



# Santa Clara Libertarian

Volume 33, Issue 1 January 2005

News of Local Libertarians' Efforts and Feats

## Leadership for 2005: Experience + New Blood

The LPSCCC's annual convention on January 20 saw existing leadership confirmed, as well as willing members stepping up to the plate to serve in official capacity for the first time. In the private room at Cupertino's Hong Fu Restaurant, diehard members of the local party elected those who'll provide us direction—both internally and externally—for 2005.

First up was the race for what is essentially the role of CEO of the Party. **Allen Rice**, longtime activist and 2004 Treasurer, challenged incumbent Chair **Allen Hacker's** bid for reelection. With **Mike Laursen**—who'd taken the gavel during the Chair's election—good-naturedly admonishing that we mustn't indicate simply "Allen" on our ballots, the membership sanctioned Hacker for another term as **Chair**. Just minutes later, they approved Rice—who'd impressed the gathering with his substantive campaign speech for the Chairmanship—to serve as Vice Chair.

With Laursen stepping down this year as **Secretary**, **Fred Levins** volunteered to assume his responsibilities as the Party's recording officer. It was in 1986 that Levins first joined the Libertarian Party, right here in Santa Clara County. Since then, his membership has not been continuous; there were one or two lapses—other than just his dues being late. In the four-year period leading up to his joining the Party, a nonlibertarian friend and engineering coworker turned his

thinking toward the LP. Even before that, there were unrecognized libertarian aspects to Fred's thinking, since as early as fourth grade in semi-rural Mansfield, Ohio, where he was gaining an education from Catholic nuns in a parish school. Levins works as a substitute teacher and lives in Mountain View. The position of Secretary is the first office he has held within the LPSCC.

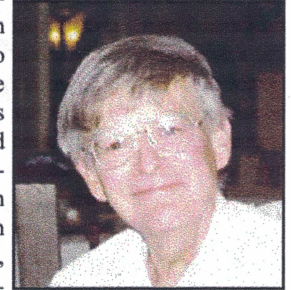
**Al Newman** has assumed the role of Treasurer—a new one for him—with the promise from outgoing treasurer Allen Rice of plenty of training during the baton transfer.

Newman praises Rice for his service as the one who receives, expends, and accounts for the Party's funds. "Allen Rice did a superb job and I can only hope to approach his excellence."

Newman's main freedom hot-buttons are to end the income tax and the War on Drugs, "a.k.a. the War on the Constitution," he proclaims. "I have been actively working to that end for many years now, and would like to help in any way I can." Newman is a regular attendee of the Tax Freedom

Rallies put on by the Free Enterprise Society, and has reported on those events for this publication.

For our seven standing committees we elected six Chairs. The **Publicity Committee**, responsible for disseminating information about the Party to the media and the public, remains open. Interested members—especially those with experience in public relations, marketing, or communications—are encouraged to contact Chair Allen Hacker, at [Allen@LawfulGov.org](mailto:Allen@LawfulGov.org).



Fred Levins, Secretary; 1/20/05

**Dennis Umphress**, LPSCC's 2003 Activist of the Year, was elected as **Membership Chair**. He is especially eager for volunteers to help maintain and increase our membership base. He faces the same challenge in his role as President of Silicon Valley Taxpayers' Association, and hopes he can dovetail the membership efforts of these two organizations, who have collaborated on such matters as ballot arguments against new parcel taxes.

**Mark Hinkle** was reelected for a second

■ See **Leaders**, page 3

### ■ Publicity

## LP Activist for Medical Marijuana Garners Coverage in Metro

Libertarian Party activist Dennis Umphress is all over the map. He's President of Silicon Valley Taxpayers' Association, Chair of a Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee, and recipient of the LPC's Karl Bray Award for Activism for 2003.

Underneath those abundant layers of activism, he's also an advocate for getting the government out of your and your doctor's right to choose the best medicine or treatment for whatever might ail you.

In January, San Jose's weekly newspaper, the *Metro*, featured Umphress, along with other medical marijuana activists, in a story about the confusion over local medical marijuana ordinances ("Smoke and Mirrors: the South Bay's incoherent medi-

cal marijuana ordinances create confusion, driving some local activists to the brink of reefer madness," by Vrinda Normand; *Metro*; Jan. 5–11, 2005).



Dennis Umphress, medicinal marijuana advocate and LPSCC Membership Chair; 1/20/05

In 1996, Californians passed Proposition 215 to permit possession and use of marijuana for medical purposes, with a physician's permission. But patients and activists still struggle to get the federal government to stay out of what is states' prerogative, and to get the states to make more friendly the environment for new dispensaries.

The article states: "Dennis Umphress, a Libertarian, supports more regulation in the medical marijuana field, but says San Jose is 'not making a friendly atmosphere.'"

Umphress maintains that his words were taken out of context. "It's not that I favor more regulation, necessarily. The only regulations I'd favor would be those clarifying existing law, and liberalizing and increasing current quantity limits."

In 2003, Umphress spearheaded a Drug War protest outside the San Jose offices of the DEA, and called for by Americans for Safe Access. ■

Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierty

Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierty





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**PAST ISSUES**

From 1998 on: [www.SC.CA.LP.org/sc/](http://www.SC.CA.LP.org/sc/)

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**It's Time for a Blog!**

Everybody's doing it, and since Libertarians are such "joiners" (not!), the LPSCC now has its own web log. Check it out at:

[SC.CA.LP.org/blog/](http://SC.CA.LP.org/blog/)

Check out the news and articles we thought would be of interest to our members. Feel free to click on the envelopes and leave your comments, too! ■

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■ Message from the Chair

**What It Will Take**

In another life, I am a management consultant. I specialize in assisting leaders in developing, communicating, and executing vision. What I teach and coach has brought amazing results to client companies. When I became your County Chair last year, it was my intention to bring that magic to the LP. But the year went differently from what I expected, and I became caught up in a couple of things that kept me from that goal. Nasty stuff, politics—particularly when most of it happening around you is internal.

Well, I am very happy and grateful that, by re-electing me as your Chair, you have given me another go at the problem. For that, I thank you; I hope you won't have regrets, later, when I'm focusing a good deal more firmly on the task at hand. You see, I plan to go far beyond last year's requests that you recruit and donate and activate. Because what this party needs most just now is what it has always resisted most: leaders and leadership.

I'm not just talking about myself. If every one of the 300 or so members of the LP of Santa



Allen Hacker, LPSCC Chair, emceeding our annual convention; 1/20/05

Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

Clara County were to become active and effective leaders across the land, it would not be enough. But it would be a tremendous start!

What it will take, more than anything else, is two simple things. Two things which are the essence of all success, no matter what the activity. Unfortunately, they are also the weakest points in most of us, because of the demands they require we make on ourselves and on one another.

Let's face it. Libertarianism as we know it has been loudly opposed to having leaders. And libertarians generally have refused to accept the role of being leaders. We don't want to be told what to do and we don't want to tell anyone what to do.

But this is an "organization." That means: structure, levels of authority, channels of instruction and direction, and so forth. Without which, there is, has been, and will be no "forth."

Happily, all it takes is mastery of these two essential things. I'll be talking about them more, in detail, in future columns and at meetings; so for now, I'll just name them for you: vision and willingness. The vision of the near future as a libertarian world is where we begin, a good thing to develop and to agree upon. And then the willingness to take whatever reasonable noncoercive actions it will require to manifest that vision.

I ask of you: start thinking about that vision. Start noticing all the little and large things that you have been unwilling to do, which, if you did them anyway, would move us forth.

Keep notes; there'll be workshops later. ■  
 —Allen Hacker, Chair

**The LP isn't the Only Place to Hear Rational Thought**

Despite the Bay Area's bent toward fiscal liberalism, we're lucky to have a couple oases of libertarian policy advocacy. Three local organizations are busy ensuring that their students and fans can start the new year off right with speaking events that'll broaden our knowledge—beyond what we heard or read in the local mainstream media, about both local and national issues.

The Civil Society Institute at Santa Clara University, SJSU's Economics Department, and the Independent Institute in Oakland offer these events:

**How—And How Not—To Fight Terrorism**  
 Speaker: Michael Scheuer

When: Tuesday, March 1, 6:30 P.M.  
 Where: Independent Institute, Oakland  
 Admission: \$15 members; \$20 nonmembers  
 For info: [www.Independent.org/events/](http://www.Independent.org/events/)  
 (510) 632-1366

**The Costs of San Jose's Urban-Growth Boundary and Light-Rail Transit**  
 Speaker: Randal O'Toole

When: Wednesday, Mar. 2, 5:30–7:00 P.M.  
 Where: Santa Clara University  
 Daly Science, Room 207  
 For info: [www.SCU.edu/csi/](http://www.SCU.edu/csi/)

**Misers vs. Philanthropists: And the Winner Is?**  
 Speaker: Dwight Lee

When: Tuesday, May 10, 5:00–7:00 P.M.  
 Where: San Jose State University  
 Morris Daily Auditorium  
 For info: [www2.SJSU.edu/depts/economics/](http://www2.SJSU.edu/depts/economics/)



# Leaders *continued from Page 1*

term as Chair of the Newsletter Committee, which is responsible for publication of this very newsletter, in order to disseminate information about the Party to the members.

**Kevin Takenaga**, who at this convention was presented with our Activist of the Year award for 2004, was reelected as **Campaigns Chair**. He'll be responsible for coordinating candidate recruitment, training, and support.

**Zander Collier**, who had success raising funds for his race for State Assembly District 24 in 2004, was elected as **Fundraising Committee Chair**.

Taking on the role of **Activities Committee Chair** will be **Bob Goodwyn**, a longtime Libertarian, having served as a very active candidate for California State Assembly in both 1988 and 1992. More recently, as an activist in Las Vegas, Bob took part in several antiwar demonstrations, between September 11, 2001, and the invasion of Iraq.

In his new role, Goodwyn plans to organize activities that "will emphasize to the public that Liberty is a progressive concept," Goodwyn says. "Our current system of corporate welfare is not worthy of the name "capitalism." I want to let people know that free markets will

take people out of poverty and let people out of prison. Individual freedom holds a lot of sentimental value for me. I will place particular emphasis on antigovernment positions regarding drug use, abortion, and capital punishment."

Goodwyn is a career pilot with over 9,000 hours' flight time. His specialty is teaching in taildraggers, but he flies as many aircraft as possible. He recently earned his skydiving license. "Some might ask, 'Isn't that like trying to fly nothing?'" quips Goodwyn.

As for his continued commitment to the growth and success of the LP, and particularly our county chapter, "activism is hard, but rewarding." Goodwyn explains: "After a long day at an LP booth or demonstrating, the pizza and beer taste better than ever!"

Our **Representative to the LP of California Executive Committee** will be **Kevin Takenaga**, backed up by **Allen Rice** as **Alternate Representative**.

**M Carling** will be our rep to the LPC Platform Committee. He is fully committed to liberty, being both a major donor and a full-time LP activist. Currently he represents California, Hawaii, and Oregon on the Libertarian National Committee. He serves as Chairman of the LNC Audit Committee, and is leading the effort to divide the LNC Policy Manual into separate Special Rules of Order, LNC Standing Rules, and Staff Standing Rules.

Carling serves the LPC on the Executive Committee, and the Operations, Awards & Recognition, and Platform Committees. He is working with counsel to develop guidebooks for the state and county parties to comply with federal campaign finance law. On top of all this, he is



Bob Goodwyn, 2005 Activities Committee Chair; 1/20/05

Photo: Elizabeth C. Briery

## Mark Your Calendar!

Every month on the second Thursday, LPSCC holds an evening meeting.

Held at a local restaurant, in a relaxed dinner-hour atmosphere, these events offer plenty of time for discussion.

**March 12** Libertarian speakers' bureau

**April 14** Business meeting

**May 12** Guest speaker

For location, changes, and updates, check the LPSCC web site at:

[www.SC.CA.LP.org](http://www.SC.CA.LP.org); click on "Events."

Save the date, and take a friend!

organizer of the LPC's 2005 convention this Presidents' Day weekend.

**Zander Collier** was elected to serve as our representative to the **LPC Program Committee**.

Serving as Chair of our 2005 **Judicial Committee** is **Cathi Brown**, who served as Activities Chair in 2004, and who has served on this committee in the past. Rounding out this committee are **M Carling** and **Laura Stewart**.

Stewart is a life member of the National and California LPs, and a former member of both the New Jersey and New York LPs. In all three states, she has been active in organizing and working at Operation Politically Homeless booths. Says Stewart, "I consider these booths, and their use of the Nolan chart, the ideal form of libertarian outreach." She has been involved with Advocates for Self Government and Libertarians for Life. In her professional life, she is between jobs as a Software Quality Assurance engineer.



Laura Stewart, Member of Judicial Committee; 1/20/05

Photo: Elizabeth C. Briery



LPSCC member and impromptu volunteer Alberta Briery joins convention organizer Scott Lieberman at the Jan. 20th convention registration.

## 2005 LPSCC Officers and Committee Chairs

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Campaigns Chair	Kevin Takenaga	Kevin@ElectCollier.org	(415) 806-0483
Activities Chair	Bob Goodwyn	BobFlight03@Yahoo.com	(408) 732-1832
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## Santa Clara Libertarian

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# Foreshadowing the 2006 Election: No Time to Waste

by Kevin Takenaga  
Campaigns Chair, LPSCC

Next year could be another watershed year for taxes and bonds.

Already on the 2006 statewide ballots are the \$900 million library bond in March, and the \$10 billion (with a "B") rail bond in November.

The Joe Simitian/Steve Poizner/Reed Hastings movement is picking up steam. As reported

("Group Seeks Easier OK for Tax Measures." *L.A. Times*; 1/13/05)

Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association reports that the members of Taxpayers for School Improvement "are many of the same players who spent millions to pass Prop. 39 in 2000, [which] lowered the 2/3 vote to 55 percent to pass school bonds that only property owners must repay. In just 4 years, Prop. 39 has cost homeowners billions of dollars....Unlike bonds, the proceeds of which must be directed to capital improvements, the revenue raised from parcel taxes can be used for so-called "soft" expenses, including salary increases for administrators." ("Silicon Valley tax raisers would dismantle taxpayer protections." *Taxing Times*; Winter 2004-2005.) If Simitian *et al.* are able to qualify this initiative, just watch them put it on the ballot both in March and in November. On August 24, the

*S.F. Examiner* reported that Simitian's group "will be prepared to take it back to voters the following Nov. if the measure fails."

Add to this the VTA sales tax increase for BART, the various and sundry parcel taxes that will be asked for—especially by districts that failed to pass it last Nov.—perhaps even the countywide parcel tax, and throw in Arnold's "austere" budget this year, and we're going to have to become a much more active voice for the taxpayer, because if everything passes, we're all going to pay sharply higher taxes.

We must mobilize our forces with far greater intensity than in the past, if we are to defeat these initiatives and measures. Fortunately, we have a little more warning than usual to make this happen, but still, we do not have the luxury of extensive time and resources to sit back and hope.

The challenge for LPSCC will be to continue to reach out, form alliances, increase LP registrations, start a media campaign, raise money, and mobilize our base to vote in March and Nov., 2006.

We can do it—if we set our goals high, and work together, as a team. Last year we proved that we can work together. The next two years, let's prove we can be effective in the larger political realm. ■

*Kevin Takenaga is a small business owner. In January, LPSCC presented him with their highest award for activism for 2004. This year he serves as our regional representative to the LP of California.*



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brieny

*Kevin Takenaga, LPSCC Convention 1/20/05*

in the *L.A. Times*, "The Silicon Valley-based Taxpayers for School Improvement is building support for an initiative that would reduce the percentage of voters needed to approve local parcel taxes—from two-thirds...to 55%."

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