

# LIBERTARIAN LIFELINE



## Supreme Court Hears Fusion Arguments

by Richard Winger

*The constitutionality of fusion, the ability for a candidate to run on the ticket of more than one party, will be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court this spring and could have important consequences for the Libertarian Party. The four LP representatives elected to the state legislature in New Hampshire credit fusion with helping them win their campaigns. The following article is reprinted from Ballot Access News, available from P.O. Box 470296, San Francisco, CA 94147.*

On December 4, the Supreme Court heard arguments in *McKenna v Twin Cities Area New Party*, 95-1608, over whether the First Amendment protects the right of two political parties to jointly nominate a single candidate, and have both party labels on the ballot next to that candidate's name. This Minnesota case involved a 1994 state legislative race; the candidate, Andy Dawkins, wanted to be listed on the November ballot as the nominee of the Democratic and New Parties.

The decision will be out in the spring of 1997. Most reporters who tried to predict the outcome suggested that the Court will rule against "fusion". Eight justices asked questions or made comments (Justice Clarence Thomas didn't speak). The justices monopolized the hour set aside for the case; neither Richard Slowes, for Minnesota, nor Laurence Tribe, for the New Party, had any time to speak, other than to respond to comments from the justices.

Since the court below had struck down the fusion ban, Slowes spoke first, since he had filed the appeal. Immediately, he was pressed to explain why he felt that fusion causes voter confusion, as his brief had asserted. Justices John Paul Stevens, David Souter, and Ruth Ginsburg doubted that fusion really causes voter confusion. Slowes said that Connecticut voters are confused by fusion, but he didn't elaborate.

Finally, Slowes said that voter confusion isn't the chief reason why fusion should be banned, and that the real reason why it should be banned is to prevent the creation of "bogus" political parties, created simply

to bolster the campaigns of certain major party nominees. He suggested the "No New Taxes Party" or the "Tough on Crime Party" might be created, just to assist the campaigns of Democratic or Republican nominees. Stevens said that in 1952, there had been some discussion that both the Democratic and Republican parties might wish to nominate Dwight Eisenhower for president, and asked if the First Amendment should protect the right of major parties to jointly nominate the same person for president.

Before Slowes could answer, Chief Justice William Rehnquist said that California had banned cross-filing, and wondered if California's ban might have been a violation of the First Amendment ("cross-filing" is simply another term for fusion, and refers to a candidate filing in the primary of his or her own party, and filing in the primary of another party as well). Naturally, Slowes said that the First Amendment does not require a state to permit cross-filing.

Souter stated that Slowes' answers seem reasonable, and that he might be inclined to agree, except that history shows that fusion was banned in most states during the decade after 1896, to squelch the Peoples Party, not because of any worries about voter confusion or bogus parties. Slowes responded that it isn't fair to look back so many years, and that these assertions (which were supported by a group of historians, who testified for the New Party) are not proven.

### Scalia Reveals Bias

Justice Antonin Scalia in an incredulous tone, then demanded to know if Slowes was actually conceding that "favoring a two-party system" is not a legitimate state interest. Scalia clearly was stating that, in his opinion, the fusion ban could properly be defended as a tool to squelch new and minor parties. The U.S. Supreme Court has issued a number of very hostile rulings in the last twenty-five years, which have upheld official discrimination against minor parties.

However, none of these hostile decisions has ever claimed that there is a legitimate state interest in a "two-party system." That term has not been used in any Supreme Court decision upholding a state ballot access law. The idea that there is a state interest in upholding a two-party system was rebutted in *Williams v Rhodes*, the 1968 decision which overturned the Ohio ballot access laws. Even Scalia has never mentioned the term "two-

Continued from page 1

party system” in any ballot access opinion or dissent, although he has mentioned that term in patronage cases.

### **Breyer Shares the Bias?**

Justice Stephen Breyer (who had a bad record on ballot access when he was on the Second Circuit) then asked, “Suppose I think that the case is all about the advantages of a two-party system.” Breyer also said, “There are a lot of state rules which disadvantage third parties.” In the give-and-take that followed, Breyer admitted that New York state (which is famous for using fusion) “is not Fourth Republic France or Italy.”

### **Laurence Tribe’s Turn**

Tribe, a famous Harvard Law Professor, was prepared to rebut Minnesota’s brief. However, the Justices weren’t interested in that, since they didn’t care about the points in Minnesota’s brief. Rehnquist, Scalia, and Breyer pressed Tribe to explain why a state can’t simply structure its election laws to squelch new and minor parties. Tribe didn’t seem to be prepared for that, and his answers were not satisfying.

Scalia insisted that the ban on fusion has “successfully preserved the two-party system” and then said that New York, which permits fusion, “is a three-party system.” He didn’t name the three major parties

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of New York; presumably he thinks the Conservative Party is a major party.

It is true that the Conservative Party nominee for U.S. Senator in 1970 defeated his Republican and Democratic opponents, but the party hasn’t duplicated that feat since then for any federal or state office, and only 1.6% of New York state voters are registered members of the party.

Justice Breyer (who is from Connecticut, another state which permits fusion) made a long statement that fusion bans injure minor parties, but that it may be legitimate for a state to write its election laws to injure minor parties. Justice Sandra O’Connor chimed in to say, “The key First Amendment value is the freedom to vote for anyone” (this is ironic, since she voted in favor of a ban on write-in space on ballots in *Burdick v Takushi* in 1992).

Scalia demanded to know, “What about the right not to participate in fusion?” ignoring the fact that plaintiffs only argue that fusion must be permitted when the candidate and both political parties involved wish it to occur. Scalia also insisted that it is impossible for election law to be neutral toward minor parties, that it either fosters them, or suppresses them. Clearly, he isn’t aware of U.S. election laws prior to the 1890’s, which were strictly neutral.

Near the end, Justice Anthony Kennedy again raised the idea that fusion causes voter confusion. He said that California voters had 200 items to vote on in last month’s election, and that voters are already overburdened (Kennedy is from California, and he ought to know that no California voter had more than four partisan races to vote on at the November 5, 1996 election. There were also fifteen state questions, and local non-partisan elections and local ballot questions, but no voter in California had more than 30 or 40 decisions to make).

The hearing ended abruptly, with Tribe given virtually no opportunity to put this case in the context in which it belongs, protection for the First Amendment rights of political parties in general. At no time in the hearing were the other party rights cases mentioned. This is a party rights case. The other party rights cases in the Supreme Court have all been brought by major parties, and they have all won, against state election laws. When the Court hears a party rights case involving the major parties, it properly looks at the language of the First Amendment itself, and then it writes a good decision.

But when a minor party raises a party rights case, suddenly some Justices forget about the Constitution.

## **LIBERTARIAN LIFELINE**

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Instead, they think that they are applying political science, and that it is sophisticated to defend discrimination against minor parties because such discrimination is necessary for the good of society.

### Real Political Science

The irony is that no leading political scientist who studies political party systems believes that it is necessary to squelch minor parties, in order to "defend" the two-party system. The true definition of "two-party system" is a system in which two particular parties are much bigger than all the others; it doesn't mean a system in which minor parties have atrophied into non-existence. The last leading political scientist who believed that it is socially useful to squelch minor parties was Larry Sabato of the University of Virginia, but he changed his mind over five years ago, and now advocates that election laws treat minor parties equitably.

Breyer's allusion to the French Fourth Republic and to Italy is flawed. The governments of France in the Fourth Republic, and Italy, were famous for instability. Both used a parliamentary system, with no popularly-elected chief executive.

Thus, whenever a majority in the national legislative body lost confidence in its own leader, that leader fell from power. The problem was solved in France by changing to a system with an elected president. There continued to be just as many parties in France as there had been before, but, instantly, the instability problem was cured. The problems in France and Italy were problems of a parliamentary system versus a presidential system, not a problem of the number of political parties.

### Fusion for Major Parties

Another irony of this case is that major parties sometimes desire to jointly nominate candidates. There were "Republican-Democrat" or "Democrat-Republican" nominees on the ballot in 1994 or 1996 in Vermont, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, California and New Hampshire. Thus fusion, as a constitutional issue, sometimes has nothing to do with minor parties. It would have been desirable if the first fusion case in the U.S. Supreme Court was over whether the Democratic and Republican Parties are free to jointly nominate a candidate. If the Court had such a case, it might have been able to look at the issue without being distracted by its own hostility and bias against minor parties. □

I believe there are more instances of the abridgement of the freedom of the people by "gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations". James Madison

## LPC Convention in Sacramento Next Month

by Laura McFadden

The 1997 LPC Convention will be held Thursday, February 13 through Monday, February 17, 1997, in Sacramento at the Beverly Garland Hotel. The hotel is located off the Bus 80 at the Cal Expo exit; free shuttle service to and from the airport is provided to guests. A discount room rate of \$75 (plus tax) single or double is offered to Convention attendees. Make your reservation by calling the hotel directly at (916) 929-7900 —ask for the Libertarian Party rate. Below is a rough outline of the events: (Please note that start times for Party Business is estimated. Agendas for Business Sessions and Committee Meetings are set by the Chair of the respective Committee)

**Thursday, February 13:** 1:00 p.m. Grassroots Activism Part 1 - roundtable discussions with party leaders/activists on how to grow regions, etc. 5:00 p.m. Riverboat Dinner Cruise — bus service to and from the cruise is provided.

**Friday, February 14:** 9:00 a.m. Grassroots Activism Part 2 12:00 Bylaws and Platform Committees. 2:00 p.m. Tour of the Capitol — bus service to and from the tour is provided. 7:00 p.m. — Reception

**Saturday, February 15:** 8:00 a.m. Convention Business Session 1:00 p.m. Lunch 2:30 p.m. Speakers and Panel discussions throughout remainder of afternoon. 7:00 p.m. Grand Banquet/Fundraising

**Sunday, February 16:** 8:00 a.m. Convention Business Session 1:00 p.m. Lunch 2:30 p.m. Speakers and Panel discussions throughout remainder of afternoon. 7:00 p.m. Dinner Event

**Monday, February 17:** 8:00 a.m. Convention Business Session 1:00 p.m. Sam Adams Award Luncheon 2:30 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting

Some of the speakers scheduled for the Convention include: Nancy Lord, Mike Edelstein, Michael Cloud, Vin Syprinowicz, George O'Brien, David Bergland, the Roscoe's, Gene Burns, F. Hayward and David Lewis. NOTE: Speakers and events are subject to change without notice. Many speakers are not yet confirmed. Prices for convention packages are: Connoisseur Package (full package) \$300. Gourmet package (meals only) \$190. Intellectual Package (speakers only) \$140. The Riverboat dinner cruise is separate from the above packages, priced at \$50 per person. The Tour of the Capitol is separate from the above packages and priced at \$10 per person. *The Grassroots Activism Seminar is free to all party members.* To reserve any of the above, you may call me at 310-428-8113. Mastercard / VISA accepted. □

# LP Sets Goals for 1997 and 1998

At its December general meeting, the Alameda/Contra Costa County Libertarian Party voted to set a series of goals for party growth to be achieved within the next two years. These goals include: (1) the purchase of outreach materials; (2) the establishment of six smaller districts within the two counties to coordinate precinct-level activism; (3) to reorganize the conduct and schedule of regional meetings; (4) to double the number of registered Libertarian voters in our region (see chart below right); (5) to double the number of dues-paying members of the LP (see chart below left); (6) to field candidates for all 13 partisan offices in the region for the November 1998 election; (7) to actively support at least one **serious** candidate for partisan office in November 1998; (8) to actively support at least one **serious** candidate for a non-partisan office in November 1998; and (9) to double the number of *active* members by November 1998.

These goals are not unrealistic. The National LP has doubled its membership base since the 1992 election, and has plans to increase this number tenfold by the year 2000. This can only be done if the grassroots organizations do their part to increase membership and activity as well. Our region's membership has remained fairly static since 1992 and we could very well lose our status as the fourth largest regional organization in California if we do not increase these numbers. The San Francisco and San

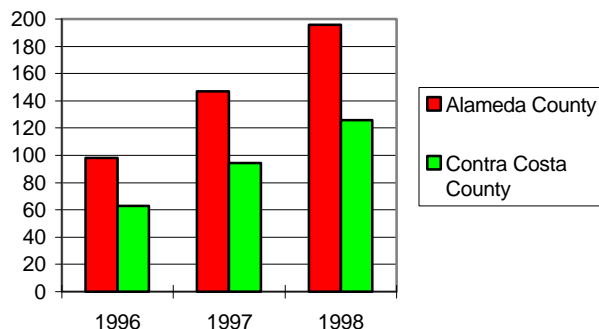
Fernando Valley regions have both increased their membership over the past two years to levels near our own. The five largest regions in the LPC have individual representatives on the state Executive Committee; the smaller regions are represented by At Large committee members. The Executive Committee meets quarterly, twice each year in Northern California and twice in Southern California.

The overall goal is to eventually grow the party to the point where Alameda and Contra Costa County will have to become separate regions, each with their own core activists and officers. Please do your part to help us meet this goal!

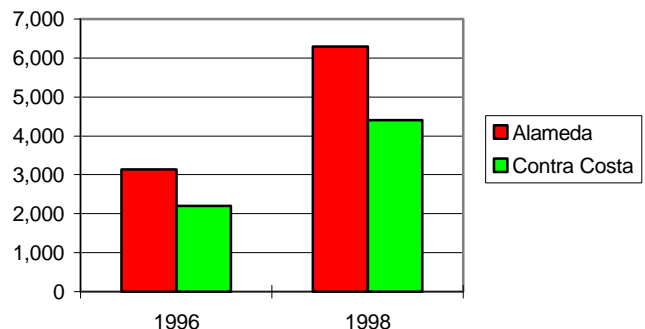
How does one become a Libertarian activist? The easiest way is to volunteer your time and labor for party activities. Another way is to run for one of the party officer positions. On Tuesday, January 21, 1997, we will be electing party officers for the new year. Offices up for grabs include the Chair, Vice-Chairs, Executive Committee Representative, Treasurer, Secretary and eight delegate positions to represent our region at the State LP Convention in Sacramento. Non-elective positions available include that of the newsletter editor and the newly-created position of Press Secretary (John Taylor has graciously volunteered to take over the duties of database manager). Finally, you may also run for office as a Libertarian candidate for a partisan or non-partisan office. In 1996, long-time Libertarian Anne Lindl was elected to the Livermore Unified School District. We need more victories like Anne's and more candidates like Greg Lyon to proudly carry the banner of the Party of Principle.

## Where We Are and Where We Want To Be

LP Membership Goals for 1998



LP Registration Goals for 1998



## IS THERE REALLY A QUICK FIX FOR A DYING PARTY?

By George L. O'Brien

In the December issue of the *LIBERTARIAN LIFELINE*, Denise Kalm asked "Is the Party Dying?" I fear she may be correct, but I doubt that her suggestions will prove to be enough to change this situation.

The core problem is that the overwhelming bulk of the population believe in statism. They imagine that the problems they see in the economy, in society and in their own communities can benefit from government action. They recognize that government doesn't work very well, but are convinced that "if only the right people were in charge", ones who could make the tough decisions — then everything would be fine.

They don't want to hear that government is not the solution — that government is the cause of most of their problems. They don't want to hear that government is hurting people. But hurting people is exactly what government does.

Deep in their hearts, most people want to control others. This goes well beyond merely preventing people from harming their neighbors. For too many people, there rests a deep seated urge to try to run the lives of their neighbors. Since their motives are pure, they find it hard to understand how anyone could object.

But libertarians do object. Libertarians object on personal grounds and deny that anyone (much less the government) has the moral right to interfere with the lives of peaceful individuals. Beyond that, libertarians insist that attempts to control people never really works — it merely leads to peaceful people being hurt.

What is the legacy of countless decades of statist policies? Poverty is more widespread than ever. Racial strife is rampant. People feel alienated from their neighbors and resentful of a society that sets each at war with each other for the handouts from the government. Bad behavior is rewarded while good behavior punished (the tax system puts the greatest burdens on the most productive). People who merely want to be left alone are harassed, imprisoned and impoverished by a government that treats individualism as a disease that must be stamped out.

I for one cannot offer a simple solution to those who wish to see this society saved. If you suggest that perhaps there are "inalienable rights" that cannot be taken away or interfered with by the government — then you will be condemned as a radical extremist. If

you suggest that the individual rights to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" should exist, you will be told that the Supreme Court no longer recognizes any such rights. If you suggest that a free market does a far better job of curing poverty than all the destructive welfare agencies put together — then you are called "heartless", "greedy", and selfish.

Perhaps only a truly selfless person can be a real libertarian. Libertarians understand that in order for one person to be free — everyone has to be free. Selfish and heartless people find it much easier to delude others into schemes which will use the government to enrich the selfish at the expense of the general public. It takes real courage to turn down the narcotic allure of state power and to refuse to participate in the exploitation of the public for ones personal benefit.

Few people have such courage. It is not easy to be a libertarian in a society that punishes integrity and rewards the exploiters. It is not easy to tell people, "Come join us so that you too can be condemned and ridiculed by the power elite who will stop at nothing to retain power. Give up the illusion that you can control others and benefit from the government's exploitation of peaceful people — so that you too can be the target for police spies, wiretaps, and property seizures." This is not a terribly enticing program.

Yet people do become libertarians — real libertarians. It is not out of a search for personal gain nor does the "sizzle" really draw them either. What draws people to become real libertarians is the knowledge that the only moral policy "first do no harm" — and statism is all about harming people. Ultimately, they become libertarians because "it's the right thing to do."

For the Party to succeed, it will have to present a message that is not simply warmed over Chamber of Commerce Republicanism. The Republicans are far better at being Republicans than libertarians can ever hope to be. What libertarians have to offer is a message of hope. What libertarians should offer is a message that someday the horror of living in a society where peaceful people are no longer victimized by the state.

What libertarians must offer is a glimmer of hope that someday we will live in a free society. For a frightened and cynical society, embittered by a continuous power struggle to see who will get to hurt them, libertarians offer a new path. It is not an easy path, but as the Chinese say "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." Libertarians say, "Make that step toward freedom." □

# 1148

by Thomas L. Testerman

The belief that the government of either the United States or of the several states that form it are intentionally snatching our liberty and rights from our grasp is, sadly, mistaken. These governments have no need for such action. The electorate of this country, either from futility, exasperation or consternation, is willing to open its hands and surrender its freedom. Bit by bit, piece by piece, the American electorate has given away much, but not all, of the Sovereignty for which our founding fathers sacrificed their lives and their fortunes.

Neither consider or believe that our generation or even our parents' began this "giving of gifts," for it began virtually as the ink was drying on our Constitution, and merely continues today. On December 15, 1791, the Bill of Rights was ratified and with its ninth and tenth amendments, rights listed were not to be construed to deny or "disparage" rights retained by the people. With these two amendments, *modern democracy* was born and the paramount or supreme power, Sovereignty of the Individual, to govern this nation was established. On February 7, 1795, the ratification of the eleventh amendment to our Constitution limited the right of the individual citizen to sue the state, thus limiting the state's liability to its constituency. **THREE YEARS, ONE MONTH AND TWENTY-THREE DAYS** after the proclamation of citizen sovereignty, the electorate loosened their grip on their rights and gave away the first piece of this sovereignty. Gave away because their representatives suffered no more repercussions for these actions than ours do today.

The electorate of this nation and state repeatedly pass laws by popular vote only to have our courts overrule them or our representatives ignore them. We provide directions and demands to our elected leadership only to be ignored or rebuked. In both cases our response is to re-elect or re-appoint, rather than to recall or replace. The belief that "my vote doesn't make a difference" allows for a decline in participation within the Democratic Process, leading to increasing apathy within the electorate. This allows a minority voting constituency to decide representation, policy, and law. "My Vote Doesn't Make a Difference" becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. With each refusal to participate, to communicate our desires and demands to our elected representatives through the courts and the polls, the credibility of punitive repercussions for failure to

faithfully support and defend the Constitution and citizens that put them in office wanes. With each failure of the electorate to exercise their sovereignty over the elected leadership of this country, a little more of Democracy dies.

Individual Sovereignty is the manna upon which democracy is nourished, and democracy is required to mature the growth of the Sovereign. Without one, the other surely dies. Democracy cannot be sustained unless sovereignty is retained, and only when sovereignty is exercised can tyranny be exorcized. □

*The preceding article was submitted to The Sovereign, the quarterly journal of The Sovereignty Foundation, based in Incline Village, Nevada. For more information on the Sovereignty Foundation, contact them at 774 Mays Boulevard, No. 10/122, Incline Village, NV 89451, or check out their World Wide Web Page at <http://www.sovereignty.org>. The Sovereignty Foundation will be sponsoring its first conference in October 1997. To register and receive your conference packet, call Marion McEwen at (510) 889-1544.*

The British medical journal *THE LANCET* recently reported on a French research study investigating the use of botulinum toxin injected into the muscles of stroke patients to ease the distress of foot spasticity and improve walking rehabilitation. Botulinum toxin is the same substance that causes food borne botulism poisoning and is the most dangerous poison produced in nature. It causes severe flaccid paralysis by blocking the neuromuscular junction where the nervous system transmits movement instructions to the muscles. You can see how it can be useful as an anti-spastic treatment, when used in minute quantities and carefully directed to specific muscles. The full study report can be found in the *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry*, Volume 61, pages 265-69.

If physicians have found a way to use nature's most dangerous poison for medicinal purposes, how can anyone rationally argue that a substance as innocuous as marijuana is too dangerous to use for similar treatments?

Note that there are no laws against producing or distributing botulinum toxin (and you may have some in your home right now—so please, throw away that bulging can of green beans), nor are there any restrictions against physicians prescribing or administering this dangerous poison for their patients who need it. Both botulism and marijuana are "all-natural" substances, but the former has until recently been almost 100% fatal. It is the utmost hypocrisy to allow the deadliest poison known to be used as a medicine while outlawing one of the safest and least expensive medicinal herbs. General McCaffrey and his politician puppeteers have no business practicing medicine without a license.

## Gun Rights Activist Arrested

*Scott W. Allen, Secretary of Brass Roots, the Michigan Gun Rights organization, forwards the following narrative, along with an appeal for funding. Please see if you can find it in your heart to give at least \$10 to this worthy cause.*

On Friday evening, December 1, (coincidentally, his birthday) Dan Misuraca was turning left on to Dixie Highway in Waterford, Mi. He was pulled over by officer Cook, who has been on the Waterford police department only 2 years. According to the police report, the light had changed and Dan slid through on red rather than yellow. Asked where he was going, Dan said he was on his way to Dunham's Sporting Goods and then on to his buddy's cabin for a weekend hunt. Shining his light into the back of Dan's station wagon, Officer Cook spotted Dan's hunting knife, which was in a belt containing Dan's hunting tools. The officer asked if Dan had any other weapons in the car to which he replied in the affirmative, gesturing towards the rear of the car to where his unloaded, cased .22 rifle was stored for the trip. Taking Dan's license and registration, the officer returned to his patrol car to call in the license and request back up. (Leaving our dangerous felon in his vehicle with his weapons and ammunition for about ten minutes.) After an Oakland county sheriff arrived, officer Cook went back to Dan and asked him to step out of the car. Dan asked if he was under arrest. The officer said no, not at this time. He then requested permission to search the car, to see for himself if the rifle was unloaded. Dan politely refused. The officer then removed him from his car, and put him under arrest for a CCW violation: the knife! A hunting knife: on a belt with other hunting gear, in the back of the car, while he was on his way to go hunting! Upon searching the car, the officer also discovered Dan's 9mm, which was in a locked box. End of story. Dan spent 5 days in the

Oakland county jail while his poor wife tried desperately to raise the \$5,000 cash required on the bail that the weekend magistrate set at \$50,000. (The Magistrate did, however wish him a happy birthday after setting this absurd amount for his bail).

Dan Misuraca is not a dangerous criminal. He is a business owner (Dan's Oil Can- a one-man mobile oil change business.) He is a husband and father, and they just put everything they had into buying a new home. He was an honor roll student in school. He's a Marine Corps vet who received two meritorious promotions while in the service. He has never been arrested for anything before. He has, however been an outspoken defender of the Second Amendment and active with Brass Roots, the former Gun Owners of Oakland County, and Justice Pro Se. During the preliminary hearing, the officer and the prosecutor also made it a point to mention that he was "wearing cammo" at the time of the traffic stop. This whole thing is set up to ruin the life of a man who is, in my opinion, an outstanding citizen.

So we are trying to put together a defense fund. Dan has a good attorney, but he is not cheap. Dan sold his car to get the first part of the retainer but beyond that he's tapped out, and scared to death that they will lose everything. If we could just find 1000 individuals to send \$10.00 each we could get him the legal service that he needs to get out of this, and save him and his beautiful family. Contributions can be sent to: **Dan Misuraca Defense Fund** 3128 Walton Blvd. Suite 198, Rochester Hills, MI 48309. Thanks for your help.



## 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

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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(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 **JANUARY**

**Thursday, January 16, 1997: Rally to Defend the California Civil Rights Initiative (Proposition 209)** Join the LP and KSFO Radio at noon on the plaza in front of the Federal Building in San Francisco in a rally to support the constitutionality of the CCRI. U.S. District Judge Thelton Henderson is expected to rule on the ACLU's lawsuit blocking the implementation of Prop. 209, and we should be ready for a grand celebration, should he rule in favor of CCRI, or an orderly but indignant demonstration should he rule against it. For more information, contact KSFO Radio at (415) 954-8727, attention Gregory Raab or Abbie Hartley.

**Tuesday, January 21, 1997: Alameda County LP General Meeting.** Ricky's Sports Lounge and Steakhouse at 15028 Hesperian Boulevard in San Leandro (near BayFair Mall). Help us plan our activities for 1997 and meet our goals for the new year. We are also taking nominations for officers to be elected at the January meeting. Available offices include regional chair, vice-chairs, Executive Committee Representative, Secretary, Treasurer and eight Delegates to represent our region at the State LP Convention in Sacramento (see below). 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 14-17, 1997: Libertarian Party of California Annual Convention.** 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). See the article on Page 3 for more details about the convention.

**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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