



Santa Clara Libertarian

December 1998

For Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness

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Local Libertarian Elected to City Council

Santa Clara County Libertarian John Mehaffey has won a seat on the Saratoga City Council, placing first in a field of five candidates. Three Council seats were up for grabs.

Mehaffey received 6,373 votes (24.2%). His nearest opponent, Nick Streit, won a Council seat with 5,248 votes (19.9%). The third seat went to Evan Baker, with 5,229 votes (19.9%). One of the two losers in the race was incumbent Gillian Moran, with 4,974 votes (18.9%).

"It is another triumph for limited government," declared Santa Clara County Libertarian Party Chairman Marvin Rudin. "John Mehaffey will do his utmost to protect the lives, liberties, and properties of his constituents, and we wish him the best of luck."

Councilman Mehaffey will be speaking at the Libertarian State Convention to be held in San Jose this February.

Treasurer Race Open

Our current moneyminder, Allen Rice, has announced he will not be a candidate for Treasurer, or indeed any Party office, at the Party convention in January. Says Allen "I've been Treasurer for two years, learned a lot, and set some precedents that may be continued. Time for someone else to take over the income and outgo."

Allen has offered, starting the weekend of December 19, to brief anyone interested in the arcane mysteries of the job. He can be reached at the phone number or email address given in this newsletter.

Food Not Bombs

The protest group Food Not Bombs will be speaking at our December 9th meeting. This group challenges laws banning the distribution of free food by publicly feeding those in need.

Harry Browne Comes to San Jose and Leaves With \$10,000

By Marv Rudin

Harry Browne came to town with a message of hope, and drew a quorum and \$10K. Yes, he drew more than 10% of our membership to the San Jose Hilton to hear him tell LP members his plan to use TV to directly reach the public early with his message and start the momentum after his nomination in 1999. And he drew more than \$150 average per guest. He clearly aims to steal the march on any would be nominees for the LP presidential candidacy in 2000, and is letting no grass grow under his feet by starting his campaign immediately after the '98 elections and building a pre-nomination war chest that he says is already over \$250K. By year-end he expects to get it to \$1 million.

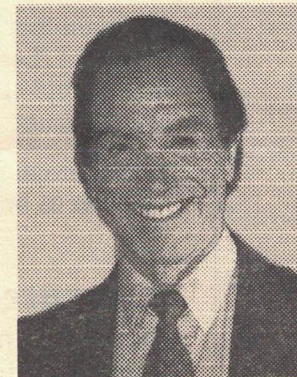
Curiosity seemed to be the magnet that pulled in over 60 members on a Friday evening. Curiosity about the TV ad program announced by a classy looking invitation sent to all LP members probably was at work to draw many who'd heard him speak before. And about 50% of the audience signaled they hadn't yet heard him speak. Add to that the fact that the NLP's project Archimedes has been adding new members with a message more focussed on federal than local and state issues. I got a clue to this when talking to a couple of members of the audience who didn't recognize me, although my photo has been in every issue of this newsletter since April.

Harry's speech was very well conceived and beautifully delivered as only he can do. He said we LPers have the most attractive message in the world, while the old parties have nothing new to offer so they engage in insults and scandals. He said this especially applies to the Republicans, who can only offer "a little less government growth". He said all citizens he has met around the country agree - the government is not just too big, but "way too big". He said the media would give us coverage only if we have enough votes to significantly affect the race between the old parties' candidates. He said to do that he'll need to have \$1 million for ads before the end of this year, which could hopefully lead to \$25 million to \$50 million by the middle of 2000, which will produce a surge in the polls that will get him into

the debates. He implied that he could get large amounts like this were it not for campaign financing rules that limit donations to \$1000 per person before and after nominations. So to enable the needed level of fund raising, next year the NLP plans to increase its membership up to at least 100,000 paid members with Archimedes mailers, which will begin roll out starting the beginning in January.

On the subject of the debates, he felt that entry into them will be crucial, and could catapult him and the LP into the other major party position, "replacing the Republicans". Michael Cloud, who both introduces Harry and performs the fund raising, quoted leading L.A. talk show host, Larry Elder, as saying that if allowed into the debates, Harry would "kick ass on the old party candidates."

Chair's Column



Marv Rudin, LPSCC

CHAIR'S COLUMN – LET'S GET GROWING

Folks, with the election of new officers coming up on January 13, this is a pivotal time for the LP of Santa Clara County region's future. The question is, will the new officers be members of a compatible growth oriented team, or will they be as has been customary, independently elected individuals filling a title without a commitment to a growth agenda or team cooperation.

A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Looking back, on March 19th of this year, two months later than normal, I was elected on the promise of a growth agenda. Since then, just a few supporters and I have tried several outreach methods for party growth. In these trial efforts we accomplished more than last year, getting well over twice as many inquirer names for follow-up recruiting. But most important, I've learned what's needed if we want to make our region an exemplary growth machine.

HOW TO RECRUIT OUTREACH VOLUNTEERS

First, we've found that at most, 10% of our members are willing to go out of their way to volunteer a few hours per quarter to sit a booth or table, hand out literature in public places, fill speaking engagements, pass LIFE cards, or other outreach and promotional activities for the party. And we've found that requests in this newsletter aren't enough. The vast majority of volunteers had to be recruited by telephone solicitation.

MANAGERS & SPECIALISTS ARE ESSENTIAL

Second, to get and utilize this level of member participation, volunteer project managers are essential to provide instructions and directions to the volunteers and to record and analyze the results of each project. And leaders for the administrative, publicity, and outreach functions and projects are a must if we are to have fully functioning LPSCC organization next year. Gradually I've managed to add some excellent specialists and managers to an already competent set of officers. But we still need several more. Jim Erlach, our Computer Specialist, has done and continues to do wonders with our computer system. Daniel Weinstein, Database Specialist, has managed to get us off the old DOS database and onto Access. Recently, four managers volunteered to launch some important outreach activities - Daniel Weinstein (Colleges Program), Ron Berti (Speakers Bureau), John Inks (Telephone Tree), Jon Hugdahl (Operation Everyone test in zip 94086). Hopefully they will continue to take responsibility for these activities into 1999. But on the down side, Chris Gammon (Membership Chair) and Allen Rice (Treasurer) decided last month to not run for office in 1999, and replacements will be needed for them.

WILL I RUN FOR CHAIR AGAIN?

I am considering whether to run for chair again. It's difficult to consider quitting without seeing through what I've started. But if I were to continue at the present level of support and the continued drain of the annual budget by our office, the growth program now underway will certainly stall out, and my personal and business affairs will certainly continue to suffer unbearably. So I must either acquire enough competent members to manage the party as part of a growth team, or I

must decline to run when we again meet to elect officers.

I know there are competent leaders out there among you. The question is whether you think the struggle to replace our bloated government and its taxes and lost freedoms by means of the LP is worth a few hours of your time each month. If enough of you are willing to share the job, none of us will have to do too much, and I can continue. If not, I cannot continue. If you have the abilities, I need you as part of a growth slate comprised of people able to manage the party in

- (1) Accounting (Treasurer);
- (2) Database (Membership Chair);
- (3) Telephone Polling;
- (4) Colleges/high schools Program;
- (5) Purchasing and Property Control;
- (6) Newsletter Production;
- (7) News Reporting (Editor);
- (8) Volunteer Recruiting; Operation Everyone; Speakers Bureau;
- (9) Letters to the Editor;
- (10) Publicity (Publicity Chair);
- (11) Candidate Recruitment (Campaign Chair);
- (12) Protest organizing (Tax Day, teen curfew)
- (13) Web Sites;
- (14) Public Access TV or radio.

There may be more possibilities, depending on your abilities and interests. So don't hesitate to call me ((408) 736-5626) and explore possibilities. Please call ASAP. Only if I have a list of officers and appointed managers and specialists to be submitted as a printed "Growth Slate" at the January 13 meeting will I run as chair. So if you're thinking of joining me, please call well before the end of December so we can all meet and discuss our 1999 growth agenda. Our future is in your hands...

Letters to the Editor

I am responding to the letter to the editor which appeared on pp. 4-5 of the November 1998 issue of Santa Clara Libertarian.

The way I read it, Anonymous advocates that we do not support the Republicans in their effort to impeach President Clinton. I have a disagreement with this strategy. The way I read it, he does not want to support impeachment because that supports the Republicans, and of course - Republicans are bad. I would like to approach the matter from a different angle.

To be successful in politics, one must be a coalition builder. Typically, you try to gain the support of other politicians and political groups for each particular issue or bill under consideration. As bills come before the congress you typically find strange combinations of supporters for each particular issue or bill. I can see the Libertarians occasionally agreeing with the Republicans and occasionally siding with the Democrats. On occasion we will agree in principal with the Reform or Green parties ON A PARTICULAR ISSUE.

The bottom line is: We're bound to agree with some party or group on any issue. We should welcome this agreement and use it to our advantage. We should not oppose an issue simply because another group supports it. We must stand on our principals and build coalitions based on each particular issue. This method of coalition building will put members of all the other parties on our side for particular issues. This is good PR. People will eventually take notice of our activities. Someday, you will hear politicians say things like, "I know I can get the support of the Libertarians on this tax deal." You will hear people say things like, "I agree with the Republican propaganda regarding taxes and the Democratic position on abortion rights, I guess I'm a Libertarian!" The only way to get such information to the people is to build coalitions on a case by case basis.

Taking Anonymous's position to the extreme, we should not support any issue that is supported by any other party. This would only serve to isolate us from the political landscape.

Thank you for considering my position on this matter. I welcome continued discourse on the matter.

Mark Werlwas

Election System Reform: A series of articles -part 3 of 3

In my first article I discussed the types of plurality-majority voting we use in this country and introduced the principle of proportional representation: majority rule with minority representation, in proportion to voting strength in the electorate. In my second article I described the three main systems of proportional representation: List PR, Mixed Member Proportional (MMP), and Choice Voting (CV). In this, the last article, I will discuss a relative of CV that can be used when a single winner is to be elected, as in an election for Mayor or President.

In CV the voter is presented with a list of candidates. The voter writes a "1" next to their first choice, a "2" next to their second choice (who they would want if their first choice were eliminated), etc., for as many choices as they desire. This system of marking ballots is called Preference Voting (PV), and can also be applied to a single-seat election. When so used, it is called Instant Runoff Voting (IRV), Alternative Vote (AV), or Majority Preference Voting (MPV).

As in CV, a threshold of election is established by dividing the number of ballots cast by one more than the number of seats to be filled (that is, by two), and then adding one. In other words, the threshold in Instant Runoff Voting is 50 percent plus one vote.

The ballots are then sorted by first preference. If no candidate has a majority, the candidate with the fewest votes is declared defeated, and his/her ballots are transferred to their respective second-choice candidates and added to the vote totals of those candidates. (If no second choice is indicated, that ballot is declared exhausted and set aside.) This process is repeated until one candidate achieves a majority of the ballots cast, or (in the case of many exhausted ballots) only one candidate is left. That candidate is the winner.

Note that a voter's first choice is not hurt by that voter also indicating a second choice, as the voter's ballot stays with his/her first choice until such time as the first choice is eliminated from the counting. Similarly, the incentive for negative campaigning is reduced, as a candidate may need the second choices of supporters of one or more opponents in order to win.

Instant Runoff Voting is used to elect the Australian House of Representatives and the President of Ireland, and by the National Organization for Women to elect their officers.

IRV is considered a plurality-majority system, as the winner has to receive a majority of the vote. Unlike First Past The Post, it is impossible for a fringe candidate to spoil the election for a mainstream candidate. And unlike the Two-Round System, there is no extra expense for the candidates (or the government) to hold a second election.

It must be noted that IRV is not a form of PR, and does not achieve the proportional results (more women and minorities) that PR does. However, it can be viewed as a first step in electoral reform, as it will reduce negative campaigning and (by eliminating runoffs) reduce the costs of elections.

The recent (October 1997) Ireland Presidential election provides a good real-life example of how Instant Runoff Voting works. This is how the votes tallied:

Candidate	Count 1	Count 2	Final Total
Mary Bannotti	372,002 (29.30%)	+125,514	497,516 (41.33%)
Mary McAleese	574,424 (45.24%)	+131,836	706,259 (58.67%)
Derek Nally	59,529 (4.69%)	-----	-----
Dana Rosemary Scallon	175,458 (13.82%)	-----	-----
Adi Roche	88,423 (6.96%)	-----	-----
Exhausted			66,060

After the counting of first choices, Mary McAleese had the lead with 45.24% of the vote, but not a majority of the vote. Since the totals of the lowest three candidates put together were less than that of the candidate in second place (that is, no matter how the votes transferred they would all be eliminated), they were eliminated as a group and their votes transferred to the respective next remaining choice. As it happened, more votes were transferred to McAleese than to Bannotti, increasing her lead.

"Big deal", you might say. "The person who had the highest vote total after the first count won anyway. Why bother with second choices?"

Let's respond to that criticism by looking at the results of Ireland's previous presidential election in 1990. There were three candidates in that race:

Candidate	Count 1	Count 2	Final Total
Austin Currie	267,902 (17.0%)	-----	-----
Brian Lenihan	694,484 (44.1%)	+36,789	731,273 (47.2%)
Mary Robinson	612,265 (38.9%)	+205,565	817,830 (52.8%)
Exhausted		25,548	

After the counting of first choices, Brian Lenihan had the lead with 44.1% of the vote, and in a "winner-take-all" election would have been declared the winner, even though he did not have a majority. But that's not how Instant Runoff Voting works. Since Austin Currie had the fewest votes, his ballots were redistributed by their respective second choices. Most of them went to Mary Robinson, giving her a final count of 52.8% and making her the winner.

In a US-style election, Currie would either have spoiled the election for Robinson, or forced an expensive runoff. In Instant Runoff Voting, there's no such thing as a spoiler, and a second election is never necessary. The application to US elections is obvious.

--- Steve Chessin is an Advisory Board member of the Center for Voting and Democracy, and serves on the Board of Directors of Northern California Citizens for Proportional Representation.

Draft Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

November 9, 1998 at the LPSCC office.

The Executive Committee Meeting was opened by Chair, Marv Rudin, at 7:21 p.m. Present voting members of the ExCom were: Jascha Lee, Joe Dehn, Don Cormier, Jack Hickey, Marv Rudin, and Ray Strong. Daniel Weinstein arrived at 7:50 p.m.

Recent campaigns and college contacts were discussed. Daniel Weinstein reported that we have had a table at De Anza for four weeks and at Foothill for three weeks. The results include 100 contacts and 12 LP registrations.

The Campaigns Chair was asked to recruit volunteers to research coming elections and report to the echo and the newsletter by 11/18/98. It was suggested that David Scott might be interested in doing the research.

The Vice Chair was asked to manage the database.

Don Cormier bought a disposable camera to take pictures of the meeting (for the newsletter and possibly the web site).

A motion to authorize up to \$75 for phone line installation and up to \$20 per month for a new phone line for the office to be used for remote access to the office computer passed with 6 in favor and 1 abstention (Joe Dehn) at 9:06 p.m.

It was suggested that planning for the January Convention be an agenda item at the December meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by Ray Strong, Secretary

Publicity Chair's Report

1. After getting editing advice from construction industry Libertarians David Bonino and Frank Groffie, and from ENR Bureau Chief David Rosenbaum, I completed and submitted an invited viewpoint article - "Should Public Works be Publicly Funded" - for the Engineering News-Record, the McGraw-Hill published weekly news magazine of the U.S. construction industry, with author credit containing my name and title as LPSCC chair. Also the word "Libertarian" was used in the body.

2. Two arguments (Measures D and F) with LPSCC spelled out in authors title were published in ballot pamphlet, as co-author with Santa Clara County Taxpayers Association.

3. Submitted letter to publisher and executive editor of SJ Mercury News protesting a derogatory article about libertarians in connection with Paula Jones, backers and attorneys, and received

assurance from an assistant managing editor of a corrective article to come.

4. Passed out 250 LIFE cards personally at De Anza College, and coordinated volunteers who passed out over 1000 cards at colleges, high tech business, and computer stores. Measured an increase of about 40 hits over the previous month, how many caused by card not clear because it appears that some visitors didn't use card identifying extensions. Bottom line - results are encouraging, as hits are now averaging about 3 per day.

5. Distributed all but 50 of 2000 LPC election tabloids via candidates and volunteers. Personally distributed 250 in my neighborhood and 50 at the Sunnyvale library.

6. Talked to 50 State Farm Insurance Employees in place of State Assembly candidate Ray Strong, competing with other party speakers including Elaine Alquist and Jim Cuneen.

7. Arranged visit to the editor of the Times Newspaper Group of San Jose, Karl Laucher, accompanied by our Newsletter Editor, Jascha Lee, and a new Libertarian, Deputy Public Defender Tom Spielbauer. We managed to induce Laucher to decide to take our pictures and publish a full page article including two photos in the Willow Glen Times (13,000 homes) for reasons too complex to describe here.

Libertarian Party of Santa Clara county

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This newsletter is the publication of the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County, a non-profit political organization. For further information on the LPSCC, contact us at the above addresses, or come to one of the meetings listed in the schedule.

Newsletter submissions are welcomed and may be sent to:

lpnews@sebastian.com
2301 Shibley Avenue
San Jose, CA 95125.

Submissions received prior to the second Wednesday will be considered for publication in that month's issue.

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		Jim DelVecchio,	John Webster, jweb-
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3249 Stevens Creek Boulevard, Suite 207, San Jose, CA 95117

Please Print:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____

The Libertarian Party is the party of principle. To assure and affirm that our party never strays from its principles, we request our members to sign the pledge below. (Non-signers cannot vote on party business).

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

Signature: _____

Membership Application

I choose to set my dues at:

- \$25 Basic.....
- \$100 Sustaining.....
- \$250 Sponsor.....
- \$500 Patron.....
- \$1000 Life.....

Plus an additional contribution to the LPSCC:

- \$_____ Monthly pledge.....
- \$_____ One-time donation.....

Total:.....

Payment Method:

Check payable to:
Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County

- VISA MasterCard
- Credit Card #: _____
- Expiration Date: _____
- Cardholder Name: _____
- Signature: _____

Schedule

LPSCC Business/Speakers Meetings

The monthly meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month, 8 p.m. at Coco's. The next LPSCC Business Meeting will be our big annual meeting in January, in which we elect officers. The December meeting will feature a talk by Food Not Bombs. The January agenda will also be discussed.

LPSCC Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee meets at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at the office, ex-

cept on months with a Business meeting. In that case it will be held at Coco's at 7 p.m. right before the Business meeting.

Where is Coco's?

Coco's Restaurant is located on the corner of Oakmead Parkway and Lawrence Expressway. From 101, take the Lawrence Expressway south exit one block to Oakmead Parkway.

Are you current?

Please check your address label to verify that your membership has not lapsed. A membership form is on page 7.

Libertarian Party of California
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