is expected to propose a slew of spending for new pre-school and after-school programs. Republicans prefer modest tax cuts in the state car tax and the gasoline sales tax plus increased spending for transportation projects and local governments.

“Neither of those (continued on page 4)



New Postal Regulations

‘Private’ mailboxes no longer private under new rules, says Libertarian Party of California Chairman

New postal regulations will make private mailboxes “private” no more, may endanger individual safety, and represent another government attack on privacy that should not be tolerated, the Libertarian Party of California recently announced.

Under the new rules, published in the March 25th Federal Register, private mailbox customers will now be required to show two forms of ID — including one with a photo — when applying to rent, and mail delivered to private mailboxes must bear a new address designation, “PMB,” or risk being undelivered. The rules went into effect April 26th.

“Why must government continue to erode individ-

ual privacy?” asked LPC Chair Mark Hinkle. “What’s next? Eliminating unlisted phone numbers?”

According to the Postal Service, the new rules are designed to combat mail fraud. But that sounds eerily like another recent government proposal, Hinkle noted. “It’s ‘Know Your Customer’ all over again. The government just keeps wanting to invade our privacy.”

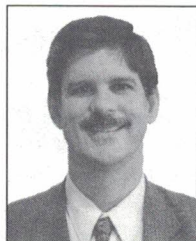
“Know Your Customer” was the name given to proposed government regulations that would have required banks to develop profiles on every customer and report suspicious banking activity to the gov- (continued on page 7)



From The Chair:

Keeping the Engine Running

by Mark Hinkle



Mark Hinkle

We, as a Party, had three main goals for 1998:

1. Increase our dues paying membership to 7,000;
2. Increase our monthly pledge base to \$6,000 per month;
3. Maintaining ballot status.

As you know, we have accomplished Goal #3. The other two goals are still unmet and remain our primary focus. Here's another update on our progress...

Goal #1: The LNC recently sent out another massive membership mailer to libertarian-registered voters here in California. I don't have any numbers to report yet — but the LNC has informed me that trays and trays of responses are pouring in! That's a very encouraging sign. I trust we'll have at least preliminary numbers to report next month.

Goal #2: Determined to see this goal realized, I have started personally calling current and past pledgers, and asking them to increase their pledge or re-up again. Most have responded affirmatively! Our monthly pledge base now stands at \$3,959.26 per month — another all time high! Of course, we still have a way to — so please do what you can to help out. If you are not yet a pledger or would like to increase your current pledge, please call Executive Director Juan Ros at (818) 506-0200 — he'll do the rest!

Last month I suggested that the LPC Executive Committee adopt a limited set of outreach-related goals. They will consider these and probably other goals at our June 19th meeting in Santa Clara, and I'll let you know the results.

In the meantime, here's an update on the goals I've already suggested...

1) **PRESSURE THE STATE GOVERNMENT INTO UPHOLDING PROP. 215.** In response, the LPC recently launched a website — **PROP215NOW!** — featuring an on-line petition calling on

state officials to obey the will of the voters on this issue. (See article on page 1.) At this time, the website has had a total of 181,647 visitors — including Nobel laureate Milton Friedman, who signed the petition!

If you haven't visited the website and signed the petition yet,

please do so ASAP! This is truly a matter of life and death for many people — perhaps even someone you know and love.

2) **REPEAL PROP. 10, the tobacco tax.** Libertarian and President of Cheaper Cigarette stores, Ned Roscoe, has committed to do "whatever it takes" to get an initiative on the 2000 ballot to repeal Prop 10, and has asked for our help. Look for a petition in your July newsletter.

2A) **SUPPORT THE VEHICLE TAX INITIATIVE** submitted by Assemblyman Tom McClintock and Senator Ray Haynes. While it's not the immediate repeal of this tax that we would like, a tax cut is a tax cut...what's not to like? A copy of a supporting petition is included in this newsletter — please complete and send it off ASAP!

3) **FIELDING 200 CANDIDATES IN THE YEAR 2000.** Last issue I announced the goal as 125 candidates; but LNC Political Director Ron Crickenberger has twisted my arm to up the ante. Ron wants to have 2,000 candidates nationwide in the year 2000, and has asked the LPC to commit to running 200 partisan and non-partisan candidates — 153 partisan races and 47 Non-partisan races. We're going to do all we can to make that happen.

Finally, many of you have told me that you like my providing an update on our goals in this column. I intend to continue, but remember: we can accomplish these goals only as fast as your support enables us to do so: your time, talent and money is the fuel that runs the Libertarian Party of California engine. The more you give, the faster we run; the faster we run, the more we can accomplish for Liberty — and you. ■

Car Tax

(continued from page 1)

completely phase out the state's punishing car tax - formally known as the Vehicle License Fee - by 2003. The measure is also known as the "Keeping the Promise" initiative, referring to a promise lawmakers made back in 1991: At that time, the state was in deep financial trouble and then-Governor Pete Wilson raised the car tax in order to generate additional revenue, promising to roll back the tax increase when the state's financial picture brightened. With an over \$4 billion surplus expected this year, McClintock is forcing lawmakers to "keep the promise" and repeal the car tax.

"The Vehicle License Fee is nothing but a property tax on your car," said LPC Chair Mark Hinkle. "This bill deserves the support of every Libertarian."

Completed petitions should be mailed to: Tom McClintock's Committee to Stop the Car Tax, 1127 11th Street, Ste. 216, Sacramento, CA 95814.

For more information about AB 1776, check the out the "Keeping the Promise" website at www.nocartax.com. ■

Budget Surplus

(continued from page 3)

plans is acceptable because they assume that the government has a right to keep the surplus — which it doesn't," Hinkle pointed out. "The state does not have an entitlement to tax money. That money belongs to the people and should be returned to the people."

Davis' budget already reflects a spending increase of \$3 billion over the 1998-99 budget. "Of course we'd rather see government spending decrease, not increase, but we're not holding our breath.

"Libertarians urge elected officials to resist the temptation to spend money that doesn't belong to them. \$330.58 may not mean much to politicians earning \$99,000-plus per year, but it's welcome relief for taxpayers." ■

2000 LPC Convention

(continued from page 1)

1998 Libertarian National Convention.

“The Balcom Group will provide the 2000 Convention with a professional, organized, pleasurable atmosphere for Libertarians beyond any past state convention,” promised Ros.

Of course, the 2000 Convention’s agenda will include the de rigeur business sessions consisting of platform and bylaws debates. But conventiongoers will also get a close-up look at candidates for the Libertarian presidential nomination.

According to Ros: “Any serious candidate for the presidential nomination will

be there, as California will have the largest delegation at the Libertarian national convention [to be held July 4th weekend in Anaheim]. Libertarians can decide for themselves who the best candidate will be.”

Delegates to the LP national convention will be chosen at the state convention, and candidates for partisan public office can canvass for votes.

“The early primary will help focus attention on our convention, so I expect considerable media coverage,” Ros said. “Political interest will be reaching a peak, and we plan on taking advantage of that!”

Ros expects the city of San Diego itself to attract Libertarians from across the state and beyond: “We’re going to



encourage families to come and bring the kids. There really is a lot to do in San Diego — and there’s a trolley that can take conventiongoers into downtown and even to Mexico, if they want!”

San Diego’s status as the largest and arguably most visible LPC region is another reason the city was chosen. “We want to congratulate the San Diego Libertarians for all they have done on behalf of liberty. This is one way to thank them — by throwing a party in their back yard!”

While planning the program is still in progress, Ros promises an exciting roster of speakers. “There’s going to be something for everyone,” he promised, “so start making plans today!” ■

Monthly Pledges

January: \$3,959

Help Us Grow!

Participating in the LPC’s pledge program is probably the single most important thing that you can do to support the Party! To become a monthly pledger, use the form on back of this newsletter, or call (818) 506-0200. Please do it today!



Notes on Membership

As a result of a change to the bylaws at the most recent state convention, there is no longer a 60-day “grace period” for payment of dues, and members who have not renewed are now being dropped immediately from the central committee count. This had a permanent, but one-time, effect on the count.

There also still are a relatively large number of members whose expiration dates fall at the end of March due to the way the UMP transition was implemented, and this means a relatively large negative impact on the count in April (in May last year, due to the grace period). This is a recurring, but hopefully temporary, effect.

The end of May and end of June counts are expected to show a significant increase as a result of the large Archimedes mailing that was sent out during May.

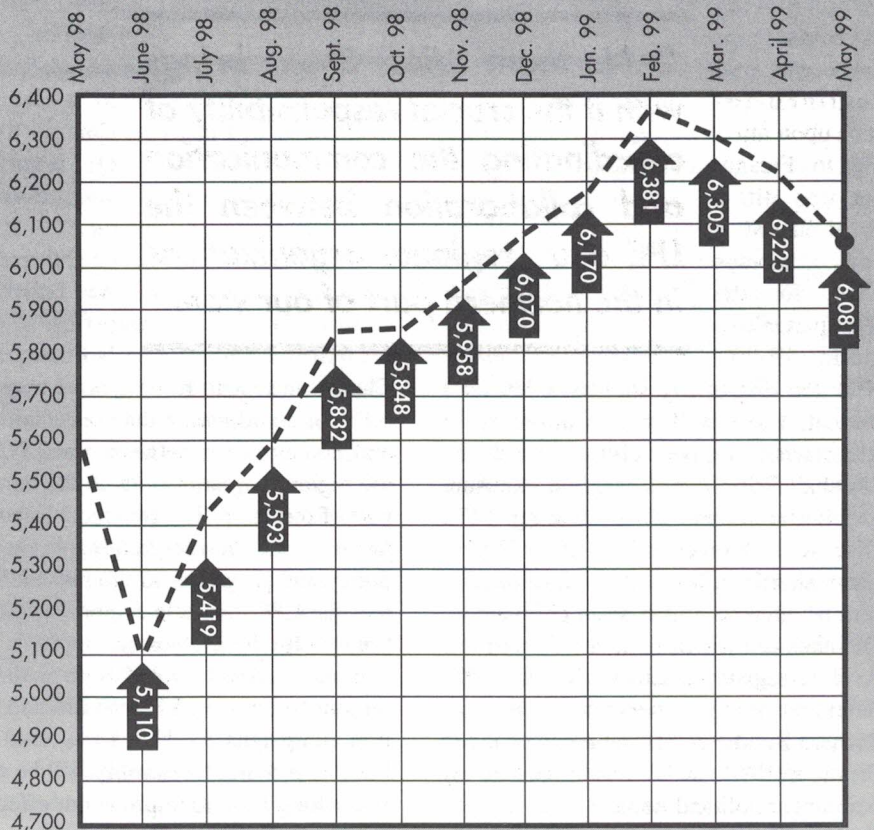
For the latest membership counts, see <<http://www.ca.lp.org/lpc-hist-ccm.html>>.

Growth Watch: April 1999

Membership

April 30th: 6,081

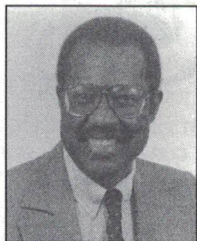
Goal: 7,000



Q&A With Rodney Austin

Conversations with members of the LPC's Execom

This month we begin a series of interviews with the members of the LPC Executive Committee. First up is a chat with Northern Vice Chair Rodney K. Austin...



Rodney K. Austin

Q: *What is your background?*

A: I was born in Mobile, Alabama. My family moved to Sacramento in 1967, when I was 12. I graduated from high school there. I earned bs in biochemistry at U.C. Davis in 1976, and got a job with the Agricultural Research Service of the USDA in Fresno in 1978. I also earned an ms in agricultural chemistry in 1983. I'm still employed at USDA in Fresno. I develop analytical techniques for identifying and quantifying constituents of fresh fruit and vegetables.

Q: *How did you discover libertarianism?*

A: I was a liberal Democrat until just before moving to Fresno. I registered declined-to-state upon moving to Fresno, but was still a fiscal liberal; I have always been, for the most part, a cultural liberal.

Near the end of my stint as a Master's student, I saw a flier on campus for a Libertarian supper club, hosted by Marshall Fritz. It was my first exposure to libertarianism. Upon reading "The Discovery of Freedom" by Rose Wilder Lane shortly afterward, I developed a serious interest in libertarian philosophy.

Q: *When did you become a Libertarian?*

A: I re-registered Libertarian in 1987. After receiving a personal visit from Richard Boddie on his campaign swing to Fresno in 1992, the LP would become my permanent political home.

Q: *Have you ever run for public office?*

A: I ran for Fresno City Council in 1996 in a newly created district. I finished sixth out of ten candidates with 3.7%.

Q: *What is your proudest accomplishment as a Libertarian activist?*

A: Helping revitalize the LP in Fresno County. In September

1996, when I started chairing the new LPC organization in Fresno, the group was having no regular meetings, about thirty members (and only nine official LPC members), had about \$100 in the treasury, and there was an invisible Libertarian presence in the community. By October 1998, the LP of Fresno was having monthly meetings, publishing a monthly newsletter, had about eighty members and a \$1,500 budget, and getting weekly mentions about the Party and libertarianism in the local media. We also went on to assist in the formation of a

new LPC organization in neighboring Madera County.

Q: *What are your goals as a member of the LPC Execom?*

A: I believe the office of Northern Vice

Chair brings with it the crucial responsibility of coordinating the communication and collaboration between the LPC and the regional organizations in the northern part of our state. The two most important tasks for me, besides helping to set LPC policy and programs, are to provide ways that the LPC can help regional organizations help themselves to improve their operations, and to collaborate with LPC regions to improve LP activism and election campaigns for U.S. Congress, State Senate, and State Assembly. I'll be doing everything I can to improve our effectiveness in those areas. ■

"...Northern Vice Chair brings with it the crucial responsibility of coordinating the communication and collaboration between the LPC and regional organizations in the northern part of our state."

Prop. 215 Website

(continued from page 1)

port for the 1998 LPC candidate for governor Steve Kubby, and his wife Michele. Both medical marijuana patients, the Kubbys were arrested in January and charged with possession and cultivation with intent to sell.

The heart of 215Now.com is an on-line petition that visitors can use to send e-mail messages to targeted government officials. "We're taking matters into our own hands," added Hinkle. "Patients are running out of time. We need action now, and with the Internet we can instantaneously let the government know how we feel."

The first phase of 215Now.com — dubbed "Reschedule Marijuana NOW!" — will urge officials to change marijuana's legal status from a Schedule-I to a Schedule-III drug. Any drug below Schedule-I can be legally prescribed by a doctor. "Marijuana's status as a Schedule-I drug is the biggest obstacle to implementing state medical marijuana initiatives like Prop. 215," Hinkle said.

Targets of this first petition are: Dr. Jane Henney, Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration; Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services; Janet Reno, U.S. Attorney General; and Gen. Barry McCaffrey, Office of National Drug Control Policy Director.

LPC Executive Director Juan Ros describes the website as "a work in progress," explaining it will continue to "grow and develop" over the next few months. "We're thinking about adding several features," he said, "including a petition to members of Congress urging their support for H.R. 912, a bill by Congressman Barney Frank that would not only reschedule marijuana but would also affirm states' rights on the medical marijuana issue.

Hinkle went on to stress that the website's focus is on helping patients: "We urge everyone to visit www.215Now.com, sign the petition, and pass word along to their friends. Hopefully we can persuade politicians to finally start putting patients before politics." ■

New Postal Regulations

(continued from page 3)

ernment. Thanks to a campaign led by the Libertarian Party, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation rescinded the proposed rules in March.

The postal regulations will increase the burden on "Commercial Mail Receiving Agencies" — or CMRAs as private mailbox businesses are known — by making them responsible for verifying the customer's identity.

"Mailbox companies have an interest in reducing fraud," said Hinkle. "But their employees should not be forced to act as deputies for the Postal Service."

The rules will also eliminate the privacy enjoyed by CMRA customers — and may endanger some of them.

"Private mailbox renters often have very good reasons for keeping a low profile, such as battered spouses in hiding, celebrities, and law enforcement officers who want to keep their home addresses confidential," Hinkle pointed out. "These new regulations will put some of these people into real jeopardy."

Small businesses started in a home or a garage may rent a private box to give the appearance of having a physical office. "All that privacy is now gone and those businesses will probably suffer as a result," said Hinkle.

Even worse, anyone — not just the police — can request to see a customer's application information if that customer is doing or soliciting business from their private mailbox.

"The Postal Service is depriving the many of their liberties because of the abuses of a very few. The problem is, criminals do not follow the law and will find ways around these rules while law-abiding customers are forced to sacrifice their privacy," charged Hinkle.

"With 8,645 regulations adopted in the last two years, it's easy to see how this one slipped through the cracks," Hinkle concluded. "Libertarians denounce the new postal regulations and call on Congress to recognize the erosion of American privacy — and to stop it." ■

Q&A With Dave Larkin

Another conversation with a member of the LPC's Execom

Next up in our on going series of interviews with members of the LPC Execom, is a chat with Dave Larkin, the Regional Representative from the San Fernando Valley (R61)...



Dave Larkin

Q: What is your background?

A: I was born in Aberdeen Washington in 1947. In my early childhood, I lived all through the West. Most of my school years were spent in San Francisco, where I graduated from high school. I enlisted in the Navy in 1964 and did a tour of Vietnam. I have a year of technical school and some college. I work as an engineer for a manufacturing company in Van Nuys. I'm single and have no children — or, at least, none that I know of! I live in the San Fernando Valley — which, at the moment, is still part of Los Angeles. I consider myself an Angeleno and I love Southern California.

Q: How did you discover libertarianism?

A: I can't remember when I first heard the word, probably in the 70's. In 1980 I remember someone saying "Oh, those screwballs!" Later, I heard their position on drugs and it really made sense to me. I had been a backsliding drug warrior until that time, occasionally changing sides. I already knew the Democrats were idiots and I didn't identify with the Republicans. I began to argue the libertarian position with my horrified coworkers.

Q: When did you become a Libertarian?

A: During the election of 1988, I noticed that a lot of ballot arguments against bonds were written by Libertarians. The bonds would drip with "...and would provide free ... and protect the children...and protect our coastal waters and all the plants and bugs." The Libs would counter with "...screw those little parasites!"

(laughs) Well, maybe they didn't phrase it exactly like that, but they weren't afraid to make a bold and unapologetic argument for liberty, even if it meant some people might think they were callous and horrible. Very gutsy, I thought. I loved it! I had to meet these people. I did, and the

rest is history: I've been an active Libertarian ever since.

Q: What does being a libertarian activist mean to you?

A: Staying the course. We work very hard and rarely see major successes. The forces arrayed against us are well established and powerful. I may not see any "victory" in my lifetime, so my proudest

accomplishment is that I can say I think for myself, I don't follow the statist herds, and that I stand up for what I believe in. That's something

to be proud of, and every Libertarian activist can feel that way.

Q: Is there a political issue of particular importance to you?

A: No. Too often people focus on one particular issue of importance to them and then fail to see the big picture. For example, many conservatives believe in the right to bear arms but want to deny people the right to use drugs. Liberals make the same mistake on the other side. A good Libertarian understands freedom shouldn't be sliced up and divided like a pie.

Q: What are your goals as an Execom member?

A: Maybe to bring a different perspective to the table. The Party seems to be centralizing its activism and I'm not sure this is entirely a good thing. Regions have a big part to play. Local governments are the worst of all and it's the regions who have to battle them. I want to help revitalize the LPC regions and turn them into government-eating machines. ■

Responding to Inquiries

by Juan Ros

Inquiries are the seeds of membership growth — nurture them! An inquiry is someone who has taken steps to contact us to learn more about our organization and ideas. That means they already know something about us and have reacted positively; and that means you have an excellent opportunity of bringing them into the fold as a fellow Libertarian.

Inquires are precious — handle them with care!

Inquiries come to regions in two ways: 1) by referral from the national party; 2) by direct contact with the local organization.

What if your region is not receiving its referrals of inquiries?

TIP: e-mail Joe Dehn at <jwd3@dehn-base.org> and request subscription to the list of your regional inquiries — the inquiries will be e-mailed to you thereafter.

What about direct inquiries to your local region?

TIP: log onto the national party's web site (www.lp.org/lp-membership-rform.html) and enter the inquiry's information onto the online membership inquiry form. The national party will send a complete membership package to your inquiry, saving you the trouble and expense.

So, you have your inquiry names — what now?

TIP: Call them! This is an essential, primary task for all local regions: at least one of your volunteers should be assigned to it. Make sure they can explain basic Libertarian positions. (If you don't have an inquiry's phone number, get it from directory assistance.)

What do you say to them?

TIP: Be short and sweet! Introduce yourself as a representative of the local Libertarian Party. Say that you understand they recently requested info about the LP and that you are calling to answer any questions they may have. Answer their questions — briefly — and listen to anything they have to say. Ask if they have received their membership package. If they haven't, assure them that it'll arrive soon. Tell the inquiry that you'd enjoy meeting them and then invite them to your next regional event. Don't pressure them — keep it light and friendly. If they accept, give them the details; if they decline, tell them you'll put their name on your mailing list so they can be informed of future events (then do so). Offer to leave your phone number in case they have any further questions, then thank them for their interest and say "goodbye."

That's it. The conversation should take no more than 5 minutes — but it's a critical part of cultivating our membership. Who knows? The inquiry you call may blossom into a future activist, officer or even the first Libertarian president!

NEWS

Ballot Access Legislation

(continued from 1)

signatures varies. For minor parties, the number is equal to 10% of the number of voters registered with that party in the legislative district of the office being sought, or 150, whichever is lower.

So, for example, a Libertarian running in the 26th Congressional District, which contains 960 registered Libertarians, would need to collect 96 valid in-lieu signatures to avoid paying the filing fee.

In addition, all candidates are required to collect a certain number of "nomination" signatures to get on the ballot. This number also varies, but is usually fairly low. Nomination signatures must be obtained from voters registered with the candidate's party, whereas in-lieu signatures can be obtained from any registered voter.

Under current law, any signature collected on an "in-lieu" petition would also count towards the candidate's nomination signature requirement. SB365 by Sen. John Lewis (R - Orange)

would amend the California Elections Code by requiring that in-lieu signatures and nomination signatures be collected on separate forms and be counted independently.

"This creates quite a burden for the minor party candidates, almost all of whom collect in-lieu signatures rather than pay the onerous filing fee," said LPC Executive Director Juan Ros. "Candidates would need to collect signatures during two different filing periods: once during the in-lieu period and again during the nomination period. Collecting signatures one time is hard enough — having to do it twice is twice as hard."

The bill is sponsored by the California Association of Clerks and Elections Officials, who requested the change.

"Apparently, some candidates were confused by the filing rules and took the County Clerks to court," said Ros. "The County Clerks are hoping to eliminate the confusion."

Ironically, according to Richard Winger, editor of *Ballot Access News*, the County Clerks were the ones who first asked for the dual-use of the in-lieu signatures back in 1981. "And now they're reversing themselves!"

The hurdle, according to Ros, is that since the County Clerks are government employees, there's little chance that the bill will get voted down. "Government employees tends to look out for each other. Whatever the Clerks want, they'll get — unless we can put up a really big fight."

Learning of the bill, Ros sent a letter of opposition to the Senate Committee on Elections and Reapportionment. When the committee's analysis for its members was drafted, the LPC's opposition was noted.

On April 21, Ros testified against the bill at a meeting of the Senate Committee.

"This creates quite a burden for the minor party candidates, almost all of whom collect in-lieu signatures rather than pay the onerous filing fee."

"That was a great experience. I think my testimony went very well, although the lobbyist from the County Clerks Association didn't seem too happy with my being t h e r e .

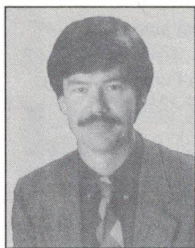
Unfortunately, it wasn't enough." The bill passed the committee, 4-0, and was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Ros immediately marched to the office of Assembly member Audie Bock, the newly elected Green Party lawmaker. "I gave her office a heads-up that the bill was heading for the Assembly," he said, "and recommended we work together to kill the bill in Assembly."

"There are hundreds of bills we could be fighting," said Ros, "but we have to pick our battles carefully. This bill hits us where it hurts — ballot access — and will make it more difficult for our candidates to get on the ballot. Since that hinders the entire reason for the LP's existence, this is one bill we won't stop fighting!" ■

Orange County:

LPOC in OC Register



Brian Lee Cross

The Libertarian Party of Orange County has been offered a premium advertising package by the *Orange County Register*, the primary local newspaper. The offer is to help sponsor

“Discover Orange County 2000, a year-long promotion to celebrate the new millennium, and build a sense of community for the County as a whole.

The package includes monthly ads, ads in full color magazine inserts, website banner advertising, a featured logo placement in a special Government section every day the week before the Primary, and more. In short: it’s a terrific outreach opportunity for local Libertarians.

“I wasn’t sure if we could find the funds to take advantage of this, but we got lots of support from our friends on the Internet”, said **Brian Lee Cross**, Chair of Region 30. “We began testing the waters to see what kind of support we’d generate — and raised almost half of what we need! The reaction from fellow Libertarians is nothing less than inspiring!”

Because this promotion is a non-profit venture, the \$56,000 package is only \$10,000. In two weeks \$4950.00 has been raised, mostly in \$100 donations, but fundraising efforts will continue in order to pay off the entire balance before the program starts in July.

“I’m confident it can be done,” Cross said, “The E-mail list was really pretty short, and most everyone we’ve called has agreed that this is our most exciting opportunity to get better recognition for our Party in anticipation of the National Convention and election next year.”

If you’d like to support this promotion send your donation (payable to LPOC) to: Libertarian Party of Orange County, P.O. Box 27871, Santa Ana, CA 92799-7871. ■



Sam Severs (L), Scott Lieberman (C) and John Kalb (R) man LP outreach booth on Tax Day. (Photo: Mark Dierolf)

San Francisco:

Libs At Tax Day Event

“The San Francisco Bay area has some new registered Libertarians,” reported San Jose activist **Scott Lieberman**, thanks to the efforts of activists at one local Tax Day protest in April. The event was hosted by KSFO AM-560, a radio station Lieberman describes as a “beacon of sanity” on the left-leaning local airwaves. “KSFO claims to be right wing, said the activist, “but several of their hosts are libertarian or libertarian/conservative.”

Lieberman continued: “Two years ago, KSFO held an outdoor anti-tax rally in a San Francisco park. Then Northern Vice-Chair **Jon Petersen** and I attended, and got about 50 names and addresses of people interested in the LP. Over half the people we quizzed scored in the Libertarian quadrant on the ‘World’s Smallest Political Quiz.’ When I heard that this year’s KSFO Common Sense Convention would be held on April 15th, I jumped at the chance to sponsor a Libertarian booth. The station provided us with the booth free of charge, which made attending this event a no-brainer for us. They even listed us as a

sponsor on the program they handed out.”

The event was held at a San Francisco pier. “There is no view from inside the building,” said Lieberman, “from the back of the building there’s a magnificent view of the Golden Gate Bridge and the bay. Thanks to **Wayne Nygren** of the East Bay region, we had a large Libertarian Party banner held up by six foot poles.”

The event started at noon. “For the next 8 hours, KSFO talk show hosts held court and shook hands with listeners,” said Lieberman. “There were about 10 booths, including ours, and I’d estimate about 1,000 people attended during the day.”

Lieberman said he decided to depart from tradition by not administering the World’s Smallest Political Quiz... “It’s labor intensive and decreases the number of people you can speak to. Also, since we found a lot of the attendees at the previous event were Libertarians, I didn’t think we needed to quiz this particular group. It turns out I was right: many of the people who stopped at our booth already knew the basic principles of libertarianism, and many agreed with us. At the end of the day, we had 8 new Libertarian registrants — 7 of them switching from Republican to Libertarian. We also collected the names and addresses of 57 people who wanted an information package.”

Instead of administering the quiz, activists at the event distributed the “Million Dollar Bill” flyer. “We passed them out at the booth,” said Lieberman,

“and wandering through the crowd. I handed a bill to most of the KSFO talk show hosts. One of them, **Brian Wilson**,

was already a member of the Libertarian Party of Maryland!”

Lieberman concluded with a word of appreciation for the other volunteers who worked the booth: “One of the keys to running a successful event is having some good activists to help out — and we had plenty: **Mark Dierolf** (of Monterey), **Sam Severs** and **Jon Kalb** (of Alameda), **Brad Walker** (of Santa Clara), **J.R. Prohaska** (of San Mateo) and **Starchild** (of San Francisco). Everyone had a great time, and we’ll definitely be back next year!” ■

“We’ll definitely be back next year!”

For Your Information

Renewing Your Membership

Renewal notices are sent to members whose expiration date is coming up. Just return your dues payment in the accompanying envelope and your membership at the national, state, and local level will be renewed for one year. Please respond to renewal notices promptly so we don't need to send additional reminders — every additional notice costs money we could otherwise use to grow the party!

Address Changes

Be sure to let us know if you move! Send your address change notice to the national office so that your newsletters and other important correspondence can be sent to your new address. If you are moving out of state but want to continue as an LPC member or continue subscribing to *LPC Monthly*, please also notify the state office so we can make the necessary arrangements to keep you on our list.

Special Requests

If you need some special update to your membership records, such as a change in region affiliation, please contact the state office.

Address Labels

The address label on your copy of this newsletter provides important information relating to your membership records. On the top line of the label, you will find a six-digit number. Please mention this number in any correspondence relating to your membership.

On the same line you will also find a two-digit number identifying the LPC region with which you are affiliated. (If you are not a member but are receiving the newsletter for some other reason there will be a two-letter code instead.) See the listing on page 11 to find out the name of your region and who to contact for information about local activities.



Announcements

Get the Latest News!

To receive LPC news releases and announcements via e-mail, send a message with "subscribe" in the subject heading to <announce-request@ca.lp.org>.

Libertarian Reviews

Miss Liberty's Film News & Reviews provides excellent, free e-mail reviews of movies of interest to Libertarians. To subscribe, send an e-mail message to requests@missliberty.com with the words "subscribe update" in the body or header.

The Intellectual Matchmaker

The Henry Hazlitt Foundation has introduced the Intellectual Matchmaker on the WWW. IM introduces people who share the same libertarian ideas and interests, and makes personalized recommendations of on-line and off-line resources.

According to John Fund of the *Wall Street Journal*: "The Intellectual Matchmaker helps realize the promise of the Internet. Never before in history have people of kindred spirit and like mind been so easily able to communicate and share ideas. [It] is an innovative and fun way for people anywhere to discover not only how many others think as they do but how they can work together for liberty."

The IM is an entirely free service, paid for by charitable donations to The Henry Hazlitt Foundation, whose supporters believe individual liberty and free markets are essential for the future of peace and prosperity.

"Tools like The IM are bringing people together," says Chris Whitten, executive director of The Hazlitt Foundation. This kind of one-on-one communication is going to have a huge impact on the world we live in."

The Intellectual Matchmaker is located at: <<http://www.freemarket.net/imm/>>.

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I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

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