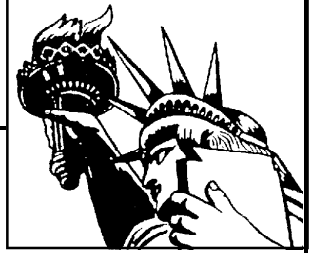


LIBERTARIANLIFELINE



East Bay LP Elects New Officers

On January 21, the East Bay Region LP elected new officers for 1997. Doug Ohmen was elected as the region's Chair, Alameda County Vice-Chair will be Jeffrey Sommer, Contra Costa County Vice-Chair will be Jean Marie Walker, John Taylor was elected Treasurer, and Tammy Austin was re-elected as Secretary. Jeffrey Sommer was elected as the region's Executive Committee Representative.

As one of the four largest regions in the state, the East Bay elects its own representative for the Executive Committee of the Libertarian Party of California. The smaller regions are represented by At-Large members of the Committee who are elected at the annual convention. The Executive Committee meets quarterly each year to conduct the statewide party's business, such as drafting the budget, awarding contracts for services such as the publication of the state newsletter, maintenance of the state database and operation of the toll-free 800 number through which interested voters get information about the LPC.

Due to its size, the East Bay Region is allowed to seat up to seven delegates at the state convention, to be held this year in Sacramento over the long Presidents' Day weekend, February 13-17. Wayne Nygren, Terry Floyd, John Taylor, Greg Lyon, Audrey Ohmen, Jean Marie Walker and Tammy Austin will represent our region as delegates in addition to Doug Ohmen and Jeffrey Sommer (both the chair and vice-chair are ex-officio delegates). These delegates will be responsible for voting on proposed changes to the LPC Platform and Bylaws as well as the election of state party officers.

While only elected delegates and alternates are allowed to sit with the region at the morning business meetings, you don't have to be a delegate to attend the LPC convention. There will be many events taking place after the business meetings which are open to the public, including a free "Grassroots Seminar" during which veteran LP activists will provide valuable

information on building membership and increasing the effectiveness of activities organized at the local level. These sessions are especially important to our region to help us attain the ambitious goals recently established to double both our paid membership and the number of registered Libertarian voters in both counties by 1998.

Other events scheduled for the convention include excursions to the state capitol to tour the senate and assembly chambers, a dinner cruise on the Sacramento River originating from the restored Old Sacramento district downtown, a Sweetheart Reception on Valentine's Day to celebrate the passage of Proposition 215 and various other presentations and dinner events featuring prominent speakers and libertarian activists. The annual Samuel Adams Luncheon will close the convention by honoring the dedicated LPC activists who represented the party as candidates in the previous years' elections. This is an event not to be missed, particularly by those who have served the party by going the extra mile and putting their names on the ballot. Following the Samuel Adams Luncheon, the newly seated Executive Committee will have its first meeting of 1997.

The convention will be held at Sacramento's Beverly Garland Hotel, located at 1780 Tribute Road, just off Interstate 80 at the Cal Expo exit. Guest rooms are available at a special convention rate of \$75.00 per day, single or double occupancy, and a free shuttle is available from the Sacramento Airport. To reserve your room, call the hotel at (916) 929-7900. If you would like to carpool from the Bay Area, contact any of the delegates listed above and offer to share expenses. Admission to most of the convention events can be pre-paid or purchased on-site at the convention. For additional information on convention events, contact the convention organizers at (916) 362-0855 or email inquiries to LibConServ@aol.com.



Got milk?

The commercials are ingenious, delightful and often more entertaining than the programs into which they are inserted. The Aaron Burr historian loses a radio quiz show because he's run out of milk with which to wash down his peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Hell is depicted as a kitchen filled with delicious cookies, but not a drop of milk. The airline pilot puts his plane into a steep dive to propel a drink cart with the milk pitcher forward to the cockpit. The advertising firm that created the campaign has collected enough Clio awards to bend their mantle.

But why? These commercials do not promote any one dairy or any specific kind of milk, only the generic concept of how wonderful and healthy milk is, a taste that floods the mind with memories from earliest childhood. As mammals, milk was our very first food, and even though other mammals lose their need for it after weaning, only human beings continue to consume the nourishment of infancy well into their advanced years (barring lactose intolerance) and even cultivate it from other animals. You'd think the Depart-

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ment of Health Services would be the creative and monetary force behind these commercials, but you'd be wrong.

Many consumers may have noticed the signs in supermarkets last October that read: "Milk prices are higher because the Department of Agriculture has raised the wholesale milk price 5 percent due to increased grain costs brought on by the drought in the Southern Plains." This rise in prices followed a press release issued in September 1996 by the California Department of Food and Agriculture announcing a new bi-monthly minimum farm price for fluid milk at \$1.51 per gallon. No, this is not the Soviet Union, it is California.

For the past 61 years, the state government has set a minimum price for milk, and any dairy farmer selling milk below the minimum is subject to prosecution and legal penalties assessed by California's Attorney General. Minimum price laws were enacted during the darkest days of the depression to protect dairy farmers against market instability. These protection costs were passed on to consumers—who were themselves suffering from the hardships of the depression.

But much has changed since 1935 and it is now abundantly clear that government deregulation results in lower prices for products and services. There is no longer any reason for California milk producers to have the force of state law to subsidize their business. Price protection for milk producers now amounts to corporate welfare because the day of the small dairy farmer has long since disappeared. In addition, governmental agencies require reams of rules and regulations just to administer this minimum milk-pricing program which outlived its usefulness decades ago. The cost of all this hair-splitting and regulating is ultimately passed on to the consumer. So is the cost of those commercials.

A free market would allow prices to be set by the forces of supply and demand. Fair competition would allow dairies to price their product to benefit the consumer as well as themselves. Let the dairy industry promote itself with all the clever commercials and billboards it can afford, but don't mandate a minimum price for milk that forces consumers to subsidize the advertising agency. □

LIBERTARIAN LIFELINE

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Editor: Terry Floyd

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Chair: Doug Ohmen (510) 820-0812

Alameda Co. Vice-Chair: Jeffrey Sommer

Contra Costa Co. Vice-Chair: Jean Marie Walker

Treasurer: John Taylor

East Bay Party Line: (510) 531-0760

The Common Sense BBS: (510) 713-7336; 1200-33600, 8-N-1

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From the Chair

by Doug Ohmen

This is a first column from your new Chairman, Doug Ohmen. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to outgoing chair Jeffrey Sommer for all that he did in 1996. In fact, we appreciate it so much that we have elected him the Vice-Chair for Alameda County this next year and also our delegate to the Executive Committee of the Libertarian Party of California. Jeff, we thank you for all you have done. Keep up the good work.

Where do we go from here? John Taylor reminds us that we are a political party. Political parties try to get people into office. I would like to expand that to say that we need to get people elected into office who will restore the freedoms that we have lost over the years.

The East Bay Libertarian Party has set several goals for the next two years. Now we need to implement those goals. I will be talking about them over the next several months and the *Lifeline* will keep track of where we stand as we go along. One of our goals is to double Libertarian registration in the two counties. How do we do this?

There are two general processes: The first is that every one of us must try to register others in the Party. People who register Libertarian do not have to join the Libertarian Party, although, of course we would like them to. The person who wants to register, or change registration, simply sends a standard form to the county registrar of voters. We have those forms. If you need one of the forms, call someone in the Party or call me at 820-0812 and I will get a form to you. Then it is just a matter of the person sending the form to Martinez or Oakland. Remember that young people can vote when they turn 18. Do you have any children, or the children of friends who are turning 18? Try to give them a registration form.

A second way to register Libertarians is through voter registration tables that we will be setting up in shopping centers and other public areas. Greg Lyon has put together an attractive kit with signs, literature, registration forms, etc. Set it up in a shopping center near your neighborhood (after getting permission from the shopping center staff) and register all the voters you can. We will move the kit to a different district each weekend, so it should be in your district about every six weeks.

We hope that each of you will spend a couple of hours at the table letting people know that Libertarians are the real politicians for FREEDOM, despite what the others claim.

We have about 5,000 registered Libertarians in the two counties now. Our goal is to make it 10,000 in less than two years.

We have something valuable to offer to the country. Let's each make an effort to make it a reality.

One of the key targets of the Browne-Jorgensen presidential campaign was talk radio programs. Thanks to the pioneering work of several Libertarians in the industry, the audience for talk radio is far more receptive to the message of freedom than ever before.

From the juvenile antics of Howard Stern to the eloquent voice of Gene Burns, many listeners of talk radio throughout the country now know about the Libertarian Party and its vision of a free and prosperous America. But obviously, there is much more to be done. We need to build on the foundation established by Harry Browne, Jo Jorgensen, and the radio program hosts who have been proud to align themselves with our goals. Still, the ideological range of talk radio hosts runs from the mildly libertarian Tom Leykis and Alex Bennett to the ardently Republican Rush Limbaugh and G. Gordon Liddy. Explicitly Libertarian radio personalities such as Gene Burns, Terry Savage, Tom Isenberg and Zoh Hieronimus are still in the minority.

If you are a frequent listener to talk radio shows, or if you've ever called into such a program, consider making a personal pledge to call in regularly, perhaps even weekly. If you find yourself speaking on the air, make it a point to mention *freedom* at least once; if possible, try to mention the *Libertarian Party* and how we are trying to create a free society through the democratic process. The more times the audience hears our name and learns of our vision, the more receptive they will be to voting for Libertarian candidates.

Gene Burns can be heard on KGO-AM radio (810) weekdays from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Listener Call-in line is 808-0810 (from any area code in the bay area). You can contact KGO's conservative counterpart KSFO-AM (560) at 808-5600 (both are owned by Capitol Cities/ABC/Disney). Our own Jeffrey Sommer can be heard on Free Radio Berkeley (FM 104.1) every Sunday from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. You can call Jeff at (510) 655-7416.

Our "Ambiguous" Second Amendment

by Greg Lyon

Recently, an anti-constitutionalist wrote a letter to the editor of the *Contra Costa Valley Times* declaring the second amendment null and void as it was written in 1789. To quote Mr. Snedigar, "The second amendment guarantees the right of the state to maintain an armed militia; it does not imply a right to own a gun for any other purpose. What our early militias were needed for in 1789 now comes under the responsibility of the National Guard and the federal government. Owning a gun in this country is not a right - it is a privilege that has been abused to the point of absurdity."

If the second amendment is about anything, it is the right of the people to own guns and form militias. Our founders did not want the government in control of the militias. It is amazing how these anti-constitutionalists will take a plain statement like the second amendment that declares the right of the people to keep and bear arms to mean that the state is responsible for the militias. I was compelled to write in defense of the second amendment.

The following is my response that in all likelihood will not be published since I am a known Libertarian. Since I ran for Congress last year, the *Valley Times* has stopped printing my letters.

There are several misconceptions in Mr. Snedigar's letter on the meaning of the second amendment. First and foremost, is his claim that the Second Amendment does not guarantee the right of the people to own guns, despite the wording that, "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." It is stated right there in plain English "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." It takes a great stretch of the imagination or ignorance to conclude, as Tom Snedigar does that "the people" means the State.

In fact, there is not any mention of the State. As the Second Amendment reads, it only mentions "the people." The Bill of Rights uses the term "the people" in the First, Second, Fourth, and Tenth Amendments.

Are we to infer by Mr. Snedigar's argument that only the State is afforded the right of free speech under the First Amendment?

The militia by definition is "the people." To reference Webster's dictionary, the militia is "any army composed of citizens rather than professional soldiers, called out in time of emergency." By US law, the militia is "any able-bodied male citizen between 18 and 45 years old who are not already members of the regular armed forces or the national guard."

The first draft of the Second Amendment proposed by James Madison stated, "The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; a well armed, and regulated militia being the best security of a free country; but no person religiously scrupulous of bearing arms shall be compelled to render military service in person." Several states had already included right to bear arms clauses to their own Bill of Rights. The Pennsylvania Declaration of 1776 stated "that the people have a right to bear arms for the defense of themselves and the state; and as standing armies in the time of peace are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be kept up."

What the Second Amendment clearly is referring to is that the federal government shall not infringe on the right of the people to either form militias or own guns. The Second Amendment evolved out of the colonial fear of standing armies during times of peace. So long as the people were armed and organized in militias, the framers of the Bill of Rights felt that the government could not become oppressive.

Alexander Hamilton wrote in *The Federalist Papers* that a bill of rights would be dangerous because no matter how it was worded, artful misconstruction would be used to destroy the very rights intended to be protected. No amount of history rewriting will ever convince the simplest citizen who can read that he is not one of "the people" whose right to keep and bear arms is secured by the Second Amendment. ■

Teach Your Child About Politics

by Joseph Sobran

Because I write about politics, people are forever asking me the best way to teach children how our system of government works. I tell them that they can give their own children a basic civics course right in their own homes.

In my own experience as a father, I have discovered several simple devices that can illustrate to a child's mind the principles on which the modern state deals with its citizens. You may find them helpful, too.

For example, I used to play the simple card game WAR with my son. After a while, when he thoroughly understood that the higher ranking cards beat the lower ranking ones, I created a new game I called GOVERNMENT. In this game, I was Government, and I won every trick, regardless of who had the better card. My boy soon lost interest in my new game, but I like to think it taught him a valuable lesson for later in life.

When your child is a little older, you can teach him about our tax system in a way that is easy to grasp. Offer him, say, \$10 to mow the lawn. When he has mowed it and asks to be paid, withhold \$5 and explain that this is income tax. Give \$1 to his younger brother, and tell him that this is "fair." Also, explain that you need the other \$4 yourself to cover the administrative costs of dividing the money. When he cries, tell him he is being "selfish" and "greedy." Later in life he will thank you.

Make as many rules as possible. Leave the reasons for them obscure. Enforce them arbitrarily. Accuse your child of breaking rules you have never told him about. Keep him anxious that he may be violating commands you haven't yet issued. Instill in him the feeling that rules are utterly irrational. This will prepare him for living under democratic government.

When your child has matured sufficiently to understand how the judicial system works, set a bedtime for him and then send him to bed an hour early. When he tearfully accuses you of breaking the rules, explain that you made the rules and you can interpret them in any way that seems appropriate to you, according to changing conditions. This will prepare him for the Supreme Court's concept of the U.S. Constitution as a "living document."

Promise often to take him to the movies or the zoo, and then, at the appointed hour, recline in an easy chair with a newspaper and tell him you have changed your plans. When he screams, "But you promised!" explain to him that it was a

campaign promise.

Every now and then, without warning, slap your child. Then explain that this is defense. Tell him that you must be vigilant at all times to stop any potential enemy before he gets big enough to hurt you. This, too, your child will appreciate, not right at that moment, maybe, but later in life.

At times your child will naturally express discontent with your methods. He may even give voice to a petulant wish that he lived with another family. To forestall and minimize this reaction, tell him how lucky he is to be with you the most loving and indulgent parent in the world, and recount lurid stories of the cruelties of other parents. This will make him loyal to you and, later, receptive to schoolroom claims that the America of the post-modern welfare state is still the best and freest country on Earth.

This brings me to the most important child-rearing technique of all: lying. Lie to your child constantly. Teach him that words mean nothing - or rather that the meanings of words are continually "evolving," and may be tomorrow the opposite of what they are today.

Some readers may object that this is a poor way to raise a child. A few may even call it child abuse. But that's the whole point: child abuse is the best preparation for adult life under our form of GOVERNMENT. □

Joseph Sobran is a nationally syndicated columnist who was also a featured speaker at the 1996 Libertarian Party Presidential Nominating Convention last July.

Redevelopment— the unknown government

by Lou Filpovich

There is an unknown layer of government in California affecting cities and counties, which few understand.

This unknown government currently consumes over 8 percent of all property taxes statewide, \$1.5 billion in 1995. It has a total indebtedness well over \$37 billion.

It is supported by a powerful Sacramento lobby and backed by an army of lawyers, consultants, bond brokers and land developers.

Unlike new counties, cities and school districts, it can be created without a vote of the citizens affected.

Unlike other levels of government, it can incur bonded indebtedness without voter approval.

Unlike other government entities, it may use the power of eminent domain to benefit private interests.

This unknown government provides no public services. It does nothing to protect the people from crime, educate children, maintain public streets nor even stock libraries.

It claims to eliminate blight and promote economic development, and yet there is no evidence it has done so in the half century since it was created.

Indeed, it has become a rapidly growing drain on California's public resources, amassing enormous debt with little public awareness or oversight.

This unknown government is Redevelopment. It is time Californians knew more about it.

State law allows a city council to create a redevelopment agency to administer one or more project areas within its boundaries. An area may be small, or it can encompass the entire city.

These project areas are governed by a redevelopment agency with its own staff and governing board, appointed by the city council.

Thus, an agency and city may appear to be one entity. More often, city councils appoint themselves as agency members, with the council meetings doubling

as the redevelopment agency meeting; however, legally a "redevelopment agency" is entirely a separate government authority—its own staff/budget, revenue and expanded powers to issue debt and condemn private property.

Out of California's 472 cities, 382 have created redevelopment agencies. No vote of the residents affected was required. No LAFCO review was done by the Local Agency Formation Commission.

Californians often confuse redevelopment with federal "urban renewal" projects typical of large eastern cities of the 1940s, 50s and 60s. Sadly, but the methods and results are often similar. Yet redevelopment prospers as a state-authorized layer of government without federal funds, rules or requirements. It is entirely within the power of the California legislature and voters to control, reform, amend or abolish.

Footnote: Public Hearings—City Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs) *have* to hear you, but they don't have to do anything about what you say. CRAs are accountable only to the elected officials who form them. We must hold all these elected officials, and the CRAs they are supposed to control, accountable for their actions.



This is the first of a 10-part series on redevelopment that is currently being published in the *San Leandro Journal*. It is reprinted here with the permission of the author. The series was inspired by recent actions of the San Leandro Redevelopment Agency, which is in the process of eminent domain proceedings against several private property owners in order to lure a Lloyd Wise auto dealership to the Marina Boulevard area near interstate 880. The Agency has also considered using eminent domain to secure property to establish a Starbuck's Coffee, Boston Market and Noah's Bagel Shop franchise to the downtown area.

Are you missing any past issues of the *Libertarian Lifeline*? Download them free of charge from the *Lifeline* internet archive at <http://zoom.com/lifeline>

More bad/good news for the Registrar in Alameda County

by Marion McEwen

Alameda is in the enviable position of being one of the five most populace counties in the number of voters it has. Well, sort of enviable. The voters of California have just passed a law making our primary elections open. That means every voter can vote, in the Primary, for candidates of any party. It sounds like a good idea but you wouldn't want to be in the Registrar's shoes. Bradley Clark and the Registrars from the other four largest counties are finding it impossible to imagine how they are going to fit every candidate on each and every primary ballot.

As a third party which would like to nominate candidates in caucus, rather than participate in the primaries, the Libertarian Party did not endorse the initiative which changed our primary system. But now we are stuck with it. What to do? Anyone with an idea is urged to call the Party line. All suggestions will be passed on to Mr. Clark and the State LP who will surely be talking to the Secretary of State about this huge problem. This may be our chance to move the Secretary of State and the

Legislature to allow us to nominate rather than vote for our candidates in Primary elections.

In what may be an unprecedented move, the Registrar of Alameda County, Bradley Clark, will gladly accept information regarding changes of address from our mailings. Of course, the Registrar's office will do their own checking but our information will be a starting point for removing "bad" names from the rolls of registered Libertarians. Santa Clara County Libertarians offered to help their registrar and worked for a year just to establish trust. All we will be offering is information which will have to be acted on. The openness that Mr. Clark has shown the third parties is encouraging. Let us hope that this positive attitude will bring us closer to the kind of election that all the Parties will participate in as they choose.

The East Bay has had a large increase in the number of registered Libertarians. We now stand at 3,100, up from 2,500 in Alameda. Contra Costa has had a large jump also. We will be out registering people as often as we have volunteers to "people" the table so answer that phone when your local coordinator calls to ask for your help. We will be purchasing a new list of voters from each county so that we can reach each and every one of the registered Libertarians in the two counties. □

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 _____ Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & ZIP _____

(Optional)

Phone: _____ FAX: _____

email: _____

- ☐ Basic LP Membership
(includes *California Liberty+ Lifeline*) \$25
- ☐ Household Membership
(for joint households) \$35
- ☐ National LP Membership
(add \$20 per person)
- ☐ Subscription only to
Libertarian Lifeline \$10
- ☐ Donation (Thank you!)

Please make checks payable to:
Libertarian Party of California

CALENDAR OF EVENTS **FEBRUARY**

Tuesday, February 18, 1997: Alameda County LP General Meeting. Ricky's Sports Lounge and Steakhouse at 15028 Hesperian Boulevard in San Leandro (near BayFair Mall). Formal business will begin between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. For more information, please call the LP Party Line at (510) 531-0760.

February 13-17, 1997: Libertarian Party of California Annual Convention. Let Freedom Ring at the Beverly Garland Hotel, 1780 Tribute Road, Sacramento, CA 95815. For reservations, call 1-800-BEVERLY and make sure you mention that you are with the Libertarian Party to get the special Convention room rate (\$75 per night). Featured speakers include LP National Chair **Steve Dasbach**, author **George Smith** (*The Case Against God*), author **Norma Jean Almodovar** (*From Cop to Call Girl*), author **Jeffrey Hummell** (*Emancipating Slaves, Enslaving Free Men*), *Reason Magazine* columnist **Tom Hazlett**, KGO Radio host **Gene Burns**, former LP Presidential candidates **David Bergland** (author of *Libertarianism in One Lesson*) and **Harry Browne** (author of *Why Government Doesn't Work*), Simi Valley Libertarian City Councilwoman **Sandi Webb** and the founder of the Future of Freedom Foundation **Jacob Hornberger**. For more information, contact Liberty Convention Services at (916) 362-0855 or by email at LibConServ@aol.com

Tuesday, March 18, 1997: Contra Costa County LP General Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at Fuddrucker's, 1975 Diamond Blvd., Concord, CA, located in the Willows Shopping Center (take the Willow Pass exit off of Highway 680). For details, call the LP Party Line at (510) 531-0760.

Sunday Afternoons, 5:30 p.m.: The Libertarian News Hour on Free Radio Berkeley, 104.1 FM, hosted by East Bay LP Chair Jeff "Zippy the Yippie" Sommer, the voice of freedom on the airwaves originating from one of the last bastions of socialism in America, Berkeley, California. If you have internet access, check out the Free Radio Berkeley Web Site at <http://www.freeradio.com>

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