

Santa Clara Libertarian

Volume 31, Issue 1, January 2003

News Of Local Libertarians' Struggle For Freedom



ANNUAL MEETING ELECTS 2003 LPSCC EXCOM

2002 Leadership Group Will Continue Under Strong

Only Significant Change: Rudin Accepts External As Well As Internal Communication Duties

Candidate Shortage: Two Excom And Many LPC Convention Delegate Positions Go Unfilled

Reported by Marv Rudin

About 35 members - far more than enough to satisfy the bylaw quorum requirement of 25, attended the annual Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County meeting at Hong Fu's restaurant in Cupertino on January 9th,

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essentially reelected the 2002 Executive Committee, with the exception of Marv Rudin being asked and agreeing to take on the Publicity Committee chairmanship, and 2002 Vice Chair Cathi Brown dropping out of action this year on doctors orders. Also elected at the meeting were the 3-member LPSCC Judicial Committee, and delegates and special committee representatives for the 2003 LP of California Convention to be held on Presidents Day weekend in Ontario, California.

2003 EXCOM ELECTIONS

Elected without opposition were:

- Chair.....Ray Strong
- Vice Chair.....(no candidates)
- Secretary.....Joe Dehn
- Treasurer.....Jon Hugdahl
- Membership.....Randy Overbeck
- Campaign.....Dennis Umphress
- Publicity.....Marv Rudin
- Fundraising.....Mike Laursen
- Activities.....Zander Collier
- Newsletter.....Marv Rudin
- Local Organizing.....(no candidates)
- State ExCom Rep.....Mark Hinkle
- Alt ExCom Rep.....Joe Dehn



The five Libertarian Party members at the meeting who ran for public offices in the November 2002 Santa Clara County elections; (l to r) Dennis Umphress, Elizabeth Brierly, Mark Hinkle, Kennita Watson, Carle Hylkema

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PUBLICITY

Stories about local Libertarians publicizing the party

LOCAL LIBERTARIAN RADIO TALK-SHOW HOSTS JUST INCREASED 150% !

By Marv Rudin, 2003 Publicity Chair



Lionel - new on KNEW!

Libertarian talk show hosts heard regularly in the Bay Area, Gene Burns (KGO) and Brian Wilson (KSFO), were recently joined by well known and very persuasive Libertarians hosts Neal Boortz, Larry Elder, and Lionel when station KNEW (910 AM) of Oakland converted from computer tech programming to all talk show programming and put all three Libertarian hosts in their lineup. Could KNEW, which is owned by national radio conglomerate, ClearChannel, have a Libertarian manager?

Your reporter checked, and although only listed as having a 5000 watt transmitter, KNEW was easy to pick up clearly inside my home although I have a metal roof that tends to reduce reception of AM more than FM.

The lineup of Libertarian talk radio stations now accessible in Santa Clara County is shown in the accompanying table.



Atlanta Libertarian Neal Boortz now heard from Bay Area's KNEW

From my experience answering all calls to the LPSCC phone line from 1998 through 2000, I believe talk radio to be a principal source of new registrants to the Libertarian Party. I tried to ask anyone inquiring how they had learned of the LP, and very commonly they cited Libertarian radio hosts Gene Burns or Brian Wilson. Because the KNEW talk host lineup is new to our area, and the station's signal power is relatively low, their shows may have trouble catching on here. Probably the KNEW management will have the 3 Libertarian hosts on trial and be monitoring their popularity partially by local callin rates. Although these shows are national, and take national callins, if there are no calls from the local area they could be discontinued here. So it behooves us Libertarians to help them pass the test, not to mention the pleasure of hearing our point of view a lot more over the air for a change, by calling in as much as possible to Boortz, Elder, and Lionel over the next 3 months. So even if your the shy type, please "bite the bullet" call in often, even if only to say hello and welcome them to this area or to bring up something fairly trivial. No doubt substance won't matter to the station - only the number of callins..

TALK/RADIO SHOWS

Libertarian-oriented shows that can be heard in Santa Clara County.

Host Station Schedule

Neal Boortz KNEW AM 910 (Oakland) Mon-Fri 12n-3pm

Gene Burns KGO AM 810 (San Francisco) Mon-Fri 7pm-10pm

Larry Elder KNEW AM 910 (Oakland) Mon-Fri 3pm-7pm

Brian Wilson KSFO AM 560 (San Francisco) Mon-Fri 7pm-9pm

Lionel KNEW AM 910 (Oakland) Mon-Fri 10pm

Libertarian-oriented Internet-radio shows based in Santa Clara County.

Web Host Site

Arquimedes Garcia AlternaCast Thu 9pm-11pm

KPUP FM Radio Wed 12am?

LARRY ELDER LEARNS LP ISN'T RIGHTIST

On learning that Larry Elder now has a show reaching our LPSCC Region (43), reasoning that to influence his speaking and writing is far more productive than getting an LTE or article

published (helping Larry to fish better over the years is superior to my catching one fish) I decided to try to help improve his Libertarian sales appeal after

reading a great piece he wrote on WorldNetDaily about a poll which mischaracterized the LP as being "rightist" with the Republicans. His willingness to consider my ideas and respond - once at 3:51 AM! - was truly amazing. It was a more rapid response than I've ever received from any SCL readers...

Sent to Larry Elder: Thursday, 30 Jan 2003 20:46:

Larry I'm a Libertarian and I've loved everything you've written that I've been fortunate enough to have seen - great stuff!

Your recent column in WorldNet Daily about faculty leftist bias on U.S. campuses was as great as ever.

But I wish you would correct the American Enterprise magazine next time you get a chance, and explain to them and of course the public, that magazine's mistake in lumping the Libertarian Party with the Republican Party as a "party of the right" in the following paragraph of your WorldNet Daily article:

"American Enterprise magazine examined the political registrations of professors in 20 colleges and universities. The study divided the registrations into those belonging to a "party of the left" - either Democrats, Greens, or some other liberal political party; and a "party of the right" - either Republican or Libertarian."



Larry Elder - on KNEW!

(Continued on page 5)

**(LPSSC 2003 Annual Meeting - Continued from page 1)
JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

Elected as the three Judicial Committee members for 2003 were Catherine Brown, Kennita Watson, and Elizabeth Brierly. The Judicial Committee would be called on to adjudicate in the event of a dispute. Fortunately this hasn't been necessary in the past, at least not since 1997 when your reporter became active in the party.

LPC CONVENTION ELECTIONS

In addition to ex-officio delegates Strong and Hinkle, by virtue of their elections as Reg. 43 Chair and LPC Rep, elected as delegates were: Elizabeth Brierly, Joel Mannion, Thomas Spielbauer, Joe Dehn, Mary Gingell, Scott Lieberman, Marv Rudin, Laura Stewart, Daniel Evers, M Carling, and Beau Cain. Excepting



Non diners sat or stood at back of room. Pictured are Zander Collier (standing), Angela and Ed Wimmers and Al Newman (front), Ed Sein and Al Bowers (back)



l-r, Mannion, Eversons, Hinkle, Brierly, Watson and Laursen at right-front table

Stewart and Zander Collier. Laura has been a perennial platform representative, and Zander was our program representative last year when time restraints prevented the committee from agreeing on a proposed program (The final program would have to be voted in by the delegates in open session). The purpose of the LPC program, if adopted, will be a more simple and salesworthy document than the long and unwieldy, for promotional purposes, LPC Platform.

Mannion and Carling these members have been frequently involved in local LP activities over the past few years. M. Carling has experience in California politics, having served on Governor Pete Wilson's staff. Mannion, although no at regular at local meetings is a long time Libertarian, having joined the party around 1980. Cain is an active newcomer who has been translating outreach materials to Spanish.

Elected as LPC Convention representatives on the Platform and Program Committees respectively were Laura



Zander Collier elected LPSSC Program Rep

VOTE TO CHANGE BYLAWS TO PERMIT ONLINE EXCOM VOTING TO TAKE EFFECT QUICKLY

The following amendment to the LPSSC Bylaws was propose by Secretary Joe Dehn in order to allow faster decisions by the Excom when needed, and was voted in by the assemblage (a quorum being present).

- a. The Executive Committee may transact business online, by voting on motions proposed by any Executive Committee member. The Secretary shall designate for the recording of proposals and votes an online facility which is available to all Executive Committee members and which is capable of supporting the requirements of this section.

LIEBERMAN ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF SAN JOSE RENT CONTROL COMMISSION!

[February 6] Libertarian Scott Lieberman has been elected Chair of the San Jose (California) Advisory Commission on Rents.

Lieberman was elected by his fellow commissioners on January 16 and will serve until December 2003.

Although he is opposed to rent control, Lieberman said he thinks he was elected because he was "polite to city staffers and my fellow commissioners, even when I felt they were not acting in the best interests of the city's landlords and tenants."

His willingness to work hard -- and do "some 'extra credit' work as a member of an ad hoc committee" -- also helped, he theorized.

As chairman, Lieberman said he hopes to schedule a debate between a pro-rent-control spokesman and an anti-rent-control expert at the commission's annual retreat in March. If this will gain some publicity for the negative effects of rent control (reducing maintenance of older properties and maybe new construction of rentals out of fear of controls being imposed although presently control is on only old properties) this may justify the mixed emotions Scott must have while participating such a Libertarian opposed function as rent control.



Scott Lieberman

The Advisory Commission on Rents advises the San Jose city council on the Rental Rights and Referrals Program, which oversees landlord-tenant disputes related to the city's rent control ordinance.

In San Jose, landlords are allowed by law to only raise rent by 8% per year -- or 21% every two years -- for apartments built before 1979. Apartments built after 1979 are not subject to rent control.

Lieberman, a member of the commission since 2000, is also an Alternate Representative (Region 2) on the Libertarian National Committee, Inc. Professionally, he is a doctor.

"When an introvert like me makes it onto the home page of the National Libertarian Party, you know that the world as we know it has come to an end."

(LPSSC 2003 Annual Meeting - Continued from page 3)

Editor's Note:

Shortly after passage, this new speedy vote method was applied by Zander Collier with an anti-war resolution to enable him to speak for the party at a big SF rally a day later. But lack of one vote prevented it. (The resolution has been revoked by a new vote in Feb.. The full story will be in the February issue.

- b. Motions may be proposed as original motions or as alternatives for a motion already under consideration. An original motion and all of its alternatives (if any) shall constitute a motion group.
- c. A motion shall not be eligible for adoption unless votes have been cast on it (including explicit abstentions) numbering a majority of the voting members of the Executive Committee. No motion shall pass unless it is so eligible and it also receives the approval of a majority of those voting (not counting abstentions), or such higher requirement as may be required for approval of that type of motion.
- d. Members may cast votes independently on each motion in a group. Members may change their votes, including withdrawing them entirely which may have the effect of making a motion no longer eligible for adoption, at any time before the end of the voting period.
- e. The voting period for a motion group shall end when (i) 120 hours have passed since proposal of the original motion, or (ii) 48 hours have passed since the proposal of the most recent eligible alternative, whichever is later. The voting period shall also end if there is any motion in the group on which all Executive Committee members have cast votes (including explicit abstentions).
- f. If, at the end of the voting period, more than one motion in the group has sufficient yes votes to pass, the one with the highest number of yes votes shall be considered adopted. In case of a tie for highest number of yes votes, the one most recently proposed shall be considered adopted

COMING EVENTS...

Central Committee Meetings: April 10th (location yet to be decided)
July 10th (location yet to be decided)
October 10th (location yet to be decided)

Executive Committee Meetings: Normally 1st Saturday of month, 10:00am
Usually at Rosegarden Library, Naglee & Dana Avenues, San Jose (Will be on 15th in March)

Speakers Meetings: 2nd Thursday in months without central committee meeting
Cocos Restaurant, Sunnyvale (Oakmead Parkway & Lawrence Expressway)
Next speakers meeting: *Thursday 13 Mar.* Come at 7pm for dinner, meeting at 8pm

If enough volunteers to answer questions, give quiz, and pass out literature (maybe you?):

Gun Show March 22 & 23 San Jose, CA Santa Clara County Fairgrounds

(Continued from page 2)

I'm sure you know from the famous Libertarian 2-dimensional political quiz and chart, that Libertarians are for social freedom (socially far left) and economic freedom (economically far right), and therefore can't be characterized as being together with either left or right, but rather are in the direction well off the left-right axis. If directions like "left" and "right" are the way to symbolize a political direction, far leftists are diametrically opposed to far rightists, but libertarians agree with each on half the issues, so can't be bundled with either as the American Enterprise magazine mistakenly did in their study of campus faculty politics.

Marvin B. Rudin, Current Newsletter and Publicity Chair and Chair Emeritus, Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County

Response: Fri, 31 Jan 2003 03:51 AM:

Dear Marv,

Fair enough. I do not think, however, it is wrong to argue that the republican party is closer to the libertarians than are the democrats. Texas Rep. Ron Paul, after all, a self-described libertarian, runs as a republican. Agreed?

Larry

Response by MBR: Fri, 31 Jan 2003 10:12 AM:

Dear Larry:

I'm sorry if this is a bit long, but being billed as a "sage", it may help you to aggregate even more sagacity :-)

Yes Ron Paul ran as a Libertarian because he felt the Republican Party was far from Libertarian and wanted to get out the word, lost badly as expected, and then decided to get elected again as a Texas Congressman using the Republican label.. But bear in mind that the Republican Party invested money to try to defeat him in the primaries because of his libertarian beliefs. That hardly qualifies Paul's being a Republican congressman as evidence that Libertarianism is more rightist than leftist, excepting maybe that many Republican voters may be swayed more easily by libertarian positions.

In principal, Liberarianism is half way between left and right. But economics (money) may be more important to people than personal freedom, judging by the fact that ex-Republicans outnumber exDemocrats by approximately 2:1.

Or maybe our party just gets more exposure with Republicans, considering that exposure has been the biggest hurdle impeding party growth, a conclusion drawn from the fact that a "Portrait of America" poll in 2000 found that only one of eight with a libertarian viewpoint knew the Libertarian Party agrees with and represents their views. Another explanation for the 2:1 ratio of exRepublican members to exDemocrats may be that the party was started by more economic conservatives than social liberals, and like begets like... But it's important to recognize that the fact that the Libertarian party has more exRepublican members does not make its principles closer to the right than to the left.

Again, I'd appreciate it if you could clarify the fact that Libertariansim is actually "centrist" from a left versus right perspective. We just don't want to settle for half the personal and economic freedoms as does a traditional centrist.

Thanks for considering my opinion.

Best regards, Marv Rudin

L.E.'s response: Friday, 31 Jan 2003 1:05 PM:

Dear Marv,

Great response. I'll get it right.

Larry

PUBLICITY

Stories about local Libertarians publicizing the party

UMPHRESS GETS LP IN SJMN WITH STATEMENT OPPOSING NEW SCC PARCEL-TAX

Reported by Marv Rudin

In a Mercury News article highly "spun" to favor a new parcel tax to compensate for an expected loss of the state component of funding for bloated school budgets in Santa Clara County, our Dennis Umphress along with his Libertarian affiliation, got coverage as the primary opposition, albeit near the end of the article after 700 words of almost all tax-favorable reporting - what we've come expect from the "Murky" News.



Dennis Umphress
quoted in SJMN

Posted on Fri, Jan. 17, 2003:

Poll finds support for tax to boost schools

BALLOT MEASURE WEIGHED FOR SANTA CLARA COUNTY

By Jessica Portner
Mercury News

As many as 70 percent of Santa Clara County voters favor a novel, countywide parcel tax that would funnel up to \$80 million a year to aid cash-strapped schools from Cupertino to East San Jose, according to a recent poll.

The community leaders who commissioned the poll said the promising results could lead them to put such a measure on the ballot as soon as spring 2004.

The apparent willingness of county residents to dip into their pockets despite the current economic slump comes just as Gov. Gray Davis is proposing to siphon aid from schools to help shut a yawning multibillion-dollar state budget gap.

The unique parcel-tax plan — which would require two-thirds approval — would be only the second countywide tax to fund education in the state and the first to involve multiple school districts.

The poll was conducted a month before Davis unveiled his 2003-04 budget plan that calls for large state tax increases, raising the question of how broad support would be for a parcel tax now. And critics say school districts need to cut waste before asking for new tax money.

[Editor's note: 610 words of pro tax reporting omitted to save space and LP readers' nerves.]

While educators naturally relish the thought of some relief from a looming budget ax, some Santa Clara County residents think schools should cut out waste before asking taxpayers to crack open their wallets.

Called ill-timed

Dennis Umphress, who led the 2002 campaign for the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County, said the unusual tax pitch is overreaching and ill-timed.

"We need wiser spending, not increased spending," said Umphress, who suggested schools shave administrative costs. Besides, he said, "The key to improving test scores is how teachers' teach and not how much money is available."

[Editor's note: more irritating pro tax propaganda at end omitted..]

UNEVENTFUL JANUARY EXCOM MEETING

Discussed: Phone Service, PST Report, Elections Process At LPSCC Annual Meeting

Reported by Marv Rudin

The agenda for the January 4 LPSCC Excom meeting held as usual at the Rose Garden Library in San Jose with Chair Ray Strong presiding. The meeting was comprised of:



11 at 1st meeting of year (photographer-reporter is invisible)

1. **Approval of Minutes for the 7 December Excom meeting.**
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Jon Hugdahl reported a continued substantial shortfall in the required payments from the LPC apparently due to financial difficulties of both the state and national offices.
3. **Old Business:** Reported and discussed were Telephone Services, and a phone poll taken by the Committee on Priorities, Strategy, and Tactics.

Telephone Service: Discussion was a surprisingly lengthy one considering how few inquiries the party receives outside of elections time. It also addressed the problem of coordination of volunteers during outreach events, but unfortunately that's also not a very common need. The discussion centered around how to share the use of a party cellphone in conjunction with various available commercial services that can store and transfer messages. Cathi Brown, who is a professional in phone communication services described various possibilities, as did Jon Hugdahl and Mark Hinkle who also are knowledgeable about such services. No conclusion was reached and there was no proposal for any action other than to study the matter further, and maybe to subscribe to a service on a trial basis.

Santa Clara Libertarian -- Schedule of Publication to Year End

<u>COVERAGE PERIOD</u>	<u>FINAL EDIT</u>	<u>PUBLICATION</u>
February Issue	March 17th,	printed & bulk mailed March 24th
March Issue	April 20th,	on web site April 22nd
April Issue	May 18th,	on web site May 20th
May Issue	June 15th,	printed & bulk mailed June 22nd
June Issue:	July 20th,	on web site July 22nd
July Issue:	August 17th,	on web site August 19th
August Issue:	September 14th,	printed & bulk mailed September 22nd
September Issue:	October 19th,	on web site October 21st
October Issue:	November 23rd,	on web site November 25th
November Issue:	December 13th,	printed & bulk mailed December 20th
December Issue	January 4th	on web site January 6th

- (1) For regular notice at time of publication, email "**SCL notice**" to rudin@lpty.org
- (2) All 1998 to 2003 monthly issues are online at <http://www.lpty.org/sclnews/>

PST Report: Mike Laursen, who Chairs the Planning, Strategy, and Tactics Committee gave the result of their phone survey which he stressed was not scientifically based as far as recognized polling methods are concerned. Answers to questions were not limited to a finite number of answers, but were instead free form. So he attempted to summarize them into categories. For example comments like we'd like "Less fringe weirdos", "family oriented", or "Small business people" were reduced to a desire for "mainstream types" 36 members and non-member LP registrants were polled. Highlights were (1) most important issues - taxes, education. Kinds of people to sell the party - mainstream types.

4. **New Business:** Discussion was focussed by Chair Ray Strong on what methods of election would be used at the County Convention. Discussed were what do if an office were contested, and whether to handle delegate elections en mass if without objection if our allocated delegate count would exceed the number of candidates (expected). Also receiving considerable discussion were problems of setting up a Pay Pal account to take reservation payments for the annual meeting.

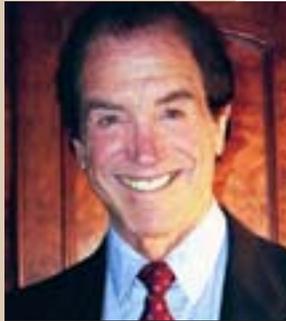
OPINIONS

Share your thoughts on making our party more successful and advancing the individual freedom with responsibility

DOES LP PLATFORM GIVE PRACTICAL POSITIONS VIS-A-VIS IRAQ WAR?

Written by Marv Rudin

Because of the apparent schism in member views on the impending Iraq "liberation" - - some being totally anti-war unless it is proven that Saddam Hussein is in league with Alqaida, and others seeing it as being a valid part of the war on Muslim terrorism, I decided to review the official LP platform to see what it has to say that would be applicable to these issues. (Maybe some of you have done the same and would like to share your views on the matter?)



Marvin B. Rudin, Editor

In the process of reviewing the platform I discovered what appears to me to be suboptimal if not downright wrong planks that I think need to be addressed if we are not to look "kooky" to visitors to the LP website. The planks to which I refer are generally idealistic positions on military and foreign affairs that I think could be categorized as impractical because they appear to be based on an underlying assumption that nearly ALL individuals will act rationally in their own self interest. The positions don't account for the existence of nations or regions within nations (e.g., The Philippines) in which a high percentage of religious or political fanatics are willing to die for their god or for their revered political, cultural, or nationalistic cause (such as Japanese kamikazis in WWII, present Muslim suicide bombers, Hitler youth, Korean communists, etc.). And they don't account for the possibility of such fanatics entering our country as terrorist "sleepers" or immediate activists ready to use multiple means of mass destruction in highly populated areas.

One example of a very suboptimal position in the LP platform is the military plank that says we should have absolutely no troops stationed "abroad" or "overseas". That is tantamount to saying that we Libertarians know in advance better than trained military leaders, how to best defend the country and its citizens no matter what the circumstances may be. To not be able to have a single military land base outside of a U.S. territory dogmatically confines a military planner charged with defending our nation and its people from using some effective and innocuous options to thwart threatening nations and terrorists. Maybe the writers of this no-bases-abroad plank envisioned our troops causing resentment among foreign populations, which is a valid concern. But what if they're not based amidst foreign populations but instead are stationed on a previously uninhabited island? One can easily imagine a situation in which we could temporarily lease an uninhabited island in a convenient location on which to station a military base for refueling, or providing warning of an impending attack by an unfriendly force, or for eliminating anti-American terrorist training camps in a country whose regime is fostering or won't shut down the camps. Our present platform rigidly precludes such an effective military strategy, and thereby increases the risk of terrorism coming to our homeland.

Other examples in the Foreign Affairs section of the platform of what may be shortcomings related to the WoT are the following quoted excerpts, with my comments in parentheses:

"There is no current or foreseeable risk of any conventional military attack on the American people, particularly from long distances." (This leaves out Korea, and surreptitious attack via mass weapons imported by terrorist agents, whether members of governments or gangs.)

"We would repeal the Neutrality Act of 1794, and all other U.S. neutrality laws which restrict the efforts of Americans to aid overseas organizations fighting to overthrow or change governments." (This neglects to except the case of Americans who would try to change a government to one that is likely to harbor, or include, anti-American terrorists).

"We would no longer incorporate foreign nations into the U.S. defense perimeter. We would cease the creation and maintenance of U.S. bases and sites for the pre-positioning of military material in other countries. We would end the practice of stationing of American military troops overseas.

We make no exceptions to the above." (Not even the exception discussed above of a base on a leased uninhabited piece of land for the purpose of eliminating terrorist camps such as were in Afghanistan.)

EDITOR'S NOTE:
*Had a Libertarian
outreach experience?*

Converted someone?

Tell it to the editor!

*Email or phone Newsletter
Editor (see # at right)*

US mail:
*651 Princeton Drive,
Sunnyvale, CA 94087*

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This is the publication of the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County, a non-profit political organization.

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY



of Santa Clara County

P.O. Box 60171 Sunnyvale, CA 94088-0171

Please Print:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

The Libertarian Party is the party of principle. To assure and affirm that our party never strays from its principles, we request our members to sign the pledge below. (Non-signers cannot vote on party business).

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

Signature: _____

Membership Application

- \$25 Basic
- \$100 Sustaining
- \$250 Sponsor
- \$500 Patron
- \$1000 Life

Plus an additional contribution to the LPSCC:

- Monthly pledge
- One-time donation

Total:

Payment Method:

- Check payable to: Libertarian Party
- VISA or Master Card or Discovery or E-Gold (circle one)

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder Name: _____

Signature: _____

New Renew