

Santa Clara Libertarian

Volume 31 Issue 8 August 2003

News Of Local Libertarians' Struggle For Free-



LIBERTARIANS AGAIN DOMINATE SCC ANTI TAX MEASURE ARGUMENTS

Oppose Oak Grove Parcel Tax Boost And \$148 Million Mt. View Hospital Bond

Reported by Marv Rudin

The LPSCC again will obtain very cost effective publicity from ballot arguments against local tax increases. Thanks to fast reaction of a few key members, The LPSCC will be credited by fiscal conservatives (and blamed by liberal tax and spenders) for countering efforts to grab even more money from property owners in Mountain View and San Jose. In the brief period of August 9th to August 16th, Mark Hinkle and newly appointed LPSCC Vice Chair Allen Hacker, with help from Mike Laursen and Elizabeth Brierly, managed to assemble pertinent arguments, win the right to submit versus competitors, and submit rebuttal arguments on the two measures A (Oak Grove School District parcel tax) and D (El Camino Hospital District Bond). And this time the San Jose Mercury News may have to acknowledge the lead role of the LPSCC, since the Silicon Valley Taxpayers were not involved and just one Republican signed one of the measures (A). But whether acknowledged by the media or not, the mere presence of Libertarian titles of signers on the ballot arguments is big publicity as ballot circulation far exceeds media coverage.

MEASURE A OAK GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT in San Jose - Parcel Tax Increase

Campaign Chair Dennis Umphress keeps a close watch to detect any new tax and bond measures submitted to the Registrar of Voters as early as possible, as arguments against usually must be written and submitted in a few days. Measure A was no exception. On August 9th he described Measure A to the LPSCC email boards and asked for a volunteer author to write an argument against:

OAK GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT PARCEL TAX (2/3 vote needed to pass):

"Shall the Oak Grove School District be authorized to increase the rate of a special tax and increase its Gann Appropriations Limit by the amount of revenue generated by that special tax?" "The district will use this special tax for the purpose of operating the schools of the district. The revenue derived from the special tax shall be expended for the following purposes:

1. Provide remedial and safety net services for students.
2. Repair deteriorating school buildings and grounds, including repair or replacement of roof, heating and air conditioning equipment, plumbing systems, and electrical systems.
3. Purchase supplies and equipment for instructional use, including library books and related materials.
4. Install energy conservation equipment to ensure future cost savings.
5. Restore services reduced in prior years, including library, counseling, custodial, visual and performing arts, after school sports and maintenance services.

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Mark Hinkle
advocates SCL
termination

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YOUR OPINION OF NEWSLETTER PLEASE...

Mark Hinkle's Motion To End SCL's Publication At July Excom Meeting Raises A Question; He Said "It Does More Harm Than Good." The Excom Disagreed. What Do You Readers Think ?

by Marv Rudin, Newsletter Chair & SCL Editor

During the LPSCC's July Excom meeting at Denny's in San Jose, Mark Hinkle made a motion to cease publication of the Santa Clara Libertarian newsletter (see story on pg. 1 of July SCL by clicking on <http://www.lpty.org/sclnews> and then clicking on the July 2003 link.) The motion was debated and was defeated in the subsequent vote with only Hinkle voting in favor of his motion.

But now I want to know what you readers think. You've elected me to produce a newsletter that our bylaws say is "for dissemination of information about the Party to the members." Have I been doing that to your satisfaction? Or am I doing more harm than good? Please take the poll, and if you have comments please send email. ■

READER OPINION POLL

What do you the reader think?

Has the SCL been doing:

1. *More harm than good?*
2. *More good than harm?*

Please answer by clicking on:

..... > **SCL Poll**
and choosing "1" or "2"

PUBLICITY IN MEDIA

NEWS WITH THE "L-WORD" IN/ON LOCALLY ACCESSIBLE MEDIA

Reported by Marv Rudin



Allen Hacker

Mike Laursen reports that in a [Mountain View Voice](#) story, "Seven vie for hospital board", the L word was mentioned in connection with new Vice Chair Allen Hacker: "Hacker, a business consultant, carpenter and croupier, is the vice chair-elect of the [Santa Clara Libertarian Party](#) Executive Committee. Like his wife, Laura Ferrer, who lost in the 2002 hospital board election, he promotes the use of alternative medicine." He said "The website has a different story than the one that ran in the print edition: < http://www.mv-voice.com/thisweek/2003_08_08.eboard.html > ■

In [Palo Alto Daily News](#): Editor, I recommend that, at a minimum, you publish the websites of candidates for Governor. You could start with mine: <http://users.cwnet.com/jackhick> You might then expand upon this to expose frivolous candidates (in your opinion). Don't waste a lot of print on this. Then you could focus on the serious proposals and messages which the remaining candidates bring to the table. As the campaign draws to a close, you might narrow your coverage. Jack Hickey, [Libertarian](#) Candidate for Governor 243 Ferndale Way, Emerald Hills, CA 94062, 650-368-5722 ■

Mike Laursen reported this article including the L-word in conjunction with Allen Hacker's candidacy for the El Camino Hospital board in the [Mercury News](#): "Wesley Alles, a 53-year-old Stanford University healthcare researcher, was appointed to the El Camino Hospital District board after winning a squeaker of a vote at a special board meeting Wednesday night. He will fill a vacancy on its five-person, publicly elected board, replacing Mary Louise Lee, who had moved to Florida. Alles was selected after the board completed its interviews of seven candidates at the meeting.

A high-profile list of candidates had sought the position, including: Karen Duncan, who has a doctorate and has written books about the healthcare system; Patricia Figueroa, a former Mountain View city councilwoman who served for 18 years; [Allen Hacker, the incoming vice-chair of the Santa Clara Libertarian Party](#); William James, a patent attorney and graduate of the Naval Academy and Stanford Law School; Donna Keith, a veteran nurse who has worked at the hospital for 16 years; and Jim Wheat, a director of finance for the software company Sybase." ■



Jack Hickey

[John J. "Jack" Hickey](#), who is well known in Palo Alto as head of the San Mateo Libertarian and as a member of the Sequoia Healthcare District Board of Directors, and now a [Libertarian Candidate for Governor](#), delivered a proposal to the Office of Governor Davis and Legislators in Sacramento which provides a solution to the budget deficit, involves funding from Healthcare/Hospital Districts in return for a moratorium on seismic retrofit mandates for hospitals. The proposal, which includes a Resolution submitted to the Sequoia Board on which Jack Hickey sits as an elected Member, is available at: <http://www.govhickey.com/MoratoriumBailout.htm>. Hickey was in Sacramento for a half hour TV interview conducted by John Hancock of [The California Channel](#). The California Channel is a public service organization funded entirely by California's cable television industry. It is currently available in over 5.4 million California households. Hickey reported "My interview was the best TV appearance I have ever made, and I have made several dozen. It will be aired at least twice before the election, and will be available for viewing on their website." ■

[Allen Hacker](#) reported another richly L-word containing article on his El Camino Hospital District board candidacy:

"We got another mention in the press, today's [Palo Alto Daily News](#), page 2, an article on our opposition to the ECH bond, focuses on my standing for the board and now fighting the bond measure. **Word count, 'Libertarian', 4 times.** Thanks to Jack Hickey for calling me and alerting me to the article." ■

Well known repeat [Libertarian candidate for U.S. Congress](#), and LPSCC officer, [Dennis Umphress](#) reports this LTE by him (with no L-Word) was published in the [Mercury News](#):

"Triple the fee for auto registration? Waste our money on unneeded RDA projects? Spend our tax dollars persecuting sick and dying medical marijuana patients and their doctors? Is this the way our government "serves" us? Many of us have a beef with our government. We believe our elected officials, at best, have failed to represent our views, and at worst, have deliberately lied to us to acquire their powerful jobs. No matter what the issue is, when we are dissatisfied with their performance, we must call or write and tell them so. As the employers of everyone from G.W. Bush down to our local dog catcher, it is vital that we exercise our rights and obligations as Americans to actively monitor our government. We must see to it that if our employees fail to do their jobs they will be out seeking new jobs on someone "else's" payroll." ■

[Libertarian Party of California](#) endorsed candidate for Governor [Ned Roscoe](#) was on the popular [Fox Cable News](#) Channel on the daytime program, "The Big Story With John Gibson". They talked to him about Smokers' Rights, and he also tried to steer it into more general areas as well. ■

AUGUST EXCOM MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Reported by Marv Rudin



Allen Hacker is appointed new Vice Chair

The LPSCC Excom held it's monthly meeting on August 2nd, 2003 10am - Noon at the Rosegarden Library's meeting room in San Jose. Attending were: Dennis Umphress, who chaired the meeting in the absence of Ray Strong and with the Vice Chair position vacant, Mike Laursen, Jon Hugdahl, Joe Dehn, Mark Hinkle, Allen Hacker, Al Newman, Elizabeth Brierly and your reporter. Highlights of the meeting were addition of two Excom members Allen Hacker and Al Newman, and the commitment of up to \$4000 - about

40 months worth of current discretionary income - for a mailing program to ask registered Libertarians to download, sign and mail in candidate in-lieu-of-filing-fee petitions. Those and other highlights of the meeting were:

■ **Officer vacancies** — Allen Hacker appointed Vice Chair, Al Newman appointed OPH Chair. The appointments will be put up for confirmation at the Central Committee meeting scheduled for Oct. 9th.

■ **Radio plan** - Project Manager Collier not present; Publicity Chair Rudin said he wasn't being consulted about this publicity project when the Excom voted to authorize a budget of \$2000, amounting to responsibility without authority - a fundamental management no no. New Vice Chair Hacker supported this point. Rudin said he'd researched when he was Publicity Chair in '97 and determined that very inexpensive tests could (and should) be run on small radio stations in the early morning hours, before going to higher priced times and stations, so \$2000 shouldn't be spent unless good test results are experienced.

■ **Candidate recruitment** - Dennis Umphress moved to budget for card mailers to registered Libertarians to get them to sign in-lieu-of-filing-fee petitions. He said it would make it less difficult to fill candidate slots, which he's having difficulty filling. He made a motion to cover 75% of a candidate's filing fee with either signatures or cash. Candidates must be unopposed in the primary and take out papers by 9/29 to be eligible for this offer. Only the percentage of their district that is in Santa Clara County will be covered. Motion is for up to \$2K to help cover filing fees." A motion to amend was made that added "The total budget for this project be increased to \$4K. This \$4K includes the costs of any mailings in support of signature collection." This motion to amend passed on a 4-2 vote. The main amended motion passed on a 4-2 vote.

■ **Baseball event** - Not discussed — Project Manager Collier not present.

■ **Website editors** - Joe Dehn said website is now set up on new ISP and editors of 3 sections - Newsletter (Rudin), Mt. View (Laursen), and San Jose (Rice) can begin.

■ **El Camino Hospital District bond measure** - discussed at length, Hacker very knowledgeable because of interviewing for board.

■ **Gubernatorial recall election** — Mark Hinkle proposed endorsing Ned Roscoe. A motion was made, and later withdrawn, to endorse Ned Roscoe, apparently because discussion indicated significant concern about ignoring Jack Hickey's candidacy.

■ **After the meeting**, head shot photos were taken by Brierly who apparently is assembling an activist and officers photo file for use in her LPC "California Freedom" newsletter



Excom attendees sans reporter in discussion; visitor Brierly seated at back.



Al Newman appointed OPH chair

PUBLICITY

Status of projects in progress

NUMEROUS LOCAL PUBLICITY PROJECTS ARE IN THE MILL

Some Need Only A Manager & Money, Most Need Your Participation

By Marv Rudin, Publicity Chair



I've been derelict in not getting serious about our publicity program sooner this year. But better late than never.. In August a local print media list was completed and news announcements began, with nothing reaching the public thus far to my knowledge. Pplease let me know if you see or hear any. A few projects such as media ads require no volunteers, just donations once low cost test ads get good results. Most cost-effective projects, such as vehicle signs, \$Bill-ads, LIFE cards, LTEs (Letters-To-Editor), Op-Ed Article, Freedom Wagon, COAP, will require a small amount of your participation annually. The status of these projects as of 9/20 and questions you need to answer are as follows:

Vehicle Signs: Some Ink-jet Inks faded badly in sun; two types of UV blockers are in test - result by end of Sept. .

Magnetic Ink jet printable sign in test for adhesion at high speed. Window cling test will complete by end Sept..

\$Bill-ads: Ink-jet 6-bill carrier done. Two trial self-inking stamps ordered. Public distribution to start before mid Oct.

LIFE Cards: 4000 cards in stock. None being passed or placed on cars by anyone this year.

LTE's: Generic letters are available from LPC-Rider, Holmes website, or me. Need volunteers to submit them.

Op-Ed Articles: Nolan chart article is available from me. Need volunteers to submit to their city's paper.

Freedom Wagon: John Webster has Box Truck that may be available for test. Will need big \$'s for test large signs.

COAP: Tested portable table kit method available. Need anti eminent domain initiative manager (Sunnyvale or S.J. or?)

Radio Ads: Have old quotes from small local stations. Need new quotes, and to record test ads.

Some of the above projects need only a manager & money, but most need a little participation by you members. I'd like you to start thinking about it, and in the next printed newsletter, I'd like you to tell me what you're willing to do:

Will you carry an LP message on your vehicle? (Any message of your choice can be provided and no residue problem)

Will you park the Freedom Wagon on a busy street near your work or home for a week?

Will you put LIFE (Libertarians Informing Folks Efficiently) cards on cars or home doors near where you live or work?

Will you submit Letters to the Editor or Op-Ed to your community paper if editable draft is made available to you?

Will you buy & pass \$bill-ads (you use the printed \$'s to buy goods and services as you do normally)?

Will you sit a COAP table-kit occasionally at a market-mall near your home, if kit can be kept handy at your home?

Santa Clara Libertarian

Schedule of Publication to Year End

COVERAGE PERIOD	FINAL EDIT	PUBLICATION
September Issue:	October 19th,	on web site October 21st
October Issue:	November 23rd,	printed & bulk mailed November 30th
November Issue:	December 13th,	on web site 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/scnews/>

NOTE:

To ensure notice of Annual Meeting in early January, quarterly printed issue has been advanced to 3rd prior month

COMING EVENTS...

Central Committee Meetings: Next on October 10th at Denny's, 1015 Blossom Hill Rd, San Jose, CA, 95123

Executive Committee Meetings: Normally 1st Saturday of month, 10:00am
Usually at Rosegarden Library, Naglee & Dana Avenues, San Jose

Speakers Meetings: 2nd Thursday in months without central committee meeting
Cocos Restaurant, Sunnyvale (Oakmead Parkway & Lawrence Expressway)
Next speakers meeting: *Thursday 11 Sept.* 7pm for dinner, meeting at 8pm

Our Libertarian Party Candidates Need Your help!

by Dennis Umphress, Campaign Chair

First things first — this is not a pitch for money (though donations are never refused!). But we do need your help. Fifteen minutes of your time filling in up to three Petition In Lieu of Filing Fee forms is worth up to \$23 for us and our candidates. We are gearing up to put our local partisan LP candidates on the ballot for 2004.

Running candidates for partisan office gives Libertarians a lot of publicity. It is a bargain we can't pass up. The Libertarian point of view comes up in newspaper accounts of the races, in candidate forums, and other election-related events. The Democrats and Republicans tend to sound alike, but the Libertarian message usually offers a refreshing difference of opinion. At debates our emphasis on issues, rather than mud slinging, is appreciated by our opponents and audiences alike. The debate frequently pivots around the Libertarian with the other two candidates stating their positions vis-à-vis the Libertarian candidate rather than each other.

Our candidates are generally not well-to-do and are not well funded by the special interest groups that toady up to the other candidates. One way we can really help these brave Libertarian souls is to assist them in their effort to get on the ballot without having to pay big bucks to the Registrar of Voters in filing fees. We win twice — we save money and the government collects nothing.

First off, each candidate needs at least 40 good petition signatures from registered voters in their party living in their district. As Libertarians, we can't sit outside stores at a table and wait for Libertarians to wander by and sign our forms. Thus we have to go out to you to get those signatures. But there's more. Each signature is worth quite a lot in reducing our candidate filing fees paid to the government. Amazingly, each additional signature (up to 150 maximum in most races) for a Libertarian Party candidate saves him or her anywhere from \$6.60 to \$10.31 in filing fees! Without these precious signatures, each state Senate or Assembly candidate normally pays \$990 and each Congressional candidate could ante up an exorbitant \$1,547.

That's where you (and your invaluable signatures) come in. We need you to sign the petitions and return them to us as quickly as possible. It's not often you can make such a valuable contribution to liberty just by signing your name.

Perhaps you are wondering why we are doing this so early in the election cycle. The March 2, 2004 primary date moves everything up for all the partisan candidates.

If perchance you have family or others in your neighborhood who are willing to sign the petition, remember that they need to be registered Libertarians for their signatures to count.

Please go to <http://www.sc.ca.lp.org/petitions> to download petitions. Please check the website once a week as we hope to be adding new candidates!

This website has a link to find the offices that represent your district. It also has instructions on how to fill in the forms.

For information on how to become a candidate contact **Dennis Umphress** at dmumphress@hotmail.com or **408-269-7432**

PLEASE MAIL THE FORMS WITHIN 48 HOURS OF FILLING THEM IN TO:

Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County
Post Office Box 60171,
Sunnyvale CA 94088-0171

For more information call 1-877-872-3007.

The below offices may have Libertarian candidates:

11th Congressional District
14th Congressional District
15th Congressional District
16th Congressional District

Congressional District Candidates can collect signatures from 09/26/03 to 11/20/03

11th State Senatorial District
13th State Senatorial District
15th State Senatorial District

State Senatorial District Candidates can collect signatures from 09/26/03 to 11/5/03

20th Assembly District
21st Assembly District
22nd Assembly District
23rd Assembly District
24th Assembly District
27th Assembly District
28th Assembly District

State Assembly District Candidates can collect signatures from 09/26/03 to 11/5/03

We are still recruiting candidates for the above offices!

I ask that you consider running as a candidate carrying the Libertarian Party banner.

How active a campaign you run is up to you. We have a victory every time a Libertarian is listed on the ballot.



■ **Libertarian candidate for governor Ned Roscoe was endorsed by the LPC** (but not by LPSCC - see pg. 3). Excerpt from the Roscoe campaign's news announcement: "Benicia, CA August 27, 2003: California's Libertarian Party has endorsed Ned Roscoe, the smokers candidate, as their candidate for Governor in the October 7 statewide special election. Aaron Starr, the Chairman of the Libertarian Party of California said "To earn our party's endorsement, (the) Bylaws required at least 10 votes in the affirmative of the 15-member Executive board." With this single candidate endorsement, the Libertarians show the common sense that separates them from the two largest political parties. In the last gubernatorial election, the Libertarian candidate received more than 161,000 votes—the fourth highest total. The Libertarian Party of California was the first political party to endorse the recall of Gray Davis." ■

■ **Newsletter Chair Marv Rudin, was given access** and authorization to upgrade the content and design of the newsletter section of Joe Dehn's LPSCC website, www.sc.ca.lp.org/, now that he has resolved problems due to the ISP going defunct, and established service with a new ISP. Joe has had de facto sole control over the website as neither the bylaws nor LPSCC resolutions explicitly address web presentation by the LPSCC until the Excom recently decided to authorize access to the following three sections of the site: (1) Newsletter (Marv Rudin); (2) Mountain View (Mike Laursen); San Jose (Allen Rice). Laursen inaugurated the Mt. View page, but would like one of you MV Libertarians to take over as he's overloaded with other LP responsibilities. ■

■ **Libertarian Michael J. Teresa of Los Gatos has offered to help** the LPSCC oppose a new Tax in his district. He said "There is a parcel tax of \$150 per year that is up for renewal next March. This tax was passed to provide "enrichment programs" about 5 or 7 years ago. How much of this money is going to IHS has not been revealed. Other residents of the district I have spoken to are very much against any new or renewal of taxes. People with children in school are reluctant to come out and identify themselves for fear of retaliation by the district. If the Libertarian Party is going to write the argument against the parcel tax renewal, I would be glad to provide information for the authors of the argument against the measure." About the IHS which he referred to he said: "In the March 2002, members of the Libertarian party wrote the arguments against a school bond known and Measure K. The bond measure was to fund the rebuilding of a middle school, replacing older modular units used by the Independent Home Study Program (IHS) with the surplus middle school class rooms and a long list of improvements like a permanent solution to the water supply problem that everyone wanted to see get corrected. The measure passed by about a 2/3 majority. After almost a year it was revealed that the "new" estimates for the middle school exceeded the earlier "ball park" figures they used to scope the total project. It turns out that the proponents had put together a "wish list" to sell the bond measure. Of the 18 tasks listed in the ballot measure, 12 will now be done with money from other sources. ■

■ **In what clearly is political harassment by the District Attorney's office, Libertarian Tom Spielbauer**, deputy public defender and candidate for judge in the last two elections, was charged with violation of a technical court procedure with a potential maximum penalty of 6 months jail and \$2500 fine he rejected the assistant DA's offer to settle. Many articles about Tom's case have been published in local papers and online news sites (See all media articles at <http://www.spielbauer.com/Press%20Page.htm>). Reference to the LP is missing from all but a big Mercury News article, which says "They don't like my politics," adds Spielbauer, a registered Libertarian who describes himself as a liberal concerned about what he calls the current erosion of constitutional rights." At your editor's behest LPSCC member Frederick Levins wrote a wonderfully colorful LTE that was published by the Mercury News: "Re: Aug. 4, 2003, Section B article, 'Maverick public defender in legal fight of his career': Jesus Christ was crucified, Gandhi was assassinated, and now a deputy district attorney and the chief public defender are combining forces to bring an end to the career and good work of iconoclastic former Deputy Public Defender Thomas Spielbauer, a true friend of the people; history does, indeed, repeat itself! Thank you for your attention. Sincerely, Fred Levins" ■

■ **LPSCC Vice Chair Allen Hacker lost his bid to serve on the El Camino Hospital District Board** when they appointed a Stanford healthcare researcher. But the experience of preparing for interviews made Hacker a quasi-expert in helping Mark Hinkle and others to write a very persuasive argument against the district's bond measure (D) coming up for an October vote. ■

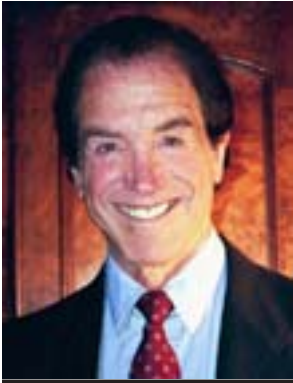
■ **A Sunnyvale business license fees boost was defeated** with Mayor Julia Miller was the deciding vote. The contrast in statements on the matter between that of Councilman Walker and Miller indicate that Miller be bending toward a more libertarian viewpoint, considering that she also is backing Melinda Hamilton, creator and leader of the "Friends of Sunnyvale" that sponsored anti-Eminent Domain and anti RDA initiatives recently. Walker said "We're eliminating a tax subsidy this city has graced the business community with for many years," But Miller said she thought the results were "greedy" and decided to vote against them. "The economy isn't right to ask for more money," ■

■ **Newly married Membership Chair Randy Overbeck and wife Kim have become parents** of a daughter, Zoe. Hopefully, Randy, who was forced to be inactive because of a schedule overload from having to find a new residence and deal with the exigencies of a new child will be able to get back into Libertarian activities as he masters the rigors of new fatherhood. [Editor's note: Maybe Zoe will be the first Libertarian U.S. president if you raise her right, Randy:—)] ■

■ **In a prime example of political chutzpah, our Campaign Chair, on reading that Pat Dando** would run for state assembly as an independent asked her to run as an LPer!! Dando represents Council District 10 which is comprised of approximately 90000 residents living in the Almaden and Blossom. No doubt knowing that the party's present size - under 1% of registered voters - running as a Libertarian would cost her votes, Dando replied like a good politician, "Dear Dennis, Thank you for the information, suggestion, and encouragement. I will keep your comments in mind and continue to look into this." ■

■ **Campaign Chair Dennis Umphress said that "San Jose wants to fill openings** on nine advisory commissions or boards. For details, call the city clerk's office at (408) 277-4424. Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. Aug. 29. Information also is available at www.ci.san-jose.ca.us/cty_clk/vacancy.htm." [Editor's note: Although this SCL issue is published in September, there may still be openings on some San Jose boards, and the SCL is also a chronicle of events of interest to LPSCC readers.] ■

PUBLICITY



Marv Rudin, Publicity Chair

I would like you to take a brief poll. It won't take you over one minute - I promise. But before telling you how to vote in the poll, first let me explain why I want you to take it.

As your Publicity Chair I'm responsible for organizing efforts which will create awareness of the LP among the public. If you've read the article in our June Issue (online at <http://www.lpty.org/scnews>) describing the easiest ways members can help to publicize the Party, you know that the biggest outreach and publicity advantage of county Libertarian regions over the state and national LP organizations is proximity to the voters. You know that local member can put up public signs and can talk to the public at public meetings or one-on-one, and can hand out literature and that talking is time and labor intensive while signs are not, and signs are always legal on your vehicle but not on your real estate.

As the article says, if you and other Libertarians would display brief-messaged Libertarian signs on your vehicles that give viewers who like the message a web site to visit for full information, and if the web address on each sign design is unique so visits to it can be counted and compared with others, we could attract some of the estimated 100,000+ small L libertarians in our county to identify themselves by registering Libertarian and know which sign was most attractive. I have been researching homemade vehicle signs technology that would enable trying and testing various catchy brief messages (for example, "FREEDOM - Choose It Or Lose It") with the idea of testing them on our vehicles to see which attracts the most hits for its exposure. I'll soon be able to offer the Party the ability to provide free signs to members who will display them, as the cost will be well within the Party's present finances even if all members (but not all reg-lib'ns) will display them. And if good results are obtained, it shouldn't be difficult to persuade members to provide the successful signs to our county's 5000 or so registered Libertarians. If that were to happen, imagine the party's growth if the public were frequently seeing a catchy Libertarian message on vehicles all over the county!

But a significant hurdle in the way of reaching this objective is that many Libertarians may not be willing to display a sign on their vehicle. I discovered this surprising situation when phoning members in 1999 to inquire if they'd passed out their free LIFE cards mailed out with the SCL, and also when occasionally asking some of the Libertarians I know personally. They gave me a variety of reasons and excuses why they don't want to do it, some of which may be overcome and some insurmountable. With this in mind, I've been researching vehicle signs technologies hoping to be able to offer signs of various kinds that would overcome the

What's Your Position on this?



VEHICLE SIGNS LIBERTARIAN USER POLL	SCL		LPSCC	total
	Newsltr	Excom	eBoard	
Question: Do you display an LP vehicle sign?				
1: Yes - I have a sign displayed on my vehicle	3	4	9	16
2: No - Don't want to disclose I'm pro LP		2	2	4
3: No - But would if sign's free		0	1	1
4: No - But would if on my license plate holder		1	9	10
5: No - But would if I had a Libertarian sign		1	4	5
6: No - But would if I could write the message it holds	1	1	2	4
7: No - Fear can't get off adhesive residue on removal		1	3	4
8: No - Vehicle signs aren't stylish		3	7	10
9: No - Would if sign is removable for some situations		0	17	17
10: No - I don't own a car		1		1
total	4	14	54	72
Total - sticker type				30 42%
Total - removable only				17 24%
Total - license plate only				10 14%
Total - no sign of any kind				15 21%
Total - sign of some kind				57 79%

Poll Results todate, for party eboard readers, Excom members, and online SCL readers, shows 79% will put signs up of some kind! Will you?

objection of most of the reluctant members. For example, I will be able to offer cling signs for your vehicle's back window that can be easily removed and later replaced if you are going somewhere where you don't want people to know you're a Libertarian. And I'm testing magnetic signs that can also offer this capability.

The signs technology study is taking a goodly amount of my time, and I'd like to narrow it down to just those sign types that would be accepted by the majority of vehicle-sign-reluctant Libertarians. To determine which sign types these are, I need your feedback by means of the aforementioned poll.

Now that you understand why I need you to take the poll, here is how to go to the poll. Please click on the following link and go to the bottom of the page where you will find the 9 poll questions:

<http://www.lpty.org/p> . Thanks for your input on this very very cost-effective means of publicizing the Party!

(Ballot arguments - Continued from page 1)

Highlights of this measure are: A \$68 parcel tax was approved by the voters in March 1991. This measure is to increase the parcel tax from \$68 to \$98 per parcel per year and to raise the district's appropriations limit. If passed, the new rate will go into effect on July 1, 2004. New rate effective for four years. (NOTE) I recommend including in the argument that all of the money could go to one or two of the above purposes, such as restoring performing arts and after school sports, and the district can come back to the voters again and again to ask for more money for the same purposes."

Here's the final wording of the LP argument against Measure A. Signers were Ray Strong, Allen Hacker, Jon Hugdahl, Mark Hinkle, and Jack Davis: Chair of the Santa Clara Chapter of the California Republican Assembly.

This latest special parcel tax from the Oak Grove School District tries to use the state budget crisis to grab money from you. **The school board wants you to pay for the mistakes made by the legislature and the governor!** The district is trying to raise the existing special tax from \$68 per parcel per year to \$98 per parcel per year. Taxpayers already feel the pinch of difficult financial times. **With the Santa Clara County unemployment rate at 8.4%, Measure A will hurt every renter, homeowner and business in the district to enrich a few special interests. The district has already been getting an extra special tax since 1991.** If the school board district respected the needs and situation of taxpayers, and did their job of prioritizing within the budget, we wouldn't need this tax increase.

The measure should include a true oversight function. Citizen volunteers provide the best oversight. **Why don't they want citizens to review their plans for your money?** Could it be that time and time again, school boards tout popular projects and programs in order to get a tax passed, but then when they have the money, suddenly other projects are funded instead?

No specific plan exists on how to spend this money. This appears to be a situation where the school board is trying to take advantage of the state's budget woes, to soak the local taxpayers.

There is **no requirement** that any of it go to providing safety net services for students, library books and related learning materials, or the repair of deteriorating school buildings.

There is also no plan to measure how effective this money will be in relieving school problems.

You can be FOR students, FOR schools, and AGAINST Measure A.

For more information please visit us at: www.VoteNoOnA.org

This argument and the rebuttal argument in response to the proponents argument may also be seen on the LPSCC web site by clicking on <http://www.sc.ca.lp.org/san-jose/>, which was put up on it by Allen Rice.

MEASURE D El Camino Hospital District Bond (for earthquake reinforcement mandate by state)

In the case of Measure D, Allen Hacker had special knowledge by having been a candidate for the El Camino Hospital Board (see article on page 2). The statement of the Measure is:

The **El Camino Hospital District** has placed this **\$148,000,000 bond measure** on the **November 2003 ballot**. The bonds, to be paid back over the next 30 to 40 years, are to pay for seismic upgrades mandated, without providing any funding, by the State of California. If it passes, this measure will cost District taxpayer's about \$15 per \$100,000 of assessed property value each year."

Hacker and Hinkle composed a draft, and with refinements suggested by LPSCC Treasurer Jon Hugdahl, and LPSCC Fund Raising Chair Mike Laursen, both Mountain View residents, ended up with the following final argument that will be on the ballot (all arguments are limited to 300 words):

Measure D is partly the result of another unfunded, and possibly illegal, state mandate. The legislature has mandated stricter hospital standards, but funding must come from local sources. **Sacramento is giving us a problem and dumping the costs on us.**

A burdensome bond is not necessary. **The hospital actually has enough cash on hand to pay for the entire \$400 million project, but they don't want to deplete their reserves.**

The hospital has an excellent credit rating and already plans to borrow some of the monies. The hospital could repay borrowing from its near \$36 million in annual profits. The hospital could finance this project independently, without depleting its reserves, and without adding to the taxpayers' burdens in a depressed economy.

But, the board's financial advisors are saying, **"Why spend your own money when you can spend someone else's?"**

Measure D is unfair. Only district taxpayers will be required to pay this tax, while anyone outside of the district will have equal access to all services at the same rates as those who pay the tax. **Moreover if you belong to a HMO or PPO that doesn't use El Camino Hospital, you'll be paying extra for a service you can't or won't use.**

The hospital's plan for financing this government imposed burden fails to demonstrate creativity in seeking alternatives to a tax increase, appearing instead to rely on the same old-soak-the-taxpayer mentality that has caused so many of the problems in our depressed economy already.

The hospital plans to spend nearly \$500,000.00 to convince you to assume this unnecessary burden.

Measure D should be opposed as arbitrary, unimaginative, economically unfair, too costly and untimely.

We urge everyone to vote NO on Measure D.

Please visit us at <http://www.VoteNoOnD.org>

This argument was signed by Ray Strong, Allen Hacker, Elizabeth Brierly, Jon Hugdahl, and Mark Hinkle with their LPSCC Excom titles

This argument and the rebuttal argument are posted at the Local Communities/Mountain-View page put up by Mike Laursen on the LPSCC web site at <http://www.sc.ca.lp.org/mountain-view/20031104D/index.html>

Under an arrangement with Mark Hinkle, Attorney Gary Wesley, a nonLibertarian, was permitted to submit his modified Measure D rebuttal argument with a "thank you" in it to the Libertarian Party (which has priority under a Registrar of Voters policy favoring community organizations over individuals in the writing of arguments). Apparently it was modified under a suggestion of Mike Laursen to omit a reference to Saddam Hussein in the original. Hinkle justified deferring to Wesley's rebuttal, saying "We've strived in recent years to add other groups (and individuals) to the list of signers against various tax measures. I think it at least gives the appearance that we've broadened our base of support." Not only does it improve the chance of a successful vote outcome by showing broader support, but it demonstrates that Libertarians are flexible enough to form alliances with others on specific issues.



IF MONEY TALKS WILL libertarians LISTEN?

Laursen-Rudin Will Team Up To Test LP Ad Messages On \$1 Bills

by Marv Rudin, Publicity Chair

After 6 years on my back burner maybe one of the most cost effective ways imaginable of reaching the 100,000+ "small L" libertarians out there in SC County is about to be tested.

It started with Mike Laursen asking me "Marv, Have you ever heard of 'Where's George?' <http://www.wheresgeorge.com/?>" And then he said "I mention it because it struck me as a variation on the LIFE cards to stamp a message on bills like: Freedom — Choose It or Lose It < <http://www.lpty.org/Free> > and then set it free to circulate around. It would have a couple advantages over LIFE cards: the bills would keep circulating around. It would have the disadvantage of not having as much space for the message."



Marv Rudin



Mike Laursen

It happens that I became acquainted with printing messages on currency in 1997 when I was Publicity Chair and member Andrew Garrett handed me a dollar with a cartoon balloon emanating from Washington's mouth saying "I Grew Hemp", implying the party

(Continued on page 10)



First successful ink jet printer 6-bill carrier. Note entry flaps covering bill ends at right of both columns. Ad is printed in widest margin They're not equal!

OPINIONS

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

REGISTRATIONS COME FIRST!

by Marv Rudin, Editor

From time to time we have been exhorted by LPC leaders and some local leaders as well to increase the number of dues paying members as if that is the primary measure of party size and influence. But I maintain that the main body of a political party is its registered voters. That's what the media looks at, and they are the ones from whom many new LP candidates for office are drawn. Moreover, once a person is registered LP he or she can be asked to volunteer or donate every bit as easily (or difficultly :-)) as can a dues paying member. Until the national party went fiscally out of kilter, it regularly acquired dues paying members and donors from the California registered Libertarian ranks, and at a far greater rate than from any other source of prospects. Since the national office has received far more in donations per member than either the state or local entities, it can best justify the cost of recruiting dues payers from the registered Libertarians. The primary focus of our local region should be publicizing and outreaching to recruit new LP registrations from our county's population of over 100,000 small-L libertarians! If our registrations grow at 20% per year or more, it'll be noticed and a band wagon effect can occur. If not, the current stagnation and survival mode is an unsavory alternative. Let's not accept the latter! Many hands make light work. Let's all do a little - starting with a car sign. ■

(\$Bill ads - Continued from page 1)

should use the idea. But I wondered if it was legal, and asked him to please check. He wrote the Treasury and eventually the Secret Service asking if it was legal and got no reply. Not being sure, I thought about making a hundred stamps and distributing them to 100 Libertarians, telling them to use them to stamp on post-it notes to be left around publicly, but not to stamp on money. But I didn't want to do it unless others were enthusiastic about it. And until Mike's note, I never found anyone else interest in doing it, so I put it on the back burner.

Two years ago I began thinking about it again, and realized that stamps would have the problem of having to try a limited number of message and graphic ideas due to expense and turnaround time. And without knowing a sure fire message to attract people and brief enough to fit on a dollar margin (so it couldn't make the bill unusable by any stretch of the imagination), it seemed apparent that many message and layout ideas should be tried. So I wondered if there was a way to use a computer printer. I'd once seen a carrier used to hold a form onto which a dot matrix printer could fill in the blanks. It had a leading edge plastic flap. But I wasn't sure if that would work with a modern printer. And since red seemed more likely to be noticed on a green bill, I decided to take a chance on a fatal jam and use my inkjet. Measurements indicated the most bills feasible with one pass through the printer would be to use legal sized paper to carry 6 bills longitudinally. Several obstacles were encountered. But after considerable trial & error the bugs were ironed out, and near perfect results on all 6 bills were achieved (see photo), and the carrier is reusable and the method makes the perfect result repeatable. The set up time for a 6-bill load of the carrier is 2 to 5 minutes, which is too long to use this method for a large quantity of bills. But it's satisfactory for testing a variety of messages, fonts, colors, and even graphics like a small flag or face. Hopefully one with a single color will get good results, so a stamp can be used for larger quantities.

On the question of legality, Mike and I have researched the law, which can be found at the Treasury Department's Bureau of Engraving website, which says:

“Defacement of currency is a violation of Title 18, Section 333 of the United States Code. Under this provision, currency defacement is generally defined as follows: Whoever mutilates, cuts, disfigures, perforates, unites or cements together, or does any other thing to any bank bill, draft, note, or other evidence of debt issued by any national banking association, Federal Reserve Bank, or Federal Reserve System, with intent to render such item(s) unfit to be reissued, shall be fined not more than \$100 or imprisoned not more than six months, or both.

Defacement of currency in such a way that it is made unfit for circulation comes under the jurisdiction of the United States Secret Service. Their address is: United States Secret Service, 1800 G Street, N. W., Washington, DC 20223.”

Obviously the message-imprinted \$1 bills shown in the photos are not unusable - i.e., unfit to be reissued - and therefore not defaced. The message is only in the margin, and doesn't make anything on the bill unreadable or unviewable. We'll try them in bill changer machines to avoid any obvious problems.. But nothing in the law says that 100% acceptance by all such machines is a measure of non-defacement.

With regard to defacement, which is supposed to be handled by the Secret Service, we could find nothing about illegality of the many markings people have added to bills. Mike found a web site with photos of a vast variety of marked bills collected as a hobby by a cashier. With respect to currency, the Secret Service is heavily focussed on counterfeiters. Probably they are aware that the law doesn't ban marking on money, and that's why they never answered Garrett when he wrote them about it. In any case, if they make a fuss about our test bills, imagine a CBS anchor in prime time holding up one of our bills so people across the nation can read “FREEDOM - Choose it or lose it! Libertarian Party <http://www.lpty.org/freedom>”. ■

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

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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
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Plus an additional contribution to the LPSCC:

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Time 8 pm to 9:30 pm (If you're eating, dinner starts at 7 pm)

Location: Denny's at 1015 Blossom Hill Rd, San Jose, CA, 95123

Come debate, vote, and swap views with fellow Libertarians



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