



# Santa Clara Libertarian

Volume 32, Issue 11 November 2004 News of Local Libertarians' Efforts and Feats

## A Long-Awaited Celebration on Election Night

by Mark Hinkle  
Past Chair, LP of California

Over 40 candidates, party officials, members, and a couple of new folks did their civic duty by voting on November 2, and then gathered at Jersey's Cheesesteaks sports bar in Campbell to watch the election results, tell stories about the long campaign season, celebrate our victories, and strategize about our losses. In addition to Santa Clara folks, LP friends from San Mateo and Santa Cruz Counties joined the fun.

The presidential election campaign comes but every fourth year, and this was the time to celebrate the end of the extra long campaign season. It was also time to acknowledge the hard work and long hours of our candidates, party officials, and volunteers.

One volunteer was singled out for his extraordinary dedication to the cause. As Campaigns Chair, Kevin Takenaga was actively involved in most of the local campaigns, while also working on both the Badnarik for President and Gray for Senate campaigns. His tireless energy spurred on many of us old timers to go the extra mile.

Throughout the evening, we checked election results via a laptop with a cell phone connection. We also had three television sets in the room so we could watch the nationwide coverage of the Presidential race. During the evening, we heard from LP Presidential candidate Michael Badnarik, who called in from his election night party down in Austin, Texas. We also checked in with Judge Jim Gray's election night party to hear Judge Gray give thanks for our

support of his candidacy. Undoubtedly, Judge Gray has been the highest profile U.S. Senate candidate we've had in the Party's history.

Locally, Zander Collier, candidate for the

and Michael Laursen, and Congressional candidate Brian Holtz.

The party kicked off at 6:30 P.M. and lasted well past closing time. We received excellent



Photo: Mark Hinkle

*Assembly District 24 candidate Mike Laursen and Campaigns Chair Kevin Takenaga enjoy a relaxing moment—for a change—celebrating at Jersey's after a rigorous election season of fund raising, recruiting volunteers, campaign speeches, working at the LPSCC booth at festivals, and much more.*

Assembly District 24, used his campaign fund surplus to buy beer and sodas for the partygoers who turned in their "I Voted" stickers. Joining him were State Senate candidates Allen Rice,

service by the staff of Jersey's, and we thanked them wholeheartedly for their efforts.

A good time was had by all—we expect to have even more to celebrate next time! ■

## Election Results

Congratulations to our hard-working candidates who gave so generously of their time and energy, putting a face on the word "Libertarian" for so many local voters on November 2.

All our candidates ran in three-way races, so their vote totals under 10% are not surprising. The final election results (off [www.SCCGov.org](http://www.SCCGov.org)) are:

### U.S. Representative Districts

14	Brian Holtz	5,335	3.62%
16	Markus Welch	5,067	2.78%

### State Assembly Districts

24	Zander Collier	8,337	5.26%
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### State Senate Districts

11	Allen Rice	7,876	3.97%
13	Michael Laursen	9,585	4.20%

■ See **Results**, page 4

## NEW DATE! Don't Miss the Annual Dinner & Convention: Jan. 20

Be sure not to miss the LPSCC's annual convention, when we will elect our officers for the coming year, and our state LP convention delegates for February. Also, there will be a proposal to alter the Bylaws, for which a greater-than-quorum crowd would be best!

**When:** Thursday, January 20, 2005

6:00 P.M. No-host cocktails

6:30 P.M. Dinner

7:30 P.M. Convention business

9:15 P.M. Meeting adjourns

**Where:** Hong Fu Restaurant

20588 Stevens Creek Blvd.

Cupertino (408/252-2200)

The restaurant is in the shopping center at the southwest corner of Stevens Creek Boule-

vard and De Anza Boulevard.

Dinner will be served family style, and is expected to include hot & sour soup, egg rolls, vegetables, lemon chicken, Mongolian beef, sweet & sour prawns, rice, fortune cookies, & more.

**Who: Members.** Guests are welcome too!

**Cost:** 6:30 seating 7:30 seating

By 1/17: \$22 each \$27 each

After 1/17: \$27 each \$32 each

No refunds after Jan. 17. To attend the convention you are not required to purchase dinner, but please support the restaurant and enjoy.

Pay on line at: [www.SC.CA.LP.org/conv](http://www.SC.CA.LP.org/conv), or send a check to: LPSCC, c/o Allen Hacker, Chairman, P.O. Box 1000, Mountain View, CA 94042. ■



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**PAST ISSUES**

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

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■ Message from the Chair

**What a Year!**

Intense, exciting, disappointing, and instructive.... This year has been a lot like most years, one might say. But what's far more important is next year.

Next year we must organize. We must register more Libertarians and then give more of those people good reason to become members of the LP. We must be more responsive to our volunteers and less reactive to our critics. And above all, we need to go even further toward doing what a political party does.

What is that? Well, it's not to litigate. That's for public-interest and watchdog groups. Not that we've done any litigation lately, but we often wish someone would. Maybe we can encourage someone. Some out there are doing it.

And it's not to educate. I know; there are people who have always felt that education is our major role because nobody knows about us or what we stand for. But those problems are solved by marketing, not by educating. True, marketing includes education, but is much more and the focus is different. Focusing only on education, by its very general nature, allows too much latitude for us to drift off message.

No—what political parties do is to organize the efforts of people of a common mind toward electing people who will participate in the legislative process to the end of carrying a platform into effect.

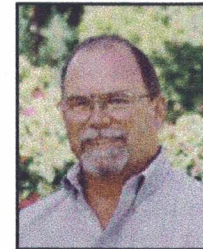
We need to hone our message; align our people; proactively select and support credible candidates; and endeavor to win.

Nothing else—education for education's sake, affecting outcomes where the resulting outcome is progressively more evil anyway, being antigovernment beyond the constraints of reality—has really gotten the LP anywhere.

In most cases, the LP has shrunk while failing to actually try to elect someone. I suspect there are those among us who like it that way, because

they're not antigovernment for the sake of liberty, they're anti-any-organization for the sake of private defensive agendas.

But the LP of Santa Clara, well, we've bucked the trend. We grew this year, because we took some action. We spent several thousand dollars from our dues proceeds and hard-earned donations. We put a few candidates on the line who represented us well. And your officers answered the telephone, and went to interviews and events, and put a face on the word "Libertarian."



Allen Hacker

Not that previous officers and candidates were bad or inactive. Just that this year we did more. And you know what? We liked it! We liked being rung up and consulted about the libertarian position. And we're beginning to like that there's been an increase of awareness of the libertarian idea and presence.

Why, just the other day I was talking to a rep from a major legal-research resource provider. He asked, "Haven't I seen your name somewhere?" Of course, I mentioned my having signed several ballot arguments (rather than post office posters), and he said, "Yes! You guys were really out there this year."

Cool. So as for next year, let's organize and market. Let's build a foundation from which we can elect some people. Let's show them that we haven't shown them anything yet.

And let's have that mean something good!

Just say it ain't so. Explain the difference. Life will be easier; the Party will expand; and apples will taste better.

—Allen Hacker, Chair  
 (650) 964-4488

P.S. Where to begin? Why, at the January LPSCC Annual Meeting (County Convention), of course. For details, see elsewhere herein, and on our web site at [www.SC.CA.LP.org](http://www.SC.CA.LP.org). I'll see you there! ■

**Junior Statesmen of America Descend on Silicon Valley**

On November 20 the Santa Clara Marriott was overrun with exuberant young future politicians participating in a convention of Junior Statesmen of America. The LP snared practically a quarter of the exhibit hall, with a room-wide exhibit.

LPSCC's Dennis Umphress joined the team at the booth when, upon visiting the convention,

he saw that two of our dedicated colleagues from the LP of Monterey County, Lawrence Samuels (pictured at right) and Mark Dierolf, had gone the extra mile—literally—to meet these youths, introduce them to the Nolan "diamond" chart and the Libertarian Party early in their development of their political philosophy.

The LP team handed out literature and buttons; displayed campaign signs from Badnarik for President and Gray for Senate; and chatted it up with many of these very knowledgeable young people. Most especially, they shared the

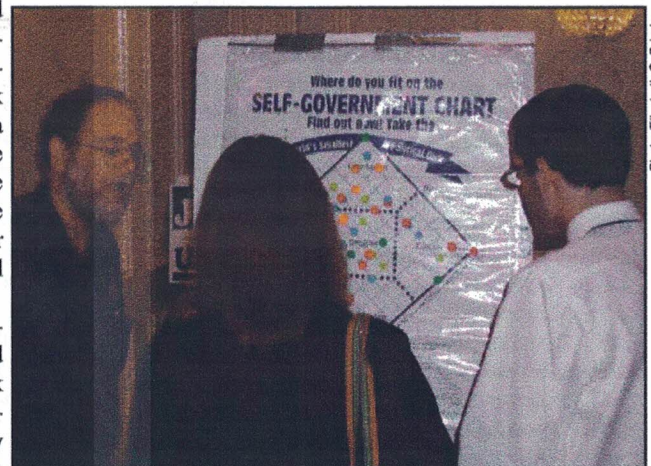


Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

key differences between the LP and some of the

other parties represented at the convention, such as the—ahem!—Socialist Workers Party. ■

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■ Public Office

# You Can Make a Real Difference

by Dennis M. Umphress  
LPSCC Member, and President of Silicon Valley Taxpayers' Association

As I shared with readers of California Freedom in September, I have been serving on East Side Union High School District's Measure G citizens' bond oversight committee (CBOC). The committee is responsible for monitoring the District's \$298-million bond, approved in March of 2002.



Dennis Umphress

A CBOC must be appointed for each bond or parcel tax, and each committee must be composed of a slate of different types of citizens, e.g., a member of a taxpayers' organization. Since my application to the committee was the only one from a representative of a local taxpayers' group, the board was forced to appoint me to the CBOC.

Here is a prime opportunity for Libertarians to hold school boards responsible for proper use of the funds they managed to elicit from investors and convince voters to approve. I have had access to all records of how the bond money has been spent. I found that about \$500,000 had been spent on inappropriate

projects, such as new buses and a \$15,000 copying machine. I voiced my objections to these projects at school board meetings and to district officials, until the funding source was diverted from bond funds. This freed up the \$500,000 for legitimate bond projects.

You too can help minimize improper spending as well as the likelihood that the district will go back to the voters for more money to fund the same project list. On November 2, despite our best efforts to defeat them, nine local measures (see sidebar) requiring citizens' oversight committees were approved by voters.

The duties of an oversight committee member are simple: attend committee meetings (usually held from four to 12 times per year), and actively review the expenditure of the bond monies—funds must be spent only on the projects listed in the ballot measure. Once these school districts certify their election results, they will need to start forming their committees. Please contact the school districts to indicate your interest in serving in this very gratifying role! ■

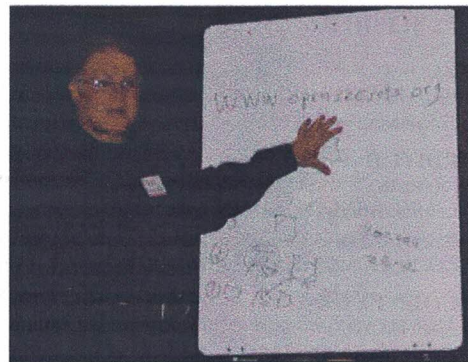
### These Measures Need Oversight Committees!

- E Yosemite Community College Bonds
- G San Jose/Evergreen Community College Bonds
- H West Valley/Mission Community College Bonds
- J Santa Clara Unified Bonds
- M Campbell Union High School District Parcel Tax
- P Sunnyvale School District Bonds
- Q Franklin-McKinley School District Bonds
- R Alum Rock School District Parcel Tax
- S San Jose Library Parcel Tax

# Professor Provokes Thought

LPSCC hosted Fred Foldvary, economics professor and faculty associate of Santa Clara University's Civil Society Institute, at its quarterly Inspiring Freedom Forum, held the evening of November 11.

Dr. Foldvary, author of *Public Goods and Private Communities*, spoke about



Fred E. Foldvary, Ph.D., illustrates a point at LPSCC's November 11 speaker event.

"cellular democracy," a form of decentralized governance, with associations of a few hundred people electing their governing council, in turn selecting a representative to a regional council, on up to the national level, and how this would facilitate liberty and mitigate the rent-seeking, disenfranchisement and capture of the governing process by institutionalized elements. ■

### More Such Speakers!

Every third month, LPSCC presents fascinating guest speakers! Held on the second Thursday at a local restaurant, in a relaxed dinner-hour atmosphere, these events offer plenty of time for discussion. For 2005, the schedule is:

- February 10 August 11
- May 12 November 10

To recommend guest speakers, contact LPSCC Chairman Allen Hacker ([Allen@LawfulGov.org](mailto:Allen@LawfulGov.org)). Then join us for these educational, thought-provoking, and yes, even entertaining evenings.

For locations, updates, and changes, check the LPSCC web site at: [www.SC.CA.LP.org](http://www.SC.CA.LP.org), then click on "Events."

# Leadership Opportunities in the Local Party

At our annual convention on Jan. 20, we'll elect officers to establish and carry out the Party's vision for the coming year. This is an exciting opportunity for activists and volunteers to take on leadership roles, and to help drive the momentum from this year's election fervor.

Every member of the central committee who has expressed a willingness to serve is eligible for election to these positions. (For full descriptions of the offices, see LPSCC's Bylaws on the web at [www.SC.CA.LP.org](http://www.SC.CA.LP.org); click on "Reference.")

The **Chair** presides at all Central Committee meetings and at all meetings of the Executive Committee. He or she is the CEO of the Party.

The **Vice-Chair** acts as assistant to the Chair, and performs the duties of the Chair whenever the Chair is unable to do so.

The **Secretary** is the Party's recording officer.

The **Treasurer** receives, expends, and accounts for the Party's funds under the direction of the Chair and Executive Committee.

There are also seven standing committees

where your talents can help increase local liberty.

The **Membership Chair** is responsible for activities to maintain and increase Party and Central Committee membership.

The **Publicity Chair** is responsible for disseminating information about the Party to the media and the public.

The **Newsletter Chair** is responsible for publication of a newsletter for disseminating information about the Party to the members.

The **Campaigns Chair** coordinates candidate recruitment, training, and support.

The **Fundraising Chair** is responsible for coordinating fundraising activities.

The **Activities Chair** coordinates activities intended to involve, motivate, and inspire members.

The **Judicial Committee** is responsible for receiving all appeals and petitions, and scheduling hearings. Unofficially, the Judicial Committee also has been responsible for evaluating nominees for LPSCC's Activist of the Year award. ■

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Photo: Elizabeth C. Brienly



## Santa Clara Libertarian

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## Results *continued from Page 1*

Hoover Institution's **Bill Evers**, formerly an active Libertarian though now a Republican, won his two-way race for Santa Clara County Board of Education, with 53.3% of the vote. We opposed these 13 bonds and parcel taxes and were able to defeat four:

Measure	Description	Result
G	SJ/Evergreen (SB)	Passed, 65.39%
H	West Valley/Mission (B)	Passed, 60.13%
I	Palo Alto Unified (PT)	Defeated, 66.01%
J	Santa Clara Unified (SB)	Passed, 72.04%
K	East Side Union (PT)	Defeated, 62.91%
L	Fremont Union (PT)	Passed, 67.11%
M	Campbell Union (PT)	Passed, 67.51%
N	Evergreen (PT)	Defeated, 66.10%
O	Cupertino Union (PT)	Defeated, 66.17%
P	Sunnyvale (SB)	Passed, 72.98%
Q	Franklin-McKinley (B)	Passed, 72.71%
R	Alum Rock (PT)	Passed, 68.86%
S	City of San Jose (PT)	Passed, 67.18%

Note: B=bond; SB=school bond; PT=parcel tax

## "Free and Clear" on the Airwaves

by **Don J. Cormier**

Radio Talk Show Host and Member of Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County

For over ten years, I've had the pleasure of being associated with "Free and Clear," a radio talk show airing on KKUP Cupertino, 91.5 FM. The program features discussions of current events and community issues from a variety of political viewpoints

I try to represent a libertarian perspective, and my co-hosts, Valli Sharpe Geisler and Yolanda Reynolds, present the Reform Party and liberal Democrat viewpoints. This mix makes for lively and, hopefully, instructive explorations of the problems that society faces.

Frequently we interview candidates from the newer political parties. We also interview community activists who seek donations and volunteer support. Zander Collier

and Lorraine Wallace-Rowe are two of our recent guests, and names that readers of Santa Clara Libertarian may recognize.

KKUP is a listener-sponsored station, meaning that there is no commercial advertising, and that the station's funding comes from donations and subscriptions. The station receives no government or corporate support. All the programmers (such as myself) are volunteers, and there is only one full-time paid

employee, the station's on-call engineer. While the lack of funds is sometimes restricting, the fact that we are not beholden to any large sponsor gives a wonderful sense of freedom.

For enlightening drive-time discussion, tune in twice per month! ■

### Hear the Libertarian Viewpoint!

What: **Free and Clear**, with Don Cormier  
Where: KKUP 91.5 FM, Cupertino  
When: Wednesdays, 2nd and 4th weeks of each month  
6:00 A.M. to 8:00 A.M.  
Web: [www.KKUP.com](http://www.KKUP.com)

### LawfulGov.org

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