

LIBERTARIAN LIFELINE



East Bay Region to Elect New Officers at January 19 Meeting

David Bergland, the current Chair of the Libertarian National Committee, remarked during his 1984 presidential campaign that "Politicians, like diapers, should be changed frequently... and for the same reason." While Bergland was joking about term limits and the advantages of not re-electing incumbents, the Libertarian Party takes these principles very seriously, and unlike the other hypocritical parties, Libertarians practice what we preach. Thus, every January, we elect new officers to lead our local party for a twelve month term. On principle, incumbents rarely seek re-election, and we welcome new activists with enthusiasm. The frequent changing of the guard has kept our region lively, active and energetic while at the same time minimizing stagnation and burn-out.

Under our current bylaws, the Party's officers consist of a Chair, two Vice-Chairs (one for Alameda County, and the other for Contra Costa County), one Secretary, one Treasurer, and one Executive Committee Representative. We also have a number of District Organizers who are responsible for coordinating activities of specific communities (i.e., Oakland/Berkely, Hayward/Fremont, Concord/Walnut Creek). These positions are voluntary and not officially required by our bylaws, but they do serve an important function. Under California law, members of the County Central Committee must be elected in the Primary, but may be appointed by the party's Chair in the event no one files for Central Committee office. By default, our partisan candidates for elective office automatically become Central Committee members, even if they fail to win their partisan elections, so our candidate for the 15th Assembly District, R. Duncan Wheat, is already recognized by the Alameda County Registrar of Voters as the

Chair of the County Central Committee, and has the power to appoint other members.

Under the LPC bylaws, however, all dues-paying members of the Party are considered Central Committee Members. While some Executive Committee representatives have expressed concern about this variance in the definition of Central Committee members, the Party prefers to observe its own bylaws and so far, the Secretary of State has not objected to this practice, but it has caused some problems with county Registrars when local officers attempt to obtain voter registration data.

The Chair of the region has the overall responsibility for administering the local party's activities, representing the party to the public and the news media, delegating tasks to other activists and setting the agenda for the year. Strong leadership skills are necessary for this position, and the East Bay Region has been very fortunate to have had a series of extremely capable Chairs for the past decade, if not longer.

In this issue of the *Lifeline*, our current regional chair, Jeffrey Sommer, states that he will not run for another term, and a former chair declares her intention to seek the office again. No other candidates have so far announced their intention to seek this office.

The Vice-Chairs take direction from the chair, organize the monthly General Meetings, solicit speakers for events, and maintain the local telephone voicemail service. Since "None of the above" was elected to be our Vice-Chair last year, this position has been vacant, and other volunteers have had to step in on an informal basis to take care of these duties. It is remarkable that we have accomplished so much in 1998 with a vacancy in this critical office, but this has been due to effective leadership from the chair, and the tireless efforts of a core of dedicated activists who have risen to the challenge and offered their services to meet our goals.

The regional secretary maintains minutes from business meetings, makes sure we operate within our bylaws and takes care of many of the administrative duties of the party.

Continued on page 2

The Treasurer keeps the financial records of the party in order, deposits dues checks, donations and monthly disbursements from the State Party Treasurer into the local bank account, and pays the party's bills.

The Executive Committee Representative is our voice at the State Party level. As one of the five largest regions in terms of paid membership in California, the East Bay elects its own representative to sit on the Executive Committee (smaller regions are represented by At-Large representatives who are elected to two-year terms at the state convention in February). The ExCom Rep must be willing to travel to the quarterly meetings of the Executive Committee (two are held in Northern California, and two are in Southern California) and participate in the e-mail forums where the state party's business is discussed between the quarterly meetings. Moreover, the representative must also serve on at least two sub-committees within the ExCom.

The Party needs your participation to grow into a more effective organization. A free society will not spring up spontaneously simply because the LP exists. Libertarian activists must continue to work to reduce the influence of statist politicians in our communities and build a free nation for our children. Please consider becoming more active in the LP and come to our January 19 meeting and offer to fill one of these important positions. For more information, contact the Chair at the number below.

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The Party in 1999!

by Jeffrey Sommer

The elections are over, and the results are so widely posted that it would be redundant to go into the details here. Suffice it to say that the Libertarian Party is making progress, and the mood of the country is turning towards a more tolerant view of individual rights. The War on Drugs is losing ground, and the G.O.P. is coming unravelled.

To those who root for Clinton's impeachment, first, it's simply not going to happen: the votes for it don't exist. Secondly, why do you want to let Al Gore run as an incumbent in 2000? Thirdly, while Clinton has been a terrible foe of the values that we hold dear (and I don't like him any more than you all do), these are not impeachable offences. We look absurd acting as if his anti-gun and anti-drug posturing were criminal offenses. They aren't.

The good news is that we have Regional elections next month, and I would like to see a good turn-out. Speaking as Chair, I have found that not having Vice-Chairs has been crippling to this Region. "None-of-the-above" makes no phone calls to members. It may be fun to the closet anarchists out there who want to see this Region run without a functioning Central Committee, but to the dedicated Minarchists who make up the majority of the Party, it is not fun to be neglected. I have tried, as Chair twice and Vice-Chair twice, to lead the East Bay to the best of my ability. I cannot do it alone; no one can. I am extremely grateful to my officers and the many volunteers who have helped me in the past four years, particularly Terry Floyd, who has been my right arm lately, and District Organizer Walter Springer, who has always been there to rally the folks in Berkeley and Oakland.

I am not planning to run for Regional office again this year, but I sincerely hope that the next Chair will be as serious and hard-working as his or her predecessors were. We need a good Chair. Please help the Region by electing real people to the offices in '99.

After the Vote

by Marion McEwen

I voted against the California Children and Families First Act of 1998, better known as Proposition 10, without even reading it. I examined the wording of Prop 10 only after I'd voted. It read as I had expected. Written in the vein of Engels and Mao, it proposes a host of bureaucrats and a pile of programs. Prop. 10 is a dream come true for socialists such as "Meathead" and bureaucrats who maintain the myth that taking money from one segment of society and giving it to the bureaucrats to distribute will "solve society's problems."

This has never been true. California Children and Families First Act of 1998 is the most recent and perhaps the most devastating experiment the wealthy socialists have been able to enact. None of the proposed new programs will see the light of day as the bureaucrats have one and one half years before money from the proposed tax is dispersed beyond the state level of administration. A full two and one half years will pass before any bureaucrat must report and justify how the money was spent. Certainly by that time the size of the bureaucracy for the Children and Families First Act will be large enough to devour every penny collected.

What we will get out of the new cigarette tax is a few more sappy ads perpetrating the pseudo science reports that second hand smoke kills. Of course, we will be subjected to tax funded ads telling us how we should eat if we are pregnant, what type of health care we should seek if we are pregnant, where we should find child care, how it should be staffed and how the staff should be operating it. Never mind that California has myriad programs to immunize, care for and indoctrinate children in the lower social economic spheres. Now we will see more money trickling to already established (or soon to be established) agencies, which will promise to improve the well being of our children.

"Meathead" and the bureaucrats can not trust that we are capable of taking care of ourselves. The less wealthy we are the dumber these social-

ist think we are. "Meathead" and his rich Maoist friends do not intend nor believe that people in their socio-economic level could need such help.

Money makes people smart, I guess.

We will get two things with the passage of Prop. 10. The Children and Families First Act of 1998 will *not* improve the well being of our children, and we are about to witness the beginning of a crime wave, which will rival that of the Prohibition era. Johnson's "War on Poverty" did *not* reduce poverty. Medicare/Medicaid have *not* provided health care for all the needy. And the Children and Families First Act will *not* improve the lives of any of Rob Riener's intended recipients.

Instead the "new" money will greatly increase the size and scope of our already massive bureaucracy. We are going to steal from 23% of the population to teach that same portion of our society how to raise their own children. The cost to everyone will be our freedom.

Gray and Black Market trade in cigarettes has steadily increased this past year. Probably in anticipation of the "Deal" the Tobacco Industry is cutting with the various States' Attorneys General. Just as the "legitimate" tobacco manufacturers and distributors are planning for the New Year so are the Gray and Black Marketeers preparing for a larger share of the California market. The double increase in cigarettes here in California is a real cause for concern. Crime among young people will increase. Smoking among young people will increase as they do what they always do and resist and rebel against their parents' generation represented by the bureaucrats who will preach at them through advertising and the industry which has cut a deal with the tyrants. What better and cheaper way to rebel. Even with two very large price increases, cigarettes are still an inexpensive thrill.

Now that the "Deal" has been signed and Prop. 10 has passed, our communities will be less safe, and our children no healthier nor smarter than before. The cigarette industry will lose business and the professionals, salespeople, lawyers, advertising executives, doctors, etc. who are partially supported by the tobacco industry, will lose clients. Potentially valuable research will not continue etc., etc., etc.

Our lives will be the poorer in many ways. ■

Post-election Thoughts

by Katherine McKay

The voters proclaim a new rule:
To eat certain creatures is cruel.
You may eat fish and deer,
Pig, chicken and steer,
But abstain from horse, donkey and mule.

The horse-lovers of the world can breathe easily now, knowing that Black Beauty is safe from our knives and forks. Of course, we can still eat Bambi. The very peculiar Proposition 6 neglected to prohibit using horsemeat for dog food, probably because the backers are dog-lovers too and know just what goes into those little cans of Alpo.

Move over, James Thurber, S. J. Perelman, Robert Benchley. Who needs humor writers when we can read the California Voter Pamphlet? This comic masterpiece will either elicit laughter or make you want to restore the monarchy. The most remarkable statement in the Argument in Favor of Proposition 6 is that horses “are killed by splitting open their skulls with a four-inch spike then hung, bled and dismembered while still alive.” Instead, it is recommended that “horses should be put to sleep humanely and rendered,” a verb defined by Webster as “to melt down,” “to treat so as to convert into industrial fats and oils or fertilizer.” Apparently it’s okay to melt down a horse to make soap but not to butcher it for its steaks.

The Argument goes on to claim that slaughter claims our children’s pets (how these pets are abducted is not made clear) and “our treasured wild mustangs” (which are routinely killed for dog food anyway). It makes the unsubstantiated assertions that horse slaughter contributes to theft and consumer fraud (how?); that horses slaughtered for food “cannot be humanely euthanized” (why not?); and that Californians do not support horse slaughter (I thought that’s what this proposition was intended to test). In previous generations, horses were work animals and helped greatly in settling

California, and because of that, today’s horses are to be protected out of gratitude to their ancestors. A clear case of affirmative action being sneaked past voters who, in the last election, rejected human affirmative action. A particularly egregious reason given for this proposition is that “Horses are part of California’s heritage and culture.” So are cows, pigs and chickens, yet the supporters of this law go right on eating them. And some pigs are pets, possibly some cows also. I have yet to hear an argument that this disqualifies them from appearing on the table.

One of the more hilarious items is the xenophobic claim that “The horse slaughter industry is all foreign owned, serving foreign interests” – apparently the plates of Asians and Europeans, who as we know are all suspicious characters. Appealing to fear of foreignness always ropes in some votes.

Again and again, the writers of Proposition 6 make the claim that all Californians think as they do. I counted six times in the Argument and the Rebuttal where they baldly asserted that Californians do not approve of slaughtering horses and that anyone who objects to this measure is out of step with the vast majority. They are thus guilty of assuming, *a priori*, that which they submit to a test at the polls. In fact, they did get a majority of the voters to pass this absurd proposition, but that doesn’t make their generalizations any less fallacious.

The Analysis by the Legislative Analyst should have given voters pause. It states that there are no California facilities licensed to slaughter horses for human food, and there are fewer than ten such facilities nationwide. It points out that this measure “creates new crimes,” whose costs of enforcement and incarceration would be minor, if any. Perhaps the analyst figured that no one is committing these crimes in California, anyway, and so this measure will be irrelevant.

Ted Brown’s rebuttal and argument against Proposition 6 was extremely funny. “If horsemeat is outlawed, only outlaws will eat horsemeat! . . . Just say NEIGH to Proposition 6.”

Proposition 6 has no monopoly on irrational emotional appeals. Proposition 4 elicited a description of trapped animals as “family pets, endangered species, birds, and small mammals” by its

supporters and “filthy, diseased rodents” by its opposers.

To judge the level of clear thinking in California politics, one has only to go through the ballot pamphlet and count how many texts are placed in italics, all capitals and even italicized all capitals – the typographical equivalent of shouting. Emotionally loaded terms abound, putting reasoned arguments into the background. Familiar demons are castigated: foreign corporations, multinational corporations, polluters, giant utility monopolies, the tobacco industry. Familiar victim categories are invoked: the elderly, the handicapped, the children, people with asthma. Sweeping assertions are made about the efficacy of particular measures. For example, Proposition 8 “frees California schools from the suffocating grip of drugs.” If this were really the result, it would be copied by every state in the union.

The populist legislative process has many drawbacks. It was initially proposed as a way to assure legitimacy for grass-roots movements; anyone who can get enough signatures can propose a new law and get it placed before the electorate. But the majority of voters apparently decide purely on the basis of emotional appeal, to judge from the weepy arguments written for the voter pamphlets. How many voters actually plow through all the texts of the propositions, their arguments, rebuttals, counterarguments and counterrebuttals? The discussion process has grown so unwieldy as to defeat its original purpose by paralyzing voters with too much verbiage; as a result, many choose on the basis of emotional buzzwords.

The congressional legislative process may seem remote and sometimes unresponsive to constituents, being influenced by lobbyists and those few who write their representatives, but at least it bypasses the worst nonsense such as some of the initiatives we have seen recently. Yet a few voter-initiated propositions, such as the rejection of affirmative action, have been very useful in scaling back government intrusion into our lives; and of course Proposition 13 began the taxpayer-revolt movement.

A great advantage of our democracy is that everyone can vote. A prime disadvantage of our

democracy is that everyone can vote. So long as the majority of voters can be manipulated with scare tactics and knee-jerk emotional appeals, we will continue to see ridiculous measures pass at the polls. Yet we do not want to reinstate qualifications for voting, such as the holding of land or the ability to pay a poll tax. Education of voters in basic economics and in cause and effect in government – topics which are not covered in high school and not mandatory in college – is badly needed.

It strikes me that Libertarians are well suited to undertake educational outreach. We are generally very interested in tracing cause and effect in the political and social realms, and we are able to see through many of the false arguments made on behalf of statism. Libertarian writers publish penetrating analyses of current political events, and many excellent books on free-market thought are available. I highly recommend The Travels of Jonathan Gullible, by Ken Schoolland, for young readers, which analyzes various statist policies in story form. (To order copies, call (808) 396-1724.) Older readers might enjoy the perennially popular Economics in One Lesson by Henry Hazlitt, a series of short, concise essays on the same subject. These books make good Christmas gifts for those who might be receptive to their message.

With better education about what they're really voting for and an understanding of the unintended consequences of public policies, an increasing portion of the electorate will be able to look those proposition horses in the mouth and say neigh.

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Scratches of a Working Dog: TANSTAAFL!


by Scott Wilson

Back in 1977 I answered an ad: "Make money in your spare time!" I called and made an appointment. The guy lived in a good section of town and drove a Lincoln Town Car. He told me he owned Applied Imagination but was a grade school principal during the day.

We went into his living room where a chalk board was set up. He drew a circle and said: "This is you and I'll show you how to do at least \$200 a month in business." He kept talking while he drew more circles, and within an hour I was making ten thousand a month. That was the dream.

Then we went out into his kitchen and he showed me the reality. Soap! Really good soap. Maybe even great soap. But soap. Many of you may recognize the Amway multi-level marketing plan. I have not distributed Amway products in over 17 years, but I tell you about it because it is where I learned: TANSTAAFL! You see, that school principal didn't make any money until I did. The more I made, the more he made.

The libertarian's dream is Individual Liberty. Our soap is Personal Responsibility. We will never get the dream, if no one sells the soap.

Does everyone you're acquainted with know that you are a Libertarian and damn proud of it? Lady Liberty doesn't hide a candle under a bushel, she raises her torch high! Is your word not only good - but good as gold? Is the street or sidewalk in front of your home clean or are you waiting for the government to clean it up? Do you check on the little old lady next door in emergencies or is that the responsibility of Social Services? Do you support free-market solutions such as those of the LP, the Cato Institute, the United Way, the Red Cross, etc. to help solve the problems we face as a nation, or do you think the government rapes your paycheck enough to do the job? I hope and believe that most of you can say yes to those questions, but can you do just a little bit more? Our Founding Fathers pledged their "lives, fortunes and sacred honor." Should we do less? TANSTAAFL: There Ain't No Such Thing As A Free Liberty! 

RUNNING FOR CHAIR

by Marion McEwen

The East Bay Region of the Libertarian Party of California has a long and rich history. Region 1 is one of the Charter Regions which formed the California State Party. Our newsletter, *The Libertarian Lifeline*, is probably the oldest in California and has been continuously published since its inception more than 20 years ago. Several times in our history, the members of Region 1 have voted or acted against some autocratic rule of the State Party. This Region persists and survives as a "rebel" among rebels.

We have been successful over the years at defeating bond measures with the help of other groups. We have both a strong group of active members and willing donors who have time and again proven their support. The Libertarian Party has and can continue to do the business of political parties. We can continue to be an influential part of the Alameda and Contra Costa County political scene. We have won elections in the past and will certainly do so in the future.

I have always been proud to be a member of the East Bay Region. I would like to give more of my time, effort and money to the Party as we work toward the new Century. The Libertarian Party is the Party of the future. I am looking forward to what we can accomplish before the Century turns so that we are ready for challenges of being number 1.

I am putting my hat in the ring for this upcoming election. I am seeking the office of Chair of the East Bay Region. I encourage all of you to step forward with me and be part of the rebellion.

Toward liberty,
Marion McEwen

East Bay LP On the World Wide Web

The East Bay Libertarian Party's world wide web page is now on-line and available to the public. If you have a computer and access to the internet, point your browser to <http://www.busthead.com/eastbaylp/> and enjoy the fine work of webmasters Mitch Roberts and James Cantwell, who volunteered their design talents to give our local Libertarian Party an attractive, informative and friendly home on the internet.

There are many websites on the internet for Libertarians, and we have maintained an electronic archive of downloadable copies back issues of the *Libertarian Lifeline* at <http://www.awen.com> for more than three years, but the new site is the first one devoted entirely to all the activities of the East Bay LP.

The Libertarian Party of California and the National Libertarian Party have both maintained a presence on the internet since early 1993, when the introduction of the NCSA Mosaic and, later, the Netscape browser software applications made the web accessible to users of personal computers with dial-up modem accounts.

Prior to 1994, few people had any internet access without government, institutional or academic accounts on mainframe computers, and this access was limited to text-only applications like Gopher and Telnet. With the phenomenal growth of the internet as an electronic free market environment unlike anything ever seen before, many local LP groups have created a presence in cyberspace, including the Marin County LP, which has maintained a very nice web page at <http://www.sirius.com/~pagangas> for the past year. Now, the East Bay joins the communications revolution by hanging our shingle on a webserver and inviting computer users the world over to learn about freedom and our efforts to promote it.

Libertarians have been involved in the internet revolution from its earliest days, and the East Bay can even boast a Libertarian-owned internet service provider (ISP) in Berkeley, LanMinds, Inc., founded by long-time LP member Gary Morrel. If you don't yet have internet access, contact Gary at LanMinds, Inc. at (510) 843-6389 and get online in a matter of minutes. LanMinds provides friendly, reliable and competitive internet access to the entire Bay Area, as well as network consulting and electronic commerce services for business.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(For those joining the LP as a voting member)

*I hereby certify that I do not believe in nor advocate the **initiation** of force as a means of achieving social or political goals.*

Libertarian Party of California

20993 Foothill Blvd., #318
Hayward, CA 94541

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State & ZIP+4 _____

(Optional)

Phone: _____ FAX: _____

email: _____

☐ Basic LP Membership
(includes *LPC Monthly*,
LP NEWS + *Lifeline*) \$25

☐ Subscription only to
Libertarian Lifeline \$10

☐ Donation (Thank you!)

Please make checks payable to:
Libertarian Party of California

I would like to join: ☐ Marin County LP ☐ East Bay Region LP

☐ Recorded in database

CALENDAR OF EVENTS **DECEMBER**

Sunday, December 13, 1998, 1:00 p.m. Marin County LP General Meeting, Villa Romana Restaurant, 900 B Street, San Rafael. For more information, call the Marin LP telephone line at (415) 339-7887 or visit their website at <http://www.sirius.com/~pagangas>.

Tuesday, December 15, 1998, Bill of Rights Day. Celebrate the 207th anniversary of the ratification of the first ten amendments to the Constitution of These United States. Bill of Rights Day has been promoted for several years by Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership, Inc., one of the country's most aggressive civil rights organizations, and awareness of the importance of what happened on December 15, 1791 has been greatly improved by their efforts. Take some time on this day to read the Bill of Rights once again for yourself, and then read it to your children to help them understand and appreciate what it means to be free.

Tuesday, December 15, 1998, 7:00 p.m. East Bay Region Holiday Smorgasbord hosted by Wayne Nygren and Marion McEwen. There will be a variety of food and drink available to accommodate all tastes and appetites. The McEwen/Nygren household is located at 24828 Canyon View Court in Hayward, which is just off Second Street. To RSVP or to get directions, please call Wayne, Marion or Linnea at 510-889-9216.

Tuesday, December 29, 1998, 7:00 p.m. Oakland/Berkeley Libertarians in the 16th Congressional District will meet to discuss regional issues at the Albatross Pub in Berkeley, located at 1822 San Pablo Avenue (near the corner of University and San Pablo). For more information, contact Jeffrey Sommer at (510) 537-3212.

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