

The Libertarian Party of California

LPC Monthly

OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Operation Breakthrough 2.0

*Make a Difference.
Run for Office!*



Elected Official
Saratoga's John Mehaffey

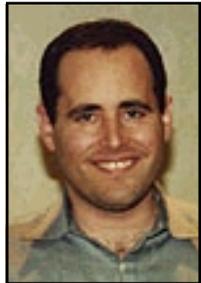
**2002 LPC
Convention Review**

From the Chair

Successful organizations focus on influencing the outside world. Unsuccessful organizations focus on internal issues.

If you weren't at the convention this year, you missed out. We're becoming successful.

In previous years, we spent every day of our convention focusing on internal housekeeping, such as changing the bylaws and updating the platform. This year was different. We brought in professionals to teach Libertarians how to communicate our ideas and how to win local elections — it was a hit.



Aaron Starr

A highlight of this convention was our banquet speaker, Mendocino County District Attorney Norm Vroman, an elected Libertarian who prosecutes real criminals and refuses to take legal action against victimless criminals, such as medical marijuana patients. The man spent time in prison for refusing to file an income tax return and the voters still elected him. Can you imagine all 58 counties having D.A.'s like Norm Vroman? I sure can!

Operation Breakthrough 2.0

In 2000, I designed *Operation Breakthrough* — and a breakthrough it was! The concept is simple. Years ago, I noticed many elective offices in the state are so low profile that there aren't enough candidates to fill them. The local county board of supervisors cancels the election and appoints someone. If we could only get enough Libertarians to run for these seats, some would win by default.

We compiled information on "special district" (water boards, park districts, etc.) elections in November 2000. We created a list of 10,000 registered Libertarians who live in those districts and mailed a professionally designed letter to each, asking them to run. We followed up with phone calls using a professional telemarketing operation, eventually reaching around half of our prospects. Over 500 expressed interest in running. From then until the filing deadline, the LPC staff followed up with each of them, answering their questions and encouraging each to file.

We hoped 100 people would file for office and five would win.

Over 160 people filed, with six Libertarians winning by default and eight beating another candidate in November: 14 winners in all!

In 2001, we did it again. However, there aren't as many elections in an odd year — we sent a letter to half as many as our first Operation.

The result: 86 candidates, seven winners: five of them by default; two beating other candidates.

The cost: \$125 per candidate or \$1,500 per Libertarian victory.

Operation Breakthrough 2.0 will build upon the success of the last two years. We can scale this project up to contact 35,000 registered Libertarians, find 500 candidates and elect 40 new officeholders this year. This depends on you. It's all about money. Your donation is our budget. We can spend \$75,000 on this project before we experience significantly diminishing returns. We *could* spend a lot less, but we wouldn't have as many victories.

I lose sleep trying to figure out who can help fund this worthwhile project. Maybe that person is you.

Every \$125 spent gave us one more candidate and every \$1,500 brought us one more elected Libertarian. Your contribution may be the reason why we elect our next Norm Vroman. Or our next ten Norms. The more Libertarians we elect this year, the closer we will be to a Libertarian country. It's up to you. How fast do you want to get there?

Do you believe in building upon success? Do you believe in getting results for the money you put into this movement? Do you believe electing Libertarians is what our party should be doing? If so, stop what you're doing right now. I'm serious. Don't read anything else in this newspaper. Right this minute, send me an e-mail or give me a call. Let's talk about how many newly elected Libertarians you're willing to fund. **LPC**

— Aaron Starr, CPA
Chairman
Libertarian Party of California
starrcpa@pacbell.net
805-583-3308 home

OPERATION BREAKTHROUGH 2.0

It's time. Time to stand. Time to act. Time to run.

Run in place? Run amok? Nope, none of those. Run for office. Participate in the most successful Libertarian election project in the nation — *Operation Breakthrough*.

What is it?

Elective offices are either *partisan* — we run candidates under the Libertarian Party name, or *non-partisan* — candidates do not run under a party name. *Operation Breakthrough* is a project to run non-partisan candidates for office, and win.

There are about 10,000 non-partisan elective offices in California. They include park districts, fire districts, hospital districts. It costs nothing to file for non-partisan office, and can cost no money to run. In 2000, Kate O'Brien ran for Simi Valley Park and Rec office. She spent zero dollars. Her opponent spent



Kate O'Brien

\$30,000. Kate won.

While Kate's campaign cost her nothing, *Operation Breakthrough* **does** require financial resources.

Operation Breakthrough 1.0

In 2000, current LPC Chair Aaron Starr began *Operation Breakthrough*. On his own initiative, Aaron raised \$20,000. He arranged to send out a letter to registered Libertarians and a follow-up phone call by a hired calling center. The result: 182 non-partisan candidates. The final result: 14 non-partisan candidates elected.

The cost: about \$125 to find each candidate, and \$1,500 per winning candidate.

Would you pay \$1,500 for a winning candidate?

Operation Breakthrough 1.0 winners:

Kern County, Teri Kahn, Director of the Tehachapi Valley Health Care District; **Placer County**, Erik Henrikson, Director Tahoe City Public Utility District; **Sacramento County**, Joseph Corey, Galt Fire Protection District; **Sacramento County**, Michael McFarland, Fulton-El Camino Rec & Park District; **San Diego County**, Linda Strom, Lakeside Community Planning Area board; **San Diego County**, Robert R. Mendez, Vista Irrigation District; **Santa Barbara County**, Greg D. Flores, Santa Maria Water Conservation District; **Ventura County**, Kate O'Brien, Simi Rec & Park District, won by three votes; **Orange County**, Geoff Braun, Placentia Library District; **Santa Clara County**, Gilbert Carroll, Guadalupe Conservation District; **Santa Clara County**, Gary Molle, Guadalupe Conservation District; **Sonoma County**, John Dennison, Alexander Valley Unified School District; **San Diego County**, Ray English, Descanso Planning District; **San Mateo County**, Kelly McKnight, La Honda Unified School District

Operation Breakthrough 1.5

Originally, Aaron Starr was not going to run *Operation Breakthrough* in 2001 (not as many elective offices are available in odd years). However, the Executive Committee and Aaron decided to move forward anyway. They dubbed the effort *Operation Breakthrough 1.5*. Historically the Libertarian Party of California runs six or eight candidates in odd year elections. Last year, directly due to *Operation Breakthrough 1.5*, we ran eight-six candidates! Seven candidates won.

Conclusion: the *Operation Breakthrough* system is extraordinarily successful.

NOW: Operation Breakthrough 2.0

Libertarians want to

expand and enhance this project. We want to run 400-500 non-partisan candidates. This will be the first Libertarian project of this magnitude nationwide. If successful, we will elect thirty to forty Libertarians to office. Following the same successful formula, we will need to send a letter to 35,000 registered Libertarians and follow up with phone calls.

Operation Breakthrough 2.0 will cost: \$75,000 (\$150 to find each candidate * 500 candidates).

How Can I Help?

First, run for office.

Please contact me now. Modern technology....I'm only an email or phone call away. Contact David Molony 818-782-8400; email director@ca.lp.org. It is important for the party, and for freedom. Decide to run. Today. Now. Take that first step by contacting me.

Second, if you cannot run, contribute financially. It takes time and money. Your time to run for office. Your contribution to help find others to run for office.

If you have never run for office, and want to, now is the time. Many Libertarians' biggest fear - you won't have enough time. However, you can put as much or as little time in as you wish. As illustrated above, Kate O'Brien spent no money, no time, and won. We need you to file. At least half of all races are won because no one files to run - you win automatically. In Humboldt county alone, there were close to 10 seats that had no one file. The county board of supervisors appoint people to those positions. Most positions only require one or two meetings per month.

Many of these uncontested offices have multimillion dollar budgets and affect lives dramatically. So run.

However, if you cannot run, please help fund our efforts. One Libertarian donated \$500 towards the effort last week. What can YOU contribute?

If you can afford \$25,000, please send it in today. If you can afford \$500, please send it in. For those that can afford it, I call on all Libertarians to send in \$100 today.

(continued page 6)

John Mehaffey Saratoga City Council Member

By Zach Vowell

For the past couple of years, not only has Libertarian John Mehaffey served on Saratoga's City Council, but he has also been the mayor.

Saratoga's local govern-



John Mehaffey

ment prescribes that the council itself vote for the top city office, and without the usual partisan wrangling that normally detracts from Libertarian causes, it is encouraging to see those Libertarian principles gain trust within the community. The result: Mehaffey has consistently applied those Libertarian ideas to concrete issues, and bettered his city for many years to come.

Even though the council

recently voted in a new mayor, Mehaffey has come a long way since his first term in public office. "It was eye-opening how easy it is to spend other people's money", he said. Of course, this easy accessibility to public funds was not what nurtured Mehaffey's political action. Rather, it was in response to a lawsuit from the city over pollution in the Saratoga Creek. He helped others campaign against the lawsuit and other similar measures that would convert commercially zoned land near the creek to residential land. Once in office, he advocated a slow growth initiative titled Measure G. This proposal, which passed in the 2000 November elections, placed a moratorium on any zoning conversions until 2002.

He has tackled other issues in his tenure, such as the "easy" ones like eminent domain. But he doesn't try to be too proactive when it comes to wielding government power. As with issues like eminent domain, he is more interested, as are all Libertarians, in reigning in those powers. And he likes the way things are set up: "It's

interesting how hard it is to get things accomplished. You're hemmed in on all sides—but then again, that's a good thing".

And in this context, where there is a "long process" to accomplish anything, Mehaffey recognizes that a Libertarian must campaign on solid, concrete concerns for the community. Not cold, abstract ideas like "smaller government". "I have never been the type of guy who will say 'I'm a Libertarian and government is bad: kick everyone out and return the taxes'". He appreciates the non-partisan atmosphere in the Saratoga City Council that makes "Libertarianism" a label that doesn't cost him politically.

Mehaffey holds a master's degree in computer science from Stanford. After working for Hewlett-Packard for fifteen years, he started his own consulting company in Saratoga Village called Gedanken. After these private achievements, Mehaffey decided it was time for a public accomplishment; and like his more youthful feats, he knew that it would take time.

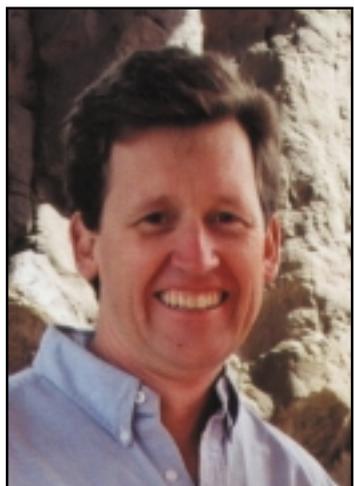
(continued page 4)

Executive Director Report

All You Want To Know

By David Molony

Excitement. Activity. Accomplishment. Success. Focus. These are the words that describe what's happening at the LPC office in Panorama City,



David Molony

California. Let me explain.

Since the second week of January, volunteers have been pouring into our office suite. At least 30 people have volunteered at our office.

These Libertarians are volunteering an extremely generous contribution of time. As a result, an incredible amount of work is accomplished. Their dedication and hard work requires acknowledgement and credit.

Bryan Lackey, Rodger Rosie, Kent Fowler, Colin Delmore, Marie Bertles, David Larkin, Jeremy Murphy, Zach Vowell, Toby Cryns, Rose Weber, Michael Foley, Ken Jones, Phyllis Sherman Raschke, Lance Keating, Hal Chipren, Thomas St. Thomas are a few of the many people who are helping. They have donated 248 hours of time, or 6.2 full-time weeks of work.

They have helped in every area and every aspect of our organization. They have helped forward hundreds of Letters of Marque and Reprisal petitions to US Congress and US Senate. They

have done data entry of thousands of records. **Rodger Rosie** completely updated Los Angeles membership records. He updated hundreds of bad or changed addresses. They have called hundreds of registered Libertarians inviting them to become members. **David Larkin** has added hundreds of records to our elective office database. This is an incredibly important project to keep track of all elective offices in California. He is also doing fundraising research (specific names and addresses) of people likely to fund Libertarian projects.

Zach Vowell, Jeremy Murphy, and Michael Fowley have written letters to the editor for our Adopt-a-Newspaper project.

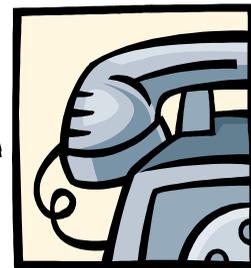
Colin Delmore has made fundraising calls, membership calls. He was also the photographer

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Publisher
Libertarian Party of California

Editor
David Molony

Associate Editor
Joe Dehn

Contributors
Barry Benintende
Joe Dehn
Michael Foley
Bill Holmes
David Molony
Aaron Starr
Zach Vowell

Photographer
Colin Delmore

Mailing Address
14547 Titus Street, Suite 214
Panorama City, CA 91402
818.782.8400

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Email: director@ca.lp.org

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Letters to the Editor

War On Drugs

Cocaine and heroin sell for 20 to 40 times what they would if there were no Drug War. Drug prohibition provides an income stream to armed thugs, including bin Laden's gang. While the bulk of our federal forces were preoccupied with pot heads and medical marijuana, terrorists learned how to fly transport jets into buildings. Our federal forces were so incompetent with regard to their primary duty to protect life, liberty and property, they didn't even react in time to deal with the third off-course aircraft. Like the myriad of bureaucratic bumbles and failed programs before, the U.S. Congress rewarded those who performed badly with more money and power, neither of which will make us more secure. From McVeigh to Laden, the primary thing the federal government does is enrage people at the expense of your life, liberty and property.

Waging the War on Drugs in conjunction with the War on Terrorism is counterproductive, but I suspect this particular stupidity is temporary. Like all prohibitions before it, the War on Drugs has failed. No matter. It served its purpose. It provided a bridge War from the hot and Cold Wars and the failed War on Poverty to the new War on Terrorism — terrorism instigated by the federal government (McDonalds and Playboy created few terrorists). As in the book "1984", War provides an excuse for the continual expansion of federal power over you, me, the States and the world.

— Bill Holmes

Raw Steel

The Bush administration's steel tariffs are a sad step backward for free trade. Tariffs hurt the economy by increasing prices for raw steel and all subsequent manufactured goods. They help a small group of people (steel companies) at the expense of everyone else (you and me!).

If you thought the Republicans were defenders of free trade, think again. The GOP openly espouses protectionist trade restrictions in its party platform! Republicans cannot be trusted to uphold free trade any more than Democrats.

No economists advocate protectionist tariffs. They are simply a way for governments to bestow favors upon particular lobbies. The Libertarian Party is the only one with enough principle to explicitly denounce tariffs in its party platform. When will the other parties develop the same integrity?

— Michael Foley

FREEMAN a novel by JAMES RUSHING

"...Your rights are guarded by the Statue of Armed Freedom - a statue that crowns our National Capitol building - a statue enshrined there by freemen, so that every freeman here and throughout the world will never forget that a corrupt government knows only one force that can cure it: That every freeman will stand as one in defense of freedom. Freemen unite! Harm no one. Let no one harm you."

— Freeman

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Wowwed the Crowd 2002 LPC Convention Review

By David Molony

This year's convention was a blast. We had food, festivity and fun. What more could a Libertarian want? It was a great time to meet old friends and make new ones. Over a hundred Libertarians in one room at times.

One comment from a long time Libertarian was there were many more "new faces" in the crowd than ever before. Young Libertarians were found everywhere.

Convention Happenings

Many of you might wonder what goes on at a Libertarian function. Here's the recap:

FRIDAY

On Friday, Platform and Bylaw committees got together and worked out wording for new proposed Platform and Bylaw changes to be voted on by all delegates in the following days.

SATURDAY

On Saturday, the officers of the Libertarian Party of California

gave their reports. State Chair Aaron Starr, Northern Vice Chair Rodney Austin, Southern Vice Chair Mark Selzer, Treasurer Lori Adasiewicz (see her report on page 5), Secretary Sandi Webb, and Executive Director David Molony reported on the prior year's activities, and the goals and directions they are moving towards in this new year. Following Officer Reports, Congressman Ron Paul, M.D. gave the keynote address. (Ron Paul was the 1988 Libertarian Presidential candidate. He is currently



LPC Executive Director David Molony and Congressman Ron Paul

a Republican congressman from Texas). We laughed and had a great time listening to a member of Congress. Paul had many serious comments regarding the government and the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks.

Following a buffet lunch,

the delegates voted on platform and bylaw changes as outlined by Joe Dehn (on page 7).

Saturday night Grand Banquet: über-Libertarian Norm Vroman (Mendocino District Attorney) stood and delivered. He had the dinner crowd (sold out; turned people away at the door!) cheering! I personally was extremely happy he attended. His reelection was on March 5. He won and is D.A. for another 4 years!

SUNDAY

Over the years, Libertarians have expressed the desire for top-level training. To help fill this desire, we flew trainers from all over the United States into Santa Maria. We spent an entire day on

(continued page 5)



Pleasurable dining experiences!

John Mehaffey - Saratogo City Council (continued from page 3)

He initially campaigned for Stan Bogosian and Jim Shaw in protest against the city's lawsuit over the Saratoga Creek. Anyone who is considering running for political office, especially as a Libertarian, should realize the necessity of laying this groundwork. From his own experience, Mehaffey learned that "you must have the support base from a prior campaign. I couldn't have done it without that support: letters to the editor, mailers, signatures".

Once in office, Mehaffey put his extensive knowledge and

pragmatic philosophy to work. Besides battling the city over commercial zoning and eminent domain, he has tried to attack concrete issues that will likely have long-term impact. And even though he laments that "you end up with your nose to the grindstone dealing with day to day things", his foresight has enabled him to loosen the restraints of those grindings. With his technical expertise, he has advocated the establishment of wider technological equipment and training for city workers, an

upgraded website designed to give the public easier access to public meetings and information, and busing systems for schoolchildren in order to alleviate traffic.

Mehaffey has said that after his political career has run out of steam, he wouldn't mind getting into political consulting. Hopefully, his career will last long enough for him to be considered a political expert, not just a consultant. Meanwhile, the citizens of Saratoga will enjoy a city government free from wasteful ambitions and misguided meddling. **LPC**

Libertarian Party of California Treasurer's Report FISCAL YEAR 2001

By Lori Adasiewicz

When I was elected to serve as your Treasurer at the 2001 convention, one of the promises I made to the delegation was more communica-



LPC Treasurer Lori Adasiewicz

tion, more details in our financial reports. Toward that end, I am presenting in this issue of the LPC Monthly a summary of our financial situation through the fiscal year 2001.

In February 2001, the current administration was elected. Several weeks later, I obtained the financial records from the former Treasurer. The Chair and the Executive Director transferred the bookkeeping function in-house, and switched accounting software from QuickBooks to MYOB. The new software provides for a better audit trail, and in-house bookkeeping will ensure consistency in the financial statements from term to term.

During the conversion, we discovered two things: (1) a \$2,000 overstatement in our financial position as of December 2000; and (2) a series of unauthorized

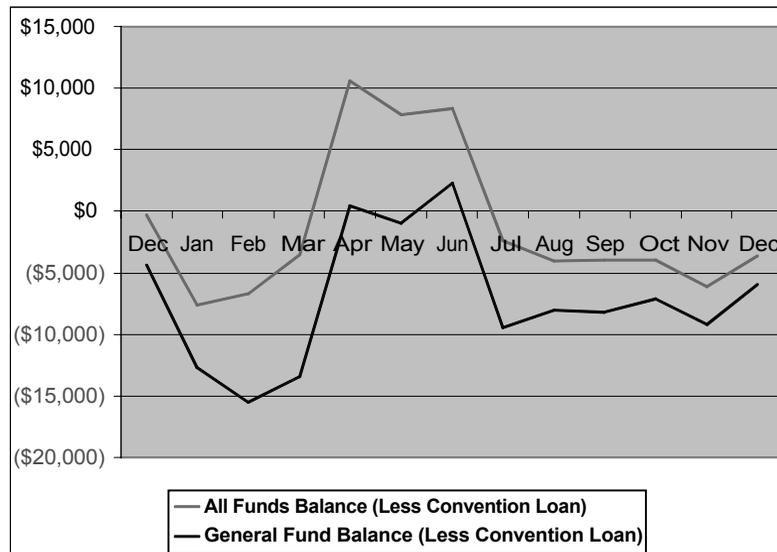
payments made by the former Treasurer to the 2001 convention contractor. These payments, which totaled more than \$7,000, put the LPC in the red, and made the LPC an unwilling creditor of the contractor.

Throughout much of the year it appeared doubtful that these funds would be recovered, so assuming that the LPC would have to take a loss on the entire balance due, obligations in February exceeded assets by over \$7,000 and, worse, the general fund's obligations exceeded general fund assets by over \$15,000.

In March and early April, the LPC was at risk of defaulting to the regions and closing down the LPC headquarters. Fortunately, this problem was averted in April,

big risk and realized a tremendous success. The Santa Clara and San Diego regions loaned the LPC \$9,000 so that we could afford to simultaneously do both a membership recruitment mailing and Operation Breakthrough 1.5. Financially, this effort broke even over the next 90 days, brought us hundreds of new members, 86 candidates and seven electoral victories. These loans have been repaid in full to Santa Clara and San Diego.

In August, former Executive Director Juan Ros left the LPC to accept a position with a non-profit organization that offered him a better career opportunity and more money than the LPC could possibly afford to pay him. Later that month, San Francisco Chair-



LPC Monthly Financial Balance

when the LPC raised \$12,500 in personally solicited gifts, lifting fund balances into the black for the first time last year. The LPC collected an additional \$3,000 in personally solicited gifts in June.

In July, the LPC took a

man David Molony was hired to the position of Executive Director. Upon Juan Ros's departure, he was paid accrued vacation owed to him, eating significantly into our cash position. To prevent the closing of the office, the current Executive Director deferred salary earned by him and resided rent-free at the Chair's residence.

Less than three weeks later, September 11th happened and contributions all but ceased. The recessionary economic environment, compounded by the events of September, prompted the Chair and Executive Director to focus on cost cutting measures, including the elimination of the need for outside services

(continued page 7)

2002 LPC Convention Review (continued from page 4)

candidate and activist training. The trainers, Bob Burg, Paul Pelletier, Julie Griffiths, and Nancy Bocskor, are "world-class" trainers. All four gave participating Libertarians fantastic, "real world" information.

What did people say about the training?

"I loved it. I want more!"

Kristi Stone
Membership Chair, San Diego
Candidate, Assembly District 74

"The training wasn't long enough. It was so great I wish there was

MONDAY

The final day. Monday's main event was the Samuel Adams Lunch. Ward Connerly was the speaker at the annual event. Connerly first burst on the scene as a UC Regent and for leading the fight for equal opportunity. Ward Connerly serves as chairman of the California Civil Rights Initiative campaign. Connerly has gained national respect as an outspoken advocate of equal opportunity for everyone, regardless of race or sex. Connerly's views on preferences, set-asides and quotas have been



Über-Libertarian Norm Vroman (Mendocino District Attorney)

time for more! This training is essential for the future of the party."

Brian Lee Cross
Past Chair, LP Orange County
California LPC Executive
Committee
Candidate, Assembly District 72

"The training was the highlight of the convention. Conducted by professionals experienced and knowledgeable about what they do. They provided us with valuable information."

Rodger Rosie
Chair, Los Angeles County
(LPLAC)

"The Candidate Training sessions were extremely useful. The local activist, networking, and fundraising seminars were valuable for political activity at my level."

Chris Maden
Chair, LP San Francisco
Candidate, Assembly District 13

well documented by the international, national and California press.

Gardner Osborne won the Samuel Adams Society's prestigious 2002 Karl Bray Award. Every first Monday of the month, Gardner has been staging *End the Drug War Rally* from 3-7 p.m. in front of the San Diego Federal Courthouse. Congratulations on the award, Gardner!

Next Time

For those of you who did not make it to our convention this year: I'm sorry. You missed a great time.

However, plan on it for next year. The convention: **February 15 - 17, 2003.** Two and a half days (Saturday through 1pm Monday) of action. Next year's convention will be a great experience. Food. Fun. Freedom. I hope to see you there!

LPC



Operation Breakthrough 2.0 *(continued from page 2)*

We have included a form on the last page.

How Do I Run for Office?

1. Make sure you are registered to vote.
2. Call your local county election board and ask what offices are available. Fire Districts, Water Districts, Park and Recreation Districts, Hospital Districts, etc.
3. Inform David Molony at 818-782-8400, or email director@ca.lp.org.

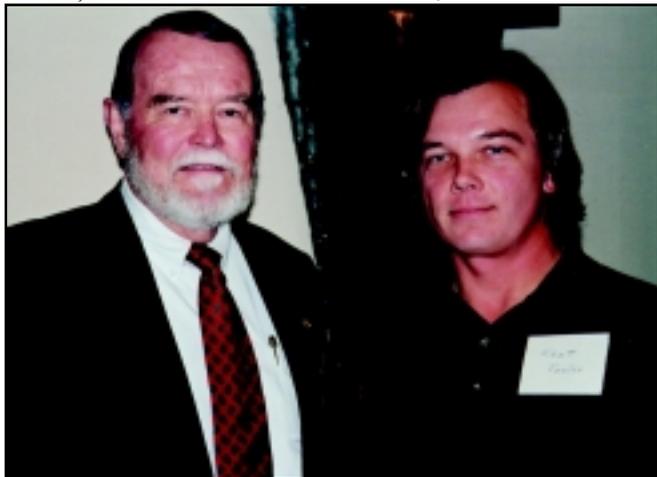
Executive Director Report *(continued from page 3)*

at our State Convention. We appreciate his coming to our convention and taking the photographs in this newspaper.

Call me if you wish to join the excitement.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH - KENT FOWLER

Kent is very active in his community: a scout leader, active in his local police reserves, and a super Libertarian volunteer. Fundraising calls, envelope addressing, membership calls,



Norm Vroman and Kent Fowler

copying. Kent does whatever it takes.

For our successful Culver City *Operation: Energy Tax Revolt!*, Kent assembled the clipboards, walking lists, and maps. Without Kent's help, the 40 volunteers who came out that Saturday would not have been able to work. Of course, Kent also gathered signatures at that event.

Kent volunteered for the entire convention weekend. He did last minute copying at Kinkos, helped bring in LP materials into the hotel.

He is doing all this, AND preparing for his April wedding. Wow!

Eventually, in the next few years, Kent plans on moving to Oroville. He told me he plans to run for mayor. And win. I am absolutely sure he will win when he runs. No question in my mind.

Aaron Starr exclaims "This can be as big as we want it to be, but your donation is our budget. If you want to get candidates elected, help us with this."

Remember, one of these Libertarians may be elected in YOUR district. Who do you want in your district. A Republican? Democrat? Green? Or a Libertarian? The choice is yours. Run for our cause. Contribute to our winning efforts.

LPC

When that time comes, I'm sure we will return the generosity he is showing the party right now, and we will help him win that race. Kent is definitely a hero of mine and is an inspiration to the party.

Business Owners

Business owners: did you realize many Libertarians will go out of their way to find and BUY

from YOU?

You can reach 6,000 dedicated Libertarians in the LPC Monthly. If you have a product or service to advertise, call me at 818-782-8400 or email me at director@ca.lp.org.

As a business owner, you can write off this advertising as a business expense – something you could not do if you donated the money to the party.

!!! BREAKING NEWS !!!

Today, as I write this at deadline, the LPC just received two major donations for *Operation Breakthrough*. One donation: \$6,000, and one for \$500 PLUS a \$50 per month pledge. Our total: we now have \$17,000 in donations for *Operation Breakthrough*. Please help us elect 30 - 40 Libertarians this November. Call, write, or fax your contribution today.

LPC

Early Primary, Late for Dinner

By Barry Benintende

There's a picture of me, as a baby, getting kissed by my namesake, Barry Goldwater. My mom and dad were tireless campaigners for the doomed presidential candidate back in 1964, an honest man with a snowball's chance in hell of getting elected. I have fond memories of mom pushing me up and down the



Barry Benintende

streets of El Cajon, campaigning, sometimes in vain, for people she believed in – I guess my parents' love of politics and the futility of backing an underfunded, unknown candidate, rubbed off on me.

But with mom and dad the years of frustration paid off when "Little Petey Wilson" (mom's term) got elected governor. My frustration, finishing dead last in my lone run for elective office in last year's cycle, is just beginning. That is part of the thrill of being a member of an underdog party, a third party, an alternative party; we lack the funds, the name recognition and in many cases the ballot access for a fair fight. So what is it that leads third party candidates on the Sisyphean struggle to push that boulder uphill for eternity? Who knows, I sure don't.

For me, it was the urgent

need to fix a system I felt was/is broken, that elections have degenerated to who has the most coin, the most-polished image and the best spin doctors. It too often becomes a question of military service in Viet Nam, did you or didn't you smoke marijuana in your youth or are you pro-choice or pro-life?

All those questions may be valid, but aren't the questions of individual liberty, a tax-free society, an over-hauled or eliminated social security system, an open or closed border, a return to the Bill of Rights, etc. just as important? Republicans and Democrats seem bogged down in flag burning amendments and prayer in school while the leadership of our great nation – current events and the president's awesome calming effect on our nation not withstanding – seems to ride an express train to hell.

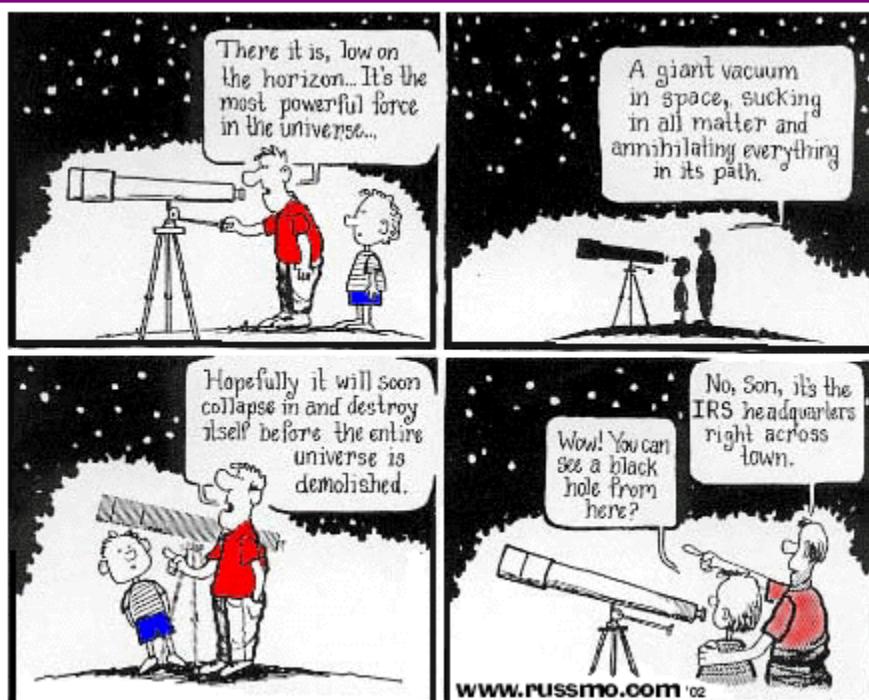
There are many candidates from so-called "fringe" parties that do fight the good fight, that run when they have no chance of winning. They do so because they, like our founding fathers, have a burning desire to change our nation for the better. Whether or not a national healthcare plan or sealed-off border will in fact improve our nation is semi-relevant. The fact that we live in a nation where a multi-party, not a two party system, exists is relevant. The just-completed primary election saw a turn out of about one third of the registered voters, and that is not counting those folks that are not registered. Clearly Libertarians can make our biggest

inroads by finding those people who are staying home on election day. In my 18 years as a member of the Libertarian Party, I've seen our ranks grow, but never catch the fire we all predict. Perhaps it is time we all target one friend or neighbor and get them to convert. I've seen that philosophy work well for my Christian friends who go out and witness to their neighborhood. We could all be Johnny Appleseeds, dropping Libertarian ideas into the heads of those close to us. We could all convince one person to leave the tax-fattened jackals of the Democrat and Republican parties and urge them to turn to us, rather than a different third party. But we should encourage everyone we know to at least consider any third party as an option favorable to the big two.

I doubt I'd ever vote for a candidate from the Pajama Party, though I do find their solution to every problem amusing: Sleep for 20 hours a day. And some of the best ideas brought up have come from the Bull Moose Party, the Libertarian Party, the Reform Party and any number of lesser lights in the political galaxy. I doubt that mom had any idea that dragging me to all those Republican Women's club meetings and leaving copies of Ayn Rand novels laying about the house would have this effect on her youngest son.

Barry Benintende is the Executive Editor of the *La Jolla Light*, a 90 year-old weekly paper in the San Diego area. He won a 2000 *Lights of Liberty Award* for his editorial writing.

LPC



CONVENTION BUSINESS SUMMARY

By Joe Dehn

In official convention business conducted on Saturday and Monday, delegates made relatively minor changes to the Bylaws and Platform, elected party officials, and endorsed candidates.



Joe Dehn

Four proposals were brought to the convention by the Bylaws Committee; all four were adopted without modification. The most significant was the creation of a procedure for formally declaring a region "inactive" to allow for a reorganization. The Executive Committee (EC) was given the authority to reinstate memberships previously terminated by action of the EC. Changes in wording were made to clarify the authority of the EC to provide mailing lists and to deal with the fact that election officials have different titles in different counties.

Three changes were made to the LPC Platform. In the Health and Medicine plank, wording was added to call for the repeal of laws mandating non-voluntary relationships between health care providers and patients. The Right to Keep and Bear Arms plank was amended to add support for the right of airlines and other common carriers to decide their own weapons policies. The first sentence of the Discrimination plank was reworded.

Three other changes proposed by the Platform Committee, relating to alternative voting systems, marriage, and capital punishment, were debated but not adopted. Five additional proposals from the Platform Committee were not considered due to lack of time.

The first attempt to adopt a party Program, intended to focus on interim measures and practical policies concerning issues of current concern to California voters, was unsuccessful. The delegates were unable to agree on any of the proposed planks.

The delegates elected five members to serve in the at-large positions of the state Executive Committee: **Ted Brown, Donna Nowland, Shree Rajan, Doug Scribner, and Jonathan Zwickel**, along with two alternates: **Bruce Dovner and Dan Wiener**. At-large members are elected for one-year terms and serve on the EC along with representatives of the five largest regions, plus the five officers who are elected in odd-numbered years and are currently in the middle of their two-year terms.

Elected to serve on the Judicial Committee for the coming year were **Kim Goldsworthy, Chris Maden, Jennille Smith, Ray Strong, and Bob Weber**.

Joe Dehn was re-elected as representative to the Libertarian National Committee; **Mark Hinkle** and **Scott Lieberman** were elected to serve as alternates.

About 100 members were elected to serve as delegates to the national convention coming up in July. This is only about half the number of delegate positions allocated to California. Libertarians from California who attend the national convention and who were not elected as delegates in February will have a second chance, as the delegation is empowered to add more members when they meet in Indianapolis.

Wayne Nygren was elected as the California representative to the national convention Platform Committee, with **Laura Stewart** as the alternate. **Ray Acosta** was elected as the California representative to the national convention Credentials Committee.

In an unusual move, the delegates endorsed two Libertarians running for Governor: **Gary Copeland**, whose name appeared on the March primary ballot, and **Art Olivier**, who was running as a write-in candidate. The delegates also endorsed all the other Libertarians on the ballot for partisan offices.

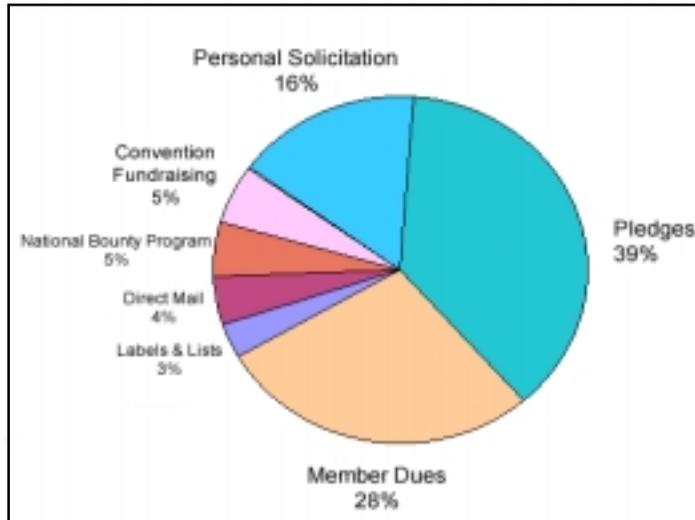
The convention also adopted resolutions concerning alternative voting systems, *Operation: Energy Tax Revolt*, and Amtrak.

For details of the various committee elections and wording of the Bylaws and Platform amendments, see <http://www.ca.lp.org/conv/2002/>. LPC

Treasurer's Report (continued from page 5)

by moving in-house all credit card processing and ending the media clipping service. The most dramatic result of their efforts to save LPC dollars was the conver-

monthly pledge program, which has become the LPC's largest source of revenue. In 2001, the monthly pledge program generated \$54,200, or 38% of our revenues.



2001 LPC Income

sion of our bi-monthly newsletter into a monthly wrap-around newspaper mailed with the national *LP News*. This move saves the LPC nearly \$20,000 annually while doubling the number of printed newsletters. As the decrease in the newsletter expense took place near the end of the year, the full benefits of this new format will be recognized in 2002.

In December, after suspending the previous Treasurer's membership for one year, expelling from the party the 2001 convention contractor, and initiating legal action against her, the LPC was able to collect in full the monies owed to it. At this point the LPC paid the deferred salary to our Executive Director, and he was able to move into a home of his own.

In 2001, the LPC developed some new sources of revenue, namely a contract with Labels & Lists and the national LP membership development program. In 2001, these new sources generated over \$12,000. The most efficient source of revenue to the LPC is the

Despite these new sources, revenues for the year met only 80% of budgeted expectations, due mostly to the recession, causing fund raising expenses as a portion of revenues to increase. In addition, membership nationwide fell 16%, while California's membership fell 17%, reducing the revenue sharing that National sends to the LPC. Many membership renewals that were submitted could not be processed at the national headquarters as a result of business reply mail being lost or held by the post office for many weeks due to the Anthrax scare. This cash shortage almost caused the national party to limit the payment of dues sharing (also known as UMP monies) to only those states that receive payment by electronic transfer. Coincidentally, the Executive Director had requested Direct Deposit in September, which permitted California and its regions to be paid without interruption.

Fiscal year 2002 should bring a better environment for the LPC. The economy appears to be

recovering from its recession, and 2002 is an election year, when more money is historically raised. We started the year by receiving an unrestricted donation of \$10,000 from a private donor. If the year progresses as anticipated, the LPC stands a good chance of going into the black while increasing our activities for the year. In addition, the national office is budgeting significant moneys in 2002 for membership recruitment, which should increase the number of members and the amount of revenue sharing from the national party.

The LPC's General Fund budget for 2002 is conservative in predicting an 11% increase in revenues. The Chair is very optimistic in budgeting substantial restricted donations for Operation Breakthrough and the Questionnaire Project. If revenues do not meet expectations for these projects, those activities will be reduced accordingly.

Over all, the LPC is poised for growth in 2002. Now that we have trimmed one of our largest expenses and stabilized the amount spent on administration, all new revenue can be allocated into programs such as campaigns and elections, membership development, and voter registration. Freedom cannot be bought for the \$25 a year we pay in membership dues. You can help these projects to bear fruit for the LPC by taking an active role in volunteering, submitting proposals for projects to the Executive Committee, and becoming a monthly pledger. If each of our 5,000 members pledged only \$5 per month, we would have \$25,000 per month, if we each pledged \$10 per month, we would have \$50,000 per month. Imagine what we could accomplish together . . . LPC

Have Something to Say?

Say it in the LPC Monthly.

Submissions:
Right now.
director@ca.lp.org

CONTRIBUTION CORNER

Libertarians - Are you seeking ways to help our cause of Liberty? Here are ways to help:

Volunteer Time

- LPC Headquarters (San Fernando Valley, California)
 - Data Entry
 - Telephone help
 - Press releases
 - Newspaper layout
 - Bookkeeping
 - Graphic Artists



We all need to offer liberty a helping hand.

In-Kind (Materials)

- Printers/Printing Services
- Mail House
(folding/stuffing envelopes)
- Office Space (San Fernando Valley, Malibu)
- Laser printer (HP 4100 for PC)
- Laser printer (any)
- Digital Camera

Financial

- \$10,000 Operation Breakthrough
Help 500 candidates run for office in California in 2002
- \$ 2,000 Operation: Energy Tax Revolt!
Reduce energy taxes in 170+ California cities
- \$ 500 Scholarship Fund

Please contact Executive Director David Molony at director@ca.lp.org or call him directly at 818-782-8400. **LPC**

Operation Breakthrough 2.0
Elect More Libertarians!

RUN FOR OFFICE

I wish to **run** for office.

ELECT MORE LIBERTARIANS TO OFFICE!

I want to make a **One Time** donation (circle):

\$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$75 \$50 Other \$_____

I want to be a **Monthly Pledger** in California! (circle)

\$1000/month \$250/month \$50/month \$35/month \$20/month
\$500/month \$100/month \$40/month \$25/month \$10/month
Other \$_____

VOLUNTEER

I wish to **volunteer**: membership, fundraising, data entry, outreach booth, other _____

MATERIAL SUPPORT

I wish to **contribute** (circle): computer, laser printer, office/industrial space, other _____

Name _____ Employer _____

Address _____ Occupation _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone/Fax _____

E-Mail _____

Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax deductible.

Visa **MasterCard**

AmEx **Discover**

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

MAIL TO/CHECK PAYABLE TO:

Libertarian Party of California
14547 Titus Street, Suite 214
Panorama City, CA 91402-4935

director@ca.lp.org

Phone: (818) 782-8400

Fax: (818) 782-8488

Credit Card Address (if different from above):

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Libertarian Party of California

14547 Titus Street, Suite 214
Panorama City, CA 91402-4935

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holy cow

If a DEMOCRAT has two cows, he sits by contentedly when the government he voted for taxes us to support people in other countries who have cows which were a gift from our government.

If a REPUBLICAN has two cows and his neighbor has none, that's ok. If the neighbors have a child and come to him for milk, a Republican response is to raise the price if he can.

But a MARKETING MANAGER might not raise the price. More likely he will make the milk container opaque and put less in without changing the price.

A LIBERAL: You have two cows. Your neighbor has none. You feel guilty. You beg your representative to tax cow owners. The government uses your money to buy an over-priced cow and give it to your neighbor. He knows nothing about cows and it dies. You feel close to God when Barbara Streisand (on CD) sings at the celebration of its life.

US GOVERNMENT FARM POLICY: You have two cows. The government rules you can have only one, buys the other, shoots it, pays you for milk, pours it down the drain, and pleads to Congress for a larger budget.

If a LIBERTARIAN has two cows and his neighbor has none, the Libertarian response is: So what?

NEW AGE X GENERATION: You have two cows. You ask: "What's a cow?" You give them guitars but they do not learn to play. You buy their CD just the same.