

California Freedom

April 2005

The official publication of the **Libertarian Party of California**

Scenes from the LPC Convention

Photos: Elizabeth C. Briely



This year the annual convention of the Libertarian Party of California returned to its traditional Presidents' Day weekend, after 2004's shift to March. But this time the convention was scheduled from Friday night through Sunday—foregoing the usual luxury of spilling into the holiday Monday in favor of a compact, fast-paced mix of party business,

elections, honoring exceptional activists, inspiring speeches, socializing, and shopping at exhibitors' booths.

Outside the hotel, host city Los Angeles experienced huge thunderstorms, while in the convention hall there was the occasional stormy debate and electric race for office. Here and on page 7, we show you the convention—officers, speakers, activists, delegates, luminaries, guests—in pictures.

Jack Dean, longtime host of the LPC's annual Samuel Adams Society awards luncheon, presented **Kevin Takenaga** of the LP of Santa Clara County with the Karl J. Bray Memorial Award for Activism, given for conspicuous and meritorious activism furthering the goals of the Libertarian Party of California. Among other roles, Takenaga served both as Chair of his local party's Campaign

Committee and as Treasurer for Collier for State Assembly. He also assisted the California tour of the Badnarik for President campaign.

Michael Benoit, of the LP of San Diego, was presented with the 2004 Sons of Liberty award, meant for the candidate most effective in communicating libertarian principles to the voters. Benoit ran for U.S. Representative; District 52 on a platform of eliminating the I.R.S., ending



the War on Drugs, and ending the insecurity caused by Social Security.

(Above) LPC Chairman **Aaron Starr** (left), reelected at this convention for a third term, relaxes at the opening night reception with Libertarian Party cofounder **David Nolan**.

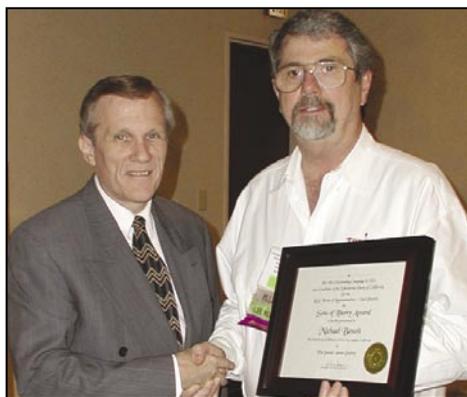
(Left) Relaxing at Friday's opening night reception are County Chair **Allen Hacker** (LP of Santa Clara) and his wife, **Laura Ferrer**, who has run for a health care district board seat and is also a Libertarian.



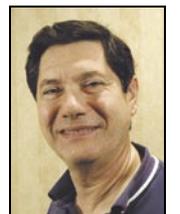
• See **Scenes** page 7

Awards for the Wise

Jack Dean with 2004 Karl J. Bray activism award winner **Kevin Takenaga** (above right) and Sons of Liberty candidate communications award winner **Michael Benoit** (right)



2005 LPC Convention Business



by **Daniel Wiener**
LPC Secretary

This is a brief summary of the results of the Libertarian Party of California state

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convention held February 19–20, 2005, as well as the Executive Committee meeting of Feb. 20.

Aaron Starr, LPC Chairman, was first to provide a report. He noted that in 2004, eight Libertarians were elected to local office, despite a decision not to attempt a full-scale Operation Breakthrough project. A new Executive Director, David Ruprecht, was hired. The LPC is almost \$100,000 in the black, a huge improvement from the \$18,000 deficit which Starr had inherited in 2001. He said the next big project will be to try to persuade already-elected officials to join the Libertarian Party.

The Bylaws Committee proposed many changes. Their report, along with a preliminary draft of the resultant new Bylaws and Convention Rules, can be viewed at

<http://snipurl.com/d13c>. Proposals 1–14, 16–19, and 22–24 all passed (14 had a minor clarifying amendment, and 22 had a typo corrected). Proposals 15, 20, 21, and 25 failed. Time ran out before Proposal 26 could be considered.

Major modifications included:

- To comply with the new Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA), all references to "regions" have been replaced with "counties." Officially, counties can no longer be combined or subdivided into regions (although they may do so informally), and county organizations which spend more than \$1,000 on federal election-related items are responsible for filing their own reports with the F.E.C.

- The previous make-up of the Executive Committee (five state officers, five at-large rep-

resentatives, and five regional reps from the five largest regions) has been replaced with five state officers and ten at-large reps. The ten at-large reps will serve staggered two-year terms, with five new reps being chosen each year. This first year will have five people elected to two-year terms and five people elected to one-year terms.

- When selecting delegates to the LP national convention, either "yes" or "no" votes may be cast for the nominees. Each nominee must receive a net of at least three more "yes" votes than "no" votes to become a national delegate.

- The Judicial Committee's authority was clarified, and it will be able to reject frivolous appeals, if fewer than two committee members are willing to consider the matter.

- The state convention may

• **Dan Wiener**

add delegates, with the approval of at least 3/4 of the existing delegates.

- The Secretary shall distribute a summary of Executive Committee meetings and actions within ten days of their occurrence, and shall post the meetings' minutes within 30 days of their approval.

The number of delegates attending the convention peaked at 134 on Sunday.

Elections consumed most of Sunday. See the table on page 6 ("Who's Who") for a list of the party's new leadership, along with their subcommittees (assigned in early March). For these folks' contact information, visit www.LPC.org/lpc-ec.html.

• See **LPC Business** page 6

California Freedom

Vol. 3 • Issue 4 • April 2005

California Freedom

is the official monthly newspaper of the Libertarian Party of California. Opinions, articles, and advertisements published herein do not necessarily represent official party positions unless so indicated.

PUBLISHER

Libertarian Party of California
14547 Titus Street, Suite 214
Panorama City, CA 91402-4935
Web site: www.LPC.org
Telephone: (818) 782-8400
Facsimile: (818) 782-8488

EDITOR

Elizabeth C. Brierly
E-Mail: Editor@LPC.org

STATE CHAIR

Aaron Starr, CPA
Telephone: (805) 583-3308
E-Mail: StarrCPA@PacBell.net

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dave Ruprecht
E-Mail: Director@LPC.org

MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Bruce Cohen
E-Mail: BruceDCohen2002@Yahoo.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Muffet Laurie Brown
E-Mail: Muffet@Earthlink.net

WEBSITE

Kevin Takenaga
E-Mail: WebMaster@LPC.org

ADVERTISING SALES

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

CONTRIBUTORS

Richard Newell Daniel Wiener
Dave Ruprecht Scott Wilson
Lawrence Samuels
Albert J. Segalla
Thomas M. Sipos
Aaron Starr

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:

Libertarian Party
2600 Virginia Ave. NW, Suite 100
Washington, D.C. 20037
(202) 333-0008 x223

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

Elizabeth C. Brierly
Editor, *California Freedom*
P.O. Box 611021
San Jose, CA 95161-1021
Tel./fax: (408) 272-3191
E-Mail: Editor@CaliforniaFreedom.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

All news stories, editorials, and announcements are due six weeks prior to the month of publication:
• June 2005: Due 04.20.05
• July 2005: Due 05.20.05
• August 2005: Due 6.20.05

Advertising orders and artwork are due eight weeks and four weeks, respectively, prior to the month of publication. We reserve the right to refuse advertising.

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Competition is a Good Thing



FROM THE CHAIR

I'm glad to report that at February's party election, a couple of candidates emerged to challenge my bid for a record third consecutive term as Chairman of the Libertarian Party of California. Our convention delegates had an exciting choice to make as to who would lead our party during these next two years. I'm happy to have earned your confidence for a third term.

I'm even more delighted that my major competitor, **Mark Whitney** (far right), will be serving with me on the Executive Committee (that is, the LPC's board of directors).

But that's not the only case in which competition is impacting our party's leadership.

As reported by LPC Secretary **Daniel Wiener** (page 1 of this issue), we've had a dramatic change in the rules governing the relationship between the



state party and the county parties.

No longer do the county parties select some members of the state party's Executive Committee. Instead, every delegate at our convention is eligible to vote on every member of the Executive Committee. This change was proposed last year, but failed to pass. This year, it passed overwhelmingly.

When last year this idea was first considered, I remember thinking that few people understood the impact that such a sea change would have on our board. I was more right than I could have realized.

Last year, five people ran unopposed for five at-large seats on the Executive Committee. This year, after the change, seventeen people ran for ten at-large seats—a dramatic increase in the competition to serve on the board.

The result is that the people elected to our board tend to be

the best. Nearly half our board members this year weren't on the board last year. And realizing that getting on and staying on the board is not easy, all appear to be very motivated to do good work.

Every member of the board is a monthly pledger. (If you're not a monthly pledger, please call Executive Director **Dave Ruprecht** right now and sign up.) Every member of the board is either an officer with defined duties, or the chairman of a working committee—in some cases, both.

As I write this, the new Executive Committee has just completed our first teleconference. I can tell you that I'm very proud of the caliber of those running our party today. We're beginning with thirteen working committees this year. Each working committee chair-

man will be reporting his progress to the party membership each month, which you'll be able to read on our party web site (www.CA.LP.org).



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

Competition and transparency are creating a level of energy on this board that I haven't seen in a long time.

We're going to have a great year.

Toward liberty!

—Aaron Starr
Chairman

Coalition Building

To the Rescue! LPC Volunteers in Action

by **Dave Ruprecht**
Executive Director, LPC

Howard Wooldridge, President of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP), is riding his trusty steed, Misty, from Huntington Beach to New York City...and this is the *second* time he's ridden from sea to shining sea!

Wooldridge's trek is to publicize LEAP's drive to end drug prohibition and have America "return to a policy based on personal responsibility and make all drug abuse cases a medical issue." See www.LEAP.cc for more information about the organization.

No one has ever ridden cross-country in both directions. Wooldridge will be honored in London as one of the top dozen Long riders in the world.

Well, two days after Howard set out, I got an S.O.S. call from him. He and Misty had almost reached Anaheim, but due to a scheduling snafu, his



truck and supplies were still in Huntington Beach. He required immediate assistance. I phoned stalwart LPC Executive Committee member **Bruce Cohen**, who reported in two minutes flat that Orange County Libertarian **Anthony Turley** had "stepped up to the plate." Turley took his roommate's daughters, Amy and Brianna Wiley, to meet Howard in Anaheim—where Brianna and Amy, a horsewoman in her own right, cared for Misty while Turley and Wooldridge picked up the truck and returned.

There are many ways to promote liberty...but I think Turley and Cohen may own one of the most unique!

But wait—there's more.

A week later, another S.O.S. from Wooldridge: truck in Corona; he needs it in Palm Springs. One quick call to Riverside County Vice Chair **Lawrence Baird**, and *voila!* Problem solved. Baird enlisted

new Libertarian **Ron Hosman**, a retired deputy sheriff, to follow him as he drove the truck to Palm Springs. There was a huge problem, which perhaps they can tell you about themselves sometime, but eventually they delivered the truck to Palm Springs, and four hours later, our intrepid and pooped volunteers straggled home.



In all my years of working with volunteers, I have never seen such immediate and wholehearted commitment. I am so proud of these California Libertarians. If you see Anthony or Lawrence or Ron, please give 'em a much deserved pat on the back. And let's all keep supporting the organizations such as LEAP, that are valiantly fighting our battles alongside the LPC. ●

In Memoriam

Edward "Fast Eddie" Kuwatch



California Freedom is saddened to learn of the passing of **Edward Kuwatch**. In

2002, this criminal defense attorney ran on the Libertarian Party ticket for Attorney General of California. His platform included taking the War on Drugs out of the criminal justice system and putting it into the health care system, establishing a system of police officer discipline run by the Attorney General's office rather than by local government, and applying California's three-strikes law to only violent felons.

A expert in D.U.I. law, Kuwatch had produced many books through Fast Eddie Publishing Co., including the popular two-volume *California Drunk Driving Law* and its frequent updates. He founded California Deuce Defenders and was a member of California Attorneys for Criminal Justice. His colleagues are said to have referred to his reference books as the "bible" for their profession.

Kuwatch died on Feb. 26 at his home in Mendocino County after a lengthy illness. He was 57. Kuwatch is survived by his wife, Valeria, two sisters, three stepchildren, and five grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made either to Edward J. Kuwatch Scholarship Reward (c/o Randy Moore, President of California D.U.I. Lawyers Association, 332 North Second St., San Jose, CA 95112), or to Phoenix Hospice (1 Madrone St., Willits, CA 95490). ●

Letters to the Editor



Delegates' Duty

There was a problem with the [2005 LP of California annual] convention. On the afternoon of the second day, there were barely enough delegates on the floor to make a quorum. Planks that had 75% of the vote had insufficient support to pass, since a majority of the [credentialed] delegates—not just those in attendance [at that moment]—is required to pass Platform or Program planks. Due to the large number of people who were absent, unanimity was required to get anything done.

If you want to make sure the Libertarian Party accomplishes nothing, that's exactly the way to do it. Become a delegate, register, and then fail to show up for the votes. If, however, you want to advance the cause of liberty, then fulfill your responsibilities as a delegate. If you didn't want to be a delegate, why did you become one?

Perhaps a change to the way the convention is run is in order. Perhaps it is necessary to recredential after recessing. It would be time-consuming and tedious. It would also enable us to know what our real delegate count is.

Perhaps [it is] not a good idea to have breakout sessions during the floor votes. In 2003, we had a three-day convention. Perhaps we can adopt that again, so that sessions do not conflict with votes. If one plans to attend all floor votes, buying any package above the basic is a waste of money.

—Jason Gonella
Lancaster

No Offense Meant

Some Libertarians have brought to my attention that parts of my article on California independence were offensive ("It's Time for California to Go its Separate Way"; *California Freedom*; Dec. 2004, page 4). For this, I apologize.

While bringing up the secession issue was a serious point, some of the actual discussion was a bit "tongue in cheek," but it may have been difficult to tell which was which. I didn't mean to offend Libertarians who were born in the southern states (indeed, by leaving there and coming to California you tend to prove my point), and certainly I didn't mean to offend anyone who holds evangelical Christian religious beliefs.

People from all parts of the country, and from all—or no—religious backgrounds, are welcome in the Libertarian Party. I hope that those particular points won't detract from people's discussion and consideration of the overall issue.

—Ted Brown
San Gabriel

Election Reform

Did someone say "campaign finance reform"? Doesn't "reform" mean fixing what's broken, or changing it to something else? Oh! I see: "fixing" has several meanings, including repairing, and cementing. McCain-Feingold [legislation] fixes in place the existing money and power structure.

In an ideal world there would be no *polidiotics*, but we don't live in an ideal world; we live in one subject to the random forces of nature. People found that dealing with these forces required some form of community action, and thus, the first form of government emerged at the tribal level.

Some tribes were better organized than others and began conquering their neighbors. Thus, government as we know it was born. Not eloquence or reason—force. That system worked pretty well—for those with the power, that is, until 1215 A.D., when those with a little power told King John that he had to share more of it, and obey the law, too.

Ever since then, those in control of force have had to come up with more creative ways of staying in power, while making it look like they were sharing. Rigged elections, gerrymandering, literacy tests; age, gender, religious, or property requirements; poll taxes; and currently, outrageous campaign costs. Without the backing of a major party, most elections are out of the reach of independent candidates. An incumbent seat in Congress is as sure as death and taxes. Apparently that was not enough for the incumbents, so they created (insert trumpet fanfare): *reform*. Campaign money must be filtered through a party, and not just any party—one that meets specific requirements, the most important being that it is already in power. Of course, those with outrageous amounts of money find that there are exceptions for them too, for example, if

they own news media. It's the rank-and-file who are limited to donating to the R's or D's.

Is there a Libertarian way? One possibility would be to allow unlimited anonymous donations. They could be submitted through a double-blind third-party system with independent auditing. That would require some paperwork, to be sure, but probably less than there is now, with all the campaign reporting requirements. The advantage would be that the candidate would not know the source of his funding, and therefore [would] not be beholden to anyone. Donors could still vote with their dollars, but without buying the candidate. He would be free to vote his conscience—if he has one.

—Ken Obenski
San Diego

Death of Hunter Thompson

Understand that writer Hunter S. Thompson killed himself because he could not stand the pain in his leg any longer. For years, he medicated himself with alcohol and drugs. But the alcohol was killing him; doctors are intimidated by the DEA from prescribing pain killers; and the threat of being incarcerated for using drugs deemed illegal by a self-righteous minority made them too expensive to use without resorting to other criminal activity, like theft or dealing. So he killed himself. What a country.

Why Americans can't learn from alcohol Prohibition, I don't know. Alcohol use was declining—and shifting from spirits to beer and wine—but not fast enough for the self-righteous. So they instituted Prohibition. It reversed the trend and killed thousands. It created organized crime empires, because forbidden fruit attracts users and dealers fighting for a share of a market made lucrative by its illegality. Prohibition favors more concentrated products, and with no legal recourse to bad products, many brews were poisonous from concentration, ingredients, or contaminants. Only after the Prohibition amendment was repealed did the decline in alcohol consumption resume.

Prohibition repeats itself with drug use that Congress only wanted to tax. For example, smoking opium was regulated

Welcome Aboard!

The LPC welcomes 40 new members and subscribers, who in February joined our Party of Principle. We look forward to meeting you in person soon!

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Neal Adams Los Angeles | Jonathan Hopkins... Los Angeles |
| Laura Allender Grass Valley | Bill Hotchkiss Aptos |
| Doris Baldyga Fallbrook | Joshua Howard Richmond |
| Don Ball..... Oxnard | Bodie Kathrow San Mateo |
| Peter Brende..... Palo Alto | Joseph Katz Davis |
| Marc Briceno San Francisco | Dennis Kimmel Petaluma |
| Paul Broadway San Diego | Ericka Lunbeck Simi Valley |
| Fred Colburn..... Meadow Vista | Evelyn Lundstrom Sunnyvale |
| Steve Dergarabetian Glendale | Samantha Macy..... Beverly Hills |
| Linda Espino..... San Diego | Mike McGoldrick..... Lafayette |
| William Fleming..... Berkeley | Ernest Neu Redondo Beach |
| John Gallopin Inyokern | Theodore Nicou..... Atherton |
| Elizabeth Gerstle..... Atherton | Carol Ramseier Davis |
| Brandon Goldman..... San Marino | James Rooney..... San Marcos |
| Gary Gray..... Palm Springs | Justin Sampson San Francisco |
| Robert Herzfeld San Diego | Chris Steger..... San Diego |
| | Esther Suiter San Bernardino |
| | Richard Turk El Cajon |
| | Gary Tutin..... San Francisco |
| | Frank Vigilant..... Woodland Hills |
| | Victoria Wallace Dulzura |
| | Thomas Weatherall.. Santa Maria |
| | Frank Wissler..... Newbury Park |
| | Justine Zelly Claremont |



New Members

How's our recruiting?

The LPC's new member recruitment since March 2003:

- Monthly average 30 new members
- Highest month's tally 46 new members, in Nov. 2004
- Lowest tally 18 new members, in Dec. 2003

to discourage Chinese immigration, but snorting or ingesting it, as the wealthy whites did, remained unregulated. Unfortunately, the Treasury Department gradually converted use regulations to prohibitions.

Americans are so ignorant of their history that they can't help but repeat past stupidity.

—Bill Holmes
Carlsbad

Editor's note: Hunter S. Thompson was a political journalist and author who used a style of writing he termed "gonzo journalism," in books such as Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas. In 1970 he lost in a tight race for Sheriff of Pitkin County, Colorado, with a platform that included drug decriminalization. He died on Feb. 20 at the age of 67.

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LPC Votes to Hold Government Prosecutors Financially Accountable

by **Thomas M. Sipos**
Vice Chair, LP of L.A.–Westside

Last month, I wrote about my plans to introduce into the LPC Platform what I had termed “prosecutorial budget-sharing.” On February 18, the LPC’s Platform Committee met at the annual convention in Los Angeles, and I proposed the following new plank:

Because a person is innocent until proven guilty, whenever any governmental entity fines, or tries to expropriate money or other property (as in civil asset forfeiture), or demands compliance to a law or regulation that a defendant feels has been misapplied or misinterpreted, then there must first be a jury trial, and the prosecutor shall be required to estimate his budget at the start of court or administrative proceedings and turn over an equal amount to the defendant to be used for the defendant’s legal defense. Whenever the prosecutor goes over budget,

Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly



he shall simultaneously pay an equal amount to the defendant. If the defendant is found guilty after expending all appeals, he shall be required to refund said amounts, with interest at market rates.

During the ensuing discussion, Platform Committee member **M Carling** expressed concern that my proposal would legitimize civil asset forfeiture and other laws and regulations that the LPC seeks to abolish. I countered that I merely sought to mitigate the damage done by such regulations, until the day of their abolishment. Several members were bothered by the requirement that interest be paid. In the end, Region 68’s **Jason Gonella** suggested that my proposal was more appropriate for the Program Committee. When others concurred, I submitted my proposal to the Program Committee, which was

meeting a few rooms down the hall.

The LPC’s Platform is a somewhat utopian declaration of the party’s principles and end goals, whereas its Legislative Program (www.CA.LP.org/program/2004LPCProgram.html) is a more

In criminal prosecution the defendant is entitled to representation.

pragmatic list of the nuts-and-bolts policies the Party hopes to advance in the near future through legislative action.

The Program Committee improved my proposal’s language, and resolved that it be added to the LPC Legislative Program under Section IV, as Item 6. Their resolution, passed by unanimous consent, read as follows:

Government fines, civil commitments, and prosecutions can be as damaging as criminal prosecution. While in cases of criminal prosecution the defendant is entitled to representation, no such right exists in civil cases.

To remedy this, in all cases of government civil prosecution, civil commitment, or regulatory fines, the defendant shall be entitled to representation and funding equal to that of the prosecuting agency’s, to be paid from the agency’s budget.

But to be added to the LPC’s Legislative Program, this resolution still required approval by the convention delegates. Due to time constraints during the business session Feb. 20, however, delegates were almost denied the opportunity to vote on the matter. In that case, the resolution would have died automatically.

One reason for the convention’s time constraints was that the elections of LPC officers took unnecessarily long. Candidates for Northern Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer ran unopposed. LPC Chair **Aaron Starr** made a motion for delegates to elect each of these candidates “by acclimation,” meaning that the body need only say “aye,” and be done with it. But in each case, **Starchild**, a San Francisco del-

egate, objected (in Libertarian elections, “None of the Above” is always an option), which required that delegates use paper balloting for each unopposed seat. Thus, the convention lost at least thirty minutes electing unopposed candidates.

Consideration of the Platform Committee’s six resolutions had been scheduled for 2:20 to 3:45 P.M., followed by the Program Committee’s seven resolutions from 3:45 to 4:45. However, the officer elections ran until about 4:15, consuming all of the Platform Committee’s time. Fresno County Chair **Rodney Austin** then moved that delegates extend convention business past the scheduled 5:00 P.M. closing. Starr countered that we had the hall only until 5:00. So Austin made a second motion that the remaining time be split between the Platform and Program Committee Reports. His motion passed.

Three of the Platform Committee’s six resolutions were considered during this newly allotted time. My resolution on the Program Report was fifth among seven items, so it appeared that we’d run out of time before the delegates could reach it. However, Region 62 Chair **Bob Weber** made a motion for my proposal to be moved to the top of the Program Report agenda. His motion passed. In the ensuing debate, Santa Barbara County Chair **William “B.J.” Wagener** said that though he “loved” my proposal, he worried that it was so “out there” that its inclusion would make the LPC appear to be “nuts.” Weber and San Luis Obispo Chair **Gail Lightfoot** rose to defend my proposal. Both had served on the Program Committee, and both had just been elected to the Judicial Committee.

Just a few minutes before 5:00, the delegates passed my Program proposal, with enough time for only one other Program item to be considered before the

clock called the convention to a halt.

Some delegates grumbled about Starchild’s demands for time-consuming paper balloting on unopposed candidates.

“I had asked the Chair to allow us to take up other matters while votes were being counted, but he refused,” explained Starchild in his own defense. “Furthermore, about 10–15 minutes after the business session concluded, someone came in and showed a film, which a couple dozen of us watched. An hour or so later, the hotel staff had still made no move to clean the room. We should have used the time during balloting, and we should have continued the session until there was some sign the hotel wanted us to vacate.”

Starchild added, “People are often reluctant to visibly oppose the group or particular individuals, especially when those individuals are present. You will often get a different result from a voice vote than from a secret ballot. As part of the LPC’s dissident faction, I wanted to see those ‘None of the Above’ votes formally recorded.”

Although currently the LPC does not have any elected state legislators to advance its Legislative Program, its drafting of one was not at all a pointless exercise. The LPC’s Program, like its Platform, provides issues for the Party’s candidates to promote. Additionally, Program items still can be advanced by the Party through California’s initiative and referendum process. ●

Thomas M. Sipos was elected this January as Vice Chair of the LP of Los Angeles–Westside. He earned a BFA from NYU in Film & Television and is an accomplished author. He has taught book promotion to fellow writers at UCLA Extension. He also serves as moderator for an on-line writers’ bulletin board. You may visit his web site at: www.CommunistVampires.com.

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www.LPC.org



■ Tax Watch

"Ready" Tax Return Pilot Program Flawed

by **Richard Newell**
Media Relations Chair, LPC

California State Controller Steve Westly plans to have the state do the personal income tax returns for three to five million Californians. The Libertarian Party opposes this move.

For the first eighty-five years of California's existence as a state, it survived without a personal income tax. In the seventy years since 1935, with the advent of compulsory payroll withholding and other enhancements, the state income tax has grown from absolutely nothing, to the monumental sum of \$43.5 billion dollars a year (according to the Governor's budget projection for 2005-2006). Steve Westly, a Democrat, and some academics have a plan for the next step in this evolution: the state will prepare your tax return for you.

"Libertarians in California are adamantly opposed to the 'Ready Return' program," says **Aaron Starr**, Chairman of the

Libertarian Party of California. "If the state fills out your 540 form for you, do you think your taxes are more likely to go up or go down?" asks Starr, rhetorically.

In response, **Mark Whitney**, at-large representative to the Libertarian Party of California's Executive Committee, reasons, "When payroll withholding was started, paying taxes became easier, and taxes went up. If taxpayers are not even responsible for figuring out their tax liability, I expect taxes will go up even more."

In a \$200,000 pilot program, Westly hopes to find 10,000 volunteers willing to test whether the plan would ultimately be workable for an estimated three million taxpayers having just one job, no dependents, and no tax credits or itemized deductions. Another two million could be brought in later, whose only additional source of income is bank interest.

"Unfortunately, the state already has all the private financial information needed to determine many people's gross

income," said Starr. "However, they have little idea, nor is it their legal responsibility, to know whether a person has any valid exemptions. The only possible outcome is that many of the so-called 'ready returns' will overstate, and few will understate, the individuals' tax liability. Some of those that receive incorrect 'ready returns' will feel compelled to send in the money the state 'officially' requested."

It's not only Libertarians who oppose this plan. Nearly half the Assembly has signed a letter to the Franchise Tax Board saying that the initiative, which was launched without lawmakers' consent, is "a dangerous precedent."

The response on the Internet is running almost entirely against Ready Return. One echoes Whitney's concern, "I want simpler taxes, lower taxes even, but I do not want the wolf telling me how many chickens it needs." Another says, "It's the ultimate short form: 'How much did you make last year? Send it all to us!'" And another,

"I'll continue to do my own taxes, thank you very much." There was even a posting from Quebec, written in French, inspired by the Ready Return program, lamenting the loss of financial privacy with respect to governments.

Whitney points out, "Simplifying taxes is not primarily a matter of computer automation, as Controller Westly seems to think. To really simplify people's taxes, the state

and federal governments need to stop using the tax system for social engineering."

Concludes Starr, "Even if Westly has good intentions, his plan is a bad one. A Libertarian controller would never have conceived of or wasted \$200,000 on a program like Ready Return, which slides the state further down the slippery slope to higher taxes and bigger government." ●



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

Tax Tips

The Free Enterprise Society (F.E.S.) invites you to "kill your fear of the IRS with knowledge," in their "comprehensive seminar on the basics of income tax fraud and deceit perpetrated by the IRS."

Cities on this month's California tour of "Who's Afraid of the IRS?" seminars are:

April 5	Costa Mesa
April 6	San Diego
April 7	Mission Hills
April 26	Sacramento

The \$10 admission will be discounted for members of F.E.S. For those who can't attend in person, audio recordings of the seminar will be available for sale. For more information, visit www.FreeEnterpriseSociety.com or phone (209) 966-7040.

Liberty in our Lifetime

Free State Project

What is the Project About?

The Free State Project is a plan in which 20,000 or more liberty-oriented people will move to the state of New Hampshire and work within its political system to reduce the size and scope of government.

The project will reduce burdensome taxation and regulation; reform state and local laws; opt out of federal mandates; and press for the restoration of constitutional federalism.

The Free State Project will show the world what liberty can accomplish!

Where & Why?

The state where we will move was decided by a vote of the FSP membership after we reached 5,000 commitments. Population was the critical factor. Our research so far indicates that 20,000 activists could heavily influence only states with under about a 1.5 million population, or which spend less than \$10 million on political campaigns in any given two-year election cycle. New Hampshire met the population criterion, and its distaste for big government and a generally welcoming attitude toward the Free State Project were pluses.

Liberty in Our Lifetime

We don't want to wait decades for most citizens in the US to realize that the nanny state is an insult to their dignity. For those of us who already understand the debilitating effects of a government bent on reducing liberty rather than increasing it, the Free State Project aims at liberty in a single state.

What do we mean by liberty? We believe that being free and independent is a great way to live, and that government's maximum role should be to help individuals defend themselves from force and fraud.



Get Involved!

Join the Free State Project and take part in a rapidly growing movement aimed at securing liberty in our lifetime. To learn more, you're invited to visit our website at www.freestateproject.org. Check out our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page, and visit our articles sections which contain more detailed information about the project. Whether you wish to become a full-fledged member or are sympathetic but unable to relocate, the Free State Project wants you!

www.freestateproject.org Call Toll-Free 1-888-532-4604

Who's Who on your LPC Executive Committee

These are the hard-working folks setting the strategic direction for your state Party. Some were newly elected at the LPC convention in February. They welcome your inputs and, of course, your time assisting in areas where their committees could capitalize on your own skills and experience! Occasionally we will bring you updates from the subcommittees to let you know what's happening at the state level, and to give you the opportunity to get involved in projects which interest you. You can find these folks' contact information on the LPC web site, at www.LPC.org/lpc-ec.html.

Next Meeting:
May 7, 2005
Santa Clara



Legend:

- * New to the Executive Committee this year
- † Member of 2005 Operations Committee
- 1 One-year term
- 2 Two-year term

Position	Name	Chair of Subcommittee
Chair	Aaron Starr †	.
Northern Vice Chair	Lawrence Samuels	Political Education
Southern Vice Chair	Mark Selzer	Public Access Television
Secretary	Daniel Wiener †	.
Treasurer	Willard Michlin *†	.
At-Large Representatives	Ted Brown 2† M Carling 1† Bruce Cohen 2 Bruce Dovner 2 Paul Ireland 1* Richard Newell 1* Rick Nichol 1 Edward Ronquillo 1* Kevin Takenaga 2* Mark Whitney 2*	Candidate Recruitment Member Recruitment Member Communications Voter Registration Candidate Support Media Relations Member Retention Campus Coordinator Web Site and Infrastructure Legal
Alternate At-Large Reps	Frank Manske 1 Erich Miller 1	.
Judicial Committee	Rodney Austin Mark Hinkle Gail Lightfoot Starchild Bob Weber	Coalition Building Chair, Judicial Committee
Other Staff and Volunteers:	David Ruprecht Monica Kadera Elizabeth Brierly	Executive Director Accounting Consultant Editor, California Freedom

LPC Business Conducted at 2005 Convention

continued from page 1

Little time remained near the end of the convention for Platform and Program Committees' reports. Both were presented in abbreviated form, and just a few proposals (none of an earth-shaking nature) were adopted. 2004's Program was adopted as a starting point for the 2005 Program.

The new Executive Committee (E.C.) met on Sunday, with most of the meeting being taken up by introductions and general discussions. The preliminary 2005 budget, which had been adopted at the November E.C. meeting, was ratified. All E.C. members became monthly

pledgers, if they weren't already.

Committee assignments were decided later, and are shown in the table this page.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2005 in Santa Clara. ●

Active in the LP since 1972, Daniel Wiener was reelected as LPC Secretary this February. He has served the LPC in many positions, including newsletter editor, treasurer, and vice chair. During his stint as Chair from 1979 to 1980, the LPC successfully registered over 80,000 voters and achieved permanent ballot status. Wiener has also run as an LP candidate for State Assembly, State Senate, and Congress.



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I want more members, more candidates, and more victories! Here's my voluntary contribution:

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- \$1000 Diamond
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- \$100 Gold
- \$50 Silver
- \$25 Bronze
- \$_____ other amount

Or pledge an amount for each new member:

- \$____.____ Per new LPC member
- (I have limited resources. Please cap this at ____ new members each month.)*

Please enclose a check or money order (no corporate checks, please) payable to "Libertarian Party of California," or provide the required information to authorize billing to your credit card.

Send this form and payment to:
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Government Mandated Notices: The Federal Election Commission requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. The IRS requires us to print "contributions are not tax-deductible" on all fund raising appeals.

Scenes from the Convention

Worthy Competitors

On Friday evening, **John Hospers**, 1972 LP Presidential nominee, debated **Gary Nolan**, talk radio host and a 2004 candidate for the LP's Presidential nomination, over the war in Iraq.



(Above) Hospers continues the discussion with an audience member after the debate.

(At right) Gary Nolan, continues the discussion with audience members after the debate.



Contending this year for Southern Vice Chair were **Bruce Cohen**, an LPC Executive Committee member and organizer of this convention, and incumbent **Mark Selzer**. Each has substantial phalanxes of nominators singing the praises of their respective candidates. (Photos at right)

Selzer's nominators (photo below right) included (L-R): Lawrence Samuels, Bob Weber, **Edward Bowers** at the mic, Rick Nichol, and Ted Brown. Nominators not shown include Bruce Dovner, David Bowers, and Gail Lightfoot.



Photos: Elizabeth C. Brierly

Bruce Cohen (above left) with some of his nominators (L-R): Anthony Turley, M Carling, **Joe Cobb** at the mic, Camden McConnell, and William "B.J." Wagener.



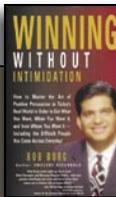
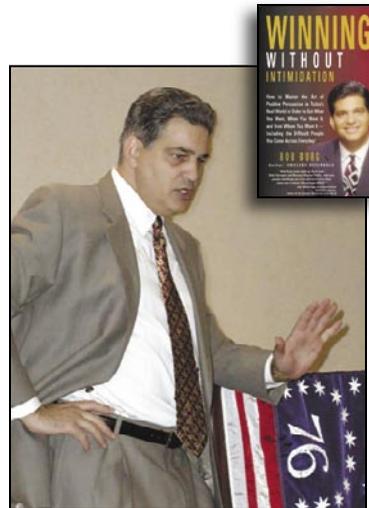
Judge James Gray, LPC's 2004 U.S. Senate candidate, introduced Sunday's banquet

speaker, constitutional lawyer Steve Rohde. Here Gray (right) is signing a campaign T-shirt for **Bruce Dovner** (standing), one of the high bidders in the evening's fund raising auction.



At Saturday's fund raising banquet, **Dave Ruprecht**, LPC's new Executive Director, was in fine form inspiring donations, as he successfully kicked off our "Challenge '06" campaign. More about this campaign next month in *California Freedom*.

Worthy Causes



Wise Words about Winning

At Sunday's luncheon, nationally known speaker **Bob Burg** (above), author of *Winning without Intimidation*, taught us "How to Cultivate a Network of Endless Libertarians."



Kate O'Brien (above), reelected in 2004 to the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, was the featured speaker at Saturday's breakfast. She shared many inspiring, and often very amusing, anecdotes about "Winning, and Serving in, Elective Office."

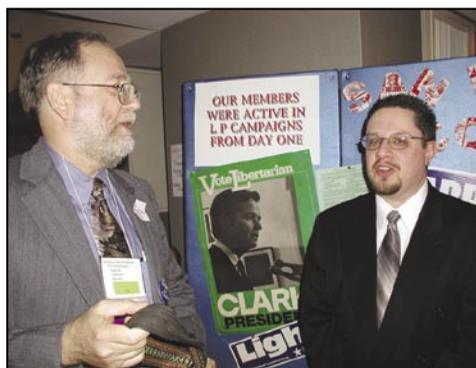


Richard Burke (above), an elected Libertarian (Water District Commissioner) as well as Executive Director of the LP of Oregon, was the featured speaker at breakfast on Sunday. He imparted to the early risers his strategies for "Electing Libertarians to Office."



(Above) *California Freedom* Editor **Elizabeth Brierly** (right) comes out from behind the camera to help **Jim Babka** show off his Downsize D.C. stickers: "Government is way too big."

(Right) Late Saturday evening, **Lawrence Samuels**, who was reelected as Northern Vice Chair, chats with banquet speaker Jim Babka (far right) of Downsize D.C. at the San Bernardino County LP's hospitality suite.



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Longtime Libertarian and Chair of Gold Country Libertarians, Al Segalla, with his 25 years of experience as a Realtor, has created a way for you to work with Libertarian Realtors while benefiting the LPC. It's a Libertarian Realty Network! As directed by you, their Libertarian customer, Network Realtors will donate 20% of their Network commissions to the LPC or any other Libertarian cause you endorse.

Tap in! Visit www.BambiLand.com/NetWork.html

With so many Libertarians in California, this could yield several hundred Network transactions each year.

Albert J. Segalla, Realtor
Chair, LP of Calaveras County



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New Regulations Shuffle LPC's Regional Parties

by **Scott Wilson**

Former Chair, Contra Costa LP

They say it never rains in southern California. But the LP of California convention in Los Angeles dumped a foot of rain on the old guard East Bay Libertarian Party (EBLP) delegates and dissolved us. Despite our best defense, the delegates have spoken. The EBLP no longer exists!

The requirements of the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act (BCRA), despite noble opposition by the LP at the national level, going all the way to the Supreme Court, have compelled the LPC Bylaws Committee to seek significant changes to the way the state Party is governed. Some LPC regions will be affected more than others. Two of the changes particularly affected my region, the EBLP.

LPC Bylaw Amendment 12 split the EBLP into two counties, each requiring new web sites, bylaws, and elections to fill our now independent executive staffs in order to maintain "active" status with the LPC. Effectively, this terminated **Curt Cornell** as Regional Chair. Now assuming the duties of County Chair are **Constance Ericson** for Alameda, and **Camden McConnell** for Contra Costa.

The up-side is that each county Party is now free to form alliances with other county Parties, without interference from the state LP. While



I certainly hope that Alameda and Contra Costa will quickly ally, I can envision a time when the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area LP Alliance could have a even greater impact on the LPC than did the EBLP until Feb. 20. Times are different; opportunities exist. If you didn't like the way it was, *now* is the time to get involved!

Bylaw Amendment 13 eliminated our "senate" on the LPC Executive Committee (E.C.)—one representative each from the five largest regions. All E.C. reps will be elected "at large," in convention, to rotating two-year terms. Effectively, this terminated **Frank Manske** as our EBLP representative to the E.C. Manske was unable to attend due to a family member's illness, but despite his absence, we succeeded in getting him elected to the position of First Alternate Rep to the Executive Committee. We also got **Richard Newell** from Contra Costa elected to the new style of At-Large Rep for a one-year term. Richard has demonstrated an ability to work with the new administration and is a very welcome addition. We look forward to his work on the Executive Committee and



• **Rich Newell**
At-Large Rep

his reports.

I find it sad that the only rep to the LPC who was also an elected public official, Frank Manske, was demoted to First Alternate. While Frank had a good reason for his absence, it is even more sad that only two others, of *sixty* elected Libertarians, thought our convention important enough to attend. It is my opinion that this convention sought to professionalize our LP politicians in part by marginalizing our more colorful activists. If this is the direction of the new administration, then they must resolve this seeming incongruence.

That said, if we are to grow as a Party, we must replace ourselves with people better than we are now. Therefore, I would like to introduce you to the New Boss of the LP of Contra Costa County, Cam McConnell, and our new At-Large Representative to the state E.C., Richard Newell. This was the first LP convention for both of them. McConnell is a graduate of West Point, a retired Lieutenant Colonel, and currently an engineer. He came to us through the *Shut 'em Down!* campaign. Newell is Media Relations Chair for LPC, and Vice Chair of Outright Libertarians of the San Francisco Bay Area.

The only constant in life is change. Be that change positive or negative relies on the perception and actions of an individual—you! To live free is to work to make your dreams reality.

I'm reminded of these resolute, inspiring words from the *Declaration of Arbroath* (Scotland, 1320): "As long as but a hundred of us remain alive, never will we on any conditions be brought under English rule. It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom—for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself." ●

After participating in Harry Browne's 2000 Presidential exploratory committee, Scott Wilson became active in his local LP (East Bay). He served as regional newsletter editor for five years, editor of LPC Monthly, and Contra Costa County Chair. He ran for Congress in 2002 (District 7), and Mt. Diablo Health Care District in both 2000 and 2004. Along with Frank Manske, he is active in Alliance of Contra Costa Taxpayers, an ally of LP in defeating a \$650 million sales tax increase.

Privatize Social Security Now



by **Albert J. Segalla**

Chair, LP of Calaveras County

Lately we've been hearing a great deal from Washington D.C. about about privatizing Social Security. Here are my thoughts.

If Social Security (SS) were a legitimate investment/retirement program, there would be no need to privatize it. But, such is not the case; the program is based on socialism—a theory which has failed in every country that has adopted it.

Socialism has resulted in massive human rights violations, including millions of innocent people being murdered and buried in mass graves. The record is clear.

Socialism is not about creating wealth, only redistribution of existing private assets, based on plunder and compulsion. Socialists abhor private property in the control of a free people. Demagogic politicians like socialism because it is popular, and it provides votes and power. It was also popular in academic circles until the tragic historical results of the twentieth century. Now, no honest economist would suggest that socialism is a sound economic theory.

SS is actually a Ponzi scheme. A Ponzi scheme entices investors by paying them profit derived from the funds of new investors. People have been bilked out of billions of dollars by this type of fraud. SS is worse than

private scams, because private con artists can not force their victims to "contribute."

SS is a distortion of the purpose of government. The purpose of government, in a free society, is to protect the human rights of life, liberty, and property. SS takes money from its victims, except for the politicians who have exempted themselves, and then distributes a portion back to previous victims. The pitch that SS was an insurance plan was shot down by the court, which declared it a tax, subject to change at every session of the legislature. The same is true of the claim that the future distributions are "guaranteed."

The pitch that the money taken is set aside in a "trust fund" to make the system solvent is another lie; politicians plundered this money years ago.

On the other hand, private investment accounts have a solid track record of success, and are therefore far more secure.

Would you knowingly or willingly trust your retirement account to be in the hands of the politicians? If not, now is the time to privatize. ●

Albert J. Segalla is Chair of the former "Gold Country Libertarians." He ran for Assembly District 25 in 1994, and has been instrumental in several libertarian initiatives, including promotion of school choice, and opposition to rent control. He works as a real estate broker and has founded several businesses. Reach him at his realty web site: www.BambiLand.com.

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