

California Activist '84

Bulletin of the Libertarian Party of California

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September 1984

HOW MANY REGISTERED LIBERTARIANS ARE THERE IN YOUR COUNTY?

by Karen D. Huffman

What do you answer when Nancy Newcomer or Ralph Reporter asks, "How many people in California are registered to vote as Libertarians?"

- 100,000
- 75,000
- 50,000
- none of the above

Achieving ballot status was a major step forward for the Libertarian Party in California. It resulted in a nearly instant increase in our credibility with the media and the general public. It has also saved us thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours of volunteer and paid time.

Many long-time activists could regale you with their fond memories of one or more ballot drives and the seemingly endless lawsuits against the Secretary of State to force election officials to put us on the ballot after the petitioning requirements were fulfilled.

Ask any activist in the approximately 35 states going through ballot drives this year for the Bergland-Lewis ticket. You will find that they would "give their eye-teeth" to be out of the "dark ages" of petitioning the state just to have a candidate's name placed on the ballot.

A BIT OF BACKGROUND ON BALLOT STATUS IN CALIFORNIA

The Libertarian Party qualified for the ballot in California in January, 1980. At that time our registration of 87,460 exceeded by almost 23 percent the required minimum number of voters of 71,322. We also exceeded the expectations of all those, both inside and outside the Party) who didn't think it could be done.

The 1979 Ballot Drive, headquartered in Orange County, and managed by Jack Dean (now LPC Chair), required a budget of nearly \$150,000, plus several hundred volunteer and paid registration seekers out on the beaches, campuses, and street corners every day of the week for 6 solid months.

The Ballot Drive pushed the number of voters affiliated with the LP from 7,677 in March, 1979 to 33,611 on September 13, 1979

and to 55,092 only three weeks later on October 9. LPC Ballot Drive officials estimated that we had as many as 100,000 registered voters by the end of December, 1979, but many were lost in the post-election voter purges.

Because hundreds of people registered in the Libertarian Party only to help us get onto the ballot and many "transients" registered at the beaches, it was assumed that LP registration would decline significantly from the ballot qualification peak number. With the exception of an increase of only 85 from January, 1983, to January, 1984, our registration totals have in fact suffered a statewide decline of over 400 per month from January, 1980 to the May, 1984 total of 63,058 (this, by the way, is the current answer to the lead question in this article).

BRIGHT SPOTS IN CURRENT REGISTRATION TOTALS

The LP is currently the third largest party in Nevada and Santa Cruz counties. The most common party ranking by size in most counties is Democratic, Republican, American Independent, Peace and Freedom, and then Libertarian. Decline to State is usually between Republican and American Independent.

The counties with the largest numerical increases since January, 1983 are San Diego, with an increase of 1,002; Sacramento, up 105; and Placer, up 76. During 1984 San Diego

has shown the most improvement, up 545, with Santa Clara next, up 105. Los Angeles and Orange counties remain the ones with the largest total number of Libertarian registrants, with 17,555 and 10,619 respectively.

The counties with the largest percentage of increase in 1984 were Calaveras and Sierra, both with 80%, and Trinity with 70%.

There are eleven counties where the percentage of Libertarian Party voters in the electorate is greater than the statewide average of 0.55%. The best percentages are in Nevada--1.4%; Orange--1.1%; and Alpine--0.9%.

ARE YOU REGISTERED IN THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY?

In May, 1984 the LPC had 1,198 Central Committee members. The LPC governing body (Central Committee) consists of those who completed a membership application and paid dues and those elected to a partisan office in the June primary. Many of our dues-paid members are registered to vote in one of the other parties or are registered Decline to State.

In order for the LP in California to reverse the trend of declining voter registrations we need many counties to follow the excellent example set by San Diego County's registration drive last year. Please help increase the credibility and visibility of the Libertarian Party in California by using the enclosed voter registration card (all cards are good in any county) to register yourself, or your spouse, neighbors, co-workers, etc.

Karen Huffman, a long-time activist in Santa Clara, is the office coordinator for the LPC.

All voter registration figures in the article were taken from the "Report of Registration" published periodically by the Secretary of State.

Anyone wishing to have complete details of current LPC voter registration may obtain them by sending a stamped (\$.37), self-addressed, business-size envelope to: Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County, 401 E. Taylor St., San Jose, CA 95112.

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CALIFORNIA BERGLAND FOR
PRESIDENT NEWS

by Bob Lehman

SPOTLIGHT ON LAKE COUNTY

Lake County is the site of one of the best organized Bergland campaign efforts in California (and probably in the whole country). Bergland Coordinator Randall Grindle is calling all the registered Libertarians in Lake County with a four-part questionnaire designed to activate them at one of four levels of involvement: putting a bumpersticker on their car, writing a letter to the editor, contributing money, or distributing literature on the weekend. After he finishes with the Lake County list, Grindle plans to work on the lists for Humboldt, Mendocino, and Sonoma Counties.

A copy of the Grindle Plan has been sent to all county Bergland coordinators, and is available to any contributor upon request.

BOBBIE GENTRY FUNDRAISER PLANNED

Composer-singer Bobbie Gentry, who recently joined the LPC, will host a fundraising event for David Bergland at her Woodland Hills home, Sunday, September 30th. Tickets are available for \$100 each from CBFP, P.O. Box 875160, Los Angeles, CA 90087.

FUNDRAISING PROGRESS

\$20,000 is the magic number for the California Bergland for President Committee. Below that level, most funds are targeted for labor-intensive projects, mailings, and administrative expenses. Above \$20,000, virtually all funds are targeted for radio advertising.

As of mid-August, we are over 40% of the way toward the \$20,000 threshold, having raised over \$8,000 (at a cost of under \$2,000 for mailings, food, and candidate's travel). Nine receptions for Bergland in July throughout California netted about \$6,000 which was split 50/50 with the national Bergland for President Committee.

Thanks to all the hosts and hostesses for the fundraisers: Ed and Alicia Clark, Matt and Nancy Greco, Virginia Macintosh, Ed and Linda Marshall, Dick Mitchell, Ida May Wagner, Jim Wilson, Richard Winger, and Clay and Liz Wright.

A \$230 test mailing to 980 Democrats in precincts with a high vote for Gary Hart has yielded NO returns within two weeks, so that project is not likely to continue. It looks like we're going to have rely primarily on Libertarians to finance the Bergland campaign.

FUNDRAISING SOURCES BY COUNTY

Here's the latest breakdown, by county, of where funds have come from. Keep in mind that our radio advertising budget will be split according to the share of funds raised from each county:

Los Angeles	45%
Santa Clara	21%
San Diego	5%
San Francisco	5%
Contra Costa	4%
Fresno	4%
Orange	4%
Alameda	3%
San Mateo	3%
Kern	1%
San Joaquin	1%
Others	4%

BIG MAILING PLANNED

In September we plan to mail to registered Libertarian voters in counties where we have a Bergland Coordinator to follow up on responses (see list of counties below). Materials planned for inclusion in the mailing are:

- Bergland campaign brochure
- A list local coordinators' and candidates' phone numbers
- An order form for campaign materials, such as brochures, bumperstickers, buttons, videotapes, postcards, books.
- Ideas for individual involvement, such as writing letters to the editor, distributing literature, writing postcards to friends, showing videotapes to friends
- A contribution card and return envelope.

BERGLAND FOR PRESIDENT

COUNTY COORDINATORS

Butte	Harry Pendery (916) 873-4302
Contra Costa	Theresa Kramer (415) 689-8539
Fresno	Robert Subers (209) 299-0509
Kern	Wanda Martin (805) 366-6660
Lake	Randy Grindle (707) 994-4817
LA--61	Nancy Neale (818) 893-6884
LA--62	Dave Meleny (213) 397-6840
LA--63	Pitt Kinsolving (818) 792-3531
LA--64	Laurel Fest (818) 241-1881
LA--65	Lee Connelly (714) 994-3256
LA--66	Thomas Bisko (213) 545-8190
LA--67	Gail Lightfoot (714) 599-1627
Placer	Jim McClarin (916) 989-0773
Monterey	Robert Ratto (408) 424-3143
Sacramento	Eric Phelps (916) 338-0290
Santa Barbara	Lou Villadsen (805) 963-5801
Santa Clara	Jim Wilson (408) 773-9110
Shasta	Harry Pendery (916) 873-4302
Tehema	Harry Pendery (916) 873-4302

STATE COORDINATOR Bob Lehman
(213) 389-3358

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Correspondence to the editor should be sent to 1525 Mesa Verde Drive East, #105W, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.

Advertisements will be accepted, subject to space constraints and approval of the Editorial Board, as follows: display ads, one per page, \$100 per issue; directory ads, business card size, \$15 per issue. Camera-ready artwork must be provided. For further advertising information, contact Mary Gingell at (714) 754-4054.

THANKS!

The California Activist Editor Mary Gingell, and Circulation Manager Karen Huffman would like to thank the following volunteers from the Santa Clara County LP who have helped with the collating, folding, stapling, labeling, sorting, bundling, etc., during March, April, May June and June: Don Cormier, Dante and Jan DeAmicis, Ron Emslie, Brian Esterson, Charles Hanes, Moya Huffman, Ross Parlette, Mike Piltch, Kim Roberts, Casey Towse and Jim Wilson.

Special commendations go to Jeff Smith, who handles all the details of dealing with the Bulk Mail people at the Post Office, to Wes Pinchot, who drove to Oakland and back to pick up the Activist from the printer, and to Dale Burrow and Bob Burkhart, who have fixed computer problems, large and small, on several occasions so that there would be mailing labels in time for the mailing party.

We couldn't do it without you, and we are both very grateful for your efforts!

FROM THE STATE CHAIR

By Jack Dean

This month I have some very good news to share with you about current activities and plans for the future.

As you undoubtedly know, the LPC has made impressive strides forward since February of 1983 when we streamlined our organizational structure (by merging the California Libertarian Council into the Libertarian Party). That reorganization helped us to solidify our membership and donor base, and made it possible for us to hire a full-time executive director, Marshall Fritz of Fresno.

During 1983, under the leadership of chair Mary Gingell, the LPC experienced growth in both membership and contributions. Today it is sound both organizationally and financially.

When Marshall Fritz resigned his post in June, several people expressed concern that without the services of a full-time paid staff person we might lose the momentum we had started to develop. I, too, have shared this concern.

That's why I spent the month following Marshall's resignation working hard along with Carolyn Treynor, chair of the Contract Services Management Committee (CSMC), to find a qualified person to fill this important position. And at this time I'm very pleased to inform you that we have done so.

Laurel Fest of Glendale began working on August 6 as the LPC's new "state co-ordinator" - a title chosen to reflect the variety of different projects she will be co-ordinating for us throughout California. She will be working for the Party on an interim basis through the end of November, at which time we will be deciding on a permanent person to fill the post.

A background which combines computer programming, consulting, personnel training and customer relations makes Laurel an ideal person for this job. She brings to the position her own unique blend of professional talents and abilities, plus--as chair of Los Angeles' Region 64--she has firsthand knowledge of the problems facing local LPC activists.

I'm impressed with her organizational background, her quiet enthusiasm and her intense desire to help the Party grow. I'm sure you will be, too, when you meet her.

Since Laurel started, we have already been able to accomplish a great deal on several fronts. Let me tell you about a few of the more interesting projects now under way:

● TELEPHONE FUND RAISING

Our first goal is to find more donors to share the load. We have retained a professional telemarketing firm to contact and seek support from all LPC members who are not currently pledging. Mary Gingell, who is now serving as chair of our fundraising committee, has put a lot of time into the development of this program, and Laurel and I are working closely with her on it.

● STATEWIDE PUBLICITY PROGRAM

We have computerized a list of over 400 California newspapers, and we'll be adding radio and TV to it shortly. As funds permit, we plan to begin issuing press releases commenting on timely topics. Laurel will be working closely with me on this project, beginning by talking with each county chair to obtain the names of key local media contacts which should be included on the list.

Other plans on the drawing boards include:

● DIRECT MAIL FUND RAISING

Hopefully, we'll be contacting all registered Libertarians sometime in October to seek their support.

● INTRO NIGHTS

We plan to continue the "Introduction to Libertarianism" seminars initiated by Marshall Fritz, primarily by developing a statewide team of presentors. And we also hope to develop a follow-up internal education program.

● HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE OUTREACH

LP presidential candidate David Bergland is preparing a booklet on Libertarianism designed to serve as a supplement to government and political science texts. We hope to make good use of it in California's schools.

● LEGISLATIVE WATCH

We have now developed an inexpensive method of tracking legislation in Sacramento, and we plan to begin expressing the LP's opposition to--or support for--important bills, based on whether they limit or expand individual rights.

● LEGISLATIVE WATCH NEWSLETTER

When funds permit, we hope to produce a periodic, concise summary of upcoming bills which appear to endanger your liberty...along with information on how you can make your opinion known to your legislators.

● AND THERE'S MORE

We're also developing a speakers bureau, an inquiry fulfillment system, a centralized statewide "activity calendar", and a "networking" program designed to give us more direct contact with other single-issue-oriented groups.

It is my belief that we cannot expect to grow - either in numbers or in influence - if we continue to talk only to each other. The Libertarian Party MUST involve itself more aggressively in the world of real politics or it will become what many have always predicted it would...a debating society.

We must go beyond simply running partisan or non-partisan political campaigns every two years. We must begin to make our views heard regularly in the legislature, in the news media and in the educational institutions of our state. Only if we are perceived as being outspoken, active crusaders for liberty will we be taken seriously by our fellow Californians. Only if we are taking a visible leadership role in crucial political battles can we attract top-rate new activists and eager new donors.

I'm sure you'll agree with me that all of these goals are important to our growth as a party. And I can assure you that I plan to do all I can during the balance of my term as chair to work towards them.

Hard work in this direction does pay off, as we saw in the June primary. In Placer County, northern vice chair Dennis Schlumpf can point with pride to

(continued on page 4)

MEDIA BLACKOUT?

by Ed Rosenback

Editor's note: Ed Rosenback, a Vallejo activist involved in the 1984 Creighton for Congress campaign, reacted quickly to news of Geraldine Ferraro's vp nomination by contacting several Bay Area news departments, and following up the unsatisfactory answers he received by submitting the following opinion piece to Bay Area media. Additionally, he gained some important insights into the nature of Libertarian candidates' struggle to obtain news coverage of their campaigns.

On July 12, I discovered first-hand the extent of Media bias.

That morning's San Francisco Chronicle was headed with the words, "First Woman VP Candidate," and "Bold Move by Demos," referring to Geraldine Ferraro's selection by Walter Mondale for the second spot on the Democrats' ticket.

Being a person perhaps obsessed with facts, and wishing that the truth be known, I contacted several Bay Area television news departments to inform them that when they announce Ms. Ferraro's selection they should forego the temptation to characterize her as the "first" of her gender to be nominated for the VP's position, since Toni Nathan was the VP nominee of the Libertarian Party in 1972 (she was also the first female ever to receive a vote in the Electoral College).

The response, overall, was not positive. Most countered that they were only concerned with the "major" parties' activities and candidates, as if the Libertarians were not even their (or, if they were, didn't count). I suppose this prejudice springs from the Eugene V. Debs era, in which third parties were decidedly of Socialist bent; many still assume any alternative party to be "socialist."

This view is dangerous, and especially so when (if one will but review the historical and political facts of record) the Socialist's platforms have been embraced by both "major" political parties. What we now have in this country are two divisions of a socialist Statist Party, opposed by the Libertarians who, for whatever reason, the media does not want the general public to know about.

By excluding from coverage, even mention, the third largest

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our most impressive electoral success yet in California - the recent election of Eric Henrikson to the post of county supervisor in a "squeaker" over his incumbent rival (by 0.4%).

Libertarians in Marin County - led by congressional candidate Howard Creighton - played a leadership role in defeating a proposed library tax. And further south in Orange County, Libertarians participated in a coalition that defeated a one-cent sales tax increase. We ARE having an impact, and I'm confident that we'll continue to do so.

It has been due to your generous support - along with the help of hundreds of other dedicated Libertarians - that we've come this far. But we still have a long way to go.

I've outlined several projects here. They're all rather energetic, and I'm sure you know that they all cost money. So if you're not already supporting the LPC through its monthly pledge program, I cannot urge you strongly enough to do so.

As our new state co-ordinator throws herself full-time into providing us with the back-up we so desperately need as volunteers, let's all get behind her with the same kind of spirit and enthusiasm that has sustained us over the past 18 months.

This is a critical time for the LPC. Your help is more important to us now more than ever before, and I know I can count on your continued moral and financial support.

political party in the U.S., the media has effectively maintained a blackout on information. Who controls the media? What are their motives? There seems little that individuals can do to break down this wall of silence; this writer has chosen the path of informed frustration, of letting the media know directly that their thwarting of political debate is not appreciated, still aware that few eyes will be opened as a result.

On a recent "60 minutes" interview, the editor of the communist state-controlled newspaper Pravda stated that the only difference between himself and Western editors was that his political bias is known, while his counterparts in the West try to hid theirs. Perhaps he was right on that issue, although there are times when media's political prejudice is apparent.

HERE'S THE FIRST BATCH, JACK

by Larry Leathers

. . . of leads of new Libertarians that have moved into your area.

It works like this: just put the words "FORWARDING AND ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED" on the lower right area of your address side of your newsletter (if you aren't already doing so) and then the Post Office will return the new address or lack thereof to you for a charge of \$.25 each.

Then, after you purge and correct your mailing list with the updates still in your region, you just send the others to the proper region. Since we in Region 62 are already sending Complimentary issues of our newsletter to the other regional newsletters in California, it was decided for simplicity's sake to just mail address corrections out along with the next month's "Comp" newsletter as follows: if there are only one or two leads, they are just stapled inside the current month's newsletter; if there are more than two, they will go inside an envelope.

If you are not currently using the ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED option on your newsletter mailings, the first batch you receive from the Post Office may produce leads that the new region already has, since the moves may be up to several years old. From the second batch on, however, the leads to the new region should be very fresh.

If you decide to use this new system, it will result in these benefits to your regional organization:

1. a constantly updated mailing list for your region
2. a monthly supply of fresh LPC prospects for your mailing list, from regions who reciprocate.

"Liberty is the only thing you cannot have unless you are willing to give it to others."

— William Allen White

Prejudice is a powerful weapon, most inappropriate in the press of a truly free society.

Please, let's be a little more open, a little more tolerant. We'll all be better for it.

LOCAL EVENTS & CONTACTS

Alameda	4th THU, Sept. 27	Chair, Mike Tejada	(415) 521-5866
Butte		Chair, Harry Pendery	(916) 877-7652
Contra Costa	WED, Sept. 12, Hugh and Thea McLean, Report on Second World Libertarian Con- vention in London	Chair, Hugh McLean	(415) 234-7809
Fresno	2nd WED, Sept. 12	Chair, Bob Subers	(209) 299-7294
Kern	3rd WED, Sept. 19, Discussion Group	Chair, Dan Lucas	(805) 366-6660
Lake	every SAT, Literature table at Post Office	Chair, Randall Grindle	(707) 994-4817
Marin	1st WED, Sept. 5	Chair, Tom Jacobsen	(415) 924-5246
Monterey	CountyFair Booth, Aug. 28-Sept. 2	Chair, Bob Ratto	(408) 424-3143
Nevada		Interim Chair, Jim Hosbein	(916) 273-9174
Orange	2nd TUE, Sept. 11	Chair, Ray Cullen	(714) 754-4054
Placer	1st THU, Sept. 6	Exec. Dir., Jim McClarin	(916) 663-2568
Riverside	3rd THU, Sept. 20	Renaissance Books or	(714) 369-8843
		Chair, Ron Holman	(714) 684-5218
San Diego	3rd TUE, Sept. 18	Prog. Chair, Eunice Sperlein	(619) 692-4305
San Francisco		Chair, Mark Pickens	(415) 864-0952
San Joaquin		Chair, George Schwappach	(209) 334-5948
San Mateo	Sept. 13, 6 PM, Dinner with Robert Hessen Oct. 18, 6 PM, Dinner with Leonard Liggio	Bill Wade, or	(415) 594-1125
Santa Clara	3rd THU, Sept. 20	Chair, Dave Bell	(415) 365-9102
Santa Cruz	every WED, 7:30 P.M.	Chair, Jim Wilson	(408) CRY-FREE
Solano		Chair, Tim Kilburn	(408) 688-1376
Sonoma		Chair, Mark Moberg	
Stanislas		Chair, Jim Oglesby	(707) 823-5261
Tulare		Chair, Steve Gerringer	
San Fernando		Chair, Hartune Neffian	(209) 732-5674
Valley-61		Regional Message Center	(818) 705-6496
West LA-62		Chair, Neal Donner	(213) 477-6462
Glendale- Pasadena-63		Chair, Steve Malmberg	(213) 257-9491
Central LA-64	2nd THU, Sept. 13	Chair, Laurel Fest	(818) 241-1881
Downey-65	2nd WED, Sept. 12	Chair, Terry Holloway	(213) 925-7235
South Bay-66	2nd THU, Sept. 13, 7:30 PM, Howard Henn- man, History and Activities of Society for Lib. Life	Chair, Carolyn Treynor	(213) 546-2846
East San Gabriel-67	SAT, Sept. 15, Potluck Supper	Jo McConnaghy, or Chair, Gail Lightfoot	(818) 359-5873 (714) 599-1627

OF INTEREST

Southern Vice Chair Sam Treynor reports that the next Southern California Regional Chairs Meeting will be held September 17 in the Westwood Office.

The following items are on the agenda for discussion:

1. A southern California 800 number
2. Follow-up on the disconnected Gottlieb--LP number
3. Future plans for the LA county office
4. Should southern Cal. chairs schedule a regular meeting?
5. Calendar insert for southern Cal. local newsletters.

The meeting is open to all southern California regional chairs or their designated representatives.

To get further information about the meeting, or to add items to the agenda, contact your local chair, or Sam Treynor at (213) 546-2846...

The LP of San Mateo County holds monthly dinner meetings at the Velvet Turtle in Menlo Park. \$15 covers dinner, tax, tip and speaker. Social hour begins at 6 PM, with dinner at 7, speaker at 8, and Q&A at 8:45 PM.

Speaking on September 13 will be Robert Hessen, a Fellow and Archivist at Hoover Institution, teacher at Stanford Business School, and long-time associate of the late Ayn Rand.

Leonard Liggio will be addressing the October 18 meeting. Liggio, President of the Institute for Humane Studies, the libertarian think-tank in Menlo Park, is the author of several essays on 20th century American history, and has been active in the libertarian movement since the 1950's.

Call Bill Wade at (415) 594-1125 for further details and reservations...

Rudolph Laubscher tells us that "Artists Look at U.S. Politics in the 1980's" will be on display at the Southwestern College Art Gallery, 900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista, 92010, October 23 through Nov. 9. The display is still accepting all media focusing on U.S. political issues of the 80's. Slide deadline is Sept. 1.

The Campaign Kickoff Celebration of the Yauch Congressional campaign will be held at the home of Ed and Alicia Clark in San Marino on Sunday, September 16. Admission is \$25. The festivities will run from 3:30 to 7:30 PM.

Mike Yauch is running for Congress in District 22 against

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Carlos Moorhead, the Republican incumbent. There is no Democratic candidate on the ballot.

Yauch has been campaigning steadily since March, and this

race may prove to be one of the more exciting California races this fall.


Yauch invites everyone to come celebrate the official start of the fall campaign with him, saying, "The \$25 price for this event includes food, drink, and entertainment!" In a new twist, Yauch says he won't do the usual hard-sell fundraising at the event.

"If people there want to hand me contributions, I'll be pleased to accept them, but we won't be doing a fundraising pitch. We just want everyone to celebrate with us--and I'm hoping the event itself will sell the campaign to those attending."

For further information and reservations to this event, contact Mike Yauch at (213) 257-7733.

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(before 9 A.M. or after 5 P.M.)

Northern Vice Chair:
Dennis Schlumpf
P.O. Box 39
Homewood, CA 95718
916/583-2285

Southern Vice Chair:
Sam Treyner
629 19th Street
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
213/546-2846

Secretary:
Jerry Douglas
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Among the natural rights of the colonists are these: first, a right to life; secondly, to liberty; thirdly, to property; together with the right to defend them in the best manner they can.--Sam Adams, 1772