



Santa Clara Libertarian

Volume 33, Issue 4 April 2005

News of Local Libertarians' Efforts and Feats

Tax Day Empathy: "Are You Happy Tonight?" Traditional "Party at the Post Office" Enables Outreach

One of the quintessential Libertarian outreach activities is to meet fellow taxpayers on April 15, that evening on which we're all in the same boat—sinking into the abyss of government addiction to both bureaucracy and our money.

April 15 fell on a Friday evening this year. Last-minute filers forewent "date night" to file their taxes on paper by mail.

This year, our favorite line to pose to frazzled taxpayers, "Are you happy tonight?" usually elicited a chuckle, and helped us engage with people just long enough to give them some LP literature accompanied by a smile.

Bob Goodwyn, Activities Chair, brought stacks of the newspaper-style outreach flyer, *Libertarian Viewpoint*, to hand out.

"We had four volunteers at the post office: Al Newman, John Inks, Elizabeth Brierly, and me," Goodwyn reported. "We

handed out two big bundles of the flyer, not one of which got tossed on the ground. We held up a big sign that read, 'Is stolen money put to good use?' Most people seemed to get it. We also wore my little circle-slash things."

Goodwyn meant the large stickers he had created, with the universal symbol for "no" laid in red over the word "taxes." They stood out quite well on volunteers' clothing.

"At one point, there were also some Green Party activists out there, protesting. That was O.K. with me," continued Goodwyn. "It is interesting to note that there was not a single

■ See **Party**, page 3



Photos this page: Elizabeth C. Brierly

Bob Goodwyn (l.), Activities Chair, was joined by **John Inks** at the San Jose main post office on April 15. Handing out LP flyers, they encouraged taxpayers to check their assumptions about govt. funding.



Brittany Corey, 19, a student filing taxes at the SJ main post office on April 15, was receptive as LPSCC member **Al Newman** offered LP literature to her and other filers.

We Win One; We Lose One Santa Clara County Library Tax Ballot Results

The results of the Santa Clara County Library District Joint Powers Authority parcel tax measures, although awaiting final certification in May, appear to be put to bed: it was a split decision, approving, unfortunately, the extension of the status quo tax, but with the bright spot of voters' rejection of an additional tax.

We lost our battle against Measure A, which renews for ten years a current tax due—passed in 1994 and due to expire in June—and we won on defeating the additional tax proposed in Measure B.

Measure A adds \$33.66 per parcel for

each single family residence (SFR), and on a higher scale for commercial and rental properties. Measure B would have tacked on \$12 more per parcel for SFR's for 10 years.

With the measures' 2/3 requirement to pass, it was by 3,835 votes that we lost the Measure A battle, and it was by 1,718 votes that we won on Measure B.

If Measure A had failed, B would have been defeated automatically. Essentially, the public said it was O.K. to maintain the status quo, but they do not want to shell out additional funds.

Mark Zappa of Gilroy ran an advertisement in one or two south bay newspapers,

opposing both taxes. Silicon Valley Taxpayers' Association, who participated in the ballot arguments, lent its name to the ad, too.

Here are the results, as of press time. 201,103 ballots were distributed for this mail-in election; turnout was weak, at around 36%.

Measure A: Renew 1994 tax

Yes	51,404	.....	72.04%
No	19,949	.....	27.96%
Total	71,353	.....	100.00%

Measure B: Add new 10-year tax

Yes	45,214	.....	64.23%
No	25,184	.....	35.77%
Total	70,398	.....	100.00%

Thank you to those who spearheaded the ballot arguments against these measures, especially **Dennis Umphress**, and to those who maintained the "Vote No on A/B" web pages. ■

Read more on the measures:

www.SCCVote.org (click on "Elections," then "May 3")

www.SmartVoter.org (click on "May 3 Santa Clara County," then "Local Measures")



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PAST ISSUES

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

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The corporate income tax costs the economy more in lost production than it raises for the U.S. Treasury.

Source: Jane Gravelle, Congressional Research Service Economist

Correction: Lights of Liberty

Last month, we reported that eleven (11) California LP members had been honored with **Lights of Liberty 2004** awards from **Advocates for Self-Government** (*Santa Clara Libertarian*, March 2005: "Advocates for Self-Govt.' Honors our Volunteers"; page 2).

After press time, we were informed that there actually had been 28 winners from California. The representation by our own Santa Clara County chapter members remains six (6), as reported correctly in March. ■

■ Message from the Chair

Changes—Good, and Not So Good

High school kids are great! On April 16, as always, a good time was had by several Libertarians at the Junior State of America (JSA) convention in Santa Clara. These young people take the World's Smallest Political Quiz, and learn that there's a better way to look at political positioning than the old flat-earth (oops, I mean flatline...er...straight-line, left-right) way. Many attend the convention multiple times, and will chat with us as old friends. Some report that they've now reached voting age, and they've registered Libertarian (two this time!), or even joined the LP (one this time!)

Three LPSCC members, **Dennis Umphress**, **Allen Rice**, and myself, are now on bond or parcel tax oversight committees. We've been appointed, usually as the mandatory representative of a bona fide taxpayer group (in this county, the LP counts as such). So, despite having lost a ballot measure, we can stay in the discussion, help make sure that the money is spent as promised, and become known by establishment types as reasonable people.

KTNV Channel 11 News featured me in a report on the mail-in election for the county library tax. On April 28, reporter Susan Sciavo interviewed me over the phone for a half-hour, and the next day, she set up a visual interview, which ran about 15 minutes. I felt I scored some points for the LP. For example, the issue isn't just a mere \$4.00-per-month tax, but that there are dozens of these things hitting the voters, and they do add up. Ms Sciavo pointed out that one of my assertions, that the Internet has, in great part, replaced the library as a research tool, applies only to those with Internet access and that not everyone can afford it. I countered that if people weren't com-

pelled to pay so many extra \$4-per-month taxes, perhaps they actually could afford Internet access.

The evening of April 29, the report aired, opening and closing with kids and moms at a library's story hour, some concrete information in between—starting with the numbers, followed by snippets from interviews of proponents and opponents. At first glance, the visual message seemed a classic staging of the stingy old white guy against the kids;



Allen Hacker

I got about nine seconds—one quote about the libraries becoming increasingly irrelevant. But the report made all of our important points, either in Ms Sciavo's voice-overs, or in other interview snippets from, surprisingly, the tax's supporters. A Cupertino councilman said that parcel taxes are awful topics of conversation. A woman who is, I believe, from either VTA or the library employees' union, eagerly said the tax would save some 78 jobs—essentially admitting it's a jobs program. It was a pleasure to realize that a news piece with a subliminal slant was nodding in our direction, for a change.

Concurrent with our decision to spend the first part of this year organizing, and my ongoing development of a two-year plan to "get there," your Executive Committee has had some adjustments. We've accepted four resignations, of the nine people you elected in Jan. Membership Chair **Dennis**

■ See **Change**, page 3

JSA Convention

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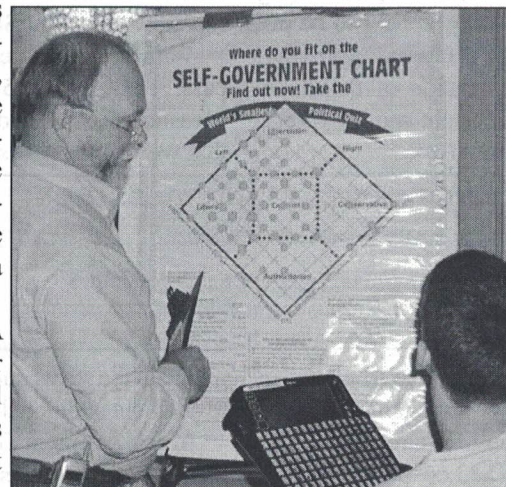
ities Chair **Bob Goodwyn**, LPSCC Campaigns Chair **Kevin Takenaga**, along with LPSCC volunteers **David Hacker** and **John Webster**.

Lawrence Samuels is a veteran of these conventions.

"After three or four years of distributing libertarian materials and buttons," he shared, "I have discovered that the students appear more accepting of our ideas. Many have read my book—*Facets of Liberty*—and find much to agree with. Some want to discuss a particular chapter.

"Others say that their JSA highlight is going through our large pile of buttons. One girl sported several of our buttons on her purse. Since we had just

set up our booth, I wondered out loud where she had gotten them. She said that the buttons have been stuck to her purse since the last JSA convention in November. Talk about good advertising!" ■



LPSCC Chair Allen Hacker and a young convention attendee examine the distribution of students across the political spectrum after taking the World's Smallest Political Quiz. Youthful idealism veers these prospective politicians to the liberal and libertarian camps.

Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

Party at the Post Office

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Republican at the tax protest. Still think that the Republicans are Conservative?"

Elizabeth Briery, who serves on the board of Silicon Valley Taxpayers' Association (SVTA), tried a new tactic, which was to hand out both LP and SVTA literature. "At first, I wasn't sure whether I was risking diluting our message, or confusing folks even more than their 1040 already had! But I tested the waters by first handing the person one piece of literature, seeing how they responded, and then handing them the other one, while saying, 'These are two organizations trying to lower our taxes.' I think the message actually may have come across stronger that way."

John Inks, a longtime LPSCC member and activist, observed, "Overall, tax-night post-office patronage has dropped off considerably over the years because of 'e-file'—which I like to call 'e-vile.' Even traffic for free Papa Murphy's pizza was slow, with slices waiting in the cold."

"One thing hasn't changed, though," Inks continued. "Every year, you see those who

bring their W-2 and calculator, grab a Form 1040, and do their taxes at the post office."

"This may not be printable," Inks warned, "but two young dudes were hysterical, if not unabashedly profane. They were using the edge of a trash barrel outside for writing space. One, a tall jock, was struggling with line 7—wages, salary, and tips—with



his buddy trying to help. Big problems developed at lines 9 and 10. The conversation went some-

thing like this:

"What the f--- is this? It says subtract 9 from 10. This totally sucks! I don't owe \$300!"

"You moron—you subtracted 10 from 9!"

"Bulls---! I took f---in' line 9 from line 10!"

"The friend took the form and recalculated that line's entry on the form. Both still were puzzled."

"How can I f---in' get this done tonight, man?"

"Dude, you have to do it. You shouldn't f---in' wait 'til the last minute."

"My boss told me I don't have to pay! F--- this s---!!!"

Our sentiments exactly. ■

Change

continued from Page 2

Umphress and Secretary Fred Levins resigned, citing overwhelming workload (Umphress also serves as President of Silicon Valley Taxpayers' Association); Activities Chair Bob Goodwyn accepted a new job, which will take him to Alaska; and Fundraising Chair Zander Collier has also resigned. Please step up to these leadership opportunities; we will be most appreciative, particularly if you're interested in the very important post of Secretary.

Meanwhile, Vice Chair Allen Rice and I were appointed to the additional posts of Local Organizing Chair and Publicity Chair, respectively.

Our strange shortage of general party motivation struck again, leaving us short of a quorum at our second quarter business meeting; again, we were unable to address important bylaws changes. Our county has some 300 LP members, but over 6,500 registered LP voters, and well over 17,000 votes for our Presidential candidate. It's one of the biggest and richest, in the biggest and richest state in the union. If rights and property are to be defended anywhere, it is here. We need to get the word out, recruit new registrations and members, and show up at our own meetings, and at swap meets all over the county. Let's get to it!

That's the old news and the bad news. The new news is that I've been developing and piloting a new recruiting approach, with a new focus: I believe that for too long, and too exclusively, we've positioned ourselves as anti-state, for the sake of being anti-state. But the state, with all its taxes and oppression, indeed Leviathan itself, is just a symptom. The truth is that the amount of government will always be exactly equivalent to the extent we ignore personal and organizational responsibility. My new approach positions us as supporters, even gentle demanders, of responsibility. It's proving to be a more successful approach.

Institutionalized irresponsibility is the essence of the cult of the omnipotent state. It is the raison d'être of Leviathan; it is what we must contest against.

Of course, institutionalized irresponsibility is also our own Nemesis. Many of us are failing to do what we must to avoid totalitarianism. Until recently, we have lost ground, and many counties are losing ground still. At our annual convention, I repeated that I have a vision for the LP. Here in our great county, that vision is to succeed beyond expectations, and to export what made that happen, so that everyone else can succeed, too. Changes being made in the LP at the state level will reinforce us in this vision.

Of course, we do have to show up, report for duty, and perform.

There's a new form on the web site you can use to contact us (www.SC.CA.LP.org, click on "Volunteer"). Please do. ■

—Allen Hacker, Chair of LPSCC

Local libertarian Locution

Like the LPSCC, many Bay Area organizations are working toward increased individual liberty and reduced government. Several provide speaking events that can broaden our knowledge—beyond what we hear or see in the local mainstream media—or from each other.

Rich Newell has established a web-based calendar, open to the public, of libertarian-related events throughout the Bay Area (see sidebar for URL).

Here are details on several of these events.

Civil Society Institute, Santa Clara University

Jeff Hummel:

Abolitionism: Then and Now

When: Wed., May 18, 5:30–7:00 P.M.

Where: SCU, Daly Science 207

For info: www.SCU.edu/csi/

Bay Area libertarian Events Calendar on Web

Groups.Yahoo.com/group/ba-liberty/calendar?s=2&t

or for short:

www.TinyURL.com/476es

Be sure to set your time zone

(upper right of screen).

Courtesy: Rich Newell

Pacific Research Institute

Clint Bolick,

Special Litigation Counsel, Institute for Justice

Wine Wars: Leftover Protectionist Regulation

When: Tuesday, May 24
12:00 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.

Where: University Club
800 Powell St., San Francisco

Fee: \$30 (\$10 for students)

For info: CDonegan@PacificResearch.org

Golden State Second Amendment Council

Various gun rights speakers, monthly

When: Thurs., May 26, 7:00–9:00 P.M.

Where: Harry's Hofbrau
390 Saratoga Ave., San Jose

For info: Jim Barry: (408) 268-4894

Silicon Valley Taxpayers' Association

Greg Perry, Mt. View City Councilman & VTA Policy Advisory Board Member:

The Taxpayers' Side of the "BART to San Jose" Debate

When: Thursday, June 2, 7:00–9:00 P.M.

Where: Carrow's, 910 Saratoga Av., SJ

For info: www.SVTaxpayers.org



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NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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SAN JOSE, CA

Successful Outreach at Junior State of America Convention

Wall-to-wall Libertarian outreach was the order of the day on April 16 at the annual convention of the Junior State of America.

The exhibit hall at the Santa Clara Marriott hotel was occupied by several political parties and other vendors, vying for the fresh, open minds of high school and college students fascinated by politics and government.

Manning the LP booth, which took up the entire north end of the hall, were LPC Northern Vice Chair **Lawrence Samuels**, LPSCC Chair **Allen Hacker**, LPSCC Activ-

Photo: Lawrence Samuels



*LPSCC Activities Chair **Bob Goodwyn** (l.) explained the principles of libertarianism to young prospective statesmen, and gave away buttons and literature. At the other end of the room, the Green Party, whose platform includes the advocacy of socialism, requested that students pay for their Party propaganda.*

■ See **JSA**, page 2

Special Event! An Evening with "Architect" Karl Rove

No, Karl Rove won't be there in person. Instead, we will present a 50-minute videotape, "Karl Rove: The Architect."

As you know, Karl Rove was the brains behind George W. Bush's victory in the 1994 gubernatorial election in Texas, as well as his victories in the 2000 and 2004 presidential elections. Not to mention that Mr. Rove was the primary force behind the Republicans taking con-

trol of most of the state level offices in Texas in the late 1980's and the early 1990's, after many decades of Democratic domination.

This TV program was originally telecast on PBS's show "Frontline" in April 2005.

After the program, we will have a 30-minute, loosely moderated discussion of the show, and hopefully we will devise a way to use the knowledge that we learn to help the LPSCC win

some elections.

- When:* Thurs., **June 9**, 7:00-9:25 P.M.
- Where:* **Hobee's, Pruneyard**, Campbell
- Fee:* \$16 per person at the door (includes dinner; no-host bar)

Reservations are requested, but not required. Contact **Scott Lieberman**, at Scott73@Earthlink.net. ■