



Santa Clara Libertarian

Volume 33, Issue 11 November 2005

News of Local Libertarians' Efforts and Feats

Telecommuting Outstrips Transit

by **Adrian Moore**
VP of Research, Reason Foundation

I telecommute from my small family farm in a remote mountain valley. As I always say, I commute from my bed to my couch. People tend to react to my description one of three ways:

"I wish my company would let me do that."

"Oh, I could never do that; I wouldn't get any work done."

"Really? I telecommute too!"

The last group is growing. Technology

is doing something that transit planners have been unable to do for decades: get people out of their cars. People working from home now outnumber mass transit commuters in 27 of the nation's 50 largest metropolitan areas. And telecommuting is more effective than transit at reducing congestion and air pollution.

A new study by my colleague Ted Baker, "The Quiet Success: Telecommuting's Impact on Transportation and Beyond," details how, with virtually no policy support or

subsidy, telecommuting has quietly grown beyond the hype of two decades ago. You can get the full study at www.Reason.org/ps338.pdf, or a summary at www.Reason.org/ps338polsum.pdf.

Number of Telecommuters for Each Transit Commuter	
Austin (1.38)	Norfolk (1.50)
Charlotte (2.00)	Oklahoma City (4.67)
Columbus (1.30)	Orlando (1.71)
Dallas (1.67)	Phoenix (1.85)
Denver (1.07)	Raleigh (2.06)
Detroit (1.28)	Richmond (1.24)

■ See **Transit**, page 3

LP Reaches Out to Youth at Largest JSA Convention Ever

by **Lawrence Samuels**
Northern Vice Chair, LP of California

The Junior State of America (JSA) had their largest Northern California convention yet—over 1,200 students piled into Santa Clara's own Marriott Hotel on Nov. 19.

The Junior State of America is the self-described "largest student-run high school organization in America, with over 16,000 members.... It is a nonpartisan group filled with members that are interested in politics, government, debate, the law, and edu-

cation. What makes JSA so special is that students organize every aspect of it. Junior State conventions allow for an exchange of ideas between students through debates, thought talks, problem solving, open forum discussions, mock trials, political fairs, and many various simulations such as campaign workshops."

The LP of California had a good crew at the Libertarian Party booth. **Morey Straus** and **Starchild** trekked from San Francisco to help out. Newcomer **Lois**

Garcia had found us on the web, and turned up at Santa Clara County LP's election night party, where she learned of our JSA participation. Also helping out were **Travis Griffiths** of Monterey County, **John Inks** of Santa Clara County, and **John Nahas**.

One young Junior Stateswoman said that she had read

ELECTION DAY
Nov. 8
2005
Results page 3

■ See **JSA**, page 3



L-R: LPC activists **John Inks** (pointing to chart), **Morey Straus**, **Lois Garcia**, and **Starchild** (partly obscured) responding to the inquiring minds of JSA members. Nov. 19.

Photo: Lawrence Samuels



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PAST ISSUES

From 1998 on: www.SC.CA.LP.org/sc/

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■ Message from the Chair

Help Set Party Direction at Annual Convention

The 2006 convention of the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County is right around the corner, and it's an evening you won't want to miss.

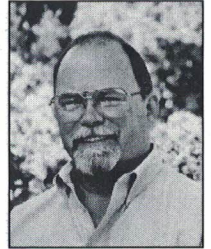
At the annual event, to be held on Tues., Jan. 10, we'll be changing the operating basis of your local Party for the coming year. There may be big changes throughout the coming year, so you'll want to be there to voice your views on the Party's direction.

As an election year, 2006 will be an especially exciting and critical time for liberty in Silicon Valley. At the convention, you'll be participating with a host of like-minded individuals working to rein in the politicians and lobbyists of Santa Clara County. Your non-Libertarian guest is welcome, too!

With expanded opportunities to abuse eminent domain power, the cost burden of new school bonds every election cycle, and questionable ethics cropping up in some of our city councils, it's crucial that we develop a second tier of activists and volunteers. We need to bolster the effectiveness of our Party officers—in their recruiting, event-planning, publicity, ballot argument, and coalition building efforts and more—since the Party is simply too big for the officers alone to manage and perform so many vital activities. Consider running for Party office yourself, or step in to help our officers

shine in their wide array of plans to maintain the LPSCC as *the* local beacon of liberty.

We have an exciting addition this year: keynote speaker **Susan Hamilton**, who will share with us "How a Free-Market Service Organization Works." Hamilton is Executive Director of VTF Services, which began in 1968 as the Vets Task Force, and provides jobs to those struggling with mental health problems. VTF is self-supporting and non-profit, and has won Mountain View's "business of the month" award. It also happens to be the organization providing assembly services for this very publication, *Santa Clara Libertarian*.



Allen Hacker

Also at the convention will be a briefing on the new membership rules and dues, now that the National LP has reformatted its membership arrangement. And, we will confirm delegates to the LPC convention.

I hope to see all of you—Party veterans and new faces alike—on January 10. We'll set important goals and have a good time doing it! ■

—Allen Hacker
 Chair, LP of Santa Clara County

Are You Getting the Full Picture?

If you're not in the LPSCC e-mail Announce List, the answer is "no." We can't reach you with late-breaking Party news, timely reminders of important meetings, or calls to action.

How can you tell whether you are in the list? Glance at the back of this newsletter. If the word "need" appears above your name, that means we are unable to get information to you via e-mail.



To be added to the list, send a short e-mail message to **Allen Rice**, LPSCC Vice Chair, at AMRCheck@Yahoo.com. We use this list very sparingly and only for Party business. We promise. ■

Coming Soon: libertarian Events in the Bay Area

LP of Santa Clara County

Speakers Bureau

The LPSCC Speakers Bureau is on hiatus in December, and will return to its regular quarterly slot on Tuesday, March 14, 2006.

Annual Convention!

- Election of officers
- Election of delegates to state LP convention
- Voting on Bylaws changes
- Briefing on new membership rules

plus...

- Keynote speaker **Susan Hamilton** of VTF Services, on

How a Free-Market

Service Organization Works

When: **Tues., Jan. 10, 6:00 – 10:00 P.M.**
 Where: Golden Wok, 895 Villa St., Mountain View
 Fee: \$25, 6:30 seating (\$30 after Jan. 2)
 \$30, 7:30 seating (\$35 after Jan. 2)
Note: The 7:30 seating is limited.

For info: www.SC.CA.LP.org
 or call 1 (877) 872-3007

Register: www.sc.ca.lp.org/conv/2006/index.php

Nonpartisan libertarian Events

Silicon Valley Taxpayers' Association

Jeff Katz, host of The Jeff Katz Show,
"YOUR Voice of Liberty,"

on KNEW Radio 910 AM

When: **Thurs., Jan. 19, 2005, 5:30 P.M.**
 Where: Santa Clara Univ., Daily Science 207
 For info: www.SCU.edu/csi/events/

Independent Institute

Author Henry Miller of Hoover Institution & Professor Bruce Ames of U.C. Berkeley:

The Frankenfood Myth? Politics & Protests of the Biotech Revolution

When: **Tues., Dec. 13, 2005, 6:30 P.M.**
 Where: 100 Swan Way, Oakland
 For info: www.Independent.org/events

The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance; which condition if he break, servitude is at once the consequence of his crime and the punishment of his guilt.

—John Philpot Curran, 1790

Results of Nov. 8 Special Election

In this month's special election, we voted on the important statewide propositions, plus local measures in Cupertino & Sunnyvale. As is typical, we won some & lost some. Here is what happened.

City Measures

	LP Voted:	Result:	
Measure A General Plan Amendment Restricting Housing Density—City of Cupertino.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	53.81%
Measure B General Plan Amendment Restricting Building Heights—City of Cupertino.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	55.95%
Measure C General Plan Amendment Restricting Building Set Back Lines—City of Cupertino.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	58.67%
Measure D Business License Tax—City of Sunnyvale.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	56.36%
Measure E Hotel Tax—City of Sunnyvale.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	69.33%
Measure F Term Limits—City of Sunnyvale.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	62.52%
Measure G City Manager's Residence—City of Sunnyvale...No position....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	54.44%
Measure H Heritage Resource—City of Sunnyvale.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	68.86%

Statewide Propositions

	LP Voted:	Result:	
Prop. 73 Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy.....	No position....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	52.7%
Prop. 74 Public School Teachers. Waiting Period for Permanent Status. Dismissal.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	55.1%
Prop. 75 Public Employee Union Dues. Restrictions on Political Contributions. Employee Consent Requirement.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	53.5%
Prop. 76 State Spending and School Funding Limits.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	62.2%
Prop. 77 Redistricting. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	59.7%
Prop. 78 Discounts on Prescription Drugs.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	58.5%
Prop. 79 Prescription Drug Discounts. State-Negotiated Rebates.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	60.7%
Prop. 80 Electric Service Providers. Regulation.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	65.6%

JSA

continued from Page 1

my book, *Facets of Liberty: A Libertarian Primer*, not once or twice but "three times," and that she'd enjoyed it immensely. She mentioned that when she got older, she planned to become involved in the libertarian movement. This may just give me the impetus to update and reprint the book, whose stock I've gradually been depleting by giving out about 800 at JSA conventions over the years.

Another student reported having read Robert LeFevre's *Fundamentals of Liberty*—given out at last year's booth—not at all an easy read.

At the close of the convention, most of our team headed down the street to Pedro's Restaurant & Cantina for dinner and conversation. First-time JSA assistants Starchild and Straus liked the event so much that they said they'd like to write some material for the next one.

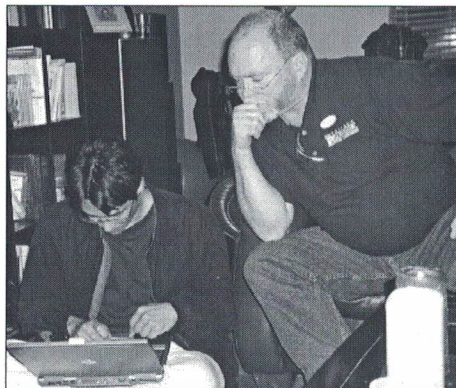
Keeping our approach fresh certainly won't hurt in generating early interest in the Party of Principle among these bright young future statesmen. ■

Party

continued from Page 4

at the Junior State of America convention.

Johnson encourages fellow members to host other social events. "These things are easy to put on, and well attended. Maybe someone will host a gathering for Presidents Day!" ■



Campaigns Committee Chair **Kevin Takenaga** and County Party Chair **Allen Hacker** examine election returns on line.

There is no duty we so much under-rate as the duty of being happy.
—Robert Louis Stevenson

Transit

continued from Page 1

Number of Telecommuters for Each Transit Commuter (cont.)

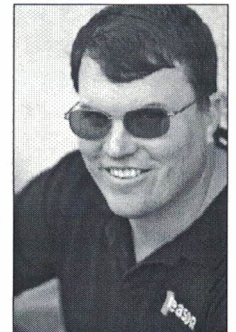
Grand Rapids (3.88)	Rochester (1.45)
Greensboro (2.67)	Sacramento (1.43)
Indianapolis (2.23)	St. Louis (1.17)
Jacksonville (1.53)	Salt Lake City (1.27)
Kansas City (2.62)	San Diego (1.29)
Louisville (1.09)	Tampa (2.38)
Memphis (1.29)	West Palm Beach (2.73)
Nashville (3.20)	

And in a head-to-head comparison with rail transit, Reason's study finds the numbers are even more tilted in telecommuting's favor—with working from home beating commuting by rail in 18 of 23 areas.

Number of Telecommuters for Each Rail Commuter

Atlanta (3.18)	Pittsburgh (24.00)
Buffalo (7.00)	Portland (9.20)
Cleveland (9.00)	Providence (3.00)
Dallas (30.00)	Sacramento (13.33)
Denver (47.00)	Salt Lake City (12.67)
Greensboro (24.00)	San Diego (22.00)
Hartford (25.00)	San Francisco (1.17)
Los Angeles (12.00)	St. Louis (14.00)
Miami (5.60)	West Palm Beach (20.50)

The study says telecommuting is "zero-emissions transportation," and may be the most cost-effective way to reduce traffic congestion. Yet in a decision that could hurt telecommuting, the Supreme Court just refused to review New York's policy of taxing the income of out-of-state telecommuters. This policy could leave many telecommuters vulnerable to double taxation, but Congress is considering the Telecommuter Tax Fairness Act to end the threat.



Adrian Moore

In the study, we look in detail at the business management and worker aspects of telecommuting, too, and how for more jobs and more workers, telecommuting can work.

Telecommuting is a nearly untapped transportation management tool with great potential. I hope this study creates opportunities to unleash more of that potential. ■

DR. ADRIAN MOORE is Vice President of Research at Reason Foundation (www.Reason.org), and will be a featured speaker at the LP of California 2006 convention in February.



Santa Clara Libertarian

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SAN JOSE, CA

Election Night Party Draws New People

Thanks go to **Mark Johnson** for hosting a relaxing and fun election night party on November 8! The informal gathering of about 20 was a wonderful chance just to socialize with fellow libertarians, with no pressure on local activists—except to have a good time.

“I’d like to thank everybody there for

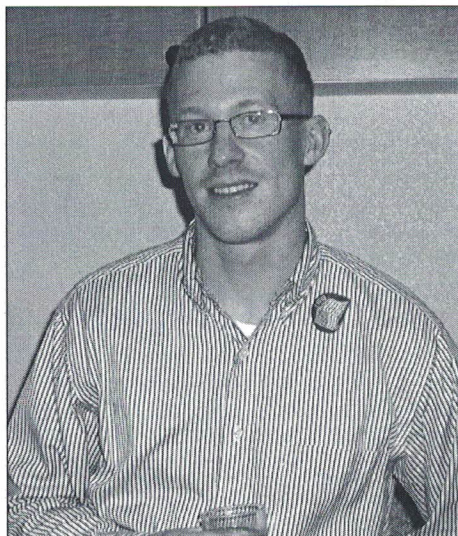
coming,” said Johnson, who serves on the LP of California Executive Committee as well as being Publicity Chair for LPSCC. He added, “It’s fun to interact with libertarians on a social level, instead of always focusing on our political tasks. Events like this help to bring in people who wouldn’t normally attend a Party meeting.”

LPSCC’s Chairman, **Allen Hacker**, agreed: “We had a gratifying turnout of enthusiastic libertarians who enjoy a good excuse for a social event.” It’s always exciting to welcome new people to the Party of Principle, and in this case the old-timers outnumbered the new faces by only about three to two. One of the newcomers was **Lois Garcia**, whose parents are from communist Cuba. She’d learned of the event through the announcement on our web site. She liked the people she met and their ideas well enough that she jumped right in and volunteered for LP booth duty a week later

■ See **Party**, page 3



Photos: Elizabeth C. Brierty



Scott Lieberman of Los Gatos checking for updated election returns on the Internet.

Publicity Chair and party host Mark Johnson of San Jose relaxing & socializing with fellow libertarians.

Reserve Today!
Feb. 24–27, 2006

Liberty at Sea '06

It’s the annual convention of the **Libertarian Party of California.**

Sign up: Continuing Education Inc.
1 (800) 422-0711

Any LPSCC member may run for a seat as delegate from Santa Clara County (see page 2).