

Santa Clara Libertarian

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About Local Efforts To Grow the LP & Shrink Government



LPSCC LEADS ALL 6 ANTI-TAX BALLOT ARGUMENTS

Reported by Marv Rudin

LPSCC is the lead entity authoring 6 arguments/rebuttals, and has at least one officer signing all 7 arguments/rebuttals opposing measures proposing tax-increases, out of 10 ballot measures to appear on the March 2nd elections ballot. The only tax measure for which the LPSCC is not author is Measure 2, the SF bay area wide \$1 bridge toll increase. Measures not directly proposing a tax increase are:

SAN JOSE wants to exempt from public bidding public works contracts over \$5 Million.

MORGAN HILL wants to modify Measure P, which passed in 1990, dealing with "managed growth".

SANTA CLARA COUNTY wants to establish a juvenile hall advisory board.



Dennis Umphress led big LPSCC ballot arguments campaign

Led by Campaign Chair Dennis Umphress, LPSCC Libertarians Hacker, Collier, Strong, and Hinkle, with a little editing help from Rudin on the J rebuttal, took on the SC County statist taxers and spenders once again by writing and/or signing with LPSCC title, ballot arguments opposing every one of the 7 tax-increase measures that will be on the March 2004 SC County ballot. The tax measures, with a brief description, margin required to pass, primary arguments-against author, the Libertarian arguments-against signer, a link to the argument-against and rebuttal-argument text, and any special news or circumstances, are:

Measure B: SANTA CLARA COUNTY, Library Joint Powers Authority (JPA), wants to increase current parcel taxes by \$1.88 to \$62.55, depending on the use of the parcel, to fund community libraries for open hours, books, materials, and other library services. 2/3 to pass. Dennis Umphress is the primary author of this argument. Click on VoteNoOnB.us or ROV-Measures to see the arguments for and against Measure B and who signed them.

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ANNOUNCING OUR NEXT INSPIRING FREEDOM MEETING . .

On February 12, 2004, (Lincoln's birthday), the Inspiring Freedom Forum is proud to announce that "Americans for Safe Access" will provide a representative who will talk about that group's action-oriented, grass roots campaign to change the unjust laws that prevent patients from accessing medical marijuana. This event will be in conjunction with the ASA's "Medical Marijuana Awareness Week" which starts on February 15, 2004.

The IFF will meet at Coco's Restaurant in Sunnyvale, at the intersection of Oakmead Parkway and Lawrence expressway. Dinner is at 7 PM, and the talk will start at 8 PM.



Mark Hinkle is surprising new Newsletter Chair

RUDIN OUT AS NEWSLETTER EDITOR!

Hinkle Surprises Rudin - Runs For Newsletter Chair With Plan Of Deficit Spending On 12 Mailings/year Plus Editor At \$125/month

Mark Hinkle surprised Newsletter Chair Marv Rudin, by running against him at the Annual Meeting on January 8th after twice not responding to the Editor Rudin's question "Who plans to run for LPSCC Excom offices?"

While perfectly legal under present LPSCC Bylaws, such a stealth candidacy puts those who announce in advance at a loss, as the unannounced opponent can plan and target his brief speech (typically 2 minutes allowed) to highlight any shortcomings he perceives about the other. But with no warning who his opponent, if any, will be, the announced candidate has little chance to prepare an effective countering speech.

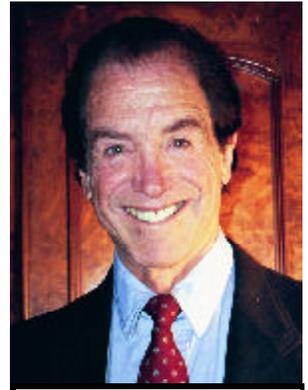
As the rationale for replacing the incumbent, Hinkle, who alleged in July that the SCL was "doing more harm than good", went to a specific criticism saying it's often published late, and he offered a "professional" newsletter to be printed and mailed monthly, without

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Farewell And Good Luck My Friends...

On Jan 8th, eighteen members voted for deficit spending and wasting of trees monthly when they voted to elect a Newsletter Chair who offered to print a monthly newsletter by hiring a "professional" - meaning paid for - member as editor. Just nine members voted for me to continue the high quality economical publication I've been doing monthly for 36 months with an "amateur" unpaid editor - me. The difference in cost? \$5700 per year in 2004 versus \$1400 per year from 2001 to 2003. Why do I call it deficit spending? Because the total LPSCC income in 2003 was \$4500. Which tells you that 2 out of 3 Libertarians who attended our annual meeting will tell the world they decry government deficit spending are not at all averse at setting a bad example by doing it with your money in our party's operation!



Marv Rudin
Publicity Chair 1997
Chair 1998-2000
Newsletter Chair 2001-3

And they did this without any discussion of why to go back to the expensive and tedious pre internet technology of printing and snail mailing at four times the present cost. Moreover, not one member at the meeting rose in support of my candidacy, despite the fact that notable LP members, such as the 2003 LP Secretary and attorney Lori Adasiewicz and 2003 Vice Chair Mark Selzer and a number of you LPSCC members as well, including Jeff Landauer and Frederick Levins) have pointed to the level of content and presentation quality of my Santa Clara Libertarian newsletter as exemplary (see SCL July -pg.1, and OPINIONS, March, October, and November 2003).

The tactic used by the new Newsletter Chair to displace me (which apparently was his primary goal, as he's never shown an interest in doing the job during the past 30 years) is not new. It's been used by him and others in the LPSCC's "Old Guard" - a small coterie of long time members who value control by their clique over party growth - to surprise and block from positions of influence those they can't control. The tactic is possible because unlike those awful government elections, our principled LP elections permit last-minute "stealth candidacies" to catch both incumbents and announced candidates by surprise, with insufficient time to think about the stealth candidate's drawbacks or his proposals before debating him. I saw Hinkle use it to steal the LPC Chair position from incumbent Gail Lightfoot in 1997, the year I first became active in the LP. Before the LPC Convention, she said she knew of no one running against her when I had asked if she had lined up supporters. When she was told at the last minute by the LPC's old guard that Hinkle was running against her she was in shock and crying. With no time to organize a campaign, she agreed not to run.

In my case it was a bit different. I admit I didn't expect Hinkle to run for newsletter - he'd never done it before and I was sure it would be too difficult and too much work for him. And I didn't expect Elizabeth Brierly to run when she's already got a paying job doing the state newsletter, and our newsletter is a volunteer job. So I didn't anticipate that he'd have the nerve to ask members to approve such an invidious policy as paying a local member to do what volunteers such as myself have always done for the love of the cause. As far as what Hinkle calls "professional" capability, companies like Du Pont and Exxon have paid me well over \$200 per hour in today's dollars for writing management consulting reports. But because I do it for love of our cause - freedom - instead of money, according to Hinkle I'm an amateur. Well I have a question - what is a person called who won't do things for love, but only for money?

But I'll take credit for one thing - driving the two time chair of the LPC into vying for the lowly position of LPSCC Newsletter Chair! And how did I do it? By consistently publishing the full truth about all local party activities - bar none - whether favorable or not. Until January 2001, when I decided I didn't want to be LPSCC Chair anymore but instead do the newsletter, none of the "Old Guard" had ever shown any interest in this drudge job. But now Hinkle does, apparently just to block me from telling you the sometimes hard-to-take truth. So, you wonder, why

BIG SURPRISES AT ANNUAL MEETING!

Reported by Marv Rudin

The main theme of LPSCC officer elections at the LPSCC's 2004 Annual Meeting was turnover and scarcity of nominees. But two positions - Newsletter Chair and LPC Representative - appeared to have a special allure and were contested this year. Another highlight was the giving of awards to Dennis Umphress and Mark Hinkle for service beyond the call of duty.. Elected on the 2004 Excom were:

Chair: Allen Hacker unopposed. Hacker was nominated in absentia due to illness by Chair Ray Strong

Treasurer: Allen Rice unopposed.

Secretary: Mike Laursen unopposed.

Newsletter: Mark Hinkle over Marv Rudin. Three year incumbent Rudin, who chose to switch to this position from Chair in 2001 because he hoped to turn the party culture around by reaching all members, instead of the typical 20 to 25 at most CC meetings, lost to surprise unannounced candidate Hinkle who disliked Rudin's work so much he had tried to discontinue the newsletter recently. See full story on pg. 1.

Publicity: Nominee Rudin declined. He had previously announced his candidacy for both Newsletter and Publicity Chair positions (see Oct. SCL, pg. 3), but declined to run as Publicity Chair after losing the Newsletter Chair election. This was consistent with his stated policy at the 2003 LPSCC Annual Meeting that if he wasn't elected Newsletter Chair he wouldn't run for Publicity Chair.

Activities: Catherine Brown unopposed.

Vice Chair, Membership, Campaigns, Fundraising: no nominees.

Local Organizing: Zander Collier unopposed. (Note: This position is not called for in the LPSCC Bylaws. It therefore is a "working committee" chair position, and as such is supposed to be by Excom appointment.)

LPC Representative: Allen Rice over Mark Hinkle. An objection was raised by your reporter as to the validity of having a straight election for this position. The LPSCC Bylaws states that it is a position to be appointed by the Excom and ratified by the Central Committee, and if not ratified, the Central Committee must elect someone else. But the Chair ruled that a straight election like any other, excepting that the Excom's appointee is an automatic nominee, would be acceptable and called for a vote. His ruling passed. As with the vote for Newsletter Chair, no provision had been made for secret voting by written ballot as required by the Bylaws. Unlike the newsletter vote, in which Rudin and Hinkle were asked to leave the room during the vote, this vote was taken with the contestants present.

In brief preelection presentations, incumbent Hinkle described his long service and various titles in the LP.. Rice was announced by the chair as the LPSCC Excom's appointee to the position. Rice said that if he had the job, he'd carry the wishes of the LPSC to the state, and news of the state back to the LPSC while also pushing his own ideas, though those might not necessarily match the views of a majority of the LPSC. A question was asked as to what the Excom vote had been. The Chair gave the result as 4 to 1 in favor of Rice.

Endorsement of Candidates:

All were endorsed excepting Jon Webster. Mike Laursen said he ran to give a choice other than Webster and made a motion to repudiate Webster's candidacy. It passed in a very close vote after several recounts.

Questionable Practices In Conduct Of Meeting:

There appeared to be some questionable practices in the conduct of the meeting. Two people were allowed to speak for what was tantamount to a dual candidacy for newsletter chair, compounded by allowing one of them, Brierly, who stood to gain \$125 per month from Hinkle's election, to vote - a conflict of interest. Also clear favoritism was in play when, contrary to the Bylaws, the Chair ruled that his close friend Hinkle could run against Excom appointee, Rice, in a head-to-head election. Asking for ratification of appointee Rice per the Bylaws would have forced voters to first consider rejecting Rice before Hinkle could be elected - a less likely outcome than it would be in a straight election as ruled by the Chair. The fact that the ruling was challenged, and upheld by a vote doesn't make it right. Without notice a vote of the Central Committee can't change the Bylaws (Also it takes a super majority), therefore it can't override them. Fortunately Rice won, making an appeal to the judicial committee unnecessary.



Allen Hacker
2004 Chair



Mike Laursen
2004 Secretary



Allen Rice
2004 Treasurer
& LPC Rep



Zander Collier
2004 Local
Organizing Chair



John Webster

STATUS OF PUBLICITY PROJECTS

by Marv Rudin, 2003 Publicity Chair

See the October 2003 Santa Clara Libertarian, pg. 4 for fuller descriptions of these most time and cost effective party publicizing vehicles I could come up with, aside from the Libertarian Alternative cable access tapes from LPC Vice Chair Mark Selzer .

Vehicle Signs

UV-tolerant inks technology to print and offer signs to you members, including your own sign ideas, isn't ready yet. It requires injection of the special ink into empty ink jet cartridges, and I haven't yet developed a capability to do it. Hopefully in February...



\$Bill Ad Messages

Thus far Mike Laursen has printed and passed out 100 bills, and I've done just 19 as of this writing. Only 2 hits have occurred to date, both shortly after Mike's first 7 bills were put into circulation. Whether hits are produced or not it's an extremely cost effective way to advertise the party. I still haven't had time yet to get my printer program and ink-jet printer bill-holder set up again before printing more with varying messages. A few members have volunteered thus far to distribute the bills. I saw Mike Laursen stamping Zander Collier's \$20 bills at my table at the LPSCC Convention. Any of you others willing to help pass out stamped bills? It's just a simple matter of buying bills from me or Mike - dollar for dollar - and spending them as you would normally spend cash.



Radio Ads

Need to shop small local radio stations for their lowest rates during off-prime time, and to shop voice-over people to do a final polished version. The reader can check out the draft wording at <http://www.lpty.org/radioad1.txt>, and maybe suggest improvements. Will take time to record and polish. May have in April unless volunteer help can speed it up.

LIFE Cards

If you, the reader is willing to pass them, I still have several thousand cards (Printed for use during the Mt. View Energy Tax Initiative drive last year, but not used because they state Democrats are taxers, Republicans are anti-freedom.)



Op Ed Articles

Current plan is still to push a yet to be final-composed version of the "Political Landscape Chart" (see online at <http://www.lpty.org/nolan.html>) as an op ed article that can be submitted by one of you Libertarians living in one of the small weekly community newspaper districts. I expect to have it ready by the end of February.

Cable Access Shows

I have been asking for confirmation of Mark Selzer's Libertarian Alternative tapes actually playing in San Jose and Mt. View. Member Linden Hsu wrote me that he saw the program in San Jose, and apparently was well impressed. He offered to donate to support them. To find times when they are scheduled to be played in your city (presently San Jose, and Mt. View, with more to come), click on http://www.flashhome.com/TV_Times/tv_times.html.

Freedom Van

Hiram Pierce has graciously volunteered his RV as a test vehicle to try sign ideas where he travels around the county pursuing his artistic endeavors.. Details still haven't been worked out with Hiram for a proposal to the LPSCC Excom to fund the project.



JANUARY EXCOM MEETING SETS TABLE FOR LPSCC 2004 CONVENTION

MEETINGS

Internal business meetings of the local party

By Marv Rudin aided by meeting minutes by Mike Laursen

The January LPSCC Executive Committee Meeting was held 3 January 10am - Noon at the School of Choice, 3800 Blackford Ave., San Jose, with the agenda primarily focussed on preparing for business at the LPSCC's upcoming Annual Meeting (also commonly referred to as its "Convention") 5 days later, especially required appointments of the various LPC reps - to the LPC Excom, and to the LPC Convention Platform and Program committees. Opening the meeting with Acting Secretary Allen Hacker missing due to illness, Mike Laursen was appointed Acting Secretary. Also no minutes from the December 2003 meeting were available to be read. Present were Strong, Larsen, Umphress, Newman (with Hacker proxy), Hinkle, Collier, Rudin, and guest, John Webster.



Meeting Begins Outside School Office

Dennis Umphress reported that Allen Hacker is now actively maintaining the LPSCC website and said to let Allen know if changes are needed to the website.

Dennis Umphress motioned that the LPSCC buy a gift basket for Gary Wesley in appreciation for his pro bono legal help in getting a modified version of the Libertarian arguments authored by Hinkle on Measure E accepted by the court. Hinkle said the originally submitted argument was not accepted because the Gavilan College District's proponents challenged in court by obtaining a writ of mandamus, the accuracy of facts given in support. The motion passed unanimously.

Allen Rice and Mark Hinkle were nominated for appointment as LPSCC representative to the LPC ExCom. Each gave his qualifications. Hinkle told of his long background in the LP and many offices held. Rudin said that as our representative, Hinkle had never informed us of issues to be voted or asked members of the Excom or the LPSCC for their opinions. Rice said he would fill that void by informing local members and asking for inputs. He was appointed by a vote of 4 to 1. At that point Allen Rice became a voting member of the LPSCC-EC and Mark Hinkle lost his vote.

Appointment of LPSCC First Alternate Representative to the LPC Executive Committee: Allen Rice nominated Mark Hinkle, and he was approved by voice vote.

Appointment of LPSCC Second Alternate Representative: Dennis Umphress nominated Mike Laursen and he was approved by voice vote.

Appointment of LPSCC Representative to the LPC Program Committee: Zander Collier nominated Allen Rice and he was approved by voice vote

Appointment of LPSCC Representative to the LPC Platform Committee: Dennis Umphress nominated M Carling and he was approved by voice vote.

Dennis Umphress reported on the ballot pamphlet arguments (see story page 1) .

Regarding the fund raising and LPSCC Convention announcement letter authored by Fund Raising Chair Mike Laursen, Strong reported that his expenses were \$103.60 (280 recipients x \$0.37 each), and that to date just 10 dinner reservation were in, but based on calls inviting members, attendance of 30 was expected. Laursen suggested getting a Libertarian themed hat to pass around for donations at the convention. On Rudin's suggestion, the LPSCC-EC recommends to Hacker that he provide an easy way, on the LPSCC website, to make a Convention reservation and make a donation or pledge at the same time. Laursen reported that he has tried to reach local automobile dealer, Glenn Hartzheim, who is a registered Libertarian (apparently to approach him as a prospective donor or activist).

In a discussion on how to handle candidate endorsements at the annual meeting on Jan. 8th, Allen Rice said candidates should be asked to answer a set of questions first or endorsement would be frivolous. Umphress agreed that questions would be formulated and emailed to our candidates to be answered before the Annual Meeting. Zander Collier moved that the LPSCC-EC recommend at the LPSCC Convention that the LPSCC Central Committee negatively endorse John Webster. The motion was not seconded.

Umphress moved that the LPSCC-EC adopt a standing resolution authorizing the Judicial Committee to give up to 3 awards, with each award given an annual budget equal to the current LP current basic membership dues. Seconded and PASSED by voice vote, with opposition by Marv Rudin, objected to awards without any criterion.

Ray Strong suggested that Mike Laursen (who has been funding them) ask San Mateo LP region leaders if they would object to any efforts we make to get the "Libertarian Alternative" aired in San Mateo County.

Umphress suggested that LPSCC Convention attendees be warned that delegates to the LPC Convention will be required to pay \$20/day to access the floor.

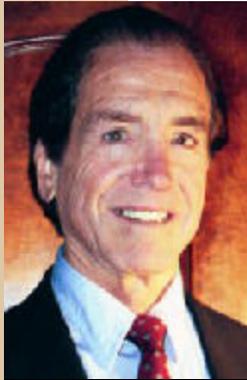


Moving as School of Choice Office is opened

GROWING OF LPSCC VIRTUALLY IGNORED

REGISTERED LIBERTARIANS STILL UNDER 1% OF VOTERS AND SLOWLY SHRINKING...

By Marv Rudin, 1998 - 2000 Chair



Marvin B. Rudin

In 2001, when I asked the political editor of the San Jose Mercury how to get coverage of LP activities and candidates he said our registrations are too small to justify coverage. Registrations were his measure of the LP's importance. When our candidates appear on fora with old party candidates, people don't listen with the same interest to our candidates. Their arguments may sound good to people, but no doubt know our registration base is too small for our

date:	08/27/99	02/10/00	08/28/00	02/09/01	08/06/01	01/08/02	04/24/03	01/30/04
LPSCC reg libn #	6067	6343	6611	6996	6040	6421	6637	6496
SCCounty reg #	705,000	710,745	744,440	799,407	802,116	730,701	773,485	774,326
%LPSCC reg-libn	0.717%	0.752%	0.754%	0.750%	0.753%	0.742%	0.716%	0.710%

Percentage of voters registered Libertarian has still not broken through 1% and is going down since mid 2000

candidate to have a chance to win, and so dismiss them from serious consideration. The following chart shows up-to-date what our registrations as a percentage of all registered voters has been over the past 4-1/2 years.

LP registrations in our county are not close to breaking through even 1%. Yet in the last 7 years, growth as a priority problem has been virtually ignored, despite my making every effort imaginable to bring it to the attention of party members, first as Chair for 3 years, and then as Newsletter Chair and Editor for 3 years.. It's unconscionable that the party has made no significant effort to increase our registered voter base despite the fact that polls indicate we probably have as many as 150,000 voting age residents of Santa Clara County who would score Libertarian on the famous (among Libertarians, that is..) 2-D political quiz. We don't go to register new voters at high schools, or new citizen swear ins, or try to reregister likely Libertarians at gun shows and NRA meetings, or at medical marijuana meetings, or at other high propensity organizations' gatherings. And we don't get the few registered Libertarians we have managed to acquire to display LP signs, hand out literature, and ask friends and relatives to register.

Before we can think of being taken seriously as a political party, we need registration numbers at least 10 times what we have at present. Even if registrations were growing at 20% a year, it would take many years to increase 10 to 1. And even then we'd have just 7-1/2% of the vote - enough to make the old parties and the media take notice, and call the LP a "spoiler" in many elections, but still not enough for our candidates to win the vast majority of the time. But at that point we'd get media coverage, and most of the aforementioned 150,000 "small L" libertarians would finally be aware that the LP represents their viewpoint. It is this scenario that I had hoped, when I decided to get active in 1997, would be the vision that many of our LPSCC members would take seriously and do their share to help accomplish. That hasn't happened. I literally haven't encountered even one member who takes it seriously enough to put a priority on it with respect to his or her activities for the party. Instead, anyone who shows any willingness to be active is pressed to run LPSCC Excom and/or to run for or get appointed to public office or to support candidates running for office. Occasionally OPH booths are manned, and perhaps 100 or even 200 folks prospects score Libertarian on the quiz - hardly making a ripple on our need to grow registrations greatly from the present 5500. So why is the crying need for a huge boost in registrations never discussed. I think its for two reasons. The first is because our officers and activists get caught up in the administrative tasks that keep the party alive - you might say in survival mode, holding meetings and running candidates and writing ballot arguments, the one highly cost and time effective activity that at least keeps the party name in front of voters in a serious way, if only in the cause of holding the line on taxes, unfortunately not in the cause of civil liberties. But if these activities are not balanced with an active registration growth program, it's tantamount to engaging in form without substance as far as building the party's future is concerned. The second reason we never discuss the lack of registrations growth as a serious problem is, in my opinion, that it's not "politically correct" in the minds of the "Old Guard". I believe they fear discouraging new and relatively uncommitted members and registrants, and causing them to give up and drop out. So instead they prefer to feed them a diet of escape-from-reality puff pieces in our internal publications - featuring meager nonpartisan political successes, telling them of celebrity libertarians, discussing Libertarian principles - what we'd do if we ever had the power (which we'll never have if we keep this up!), and we invite them to meetings and conventions to rub elbows with people who share their views on most issues. In addition, amazingly, we often invite speakers who share their views on just one issue and sometimes no other! I still remember wondering why Arianna Huffington was a speaker at the LP National Convention in Anaheim. And this year I see that we'll have an anti 3 Strikes speaker at the LPC Convention. To date I've never heard of one of these people we invite to speak to us Libertarians deciding to register Libertarian. Their intent is always to proselyte Libertarians to join their cause. I note this pattern when on two occasions in 1998 members invited two Republicans - a mayoral candidate, and a congressional candidate to speak at our monthly meetings at Cocos. Neither ever came close to becoming a Libertarian. Of course, the way to do it is to send our speakers to talk to other groups. But that'd take hard work and a strong desire to grow the LP...

NEWS BRIEFS ON TOPICS OF LOCAL LP INTEREST

Reported By Marv Rudin

- **LIBERTARIAN ALTERNATIVE TAPES** - Mike Laursen, who has been funding the "Libertarian Alternative" cable access show in San Jose and Mountain View, needs sponsors for other cities. He said "Being a sponsor is really easy. Typically, you just have to fill out a form stating that you live in the city and want to 'sponsor' the program. Don't worry about providing the financial support. The LPSCC can come up with that." If interested in sponsoring it in your city, drop Mike an e-mail: LP@Laursen.org.
- **LIEBERMAN REAPPOINTED "RENT CZAR"**: Member Scott Lieberman reported in December: "The San Jose City Council has reappointed me to another three year term on the San Jose Advisory Commission on Rents, starting in January." He is presently chair of the commission.
- **SPIELBAUER SCHEDULED FOR HEARING & TRIAL**: LPSCC member Thomas Spielbauer was scheduled to stand trial in February on a misdemeanor charge of misleading the court. Although the judge of the court (Teilh) has testified that Spielbauer did no wrong, Spielbauer was also discharged as a long time Santa Clara County Deputy Public Defender because of the misdemeanor charge. Spielbauer appealed his dismissal to the county personnel board.. Hearings on his appeal began December 17 and extended into January. The case appears to be a vendetta by the District Attorney and the DA's employee, the Public Defender, because Spielbauer has been attempting to make the Public Defender position elective.
- **HACKER MAKES BID FOR LPC NETICULUM**: Allen Hacker offered to appear at LPC Excom meeting in Southern California to present a proposal to do LPC's website by his "neticular" approach. "Neticular," which is a term Hacker has coined by combining the words "net" (for internet) with "reticulum" to describe a system for a multi level organization's websites describes the system he has developed for his lawfulgov.org program, and which he says would work well for the LPC and the national LP. He says it is constructed to make it easy for sub organizations to customize their sites using a database, and retain standard utilitarian functions. He requested that the LPSCC cover his expenses, but after learning that our reps cover their own expenses, Hacker arranged for LPC Northern Vice Chair Lawrence Samuels to convey his proposal to the meeting. The bid was lost to LPC Excom member Bruce Dovner who is well known by LPC Excom members.
- **GLUT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN SILICON VALLEY**: The SJMN reported "In Silicon Valley, the nation's least affordable housing market, hundreds of subsidized apartments built during the boom are sitting empty because developers can't find seniors and other low-income tenants to rent them. The main reason: Rents in the region have plunged as the economy sagged, allowing some low-income renters to find deals nearly as good or better on the open market." At which Adrian Moore of libertarian oriented Reason magazine laughed and commented "The irony is too rich. The article misses the key lesson. The housing market is complex and changes fast, and attempts by state and local governments to predict housing needs and tastes usually go astray."

(Rudin out as Newsletter Chair - Continued from page 1)

specifying exactly what his timeliness in publishing would be. He then said that to do his editing work he'd arranged to hire LPSCC member and current LPC newsletter editor Elizabeth Briery for \$125/mo, and then he asked for added time for her to speak as if they were running as a pair, an unprecedented arrangement at annual elections. With the Chair allowing it, she went to the dais to speak. She also handed out a formatted example of what page 1 of her newsletter publication would look like.

Blindsided by this surprise dual candidacy, to buy time Rudin joked that his newsletter must be good if it takes two opponents to compete against him for the office. He then said he was proud of his record of doing a quality full color newsletter every month for 36 months, one that may be the most impressive newsletter ever done by a county LP in the country, carrying all significant party news and opinions, and published every single month for 3 years - not normal in the past. And, he said, he did it while conserving funds by publishing electronically monthly, and only printing and mailing quarterly thereby keeping the cost well under \$1500 per year, while Hinkle's and Briery's proposal would cost over \$5000/yr - more than the total LPSCC income for last year. He added that opponent Hinkle had cost the party \$50,000 over a ten year period for an unneeded office that Rudin said he'd fought to get the party out from under in order to conserve funds for use in promoting and growing the party, and that he'd simultaneously reduced printing and mailing in favor of web publishing for further savings toward that same end. He explained that when he was Chair from 1998 and 2000, the LPSCC had grown to over 600 members and income of about \$10,000/yr, but now its down to about 350 and \$4500, making it difficult to justify paper printing when most members now have computers and internet service.

Maybe Rudin didn't make his financial concerns clear enough, or maybe Hinkle had lined up enough voters in advance, but 18 members voted for Hinkle and 9 members voted for Rudin. Assuming the 2004 annual income will be the same as 2003's, deficit spending just to cover the newsletter, with all other expenditures adding to the deficit, had been approved by just 5% of the LPSCC Central Committee. Without any discussion of how to pay for it, 18 folks had made a commitment for the silent majority of 350 who weren't there, many of whom have written to thank your reporter for his work on the SCL newsletter during the past 3 years.

(Rudin farewell letter - Continued from page 2)

did I want this demotion from Chair, and why was it so important to me to bring you the unvarnished truth? Because the cause means more to me than does status. And being a problem solver, I thought if you members were made aware of our problems instead of being fed a steady diet of phony feel-good news and articles that hide any unpleasant truths about the party's inadequacies, some of you other problem solvers might step up to the plate and help turn things in a better direction. I had learned that I couldn't do it as Chair. After 3 years as Chair, talking to the 15 to 30 members who typically show up at meetings, I wanted to reach all members with the message I'd been unable to get across as Chair - the message that our LP registrations desperately need to grow and that yet there are practically no activities toward that purpose. Using the newsletter to influence and persuade, I wanted to try to induce members to strike a balance between political activities and growth producing activities. Seeing little or no LP growth was why I became active in the party in the first place. I hoped some of you would feel the same. I saw a small degree of success when I was Chair from 1998 to 2000, with LPSCC registrations going above 6000 for the first time. But that was far short of what we need to make a difference in the political arena. We need our county LP registrations to be at least 50,000. And at the rate we're going that won't happen in a hundred years!

If I hadn't managed to achieve it in 3 years as Newsletter Chair, why did I want to continue in that role? Because 2004 would bring in a new Chair who told me he understands the desperate need for registration growth, to replace an Old Guard Chair who'd paid absolutely no attention to growth for the past 3 years, and had pushed anyone willing to volunteer into either political or administrative activities. Now that the leader of the old guard is firmly in control of the LPSCC's information publishing, you can expect to see the kind of thing found in the LPC's newsletter - puff pieces unrelated to party growth, general discussion by the Chair and the Newsletter Chair, and maybe columns and articles by nonLibertarian leaders of organizations with Libertarian supported causes (BTW, why do Libertarians invite such speakers or writers to address us? I've never heard of any of them registering Libertarian!).

So the bottom line is that I'll now be dropping out of active participation in the party.

Maybe I could have been Publicity Chair again. The old guard types never seem to want that behind-the-scenes service job. But I decided that a much better way to spend my time and help the party get valuable publicity without attending those boring Excom meetings would be to write a book describing what I've learned about the LP in the past 7+ years of being active. Undoubtedly more Libertarians and "small L" libertarians will learn about the LP when I appear on talk shows touting my book than will ever pay attention to anything I say in our local newsletter.

In the meanwhile, while I'm working on the book and not travelling around the country on talk shows, if any of you guys or gals encourage me, I will make available a web page where you (and maybe I) can write our uncensored opinions about the local LP, whether about its operations or about local government issues.

Also, if you have any ideas for projects, are interested in helping with or spearheading growth or publicity projects, just email me your ideas (rudin@lpty.org) for posting on "Marv's LPSCC Opinion Page" or you can ask for my opinion and advice on any Libertarian-related project you have in mind. In case you'd like to talk, my phone is 408-738-8204 (work day) or 408-736-5626 (night and weekend).

Best regards and hope to hear from many of you,

Marv Rudin

COMING EVENTS...

Central Committee Meetings: Next scheduled for April 9th (Location to be announced)

Executive Committee Meetings: Normally 1st Saturday of month, 10:00am
Next ones at School of Choice, Feb. 7th & Mar. 6th
Located at 3800 Blackford Ave., San Jose, CA. 95117

Speakers Meetings: 2nd Thursday in months without central committee meeting
Meeting Room, Cocos Restaurant, Sunnyvale (Oakmead Parkway & Lawrence Expressway)
Next is IFF meeting: *Thursday 12 Feb.* 7pm for dinner, meeting at 8pm (see announcement pg. 1)

WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT. EARN \$\$\$ FOR THE LPSCC

Santa Clara County is always looking for poll workers. You get a front row seat at the elections and \$85 to \$115 per day, which you can choose to have paid to the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County. The county also pays for the use of garages and other spaces as polling places.

Call 408-299-POLL or see page 14 of your October 7th Sample Ballot, or click on

<http://sccvote.org/>

to read SC County Registrar of Voters' "Poll Workers Needed" information page on the web.

(Anti-tax Ballot Arguments - Continued from page 1)

Regional Measure 2: SANTA CLARA COUNTY wants to be part of the SF bay area wide \$1 bridge toll increase to improve travel infrastructure. Mike Arata, of Alliance of Contra Costa Taxpayers, is coordinating this argument. Click on [Click on ROV-Measures](#) to see the arguments for and against Measure 2 and who signed them.

Measure E: GAVILAN COLLEGE DISTRICT wants to sell \$108 Million in bonds under Prop 39 to fix up schools. Gavilan Board Sued to force a revision of what they allege were untrue elements in the LP/SVTA arguments. They won on some points but had to pay ROV costs and their atty. fees. 55% to pass. Mark Hinkle is the primary author of this argument.. Click on [VoteNoOnE.us](#) or [ROV-Measures](#) to see the arguments for and against Measure E and who signed them.

The initial E argument alleged supporting facts that were successfully challenged in court by Gavilan College for accuracy. This could have knocked our argument off the ballot. But with the pro bono help of experienced "government watch" attorney Gary Wesley, author Hinkle managed to still get it on the ballot by agreeing to change to more accurate supporting "facts" acceptable to the judge. For his help, Wesley was given a gift basket in appreciation by the LPSCC Excom.

Measure G: UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT wants a \$195 per year parcel tax to avoid closing schools and minimize further reduction in staff. Zander Collier is the primary author of this argument. 2/3 to pass. Click on [VoteNoOnG.us](#) or [ROV-Measures](#) to see the arguments for and against Measure G and who signed them.

Measure J: MOUNTAIN VIEW-WHISMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT wants a \$75 to \$600 per year parcel tax, depending on square footage, to provide resources to schools and retain teachers/staff. Allen Hacker was the primary author of this argument. Both he and Mike Laursen wrote rebuttal argument drafts, from which Rudin took portions to compile a final rebuttal that everyone agreed was more convincing. 2/3 to pass. Click on [VoteNoOnJ.us](#) or [ROV-Measures](#) to see the arguments for and against Measure J and who signed them.

Measure I: LOMA PRIETA JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT wants to continue the Gann limit increase approved by the voters in 2000 so they can continue to use the \$150 per year parcel tax to improve and maintain the quality of education in the district. Mark Hinkle is the primary author of this argument. 50% to pass. Click on [VoteNoOnI.us](#) or [ROV-Measures](#) to see the arguments for and against Measure I and who signed them.

Measure H: CAMBRIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT wants continue the Gann limit increase approved by the voters in 2001 so they can continue to use the Measure A funds to maintain improved instructional quality. Zander Collier is the primary author of this argument. 50% to pass. Click on [VoteNoOnH.us](#) or [ROV-Measures](#) to see the arguments for and against Measure H and who signed them.

MY LAST ADVICE TO THOSE WHO WANT THE PARTY TO HAVE FUTURE SUCCESS

With a new Newsletter Chair coming in with different ideas, this my last opportunity to bring to your attention my ideas for moving the "LPSCC culture" toward placing a priority-on-registrations-growth until about 55,000 registrations (instead of 5500) is reached. So in this last issue of 2003 I want to

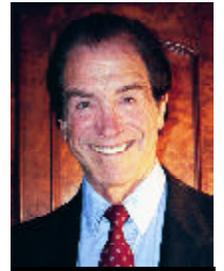
propose some changes to party structure and operations in two areas, (A) Bylaw additions and changes; and (B) Growth Activities.

A. Proposed Bylaw Additions And Changes

1. List as separate positions, leadership of each needed functional activity. For example instead of just "Publicity Chair" recognize that each method of getting publicity should be the responsibility of a different member of the party. For example, (a) Asking and guiding members to submit letters to the editor; or (b) Managing development and placement of test radio ads. (see list proposed at LPSCC Annual meeting in 2001 at pg. 4 of November 2001 newsletter (Click on [link](#))).
2. Prevent "stealth candidacies by a rule that no candidates not announcing in the official meeting announcement can run unless no candidates have announced for the office.
3. No secret meetings or electronic discussions by most or all of the LPSCC Excom not accessible to members (similar to CA's Brown Act). [Note: my request to monitor the LPSCC egroup (on Yahoo) was recently turned down by the new Excom]
4. Candidates for LPSCC offices must submit a statement of their intentions and why they should receive the members' votes, that members have time to read before voting.
5. Focus the responsibility of the Newsletter Chair, which presently is to provide "information about the party", to emphasizing reporting of local activities of Libertarians that promote and grow the party as well a description of internal meetings and affairs. If promotional and growth activities are more recognized, members are more likely to get interested in doing them.

B. Growth Activities

1. At least half the LPSCC income should be devoted to efficient methods of marketing and selling prospects on the party, including support of activities like polling to find out why people registered LP and what prospects think, advertising and promotion, and asking people and making it easy for them to register LP.
2. Keep testing different messages printed on \$1 bills. Poll new registrants to see if they were influenced by seeing the \$1 ads.
3. Offer a choice of free (but donation requested) car signs - window cling, body sticker, magnetic, or license holder, to all LP members AND registered voters, after first testing to learn which signs get best response.
4. Try small scale bulk email and bulk fax advertising, and if effective and no firestorm of complaints, gradually increase program coverage.
5. Develop and run small cost radio ad tests, and if any ad gets a good response, move it to bigger stations and primer times.
6. Phone and find Libertarians in each cable area to "sponsor" putting Mark Selzer's "Libertarian Alternative" tapes on their local cable access channel.
7. Buy or lease and advertise the party with a Freedom Van, by asking 52 Libertarians to place it at a busy visible location near their home for 7 days each, once a year (save some of its cost and use it to conveniently store and transport party outreach fixtures and promotional materials during outreach events).
8. Try to balance political and growth activities, by a policy of asking about the same number of Libertarians to be engaged in each.
9. Schedule separate internal meetings for planning and discussing political and growth activities and projects, so those more interested in one don't dilute or interfere with discussion of the other.
10. Establish a policy of more virtual meetings by email for more efficient and thorough discussion of party business, and minimizing time and energy consumed in-person meetings.
11. The newsletter to carry mainly news of party political and growth-promoting operations, not Libertarian principles (Instead, regularly give links to their sources, and explain the policy).
12. Test ways to "sell" new citizens on registering Libertarian at high schools, colleges, and naturalization swear-ins.
13. Poll registered "Decline to State" voters, and unregistered voting age citizens to learn which of them or which sub group have a higher percentage of small L libertarians, and if a pattern is found that makes it cost efficient, solicit registrations from the high percentage sub groups.
14. Test DMV tables again (see July '99 newsletter, pgs. 2 & 6) and test a COAP initiative in conjunction with a friendly coalition.
15. Regularly sample poll public for recognition of LP name, and if they know what it stands for.



Marv Rudin
Editor

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Chair	Allen Hacker	(650) 964-4488	allen@lawfulgov.org
Vice Chair	(vacant)		
Secretary	Mike Laursen	(650) 969-2368	LP@laursen.org
Treasurer	Allen Rice	(408)267-1142	allenmontr@earthlink.net
Membership	(vacant)		
Campaign	(vacant)		
Publicity	(vacant)		
Fundraising	(vacant)		
Activities	Catherine Brown	(408) 723-8711	
Newsletter	Mark Hinkle	(408) 778-2444	mark@garlic.com
Local Organizing	Zander Collier	(408) 369-1866	zcollier@mailblocks.com
Outreach Events	(vacant)		
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This is the publication of the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County, a non-profit political organization.

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY



of Santa Clara County

P.O. Box 60171 Sunnyvale, CA 94088-0171

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

- \$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
- VISA or Master Card or Discovery or E-Gold (circle one)

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder Name: _____

Signature: _____

- New
- Renew

