

# Santa Clara Libertarian

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Libertarian Party of  
Santa Clara County  
P.O. Box 60171  
Sunnyvale, CA  
94088-0171  
Tel: (408) 243-2711  
<http://www.sc.ca.lp.org>

## LPSCC TO S.J. MERCURY NEWS: “Please Change Your Policy Of Not Covering Libertarian Party” Rudin Asks New Publisher Joseph Natoli & His Staff

by Marv Rudin LPSCC Newsletter Chair

On the evening of July 23rd the new Publisher of the San Jose Mercury News, Joseph T. Natoli walked up to me while I was occupied in conversation on the SJMN parking lot, reached out, shook my hand, thanked me for visiting the Mercury News offices, and had a mutual discussion with me.



Joseph Natoli, SJMN Boss

What a pleasant surprise, in fact what a shock this was! Since 1997, when as LPSCC Publicity Chair, I called the Political Editor Phil Trounstine of the San Jose Mercury News to ask for an appointment, I've strived to get some degree of beneficial or at least unspun coverage of the LP from that dominant SCC news publication, but to little avail (One headline about Kubby's drug bust that probably did net harm, and some LTEs). Although I managed to persuade Trounstine to see me in '97 - actually for half an hour in his office, I came away empty when he explained his policy was “triage” - save only those that are viable or worthy of giving scarce resources, implying the LP isn't viable or worthy and therefore isn't going to get coverage.

What led to this unlikely event? This year, for the first time in this writer's experience, the news division of the San Jose Mercury News invited its readers to apply to be part of a focus group at their headquarters for the purpose of providing feedback on its news reporting credibility. An invitation in the paper on July 15th was reported by member Johann Opitz to the LPSCC • eboard (with some text omitted for brevity):

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“Tell us what you think at national round table on newspaper credibility

BY DAVID YARNOLD, Executive Editor

The Mercury News is participating in a nationwide examination of newspaper credibility, and you're invited to be part of it. We want to know whether the Mercury News is fully reflecting your daily life and whether that affects our credibility. We cover city halls across the valley; we know what the Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group is up to. But:

Are your accomplishments appearing in our pages? Are our photos and graphics capturing the diversity of this

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## ISIL FOUNDER WILL SPEAK THURSDAY NITE

### Jarrett Wollstein Will Tell “How To Sell Liberty” At Speakers Meeting

Speakers Bureau Manger Rose Wiegley has arranged a treat for us in her last act as meeting host. Jarrett Wollstein is one of the founders of the modern libertarian movement. In 1966 he created the first national activist libertarian organization, the Society for Rational Individualism. In 1969, SRI merged with YAF's libertarian caucus to form the Society for Individual Liberty — now the International Society for Individual Liberty, with members and groups in half the countries on the planet.

Mr. Wollstein is a prolific writer, and has published 20 books and hundreds of articles. His powerful SIL and ISIL issue papers have sold over 4 million copies worldwide. Mr. Wollstein is also Contributing Editor for the Financial Privacy Report, Financial Editor of Newsmax.com, and President of the Pacific Marketing Group. Mr. Wollstein is also a competitive martial artist with seven black belts and is a show dancer. ■



Jarrett Wollstein

# ***LPSCC MEETING HIGHLIGHTS***

**EXCOM MEETING 7/7:** Treasurer Jon Hugdahl reported our \$500.00 per month donor is leaving (going to Europe). Mark Hinkle said he and Juan Ros will meet with the donor to try to persuade him to extend his donations.

Future annual election meeting details were discussed such as holding it in January on a Saturday instead of Thursday evening, and whether to hold it at various restaurants such as Tony Roma's, Hong Fu, Harry's Hofbrau or Lou's Village. Also discussed were whether to include workshops, a business meeting, a meal and/or a guest speaker.

Zander Collier and Travis Jones volunteered to act as joint coordinators for Operation Politically Homeless local efforts.

The check for \$4,000.00 loaned by the LPSCC to the LPC for member recruiting from the registered Libertarians list was issued and cashed by the LPC, starting the 6 month term required by the LPSCC for LPC repayment.

The October CC meeting location and LPC Gubernatorial Candidate Debate were discussed. If the debate is held wmaximum media coverage will be very important. The cost to the LPSCC would be a \$1,000.00 payment to the candidates. Zander Collier will investigate media coverage of the event. At a minimum a video recording of the debate should be made.

Travis Jones will follow the issue of San Jose RDA Eminent domain for the LPSCC.

It was reaffirmed that anything left in Marv's garage is his to do with as he wishes. It was assumed that any still useful brochures will be retained. It was decided to find a central storage location for all materials. ■

**QUARTERLY PARTY CC MEETING 7/12:** The LPSCC Central Committee met on 7/12/01 at the Campbell Community Center, in Campbell. The meeting was called to order at 8:03PM.

Travis Jones, the Local Organizing Committee Chairman, asked anyone interested in participating in the San Jose eminent domain resistance to call 408-817-5678. This number is for the property owners whose lots are in jeopardy. The San Jose City Council is scheduled to decide which properties it is interested in during a 8/14/01 meeting.

6 people stated that this was their first meeting. 23 were at the meeting. Glenda Stephens was Greeter.

Guest speaker: Saratoga Mayor John Mehaffey unable to attend due to sudden illness.

Glenda Stephens has provided 3 Libertarian alternative TV shows tapes to public access channel KCAT in Los Gatos.

Regarding October 11th CC meeting: Publicity Chair Zander Collier said there may be a \$1,000.00 speakers fee and possible C-SPAN coverage for the proposed LPC Gubernatorial Candidate Debate to be held at the meeting. Chair Ray Strong said there will be candidate endorsements and asked attendees to support candidates with signatures and fees.

Regarding the January LPSCC convention, Chair Ray Strong discussed having the convention on Saturday or Thursday. He also discussed event options such as having a speaker, business meeting and dinner.

LPC representative Mark Hinkle spoke regarding Operation Energy Tax Revolt, Operation Breakthrough Rev. 1.5, Adopt A Newspaper, bond issue arguments, and that the LPC 15,000 piece membership drive mailing should go out on Monday (7/16).

John Webster said the hearing on his arrest for pamphletting outside the courthouse in San Jose is still pending

Marv Rudin said he still has LP LIFE (Libertarians Informing Folks Efficiently) cards for anyone willing to distribute them. There were two takers - Tom Frederickson and Membership Chair Tony Stemberger ■

**EXCOM MEETING 7/26:** Regarding October CC meeting and LPC Gubernatorial Candidate Debate, Publicity Chair Zander Collier said no reply yet from Clint Eastwood, C-SPAN or Juan Ros regarding guest speakers or



Audience at July Central Committee Meeting



John Webster giving status of his court pamphlets case

SOME MEMBERS ARE INFORMING PEOPLE THE EASY WAY - PUTTING LIFE CARDS ON CARS

# OUTREACH

Tony Stemberger and Tom Frederickson asked for LIFE cards at the July 12th LPSCC meeting in Campbell and each were given about 40 cards by Newsletter Chair, Marv Rudin.

When asked what they did with the cards, Tony said " I passed out the 40 cards to 40 employee's cars on the parking lot of my company, HYTEK Services in under 10 minutes during the noon break. It was very easy and fast. I slipped the edge of a card under the weather stripping at the edge of the driver side window . I saw one thrown on the ground later, which was kind of depressing, but that's the nature of advertising - not everybody it reaches buys. But you won't get buyers without it. Tom Frederickson said he put his cards on cars on the parking lot of the Caltrain Peninsula Commuter Service (which he rides to work at Laissez Faire Books in S. F) He also said he tries to inform people about Libertarian ideas sitting alongside him on the train, or wherever he meets them. He said its easy if you first listen to their interests and issues and then respond with libertarian ideas in relation to what they care about.

Marv Rudin is still passing out at least 20 LIFE cards per week. He said "It takes just 5 to 10 minutes a week." When driving out on errands or shopping, he makes it a point to have



1 of 20 cards may be seen on RV in right foreground; Hong Fu is in distance

cards in his breast pocket, and without going out of his way slips the cards onto cars near his path. "For example, at the LPSCC Excom meeting I attended at Hong Fu restaurant on July 25th, I parked at the edge of the lot, so I'd pass a lot of cars on the way in. I told them I was the only one at the meeting who was reaching 20 strangers with the LP message as they found the cards on their cars one by one while I was sitting inactive at the table. The previous week I passed out 25 cards while at Frys and Safeway, and the previous week I handed out 55."

## REMINDER - LTE SUNDAY

Join in and write and submit your opinion on an issue to the SJMN. Also local community papers are now inviting opinion letters. You can meet Publicity Chair Zander Collier, and other Libertarians at Zander's monthly LTE Sunday. Next one is Aug. 19th, 3 pm - 5pm, at Stoddards in downtown Sunnyvale (Murphy&Evelyn). Zander will bring the latest papers for you to read before penning your opinion and/or giving your advice to other writers.

Imagine if all of you 500 plus members were doing the same we'd reach over 500,000 voters per year and the 16% who think libertarian (according to Rasmussen poll last year) would finally know that the LP represents their views. The Rasmussen poll showed that 1/8th of the 16% knew of the LP. Since that's 2% of the public and we have 0.75% registered LP, that means about 1/3rd (.75%/2%) of them are registered LP. If 1/3rd of the other 14% thinking Libertarian register LP, the Libertarian registrations will increase 7 to 1! That's when the media won't be able to ignore us because they'll have to report how our candidates are affecting the outcome of a lot of close partisan races. ■

## SOMETIMES GETTING THE WORD "LIBERTARIAN" OMITTED CAN HELP THE CAUSE! by Ed Allison

Great news! I recently read an article on ZDnet titled "Farewell and good riddance, free web" written by David Hakala on June 26, 2001. This was an editorial piece that basically stated "You get what you pay for" and that free web services were not valuable. It supported that pay-for services provided better information and quality assurance. In doing so David, the writer, stated that some "Cyber Libertarians" did not support pay-for services. He argued that pay-for services would make a 'have' and 'have-not' class among web-surfers. I am not writing to discuss his opinion, but the history of the article is important for why I am writing.

David used the term "Cyber-Libertarian" and I believe he did it incorrectly. I took action. I wrote him via email the day the article hit the web. I explained how Libertarians believe in property rights, that owners of property should be allowed to give it away, or charge for it as they see fit. I proposed that the term "Cyber-Liberal" would more accurately convey his message.

The result. He agreed with my letter. He changed the term in the Article to "Cyber-socialist" and removed the term Cyber-Libertarian. Because this was on the web it was updated in minutes. This article appeared on Yahoo!'s distribution and I consider it important that our values be accurately construed.

Although I did not get Libertarian printed per se. I consider this my first letter writing success! ■

## REACHING OUT BY RADIO: MEMBERS ARE CALLING ARQUIMEDES "VOICE OF FREEDOM"



Kennita Watson

Members are now able to get "Libertarian" on the local airways loud and often on the weekly Arquimedes "Voice of Freedom" show on KSJS 90.5 FM! In July, Jon Hugdahl called to welcome Arquimedes to the Libertarian fold, Marv Rudin called twice to express Libertarian views about sexual victimless laws and San Jose's Redevelopment Agency forcing people off their property, and Kennita Watson called and mentioned her Libertarian affiliation.

Asked about the experience, Kennita said "It was fun, even though my call got dropped before I was done. I called back and got on again briefly, and remembered to mention that I was a Libertarian. Arquimedes was thrilled!



Ed Allison

Editors Note: Come on fellow champions of freedom - let's start calling regularly and practically make this show our show. It has the right name doesn't it - "Voice of Freedom"? And when you do, please let me know so I can mention it in the Outreach section of the SCL News.

# JONES ATTENDS MEETINGS IN SUPPORT OF PROPERTY OWNERS BEING DRIVEN OUT BY SAN JOSE RD AGENCY

## Community Organizing Chair Has Had To Go It Alone Thus Far

After attending earlier organizing meetings of the 40 property owners in the path of the San Jose Redevelopment Agency's version of progress, and being quoted in support of the threatened owners in a Mercury News article, Community Organizing Chair Travis Jones attended the first direct encounter between the two sides on August 1st. Here is what he reports:



Travis Jones

"The meeting went very well for the property owners. The San Jose Redevelopment Agency (RDA) originally had the council chambers sectioned off to a 1/3 of the size, but had to open up the whole room because of the turnout of some 150 people. I didn't see any libertarians that I recognized at the meeting, but some of the property owners saw me. I think this helps them know we Libertarians still care about them. KRON was present and possibly SJMN. I didn't see anything on the late evening news or in the Merc about the meeting. If you were there please let me know and we can contact you when the next liberty-threatening event occurs.

Some highlights (or lowlights) of the meeting:

- These property owners are very educated on the process of redevelopment (found at [www.redevelopment.com](http://www.redevelopment.com)) and current restrictions placed on RDAs limiting them from incurring debt after 2004. Also mentioned was the impact of BART on downtown SJ.

- SJ RDA has broken the redevelopment into phases. The first phase will be 16 properties instead of 40. IMHO and the Coalition they are trying to break up the resolve of the property owners. The property owners were prepared to face this possibility and will stand firm.

- John Weiss and Ms. Schickt from the RDA were very careful to not use the words "eminent domain" and used other phrases to pass the buck. Things like neighborhood associations want them to develop these properties, the State legislature allows us to act in this manner so they're accountable, etc.

- The whole downtown area has pretty much been declared blighted. This means any properties can be picked for redevelopment. No wonder no businesses want to move into the downtown area. Many people wanted to know what the definition of blight was since they feel their properties are fine. RDAs bring in their own consultants to declare an area blighted.

- Once an area is declared blighted property taxes are diverted to the RDA. Some people asked about the money this takes away from schools, police, etc. The RDA claimed the state backfills any money the schools need.

- Potentially more properties in phase II will be taken in January 2002.

- The highlight was business owner Brian of Brian's Welding quoting Ayn Rand to the RDA and the crowd. To paraphrase "who is the public but a collection of individuals. To say the public rights supercede individual rights is to say one individual's rights supercede another's. That is not justice nor liberty." Big applause. Many others spoke out against the RDA and received loud applause. Only one person spoke of giving up his home in the name of progress; he was happy to let the RDA decide what progress means.

Future Meetings:

Next week on Tuesday Aug. 7th at 1:30 PM at 801 N. First St. in Council Chambers will be public input on the RDA. The property owners coalition was encouraging audience members to attend and voice opposition to "eminent domain".

On Aug. 28th the RDA will bring the RFQ (which seeks developers for the RDA's grandiose schemes) to board. I'm not sure the time of this.

For more info please contact the Greater Downtown Housing Action Coalition (408) 817-5678"

Travis goes on to discuss how Libertarians can help (and hopefully win over) people adversely affected by government forcing them off property arbitrarily labeled as "blighted" using the principle of eminent domain:

"What can the LP do better to help these property owners and others that will most assuredly follow in their footsteps? We could use an action network for quick calling of activists. Joe Dehn has mentioned this before. Once we get a group of people willing to be sort of this "liberty minutemen" we can respond to last minute items like this. Perhaps ask for volunteers in the next phone poll?"

In reporting earlier contacts and monitoring of the group of 40 owners resisting the RDA property grab, Travis said:

In June: "Hello Santa Clara residents, As you may be aware San Jose is threatening to use Emminent Domain in San Jose to take 40 local business' property. This is a chance for us to stand up and be counted locally, and maybe even get some press

# LIST OF ACTIVE ELECTION DISTRICTS OF COUNTY

This shows districts which will be having elections this fall. The following are the 21 districts for Santa Clara County:

City of Cupertino	Patterson Joint Unified School District
City of Gilroy	Sunnyvale Elementary School District
City of Los Altos	Aldercroft Heights Water District
City of Palo Alto	Burbank Sanitary District
City of Sunnyvale	Cupertino Sanitary District
Cupertino Union Elementary School District	San Martin County Water District
Foothill-De Anza Community College District	Saratoga Fire Protection District
Los Altos Elementary School District	South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District
Montebello Elementary School District	Sunol Sanitary District
Orchard Elementary School District	West Bay Sanitary District
Palo Alto Unified School District	

This list has also been posted on the home page of our region web site (<http://www.sc.ca.lp.org>).

Despite some unlikely names, all of these do appear to actually be in Santa Clara County except for two: Patterson is a town in Stanislaus County and the West Bay Sanitary District serves Menlo Park, Portola Valley, etc. These may be mistakes in the list, but since in both cases the area served is immediately adjacent to Santa Clara County it is also possible that each district includes some little sliver of Santa Clara County. If anybody knows for sure, let me know so I can update the web site.

Now is the time for people who may be willing to be candidates in these elections. To find out which "District" offices are open to you as a candidate go to <http://www.sccvote.org> on the web. Near the bottom of the page, there is a form which lets you type in your address. Read the directions and click on all the selection boxes so you type in your address correctly. If you get it correct, you will get a list of ALL the districts that you live in. ■

## Continued from page 2

coverage. Original Joe's restaurant has free parking after 6PM and their room hold about 100 people. It was decided to hold the October CC meeting at Original Joe's restaurant as a dinner meeting with dinner reservations required in advance (no charge for admission without meal) and for Zander Collier to negotiate arrangements with Original Joe's and to arrange either a speaker or event (debate?) or both at his discretion (advanced budget not to exceed \$500 with the intention of at least breaking even).



Excom dines on Eastern fare while plotting restoration of Western freedom at 7/26 meeting

It was decided that we hold the January CC convention at the Hong Fu restaurant as an afternoon and dinner meeting with dinner reservations required in advance (no charge for admission without meal) and Scott Lieberman was delegated to negotiate arrangements with Hong Fu (advanced budget not to exceed \$200 to reserve the room from 5PM - 10PM on a Saturday).

Thomas Frederiksen was appointed as the new speakers bureau web site manager.

Operation Connect: Frank Groffie will coordinate the mailings. It was decided to finance a fundraising letter to LPSCC members designed to raise \$5,000 for outreach and signature gathering to registered Libertarians at a cost not to exceed \$1 per addressee. It was decided to fund a mailing to all registered Libertarians in Santa Clara County, that will offer membership, ask for funds, and ask for candidate petition signatures, and advertise the October CC meeting at a cost not to exceed \$3,600, with the intention to at least break even between member donations and new donor donations.?

Stealth bond arguments were pre-approved. Travis Jones will try to identify all tax/bond measures and coordinate arguments. Arguments will include our URL in the signature or the text.

Marv Rudin is working on designs for magnetic signs. The idea is to have designs that can be ink jet printed and sprayed or laminated to protect against the weather.

Zander Collier said we have 5 volunteers thus far to help with party projects. ■

## REGISTRATIONS WATCH

JULY REGISTRATIONS ARE UP SLIGHTLY  
From 6010 the end of June to 6040 the end of July

# OPINIONS

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

## A BETTER APPROACH TO ORGANIZING THE STATE PARTY'S ED FUNCTIONS

by Marv Rudin

The resignation of Juan Ros as Executive Director of the LPC will lose us a very competent representative of the party. But it also can provide an opportunity to rethink the LP policy with regard to the ED func-

tion and LPC fiscal management. I would like to suggest a different approach.

Until LP registrations reach 200,000 and dues paying members reach 12000, making the LPC big enough in numbers to easily afford an Executive Director if income per member remains the same as for the last two years, I'd like to see the LPC's Executive Director office comprised of:

- (1) A volunteer Libertarian retiree as the ED, with a part time staff assistant (as presently) to take care of the routine database, filing, and other office functions.
- (2) Volunteer Deputy EDs in the several major population centers of the state, who would be able to fill in for the ED at talk shows and other opportunities, to save travel expenses. They and the ED would be individuals who can fill invitations to appear day or night and therefore would ideally be still active retirees or self employed with a very flexible work schedule.
- (3) An incentive payments formula to reward the ED and his Deputy EDs for their actual accomplishments, such as readership x column-inches published, or audience x broadcast-time, or donations directly acquired, or candidates directly acquired by OB or a similar LPC program.

My reason for suggesting this is that the present policy is too precarious financially, and it makes it nearly impossible financially to engage in the development of other much needed programs, such as one to study and to develop ways to grow Libertarian registrations at a much more rapid rate.

I believe without much more rapid annual registrations growth, the party and its candidates will never have the credibility needed to impress voters and the media. And thus far, having a full time ED has not resulted in any registrations growth analysis or program. A political party that is a small fraction of the size of its competition has a major marketing problem. No marketing organization would ever have no polling of its existing customers to find out what has worked to attract them and no program to attract more like them. But that would take money, and thus far it appears that the cost of the ED office leaves no room for such a program.

This is why I suggest retaining the ED functions at a lower cost, by entrusting it to Libertarian volunteers receiving recognition plus incentive payments that may add up to a small fraction of the present budget. I'm sure we have capable people in the party who can and would fill these roles. In case some readers are getting cynical, this isn't self serving. I'd do the Deputy ED function in the Bay Area for no compensation. ■

Marv,

I wanted to take a minute out and just say thanks for a great newsletter. Because of it, I am planning on getting more involved in the party. It is nice to be able to read about the activities and I think you have done a great job in putting this months LPSCC Newsletter together.

Thanks, Ed Allison ■

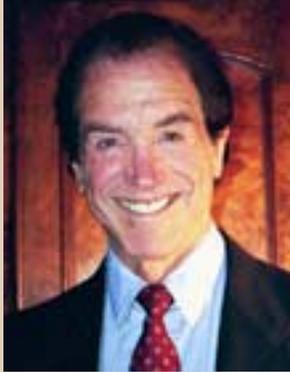
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### Continued from page 4

out of it. If you can please attend the meeting so that we can show that the Libertarian Party supports these people. This meeting will be to build a cohesive force among the opposition to the cities plans. The meeting will be at 7:30 PM, 72 N. Fifth St., San Jose. These small business owners, landlords, and tenants have formed a grassroots coalition, tentatively called "40 sites", to put a stop to the threats of eminent domain from the San Jose City Council. Their backs are against the wall. The city is planning on sending out requests for developers also known as RFQs on the 14th of August. I attended the coalition's meeting the other night and mentioned that I'm sure you, our Libertarian members, would be more than willing to help write LFEs, letters to City Council, help make signs, and forward this information to all your friends. The coalition wants to create a substantial uprising and put pressure on the San Jose City Council and Mayor Ron Gonzales to halt the city's plans to violate property rights. This will be good exposure for us among the community. Please call them at 408-817-5678. Tell them you are from the Libertarian Party and you would like to help or want to find out more information. "

**In July:** A couple of weeks ago I told you about the San Jose Redevelopment Agency (RDA) threatening to take control of some 30-40 properties in the greater downtown area of San Jose. The property owners and other concerned citizens formed a coalition to fight against the seizure of these downtown properties. The good news is that the pressure is working. The RDA has called a special meeting with these property owners for this Wednesday, Aug 1st, at 5:30 PM in San Jose Council Chambers 801 N. First St..

The additional good news is that this coalition has called to ask us, the Santa Clara County Libertarian Party, for our help. They would like several people in favor of property rights to attend this meeting and help voice opposition using strength in numbers. This meeting was called by the property owners district rep. Cindy Chavez. Please if you have the time head to the RDA meeting Wednesday and also forward this information to anyone else you think may be interested. ■



Marvin B. Rudin, Editor

## *OUTREACH continued*

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I listened on my Mac (not bad, but people with PCs may be able to get better feeds with the PC listener)

and my partner's shortwave radio. My normal radio had no luck picking up KSJS from my home in Sunnyvale. I recommend listening via <http://www.ksjs.org> . ([www.nakedradio.net](http://www.nakedradio.net) has interesting content, but also lots of graphics and ads — I think it would be painful at modem speeds).

You can talk about anything you want. Archimedes has a co-anchor, Vicky, who apparently isn't libertarian but seems intelligent and might be interesting to talk with or ask a question.

Note that calling might be the most painless practice being on the radio that you could possibly hope for. 408-924-5757 (or Internet phone if you have it), Thursday 5-7 PM. Program it into your PDA as a repeating appointment with an alarm, so you'll know it's coming on. If you call you'll almost certainly get on, without spending an eternity on hold. And even if you don't call, listen; people love to hear you say "I heard you on the radio!", especially followed by "You were great!" :-). ■

### **SJMN QUOTES JONES: "NO CORPORATE WELFARE FOR OAKLAND A'S"**

Travis Jones is fighting to stop politicians in Santa Clara from giving the Oakland A's a free stadium. He says: "I attended the city of Santa Clara city council meeting where the issue to be discussed was some \$150 million funding from the city for the A's to build a stadium in the city. Today part of my opinion of corporate welfare appeared in the SJ Mercury. While not identifying myself as a Libertarian in my comments to city council, the philosophy of where our party stands is being heard. If we can just get our perspective out there then later on citizens can realize the LP's stance agrees with this perspective." ■

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### Continued from page 1

region? Are we providing fair and accurate coverage of every wavelength of the political spectrum? Are we covering the facets of life that give you joy or comfort? We'd like to know what you think.

If you'd like to join this session please e-mail my assistant. Tell us a little about yourself and in what areas you think we could do better. We will need to limit this group to 20 readers because of space."

I submitted a request to attend. I also asked the LPSCC Excom if anyone else was submitting one in case I might be usurping the role of someone else. When no one indicated they had submitted and I received an invitation, I decided to accept it and take the opportunity to try and do something to get a change in the SJMN's atrocious policy of not covering 3rd parties. (I was told of this unwritten policy by a reporter last year when Libertarian U.S. Senate candidate Gail Lightfoot was in town and the reporter refused to interview her)

Hopefully the SJMN falling on hard times due to reduced ad revenues from the slowdown of the economy may be making them more open minded. Near the outset of the meeting I took advantage of the opportunity to tell Publisher Joseph Natoli that the previous publisher, Jay Harris' official policy was to ignore third parties, and asked him to please change that policy on his watch. Later, in the course of discussion I was able to inform the 15 to 20 selected community invitees and the 15 to 20 SJMN managers, editors, and reporters, including new Natoli and Executive Editor David Yarnold, about the Libertarian point of view. Probably none of the visitors and journalists knew much about what the LP stands for. So I think I made significant progress by making a broad brush statement correcting the Yarnold, when he tried to lump me in as having the same viewpoint as a self-described conservative lady sitting next to me. I said "Libertarians are not conservative as you think, but half liberal and half conservative - namely, social liberals and economic conservatives." Also, I lucked out when I sat down at the corner of one of the tables and learned that the man directly to my right at the table was none other than their political editor, John Hoeffel! Last year I had called him and made an appointment for lunch, but he cancelled and rescheduled numerous times, finally renegeing altogether - no doubt triage at work again. :-))

Probably it's going to be hard to overcome the big-gov liberal bias of most of the SJMN staff, even if the publisher changes the onerous 3rd party black out policy. But all things considered I don't think things at the meeting could have gone much better as far as making an effort to change it is concerned. The unexpected chance to dialog with the Publisher capped it off. While I was talking to two impressive female meeting attendees in the parking lot - one a high level manager at Spectra Physics, and the other the head of a PR firm - up came Natoli to shake my hand and strike up a conversation. I took the opportunity to buttonhole him after the ladies left and tell him about Libertarian views, including the objection to San Jose RDA eminent domain property grabs, and also pass on NRA Members Council prez Daryl Davis' (who I called the night before) poor opinion of the SJMN's pro big government, anti individual freedom, and anti gun-rights policies. ■

Editor's Note:

Thank you for electing me newsletter chair for 2001. This year, at the end of each issue there will be an opinion section with up to two pages of member notes and letters (including yours - please email so I don't need to type).

Officers:

Table listing officers and their contact information: Chairman (Ray Strong), Vice Chairman (Joe Dehn), Secretary (Dennis Umphress), Treasurer (Jon Hugdahl), Membership (Tony Stemberger), Campaign (Scott Lieberman), Publicity (Zander Collier), Fundraising (Frank Groffie), Activities (John Webster), Newsletter (Marv Rudin), Local Organizing (Travis Jones), State ExCom Rep (Mark Hinkle), Alt ExCom Rep (Joe Dehn).

Table listing Judicial Committee members: Paul Rako, Elizabeth Brierly, Mary Gingell, and their contact emails.

Had a Libertarian outreach experience? Converted someone? Write about it to the editor! email: scl@lpty.org US mail: 651 Princeton Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94087 or call (408) 736-5626.

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

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

Plus an additional contribution to the LPSCC:

- o Monthly pledge .....
o One-time donation .....

Total: .....

Payment Method:

o Check payable to: Libertarian Party

o VISA or MasterCard (circle one)

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

o New

o Renew