

# California Libertarian News

The Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California

Volume V, Number 1

April 1990

## IT'S BUSINESS AS USUAL

### Through Rain, Sleet and Nuclear Winter

Last year, newspapers picked up an account of an Internal Revenue Service report which described plans for collecting taxes in case the nation were devastated by a nuclear attack. Many Americans were stunned to the point of disbelief; Don Meyer, chair of Region 64, wrote the accompanying poem expressing his outrage.

Now a superbly researched, readable book has hit the bookstores, titled *A Law Unto Itself: Power, Politics and the IRS*, by investigative journalist David Burnham. Below are some excerpts which will make you laugh and cry. Although the threat of nuclear war seems rather remote at this time, the reports quoted show all too clearly, and for all the world to see, just what the priorities of government really are.

Mr. Burnham waded through stacks of reports that detail how the IRS and the Treasury Department plan to collect taxes after 200 nuclear bombs have dropped on the United States and killed 100 million Americans, and destroyed both property and records.

"Here, memorialized in the turgid prose of long-forgotten bureaucrats," he writes, "was stated the absolute first rule of all governments: Nothing, not even the incredible destruction of nuclear war, is more important to any government than the collection of taxes."

"The title chosen by a middle-level Treasury Department technician for his Feb. 1966 analytic report on tax policy in the postattack period tells it all: Fiscal Planning for Chaos. One has to be truly upbeat to develop a tax plan for chaos."

As Burnham points out, the bureaucrats' main concern was not the horror wreaked on society, but the difficulties it would cause the government. A quote from the report:

"Because the post attack period would be one of chaos and disorganization of the revenue service, emergency tax proposals for individuals, corporations, and bank and nonbank financial institutions should be required to meet two standards. They are (1) revenue yield adequate for defense, short-term emergency needs and rehabilitation, and the quick restoration of services and damaged industrial facilities essential to national survival, and (2) simplicity of administration even to the exclusion of considerations of equity."

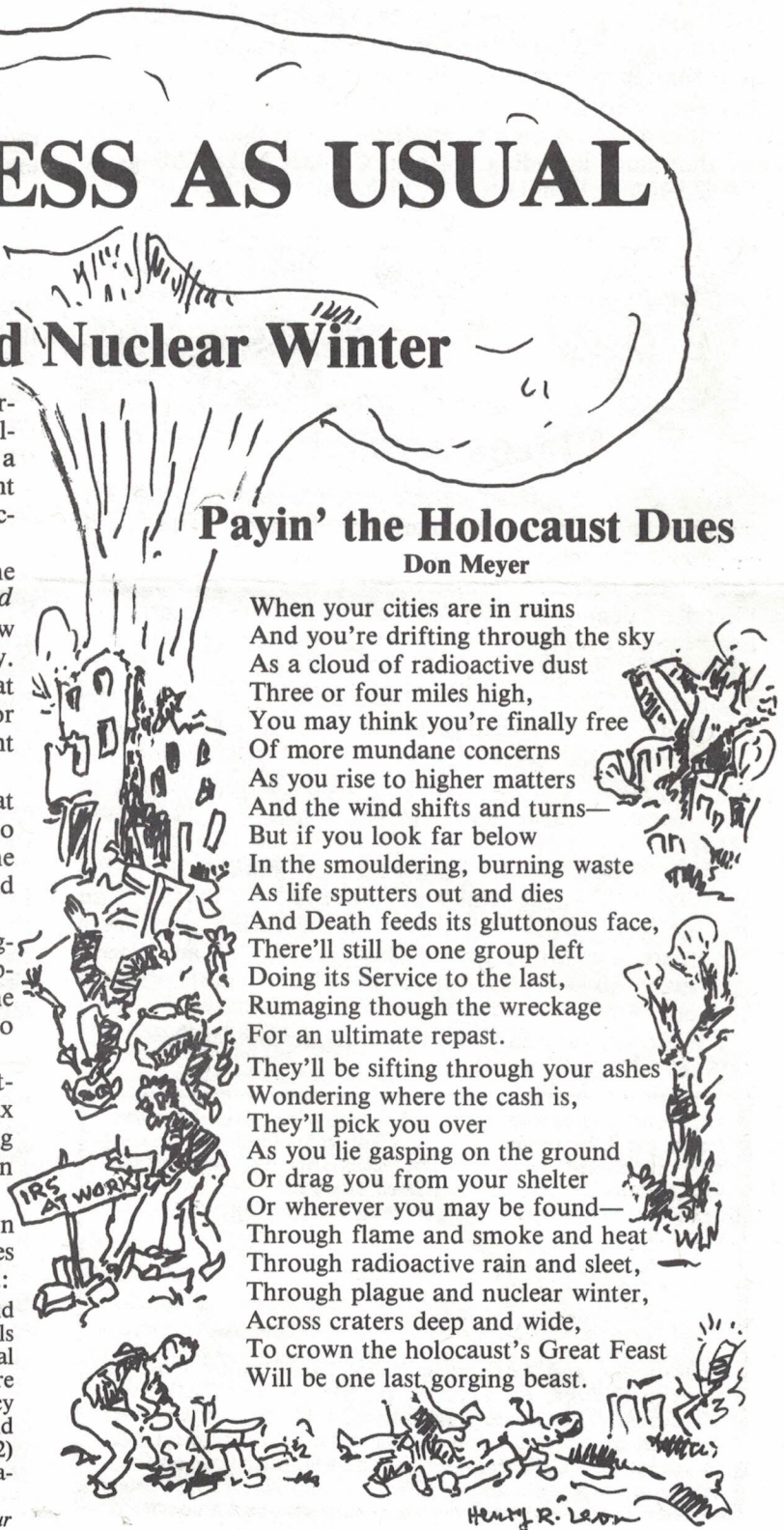
continued on page four

### Payin' the Holocaust Dues

Don Meyer

When your cities are in ruins  
And you're drifting through the sky  
As a cloud of radioactive dust  
Three or four miles high,  
You may think you're finally free  
Of more mundane concerns  
As you rise to higher matters  
And the wind shifts and turns—  
But if you look far below  
In the smouldering, burning waste  
As life sputters out and dies  
And Death feeds its gluttonous face,  
There'll still be one group left  
Doing its Service to the last,  
Rumaging through the wreckage  
For an ultimate repast.

They'll be sifting through your ashes  
Wondering where the cash is,  
They'll pick you over  
As you lie gasping on the ground  
Or drag you from your shelter  
Or wherever you may be found—  
Through flame and smoke and heat  
Through radioactive rain and sleet,  
Through plague and nuclear winter,  
Across craters deep and wide,  
To crown the holocaust's Great Feast  
Will be one last gorging beast.





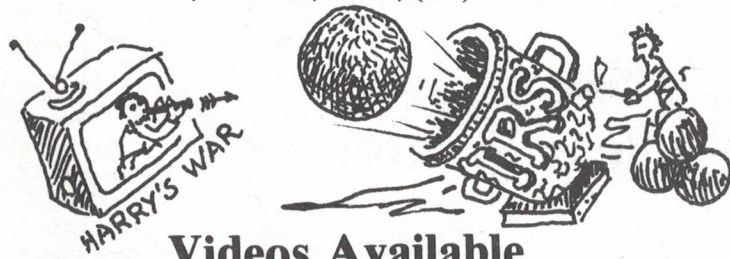
# News and Events from the Regions

## Tax Day 1990

This year Tax Day is April 16, and in communities throughout California Libertarians will be taking to the streets with their message of protest against taxation. Additionally, many regions will be featuring the Operation New Broom and Possession of Firearms Initiatives and promoting registration. Some will be joining in the Census Protest, as well.

Please let *CLNews* know how your protest went: what publicity you got, how many signatures were gathered, etc. Watch that deadline. Please get your information and news in as soon as possible after the protest.

**Tax Bite Cards:** The clever Tax Bite Cards, which were described in last month's newsletter, are still available; \$50 per thousand, including postage. Contact Mike Iddings at 499 S. Fifth St., San Jose, 92512; (408) 275-6498.



### Videos Available

Here are a couple of videos which would be great for meetings and parties, particularly at this time of year.

**Harry's War:** the 1981 movie about a man who squares off against the IRS and refuses to back down even when the "Service" deploys the full force of the military against him, has become a "classic" in Libertarian circles. Played as a comedy, in this day of zero tolerance, drug raids, RICO seizures and Census prying—it is painfully clear that, yes, the government would indeed go as far as portrayed in the film.

Jim Peron has copies for \$39.95, and that includes the shipping costs. Checks or money orders should be sent to Free Forum Books, 1800 Market Street, San Francisco, 94102.

**Uncle Phantom:** a ten-minute ice-breaker for LPC meetings, by Dwayne Walker of Region 66. It's the tale of an average taxpayer, sweating over his tax forms, who has a nightmare that Uncle Sam is burglarizing his apartment. "Anyone who has ever felt robbed by Uncle Sam should get a kick out of it!" says Dwayne.

For information on how to get a copy, contact Dwayne at (213) 675-7016.

*California Libertarian News (CLNews)* is the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California. Opinions and articles contained therein do not necessarily represent official Party positions unless so indicated.

Please send regional news, calendar items, photos and other material to:

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## Operation New Broom Update

Bill Sullivan, chair of Operation New Broom, has been on radio talkshows all over the state, and reports "overwhelming" support.

"We have a real chance to surprise a lot of people with our grassroots effort," he told *CLNews*. "I sincerely believe we can do it."

The deadline for turning in petitions is May 15, so Bill is asking Libertarians to double their efforts. "If this succeeds, it will be because of the Libertarians," he observed. "They've really gotten behind it. And when I go on a talk show, I always mention the Libertarian Party and tell audiences to call John Vernon, Dick Rider or Roger Bloxham—they're doing great."

## Here and There

**STANISLAUS COUNTY:** At a bus stop in Modesto, directly across the street from the IRS headquarters, there's a bench that has become a libertarian landmark. It's painted in red, white and blue, and stenciled across the backrest in letters big and bold are the words Taxation Is Theft! A P.O. box number is listed for those interested in making inquiries. Everytime IRS employees enter or leave the building, or gaze out the window from their offices, they are reminded of the truth of their employment.

The paint job is provided courtesy of three dedicated Libertarian activists John Flint, Mike Pullen and Steve Gerlinger. For ten years they have been paying \$30 a month to rent the space on the bench. For more information, or if you'd like to help out with the rental costs, they can be contacted at P.O. Box 2188, Modesto, 95351.

Abridged from an article in the *Merced County Libertarian*, Oct. 1989.

**TULARE COUNTY:** Dinner meetings are now being held on a regular basis at the Daleys' home in Visalia. In March, LPC field director Jim Lewis was the guest speaker at a corned-beef-and-cabbage dinner. Sheriff candidate Jerry Barker will be speaking at the April meeting. "We have guests from different groups," says program coordinator and immediate past chair Roy Kendall. "We're really sponsoring these as community forums."

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY:** "It's the hottest item in town," says county chair Robert Bakhaus, describing Operation New Broom, the Terms Limitation Initiative. Santa Barbara Libertarians have joined others in a coalition which holds weekly meetings, and they're working hard to collect the necessary signatures for getting this on the November Ballot. The recorded message on Bob's answering machine gives information about the effort.



# Libertarians Fight City Council Land Grab

Geoffrey Neale

Recently the city of Santa Clarita announced its intention to annex an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. This annexation was made by resolution of the Santa Clarita city council. At no time did they ever intend to allow the residents to vote on whether they wanted to be annexed.

Bruce Bell, a long-time Libertarian activist from Canyon Country, is one of the residents being annexed. He decided that something could be done. Under state law, if more than 15 percent of the registered voters or property owners in an area to be annexed protest the action, an election must be held. Bruce sent out 400 letters to his neighbors asking them to write and protest the annexation. He talked with other angry neighbors and found many allies. He wrote letters to the editor of the local newspaper. And he also came to Region 61 asking for help.

The Region 61 Executive Committee authorized the printing of form letters protesting the annexation. Bob Leet made a sign. Ernst Ghermann manned a table outside a local market. Geoffrey Neale and Jordan Zimmerman went door-to-door. It's hard to say just how much help we were to the local activists, but it's safe to say that many of the locals were greatly encouraged by our gesture of solidarity.

Those local Libertarian activists joined local residents in battling the city of Santa Clarita. Perhaps the most encouraging action took place at a table that was set up alongside a major road in the area. The table was manned by local



residents, and large numbers of people people stopped by to add their protests.

The city of Santa Clarita had given just 18 days notice of their intent to annex, but in that short time enough people—over 950—had come forward. The city council has decided a special election will be held to determine whether annexation will occur.

The victory is small, but a victory it is. The principles of libertarianism need not be grand to be worthy, and our activism can make a difference.

Geoffrey Neale is chair of Region 61, the San Fernando Valley. This article is from the Region 61 newsletter *The Valley Libertarian* (February); Dean Anschultz, editor.

## It's Time to Draw the Line

This year, April will be marked by more than the annual Income Tax deadline. The first of the month—April Fools' Day—is the deadline for all census forms to be filled out and mailed back. After that date, census takers will begin visiting non-responsive households and interrogating residents.

Over the years since this country was founded, the census effort has far exceeded the requirement of a simple numerical headcount of residents of the U.S., which is mandated by the Constitution. Instead, each household is sent an official census form of prying, impertinent questions. Failure to fill this out is punishable by stiff fines and even imprisonment. The government demands that you reveal how many babies the females in your household have had, the number of times you have been married, how you heat your home, the name of your roommate or household partner, your ethnic background, what crops you raised on your land (if any), how you travel to work, your income, and on and on and on.

The reason is simple. Originally, the idea for a head-count was to determine representation in Congress. Now it is to determine how to divvy-up the money from Washington—what districts get how much money, and for what purposes.

That is why with each passing decade the list has grown longer, the questions more prying. The 1990 census questionnaire is far worse than that of 1980, just as 1980's was worse than that of 1970.

"Government gone berserk!" is how long-time Libertarian activist Don Ernsberger describes it. Don is presently working as Special Assistant to the LP chair Dave Walter. He and Dave were the co-founders of the Society for Individual Liberty. Planning and coordinating opposition to the Census are among Don's many projects.

The Libertarian Party has taken a formal position of opposition to the Census and established the Committee for Census Privacy. In a letter announcing the formation of the Committee, Don writes:

"The 1990 Census effort will be spending an estimated \$1 billion to violate your rights. We believe the line must be drawn here and now. The time has come to take a stand against further intrusion into our private lives has arrived. With the help and advice of a distinguished advisory board, we have formed the Committee for Census Privacy as a vehicle for this effort. CCP has three basic purposes:

"First, we will work with like-minded legislators in Congress to pass legislation which makes non-head count questions strictly voluntary for all Americans; second, we will bring the problems discussed in this letter forcefully to public attention, through the means of advertising, mailings, publicity, demonstrations, and organization of local groups; third, if legislation is not passed by Congress to make the 1990 Census voluntary, we will help provide adequate legal defense for a number of persons who will test the constitutionality of the compulsory census by refusing to answer questions which go beyond the constitutionalist headcount."

The Committee recommends that you write letters right now to the two senators and your member of Congress demanding that they support and encourage those bills already introduced in Congress that would make non-head count questions strictly voluntary. You should also urge your friends to do the same, and of course letters to the editor of local papers are also in order. Check your phone book for the name of your representative. The address is House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. The senators are Pete Wilson and Alan Cranston; address: Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

For more information contact the Committee for Census Privacy, which is at the LP Headquarters, 1528 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.



# For Your Information

## ExCom to Meet

The state Executive Committee will meet in San Luis Obispo May 19 and 20. Details next month, but Gail Lightfoot wants to let everyone know that all reports, resolutions, and other matters that are to be presented to the committee for approval or inclusion in the record must be in writing. This is to enable the committee to deal with them expeditiously.

## The Liberty Amendment

From time to time Libertarians talk about the Liberty Amendment, knowing it has something to do with getting rid of the Sixteenth Amendment, but not sure just what. Libertarian Party support for the Liberty Amendment was pledged in the first Platform when the Party was founded back in the early 1970s, and has been there right along. It has also been formally ratified by nine states. Will California be the tenth? Here is what it says:

Section 1. The Government of the United States shall not engage in any business, professional, commercial, financial or industrial enterprise except as specified in the Constitution.

Section 2. The Constitution or laws of any State, or the laws of the United States shall not be subject to the terms of any foreign or domestic agreement which would abrogate this amendment.

Section 3. The activities of the United States Government which violate the intent and purposes of this amendment shall, within a period of three (3) years from the date of ratification of this amendment, be liquidated and the properties and facilities affected shall be sold.

Section 4. Three (3) years after the ratification of this amendment, the sixteenth Article of amendments to the Constitution of the United States shall stand repealed and thereafter Congress shall not levy taxes on personal incomes, estates, and/or gifts.

## Business as Usual

*from page one*

Burnham learned that the possibility of nuclear attack and what to do about it was a concern through most of the cold war. For example, a few months after the 1966 report, on the day after Christmas 1967, Treasury Secretary Henry H. Fowler sent a confidential memo to Price Daniel, director of the Office of Emergency Planning, which reads:

"For emergency planning purposes, the estimate is widely used that a nuclear attack on U.S. metropolitan areas could result in 100 million casualties. Property damage would be incalculable in monetary values. That such devastation is considered a serious possibility forces us to the conclusion that no matter what form of tax system is adopted, one basic problem will be simplifying tax administration."

The experts were also concerned about the emergence of a market economy as Americans began to rebuild:

"Problems arising out of wide income differentials would not exist and the refinement of an income tax would not be necessary.

"Nevertheless, it would be desirable to have on the books a personal income tax at the outset of the emergency. The reasons for the very early establishment of a personal income tax, even though the private economic sector may have ceased to function, are that (1) the Revenue Service should have time to plan the administration of the tax. . . and (2) liability should be established at the earliest phases of the emergency to tax illegal gains made by speculators and black market operators."

This kind of planning continued into the 1980s, and a 1981 report concluded it might be necessary "to scrap the income tax system as we know it. . . Instead of an income tax, one

## FIJA Initiative is Ready to Go

The Fully Informed Jury Amendment (FIJA) initiative, which was described at length in the February newsletter, has been OKed by the secretary of state, and we can start circulating petitions. FIJA state coordinator Marion McEwen writes: "Printing is our first priority—money, too. Are there any printers out there who will donate 500 or 1,000 copies of the initiative? And is there anyone who can help me with distribution and other jobs. I'd love to hear from you."

So, how about it? Marion can be reached at 24828 Canyon View Ct., Hayward, 94601; (415) 889-9216

The initiative reads in part:

. . . (1) In all civil suits and criminal prosecutions, the jury has the responsibility to determine the facts, the right to judge the applicable law and the right to consider the motives of the defendant.

Before any civil or criminal case is heard by a jury, and again prior to jury deliberation, the court shall inform jurors orally in writing of the responsibility and rights specified in subsection (1). . .

## Irv Homer Takes on the IRS

Everyone interested in a movement to repeal the infamous Sixteenth Amendment—the income tax—should send a letter or postcard to Irv Homer, WWDB Talk Radio, Levring Mill Road, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.

Irv Homer is a talk radio host in the Philadelphia area. Originally he asked for 25,000 postcards to use as a basis of his effort to force its repeal. By mid-January he had received 40,000 letters, and the mail kept pouring in.

To help, write for information from Irv Homer and add your voice to those in opposition. Then contact talk show hosts in your area and get them interested and in touch with Homer. Also, newsletter editors could bring this up in their newsletters.

could design a general sales tax which would raise the revenue required."

David Burnham is not a Libertarian, as is evident in his selection and discussion of IRS targets. He scarcely mentions the conservative and libertarian opposition to the IRS which has been going on since its inception. There's no mention of the Liberty Amendment, which nine states have ratified; no mention of any of the heroes and heroines of the anti-tax movement, such as Vivian Kellams or Jim Lewis. Industrialist Kellams, in the 1940s, took a stand by refusing to collect withholding tax from her employees. The case went to the U.S. Supreme Court; she lost. Jim Lewis, LP vice-presidential candidate in 1984, unsuccessfully fought the tax in court on constitutional grounds and was imprisoned for a year in the federal pen. People like Kellams and Lewis, although they lost, did fight the good fight and should be recognized in a book of this kind. Also, there's no mention of the Libertarian Party, not even a footnote.

Burnham seems to cherish a hope for possible reform, if only there were an infusion of "new blood." That's definitely not a libertarian position. We hold that the income tax is immoral in principle. Reform has nothing to do with it.

Despite these shortcomings, Libertarians and their allies will enjoy large parts of this book. The part about planning for chaos is in the first few pages. It gets funnier, and more depressing, from there on if that's possible. Published by Random House, 1989. \$22.50.



# Salvaging the Second Amendment

Last month, *CLNews* reported that mid-March was the deadline for turning in petitions on the Possession of Firearms initiative, which would reaffirm our right to possess and bear firearms. That deadline has been extended, it is now April 15. Even if you have no other signatures, at least sign the one which you received in your newsletter and mail it to the Second Amendment Committee, Box 1776, Hanford, 93232. For more information, contact Bernadine Smith, (209) 584-5209.

## For a State of Emergency

Assembly Member Richard Mountjoy (R-Arcadia) has introduced a very important bill in Sacramento—one which deserves Libertarian support. With anti-gun legislation popping out of the hoppers in every legislature and at the federal level, this represents a heroic effort to salvage some of the remnants of the tattered Second Amendment.

The bill, AB 3342, deals with possession of firearms during natural disasters or states of emergency. The Legislative Council writes:

"Existing law, with limited exceptions, requires persons to be licensed to carry concealed or loaded firearms. This bill would add to those exceptions any person who otherwise lawfully possesses a firearm and who resides within the area of a natural disaster for which a state of emergency is proclaimed by the Governor, as specified, or for which an emergency or major disaster is declared by the President of the United States, provided that the possession of the firearm is for the protection of that person or that person's property during the period of that state of emergency, emergency, or major disaster."

The bill also provides that "any person engaged in any lawful business, including a nonprofit organization, . . . from having a loaded firearm within that person's place of business, or any person in lawful possession of private property from having a loaded firearm on that property."

*CLNews* has only learned of AB 3342 and does not have information on its status. It was introduced Feb. 27, 1990, so it is just beginning its trip through the labyrinth of committee hearings. For a status report and other information, contact Mountjoy's Arcadia office at (818) 446-3134 or Sacramento, (916) 445-7234.

## Gun Owners Caucus Report

Bob Weber

The Gun Owners Libertarian Caucus met at the LP Convention in San Diego, Feb. 17. The consensus of opinion was that our goals for the National Rifle Association convention (June 8-12) would be to:

1. Secure endorsement of Larry Dodge's Fully Informed Jury Amendment;
2. Secure endorsement of Libertarian candidates for public office; and,
3. Secure a disavowal by the NRA of the fascistic views of former NRA executive vice-president Harlon Carter—expressed in the Sept. 1989 *American Rifleman*. Carter advocated that the U.S. government establish concentration camps where those accused of drug offenses would be imprisoned incommunicado and without trial for the duration of the "War on Drugs." (See *CLNews*, Dec. 1989).

Any Libertarian who is a member of the NRA and is planning on attending the NRA convention should contact me at (213) 204-0612. If you are not a member, you can join and still attend the convention to help establish a strong Libertarian presence. Just give me a call.

Bob is chair of Region 62 (West L.A. and Santa Monica).

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## Libertarian Party of California

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# LOCAL EVENTS AND CONTACTS

COUNTY	DATE	EVENTS	CHAIR or CONTACT*	PHONE
Alameda	Thu., Apr. 12	Potluck Dinner: Celebrating Tom Jefferson's Birthday	Wayne Nygren	415/531-0760
Butte	Fri., Apr. 13	Potluck Dinner/Discussion	Jessica Strock	916/893-3836
Calaveras			Tom Tryon	209/736-4845
Contra Costa	Tue., Apr. 10	Doddie Stone: The Sanctuary Movement in the East Bay	Mike Rother	415/932-4993
El Dorado			Richard Akin	916/622-4785
Fresno			John Graham*	209/275-6220
Humboldt			Daniel Mosier*	707/822-7804
Inyo/Mono Counties		Call County Chair for Information	William Baucum	619/878-2288
Kern			Craig Gifford	805/832-6231
Lake/Mendocino/Napa Counties			Randall Grindle	707/994-4817
Los Angeles County (Regions 61-67)				
-61, San Fernando Valley	Wed., Apr. 11	Call for Program Information	Geoffrey Neale	818/893-6884
-62, West L.A.	Thu., Apr. 19	Ted Brown: A Libertarian Looks at the Insurance Mess	Bob Weber	213/204-0612
-63, Foothills	Tue., Apr. 17	Jack Dean: Mainstreaming Libertarian Ideas	John Tuttle	818/242-5699
-64, Central L.A.	Wed., Apr. 25	Call for Program Information	Don Meyer	213/463-5362
-65, Downey	Tue., Apr. 3	Business Meeting and Get-Together	Ray Acosta	213/727-5979
-66, South Bay	Apr. 8 & 28	Philosophy Circle: FIJA, 4/8; Potluck Dinner, 4/28	Richard Martin	213/498-2014
-67, E. San Gabriel Valley	Thu., Apr. 26	Dinner Meeting and Discussion	Jim Brownfield	714/623-5914
Marin	Wed., Apr. 4	Discussion: Strategies for Tax Night	Bob Bickford	415/927-4814
Merced	Thu., Apr. 5	Dinner and Discussion at the Almond Tree Lounge	Roy Shimp	209/723-1768
Monterey			Bob Ratto	408/424-9346
Nevada	Sat., Apr. 7	Discussion and Get-Together	Gary Dusseljee*	916/478-1776
Orange	Thu., Apr. 12	Business Meeting and Social Hour	Roger Bloxham	714/498-2014
Riverside			Ron Holman	714/684-5218
Sacramento	Sat., Apr. 14	Call for Program Information	David Henderson*	916/922-9973
San Bernardino			Ed Moss*	714/986-6677
San Diego	Tue., Apr. 10	Call for Program Information	Jim Lorenz	619/276-1776
San Francisco	Wed., Apr. 11	Video: <i>Harry's War</i>	Jim Peron*	415/864-0952
	Sat., Apr. 21	Chuck Myers: When Gov't Gives Up Power (Free Exchange)	George O'Brien*	415/731-3031
San Luis Obispo			Howard Dilbeck	805/466-1998
San Mateo			Lyn Sapowsky	415/368-8148
Santa Barbara	Sun., Apr. 15	Jim Wahl: Beyond Operation New Broom	Bob Bakhaus*	805/965-2741
Santa Clara	Apr. 11 & 19	Discussion Group, 4/11; Bus. Mting. and Dinner, 4/19	Steve Alexander	408/554-1119
Santa Cruz			Tom Coughlin	408/458-2603
Solano			Mark Moberg*	707/864-1673
Sonoma			Jim Oglesby	707/894-2658
Tehema/Shasta Counties			Ross Crain*	916/527-2676
Tulare	Thu., Apr. 19	Dinner/Program: with Sheriff Candidate John Barker	Roy Kendall*	209/732-3237
Ventura	Tue., Apr. 10	Larry Leathers: Gov't Fraud and Auto Emission Checks	Aaron Starr	805/583-3308
Yolo		See Sacramento County	Bryce Bigwood*	916/758-6219

NEWS DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: TUESDAY, APRIL 10

## California Libertarian News

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