



Santa Clara Libertarian

Liberty is not a means to a higher political end. It is itself the highest political end. - Lord Acton, 1906
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... no cause is left but the most ancient of all, the one, in fact, that from the beginning of our history has determined the very existence of politics, the cause of freedom versus tyranny.

— Hannah Arendt, 1963

Convention Highlights

Compiled by Jon Petersen, Mark Hinkle, Dave Thomas, Vicki Hargrove, and Don Cormier

The Libertarian Party of California held its 1993 convention, *Making A Difference*, in Sunnyvale last Presidents Day weekend (Feb. 12-15). Delegates came from all over the state to exchange views, and to vote for new officers, changes in the party bylaws, and changes in the platform.

The newly-elected state officers are:

- State Chair — Kim Goldsworthy
- Northern California Vice Chair — George O'Brien
- Southern California Vice Chair — Gail Lightfoot
- Secretary — Ray Acosta
- Treasurer — Jon Petersen

The newly elected National Committee Representatives are Thea McLean, Bill Evers, Terry Savage (first alternate), and Sharon Ayers (second alternate). At-Large Delegates for the Executive Committee are Mark Sweany, June Genis, Cullen Lang, Eric Lund, and Ted Brown. Other committee members are John Webster, Wayne Nygren, Brian Sure, Jerry Collette, and Robert Leet. Unfortunately, newsletter space and deadline considerations don't permit the mention of all persons who were chosen to serve the LP in various capacities. Perhaps a complete listing will be available by the April deadline. Congratulations and best of luck to all the new officers, representatives, delegates, and appointees.

At the Sam Adams Awards luncheon, David Nolan gave a rousing speech on how to recognize true libertarians. Dick Rider and John Vernon were each given the *Karl Bray Award* for outstanding libertarian activism. Dick Rider is noted for litigating away a half-cent sales tax in San Diego, and John Vernon is noted for his writings, and for setting up a libertarian FAX network. Also at the luncheon, David Bergland, former LP presidential candidate, was given the *Sons of Liberty* award, in appreciation of his many years of service to the LP. While on the topic of awards, outgoing chair Pat Wright honored Hugh and Thea McLean for their years of service to the party.

The delegates to the convention approved many changes to the State Party bylaws. Most importantly, dues will now be disbursed on a monthly basis to the local parties, instead of quarterly. Other important new provisions include the following:

— All members of the Executive Committee will serve on subcommittees. Failure to serve on subcommittees or to attend two consecutive Board meetings will be cause for removal from the Executive Committee. (Amendment proposed by Cullen Lang).

— For purposes of representation at the annual convention, the number of members affiliated with each county shall be determined by the Secretary as of the end of the third month prior to the opening session of the convention. The Secretary will notify each region of its eligibility for delegates by mail, no later than the

second month prior to the opening of the convention. (Amendment proposed by Gail Lightfoot).

— In the section of the bylaws defining who is eligible to be a regional delegate, the wording was changed from an *elective office* to an *elective public office*. Thanks for this idea goes to Jon Petersen.

The assembled delegates also approved changes to the platform, in order to fine-tune it for use by candidates in upcoming elections. Some of the more interesting changes are as follows:

— In regard to discrimination: the word *discrimination* was changed to *choice in association* in the section dealing with this subject.

— In regard to judicial issues: a clause was added calling for the abolition of the current practice of courts receiving a percentage of imposed fines.

— In regard to families: We call for the repeal of all family leave laws which impose the cost of mandatory benefits on business and industry.

A complete listing of the changes to the bylaws and the Platform will be obtainable by contacting the local office.

Steve Alexander and Scott Lieberman debated what were probably the most divisive issues discussed at the convention — proposals to eliminate the membership pledge, and to shorten the platform. After much discussion, the delegates decided to leave things as they were. However, these issues are sure to come up again on the national level at this year's convention in Salt Lake City.

Other convention highlights... June Genis is planning to sue the government over the requirement to give your social security number when applying for a drivers license. Mary Gingell, National Chair, was interviewed by San Jose's Channel 36 about the convention and the party. Chuck Olsen gave a thought-provoking speech on environmental issues. Most convention attendees liked the posh atmosphere of the Sunnyvale Hilton Inn. As Dave Thomas puts it, a good hotel, good food, and a good program make for happy delegates.

Hendrickson's Law If a problem causes many meetings, the meetings will become more important than the problem.

Libertarian in Print

This letter by Matt Singh was printed in the San Jose Mercury News on Friday, January 15, 1993.

In the Jan. 3 Perspective section, Harvard economist Robert Reich, who is Bill Clinton's close friend, economic adviser and choice for our new Secretary of Labor, painted the usual gloomy picture of the American condition and admonished

that we must give up more of our earnings and adopt yet more socialistic programs if we hope to see improvement.

Reich would have us believe that pouring money into inherently inefficient government programs is the answer. Such programs use as much as 70 cents of every dollar they receive to pay for administrative costs while private sector charities use only 30 cents. Under the system that Reich champions, funds that could be used to help the weaker members of our society are instead used to pay bureaucrats' salaries.

Reich said we need to "reclaim the energies and resources" of America's fortunate citizens for the benefit of all - not to redistribute their wealth but to invest the resources of the more fortunate citizens of society in the future productivity of their fellow citizens.

What does he mean by "fortunate citizens"? Fortune is winning the lottery; surely he is not equating compensation for hard work with fortune. And what does he mean by "we must reclaim their energies and resources"? He makes it sound as though they stole something and we must get it back.

Does anyone else find it scary that people like Reich are held in such high regard by the nation's leading policy makers (i.e., Clinton), that they hold the most influential professorships at our most prestigious institutions of higher learning and - worst of all - that they are busy advising the newly freed nations of the Eastern Bloc on a transition to free markets?

Baer's Quartet

Good politics is bad economics.
Bad politics is good economics.
Good economics is bad politics.
Bad economics is good politics.

Eugene W. Baer
Middletown, Rhode Island

The Pen of Damocles (More Dangerous Than the Sword)

by Sam Aurelius Milam III

Our language can be kind of tricky. How, for example, can *giving in* and *putting out* mean the same thing? *Quite* amplifies the meanings of other words. *Quite big* is bigger than *big*. Then why is *a bit* small when *quite a bit* is large? The singular word *woman* changes pronunciation the first syllable and spelling in the second syllable to become plural. And speaking of pronunciation, pronounce this: Wed-nes-day. How do you explain the pronunciation *Wensday*? While eating toast the other day, I noticed that the bread was "100% stone ground". To the farmer who grew the wheat, this probably means poor farm land.

Think about syllogisms. I can propose an inarguable major premise (Bread is better than nothing) and an equally true minor premise (Nothing is better than heaven). Yet, if bread is better than nothing, and nothing is better than heaven, then bread is better than heaven. OK I didn't fool you, but the point is well made. The memory span in our culture isn't very long, and we need to be careful. Other changes in meaning, across a distance greater than the width of a punctuation mark, are easily accomplished. This is where the pen becomes mightier than the sword.

Several years ago, I looked up *fascism* in one of my old dictionaries.

"fascism.... any system of government in which property is privately owned, but all industry and business is regulated by a strong national government."

Thorndike Century Senior Dictionary
1941

That definition is from the very time that the USA entered WW2, fighting just such a system. After winning a war against fascism, people gave up the struggle and lost the peace. Who knows? If the Axis powers had won the war, we might have more freedom today. At least we remember the meaning of *fascism*, and Libertarians wouldn't keep fantasizing about a "private sector" that isn't there. George Orwell warned us long ago that freedom is slavery. If we allow the words to mean the same thing, then Orwell was right.

On The Air

Donald Cormier and Jonathan Steel are cohosts of *Free and Clear* from 6:00-8:00 A.M. on alternate Wednesdays. Tune to KKUP, 91.5 F.M., and they'll stimulate the organ between your ears.

Gene Burns, the noted Libertarian talk-show host, is now on the air in Northern California, from Midnight to 2 am, Monday thru Friday, on KST, Sacramento, 650 khz. on the AM dial. The mailing address is: KST 5301 Madison Ave, Suite 402 Sacramento, California 95841.

Video Review

Zorro, the Gay Blade

by Don J. Cormier

You may have to do some digging at your local video rental outlet to unearth this decade-old spoof of Hollywood swashbucklers - but when you do, you'll have an unsung comedy gem in your hands.

Continued next page

Why Did I Get This Newsletter?

If you are a dues-paying member of the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County, you'll receive this newsletter every month. It's the chronicle of Libertarian ideas and activities in our county. We also mail it to people whom we'd like to join the party.

If your mailing label says *Valued Prospective Member*, you asked for information about Libertarianism, and this newsletter is part of our reply; you have a 3-month complimentary subscription. We hope you'll register to vote Libertarian and become a dues-paying member.

If your mailing label says *Valued Former Member*, you were previously a dues-paying member of the party, and we want you back! The newsletter is a reminder of what you're missing.

And on occasion, persons who have registered to vote as Libertarians but who are not members will also receive it (this is the case if your mailing label is in all capital letters). You've taken the first steps, and we hope you'll be encouraged to become more fully involved in helping us spread Libertarian principles!

Santa Clara Libertarian is the monthly publication of the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County, a non-profit organization. A membership application may be found on the inside back cover of this issue. Interested persons are encouraged to contact our office or visit one of our scheduled meetings (listed on the back cover) for more information.

Office: 3249 Stevens Creek Boulevard, Suite 207, San Jose, CA 95117

Telephone: (408) 243-2711

Liberty Bell BBS: (408) 243-1933 (for callers with a computer and modem)

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A more apt title would be *The Sons of Zorro*. As you may recall, the original Zorro was Don Diego, a masked and caped bandito, who fought corrupt politicians in the days when California was part of Mexico. This film is about his two grown sons, who do much the same sort of thing. However, one of his sons is a straight arrow, and the other is a - wavy blade. After suitable plot convolutions, the brothers spring into action, fighting to help the helpless, to befriend the friendless, and to defeat - the feetless? You won't be wrong if you guess that the gay blade turns out to be the big hero in the final battle.

George Hamilton plays both brothers with flair, ingenuity, and very thick accents. Loren Hutton is notable as a beautiful bleeding-heart liberal, who eventually finds wedded bliss with the correct sibling. Brenda Vacarro is charming, alluring, and amusing as the lusty, frustrated wife of the sadistic local Alcalde.

How, you may ask, is this movie libertarian? Well, it teaches that a government which is corrupt, confiscatory, and kill-crazy is worth trashing, even at great personal risk. It also teaches that its a good and noble thing to tolerate people who are different. It is especially good and noble to tolerate people who are wildly, flamboyantly, nerve-wrackingly different. Maybe Bill Clinton should show this movie to the brass who are resisting his new policy on gays and lesbians in the military.

Some time after first seeing this film, I tried to watch the 1940s version of Zorro, with Tyrone Power and Basil Rathbone. I couldn't sit through it. By comparison, it seemed slow and stodgy. If you see Zorro, The Gay Blade, you'll see a sassy celebration of diversity and revolt.

Advertising Rates

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Please patronize our Libertarian advertisers, and mention that you saw them in the *Santa Clara Libertarian*.



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Your Invitation to Action!

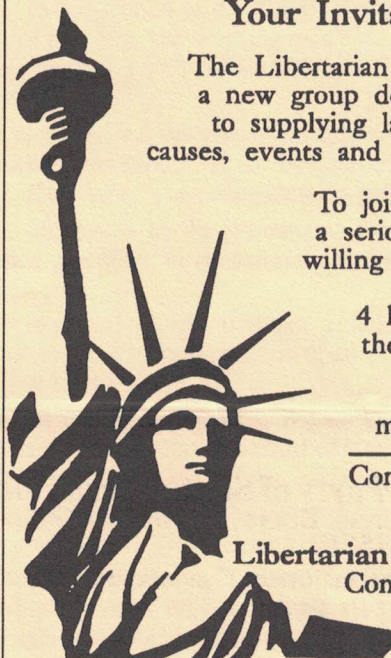
The Libertarian Volunteer Corps is a new group dedicated specifically to supplying labor for Libertarian causes, events and political campaigns.

To join, you should have a serious attitude and be willing to commit yourself to giving at least 4 hours per month to the Libertarian cause.

It's time to start making a difference!

Contact Bob Goodwyn
(415) 327-0964

Libertarian Volunteer Corps
Commitment to Action



Membership Application

Libertarian Party of California

3249 Stevens Creek Blvd., Suite 207
San Jose, CA 95117 Phone: (408) 243-2711

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

Signature _____ Date _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Basic County and State Membership \$25

Household Membership \$35 (requires each member to sign)

National Membership add \$20 per person

First Class Mail option for *California Libertarian News* \$5

I wish to pledge \$ _____ per month
or a one-time additional donation of \$ _____
for the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara

Payment by:

Check payable to *Libertarian Party of California*

or, charge my: Visa MasterCard

Number _____ Expires _____

Name on card _____

Signature _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Calendar

MID-COUNTY DISCUSSION GROUP (SUNNYVALE)
Wednesday, March 10, 7:00 - 9:30 pm.

These "second Wednesday" meetings are for anyone who wants to learn about libertarianism or is interested in libertarian ideas. They are held at **Coco's Restaurant**, 1209 Oakmead Parkway (at Lawrence Expressway, one block south of 101) in Sunnyvale.

SAVE OUR LIBERTIES MEETING (MOUNTAIN VIEW)
Thursday, March 11, 7:30 - 9:30 pm.

Guest: Carl Cieslikowski, Independent Republican Candidate for Leon Panetta's office. Carl is pro-choice on EVERYTHING!
Location: Mountain View Community Center, 201 S. Rengstorff Ave. For more info call S.O.L. at (415)964-3655.

• **LPSC BUSINESS MEETING (SUNNYVALE)**
Thursday, March 18, 7:00 pm dinner, 8-10 pm meeting

These "third Thursday" meetings cover what's happening in the LP in the county, the state and around the country. Held at **Coco's Restaurant**, 1209 Oakmead Parkway (at Lawrence Expressway, one block south of 101) in Sunnyvale. If you want to have dinner or a snack and participate in the pre-meeting discussion, please arrive promptly at 7 pm.

• **NORTH COUNTY DISCUSSION GROUP (MOUNTAIN VIEW)**
Thursday, March 25, 7:00 - 9:30 pm.

These "fourth Thursday" meetings are for anyone who wants to learn about libertarianism or is interested in libertarian ideas. They are held at **Harry's Hofbrau**, 399 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View; about 3/8 of a mile north of Grant Road and Hwy 85.



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