

Santa Clara Libertarian

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MV ENERGY TAX ROLLBACK PETITIONING PERMEATES ALL ACTIVITIES IN APRIL

Quarterly Central Committee Meeting And Tax Day Protest Both Focussed On Preparation And Launch Of April 20-21 Petition Blitz

by Marv Rudin

The MVETR, or sometimes dubbed the MVWETR (W for "windfall") again dominated LPSCC activities, even over and above the traditional April 15th Tax Day protests at county post offices. Despite a disappointing turnout of activists that fell far short of the estimated numbers needed to get the 1500 petition signatures required to pass a statistical test by the city of MV to put the MVWETR initiative on the November ballot, the 15 determined party volunteers that turned out, four of whom came from outside SCC, went door to door in the morning and



John Inks getting a signature

solicited shoppers at malls in the afternoon on April 20th, collecting approximately 15% of the needed signatures. Followup mall petitioning on April 21st collected approximately another 5%, and followup at a Sunday festival got perhaps another 5%. Problems like 3 of 4 residents not being home reduced the door-to-door petition sign rate, and many mall shoppers being from cities adjoining Mt. View slowed the mall signature gathering rate.



Chair Ray Strong awaiting a signature

Why more members didn't join in on this high profile outreach opportunity is difficult to explain, considering the buildup over many months in this publication, and by phone calls and visits to LPSCC members. It is unknown how many registered LPers, and members of the public who indicated a willingness to sign the petition and to solicit others to sign it, were asked to be petition solicitors, nor what prospective participants were told, but the turnout on the "blitz" weekend was clearly far short of the turnout in the LPC's example Bellflower ETR petition drive that got out 50 solicitors for about half as many signatures needed there. Thus getting 20% of the volunteers for twice

the number of signatures made the MV drive ten times as difficult and very unlikely to succeed in the two weeks remaining before the deadline of May 13th (which is 6 month statutory maximum time after filing the initiative with the MV City Clerk).

Still, the prospect of political party such as ours that is too small in number to elect partisan legislators and office holders, demonstrat-



Laura Stewart (l), Elizabeth Brierly, and Dennis Umphress closing Avante Hotel 3rd floor headquarters room on 4/27

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EXCITING EXPERIENCE ASKING PUBLIC FOR INITIATIVE PETITION SIGNATURES

People Found To Be Receptive Going Door-to-door And At Safeway April 20th

Reported by petitioner & photographer Randy Overbeck

Libertarians from all over Santa Clara County and beyond met on Saturday, April 20th to kick off the Energy Tax Rollback Initiative in Mountain View. We discussed the procedure of collecting signatures and then broke up into teams to go door-to-door for signatures. Your reporter teamed up with Rodney Austin who came all the way from



Randy Overbeck

Fresno to help us in the effort.

Although a significant number of the registered voters on our list were Democrats, we found that over 70% of them were very receptive to our effort and even signed the petition. The major problem we face though was that most of people we tried to reach were not home.



Zander Collier signing up Mt. View shopper outside Safeway

Later in the day I teamed up with a new group, including Zander Collier, Laura Stewart & John Wilson, to gather signatures at one of the Safeways. This proved to be very productive. In a little more than an hour I gathered 10 signatures and the entire team of 4 gathered over 30 signatures.

Overall I think the effort was very enlightening especially to show us first-hand how difficult signature gathering in general can be. One thing that would have helped tremendously would have been more Mountain View Libertarians out with the groups getting signatures so we wouldn't have had to ask the residents to also sign as solicitor, and of course, more gatherers could gather more signatures. ■



Dennis Umphress instructing volunteers in headquarter room at Avante Hotel; in back are two volunteers from the CA Central Valley, Rodney Austin (c) and Jonathan Zwickel (r)

TAX DAY PROTEST TRADITION CONTINUES BUT AT LOWER LEVEL

Mountain View Contingent Performs Both Initiative Petitioning And Tax Protesting

Reported by Marv Rudin

Maybe it was because of less advertising of the event in this newsletter, or maybe because of less recruiting efforts, but the number of 2002 Tax Day protests and protesters was down greatly from last year. This was not surprising - just three members including your reporter joined Zander Collier at his tax day prep meeting at De Anza College on April 14th. On April 15th there were just one - your reporter - at Sunnyvale's USPS, three at Meridian, two at Lundy (joined by three transferring from Meridian when its traffic dropped off much earlier than usual, and seven at Mt. View which was targeted for launching the Mt. View WETR initiative petitioning drive simultaneously with tax protesting. This compares with about 30 to 40 participants last year. The lighter traffic pattern at Meridian may have been caused by a combination of less people filing late because they were receiving refunds due to the Bush reduction plan, and closing earlier than usual - about 10 pm.



Roger Ver efficiently phones for reinforcements while protesting



Bill Stewart petitioning at Mt. View USPS

I was at the Sunnyvale main USPS on Mary Ave from 3:20 pm to 5:35 pm at the busy side entrance where people enter from the parking lot. I held up a "Tax Slaves Unite" sign with one hand and with the other passed out 125 \$1 Million dollar bills and 10 LIFE cards and one of Zander's 2001 tax brochures to passers-by showing a special interest during that time. About 20% of the passers took the \$1 M flyer. Smiling at them while they approached helped, and often, if they saw one take, several in a

row took, and vice versa. Was confronted by a P.O. employee and later the manager when I refused to go stand on the sidewalk rather than aside the entrance, but they never did more after I told them I was obeying the law which says not to impede traffic.



Zander Collier & Mike Laursen at De Anza



9 yr old Michael Foster

Drove over to the Meridian post office after dinner. Only Libertarian I saw there was Roger Ver. He was holding up a sign and said he had a couple of friends coming. I then did the Tax Slave sign and \$1 M flyer passing routine near the entrance as in Sunnyvale, and was again confronted by a P.O. employee - this one looked like a 300 lb bar bouncer- telling me to move to an ineffectual location. I again refused with no repercussions. Maybe got a little press — a student reporter from SJ State, Angelica, came up to me and took my picture and story while I was passing flyers. She said she was looking for

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(MV Tax Rollback - Continued from page 1)

ing the power to give voters a direct legislative choice under the city initiative process for taxation and user fee issues because they now require especially small petitioning numbers thanks to Prop 118, makes such initiatives highly alluring because they are now probably within our grasp. The main difficulty, it appears, will be to get more participation by Libertarians and others interested in a particular initiative. Based on experience gained on the MVETR, it's going to take solicitation of prospective volunteers from all likely populations by skilled recruiters to convince them that their efforts will be fruitful, either by a concentrated "blitz" petitioning or by a program of gradually soliciting petition signatures over a several month period, and very likely by both approaches.



Chair Ray Strong

The sheer effort put forth by LPSCC leaders and activists in attempting to get the needed petition signatures in April is admirable. It is a testament to the strong commitment of Chair Ray Strong and several other LPSCC leaders to making a political difference as soon as possible, even before our numbers are big enough to affect candidate elections. Some of the following chronology of MVETR preparation, activities, and correspondence in April will give the reader some idea of the intense efforts expended by a few of his fellow Libertarians to make a difference, and why many more of you readers will be needed to participate to some extent for the local party to be successful in gathering signatures in your cities on future initiative projects.

First because the MVETR Project Manager, Steve Prestrelski was forced to drop out of directing the project due to premature birth of his first child, others picked up the slack, led by LPSCC Local Organizing Chair Laura Stewart, who like Steve, is a Mt. View resident, aided by Chair Ray Strong, and Campaign Chair Dennis Umphress. Laura took on most of the very difficult task of recruiting petitioning enough volunteers with a target of 100 based on the experience of the LPC ETR in Bellflower in L.A. County during the latter half of 2001. Preparations started with a MVETR project task list emailed out by Chair Ray Strong on April 4th, followed by extensive discussions at the LPSCC meeting on April 6th (see story in last issue). This resulted in commitments by various members to tasks shown on an edited copy of Ray's task list, with names of those committed are underlined, follows.

Ray Strong's Operation Energy Tax Rollback Planning Checklist

1. Operating headquarters

Who is responsible for finding location and phone number? Laura

Who will report same to Joe Dehn for posting on our web site? Laura

Who will be responsible for staffing? Laura

Who will keep track of volunteer participation, collecting email addresses and mailing addresses for each (for later thank you letters). Laura and Dennis

2. Volunteer recruiting

Who is responsible for volunteer recruiting? Laura

Who is responsible for advertising on the lists for volunteers? Dennis

How many volunteers do we expect? 20

How long will the total operation of collecting 1500 signatures take? 56 volunteer days or 2 weeks

3. Printing and petitioning logistics. Need petitions proof-read, printed, and a copy delivered to MV City Clerk by Friday, April 12?

Who is responsible for proof reading? Steve

Who is responsible for printing? Steve

Who is responsible for delivering a copy to the MV City Clerk by Friday April 12? Steve

Who is responsible for moving large quantities of petitions from printer to headquarters and keeping them safe overnight each night? Steve and Allen

How many copies will be printed? 1,000 to start with, up to 1,500

How many signatures per copy? 2

Who is responsible for emailing petition to ExComm? Steve?

4. Petitioner training

Who is responsible for Tax Day petitioner training? Zander and Dennis

Who is responsible for petitioner training delivered at the CC Meeting on April 18? Zander and Dennis

Who is responsible for petitioner training on April 20-21? Zander and Dennis



Steve Prestrelski

(MV Tax Rollback - Continued from page 5)

Will there be a table at the MV post office on April 15? No

Will there be tables at other MV locations on April 15? No

5. Paid petitioners? Will be considered, as needed

If we could find professional petitioners in MV Who would bring in the required number of signatures for under \$3000, would we be interested?

\$3 per signature, 75% validity rate.

6. Tax Day

Will we petition on April 15? Yes

Will we also try for registrations? Yes

Who will be responsible for operations on Tax Day? Zander

Who will take care of any voter registration forms collected? Zander

7. Petition collection and validation

Who will be responsible for receiving and checking completed petitions (and keeping a running count of total signatures obtained)? Laura

8. CC Meeting

Who will give an inspiring speech on the MV tax rollback? Steve and Ray

Who will deliver petitioner training (same as 4. above)? Zander and Dennis

Should we raise funds for the MV operation? Yes, Ray & Mark

Should we raise contingency pledges for legal fees? Yes, Ray

9. Party(ies) Should April 20 party location and info be posted on web site?

Who will "host" the party? Steve?

Do we need a final party on Sunday night? Steve?

10. Petitioning on April 20-21

Should we try to combine any voter registration? Yes

Should we leave a card (2500 - 5000 LIFE cards)? Marv?

Who will be responsible for delivery of LIFE cards to headquarters before April 20? Marv?

Should we target specific groups, e.g. Decline to State?

Walking lists and maps for April 20-21? Steve?

11. Clean-up

Who will be responsible for delivering the petitions to the MV City Clerk?

Who will send thank you notes to all volunteers?

Who will report results to the LPSCC?

Who will follow up to see if we need to go to court to get the measure on the ballot?

Who will contact lawyer(s) and handle any legal operations? Dennis

12. Oversight

Who will be available to take care of last minute details?

On 4/9/02 Laura Stewart lined up a headquarters location for April 20th - 21st, writing "The MVETR HQ will be in the 3rd floor meeting room, named the "Hi-Fi Lounge", at the Hotel Avante in Mountain View, near the Sunnyvale border. They are OK with whatever hours we want it for."

On 4/10/02, because of the complication of having to have a Mt. View resident sign the petition sheet as solicitor, and because relative efficacy of residence petitioning versus mall petitioning was unknown, Strong emailed to MVETR leaders and the LPC's David Molony: "The hq staff will need to be able to 'train' people who show up at odd hours. Keep in mind that we expect more volunteers from outside MV than MV resident volunteers. This means some volunteers will not be paired with MV residents and will have to ask the petition signers to also sign as circulators. If we can keep this to a minimum that would be great; but we shouldn't keep volunteers waiting to see if someone from MV will show up to make up a team. It would be good to encourage people who are working both shifts of a day to come back to hq for lunch and to turn in their first shift results. That way, if there is something systematically wrong with their petitions, it can be caught before a whole day's work is wasted. Part of the training will be training in how to use and fill out the walking sheets. (No walking sheets for Tax Day.) For this part of the training to be defined, we need the walking sheets (or examples). David, is there some way you could send soft copies of example walking sheets asap? Can you confirm that you will be producing our walking sheets and by when? Will you be printing and mailing them?"

To which also on 4/10/02 Joe Dehn responded "But this brings up another question — is all the petitioning on this weekend going to be door-to-door? What about at shopping centers or other similar places? The reason I bring this up in connection with the "pair" question is that

(MV Tax Rollback - Continued from page 5)

at a busy location it may be practical to have a greater than 1:1 ratio of non-residents to residents. In a really busy place, I can imagine three “greeters” asking people to sign, answering whatever questions the people have, giving them the clipboard — and then referring them all to one resident who actually witnesses the signing.”

By 4/12, your reporter fulfilled his commitment to produce 5000 LIFE cards - enough for handout by petitioners and for future outreach projects. In the process he also fulfilled a request by Strong to enable tracking web visit counts of differing registration categories of home recipients and mall recipients who disclose their party registration.



Ray Strong getting signature at Pioneer Park,

The final countdown toward the announced petition blitz scheduled to begin April 20th began a week before when on April 13th Laura Stewart

became concerned about whether the deadline for submitting the petitions to the MV city clerk had already passed. She wrote to the directors of the LPC ETR program, LPC Chair Aaron Starr: “Someone please reassure me about the filing deadlines. I hope I’m wrong. I really really hope I’m wrong. But I’ve been reading the California Secretary of State’s Initiative Guide. initiatives apparently need to be filed by February 27 to be safe or April 18 (if you are counting on passing the random sampling) . But the question is, do city initiatives follow a similar schedule?”



Laura Stewart asking voter to sign at Pioneer

To which Aaron Starr replied: “Assuming that there is no question that you have enough signatures, the deadline for submitting signatures is no earlier than 5/28/02.”

Apparently he arrived at this date based on periods allowed for specified events in the state election code for local elections that applies if a charter city doesn’t set its own rules. As it turned out later, the actual deadline date turned out to be May 13th because of another state election code that gives the maximum period of 6 months allowed between the submittal of the initiative to the MV city clerk (which was on Nov 13th), and the submittal of the petitions (and Mt. View relies on the state code).

Now assured that there was still more than a month still to go to collect the petition signatures, and adhering to a plan by Ray Strong to use the LPSCC’s April 18th quarterly central committee business meeting at Original Joe’s in San Jose, and also the LPSCC’s traditional April 15th Tax Day protests to recruit volunteers, Laura then set about to attract volunteers with the following announcement, which Dennis Umphress was to post to various Libertarian and anti-tax eboards and individuals that would be expected to be interested in helping with the MVETR.

“PETITIONING BLITZ THIS WEEKEND IN MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA. ALL LIBERTARIANS ARE NEEDED FOR THIS EVENT: Saturday and Sunday, April 20 & 21 9:00 AM Meet at Headquarters: Hotel Avante 860 East El Camino Real, Mountain View plus VICTORY CELEBRATION: Saturday, April 20 6:00 PM till? Tied House 954 Villa Street, Mt. View We need your help.

Because of rising energy costs, Mountain View’s 3% tax on electricity is netting them a windfall. Which we are paying for. OPERATION ENERGY TAX REVOLT has already put rollbacks on the November ballot in other California cities. This weekend, let’s all descend upon Mountain View and get the job done there! And have fun doing it together. We’ve already fulfilled all the legal preliminaries for petitioning, now it’s time to gather the signatures. With your help we hope to gather all the signatures needed this weekend. Time: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM 1st shift 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM 2nd shift We encourage you to come to headquarters at 9:00 AM for the complete training and organizational meeting. We will provide you with petitions and supplies, and your choice of location assignment, as well as teaming you with a Mountain View resident who must actually observe each person signing the petition.

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Another training session will be held at 1:00 PM each day. However, we need volunteers all day long. So if you want to help but cannot work a complete shift, please come whenever you can. Headquarters will be staffed all day and we will help you get started whenever you arrive.

Headquarters: Hotel Avante Petition drive headquarters this weekend only is the HiFi Lounge (3rd floor) of the Hotel Avante, 860 East El Camino Real, Mountain View. >From Highway 101 southbound: Take Highway 85 south to El Camino Real South exit. This puts you on El Camino Real going "south", go less than half a mile and make a U-turn at Bernardo. >From Highway 101 northbound, or Highways 880 or 680: Take Highway 237 West until it becomes Grant Road. Turn left onto El Camino Real, go about 1 mile and make a U-turn at Bernardo. Map: Libertarian Party of Santa Clara phone: (408) 243-2711 During this weekend this phone will ring at the temporary headquarters at Hotel Avante. But this is a permanent phone number—call any time to volunteer or to ask for more information.



John Inks at Pioneer Park, Mt. View, April 27th explaining MVETR to voter

CELEBRATE: 6 PM to ??? Saturday at the Tied House in Mountain View All Libertarians are encouraged to drop by the celebration on Saturday April 20th, even if they can't petition this weekend. Tied House is at 954 Villa Street, between Castro & Shoreline.

FAQ: 1) Why do you need my help on April 20-21? We are all unpaid volunteers. No one person can collect 2000 signatures, but with enough volunteers who each collect a few signatures, we will make our goal! And with a concentrated effort on a single weekend, we can have a central headquarters where everything is prepared to make it easy for you. And finally, it gives us Libertarians a chance to meet each other, encourage new Libertarians in Mountain View, and have fun! 2) I can't make it for the April 20-21 petition drive, but I will have my family and friends in Mountain View sign the petition. 3) Then what should I do with it? First please make sure that each signer is registered to vote in Mountain View (no matter what party). Second, please make sure one of them observes each signature and signs the bottom of the petition as circulator.



John signs him up!

Then the safest way is to call us at (408) 243-2711 or email laurastewart@spamcop.net and we will have a volunteer come and pick it up from you. If you prefer to mail it, please send to: Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County PO Box 60171 Sunnyvale, CA 94088-0171. 4) I can't make it for the April 20-21 petition drive, but I can help the following weekend. What can I do then? On Saturday April 27, some of us will be circulating petitions before the Downtown Mountain View parade at 12 noon. There is no formal headquarters that weekend. Just call us at (408) 243-2711 or email laurastewart@spamcop.net and let us know you want to help, and we'll make the arrangements with you. And thanks! 5) I can't walk well, or I have difficulty talking with people, or I am not a registered voter. Can I still help? Yes, we need volunteers who can provide behind-the-scenes help at headquarters. Please come to headquarters any time during the day on April 20-21 and we'll put you to work! Hotel has wheelchair access and an elevator. Also please join us at Tied House or Original Joe's. Where can I get more petitions? Please call us at (408) 243-2711 or email laurastewart@spamcop.net and we will be happy to get you as many as you need. And thanks! Where can I get more information? For the CA Libertarian Party's Operation Energy Tax Revolt: <http://www.ca.lp.org/lpc-oetr.html>. For Mountain View in particular: <http://www.sc.ca.lp.org/mountain-view/>. For the text of the initiative: <http://www.sc.ca.lp.org/mountain-view/initiative.html>. Where can I meet you and other Libertarians? The next dinner/meeting of the Santa Clara Libertarian Party is this Thursday April 18 at 7:00 PM at Original Joe's Restaurant. This is part social event and part business meeting. Every member of the Libertarian Party who lives in Santa Clara County can vote at the business meeting. But you are welcome even if you are not a member! Dinner (optional) is \$35. We look forward to meeting you! (Original Joe's Restaurant, 301 S. 1st Street at San Carlos St., Downtown San Jose).

LPSCC'S SPRING QUARTER CC MEETING WAS WELL ATTENDED

Libertarian former Saratoga mayor Mehaffey speaks on local politics; Collier, Umphress, and Rudin report on their April 15th Tax Day protests; and Strong describes Mt. View ETR initiative plans

Reported by Randy Overbeck and Marv Rudin



Ray Strong (r) chairing 25+ members & friends at Original Joes in SJ

On 4/18 at Original Joe's in San Jose, 25 members - the restaurant's minimum - attended the LPSCC Spring meeting. It began with some reports on the Tax Day Protest. Zander Collier said that unfortunately he didn't do as much promotion and calling to recruit people for the Protest Day. He said "There was a small group of dedicated volunteers who ventured out, but it was a small fraction of those who protested last year." Dennis Umphress described his first Tax Day experience, when he joined John Webster at the Lundy USPS to hold up "Tax Slaves Unite" signs, and encountered interference from USPS and police with his

access to the public. Marv Rudin described his handing out of flyers at both Sunnyvale and Meridian USPS offices, his experience with attempted interference by postal managers, and he introduced Jim Regalla, an interested non-LP-member who he'd met at the Meridian USPS on Tax Day. Regalla said he would like to help the LP as an activist.



Rudin and Mehaffey confer after meeting

The major focus of the meeting was the Ballot Initiative for the Energy Tax Rollback Initiative in Mountain View. The executive committee decided that Mountain View would be a good candidate as it is a smaller community in Santa Clara County and therefore requires less petition signatures. The question was raised of whether we should have targeted a full repeal of the energy tax, but it was decided by the Executive Committee that a rollback had much wider support based on a telephone poll.

John Mehaffey described his experience as a Saratoga City Councilman. This was a Non-Partisan position but he is still a libertarian. One area where he felt that he made a difference was on issues of eminent domain. The council knows he is always a no-vote on such issues so they have to work much harder to convince all of the remaining council persons (4/5ths vote is required) to try to pass them.

To close the dinner meeting Zander Collier and Ray Strong both gave motivational speeches to convince the attending SC libertarians to give either time or money to help the Energy Tax Rollback in Mountain View.



Strong and Hiram Pierce in discussion



Steve & Sandra Alexander



Rudin-Strong, Webster-Alexander and companions chat before meeting

EXCOM VOTES TO SPEND \$3000 ON PETITIONERS AT SPECIAL MEETING

Reported by Marv Rudin

Recognizing that the needed 1500 MVETR petition signatures were unlikely to be acquired in the 3 weeks remaining, based on the inadequate number of volunteers and results obtained on the weekend of April 20-21, Chair Ray Strong called a special noon meeting of the LPSCC Excom April 24th to consider a drastic change of plan - the hiring of paid petitioners. The meeting was held at the oft used Cocos in Sunnyvale.

At the time the status of the project was: 379 signatures had been collected out of 981 valid needed and a 1500 gross signature target; approximately \$2K had already been spent but with some associated contributions and some people willing to not be reimbursed; contact with a prospective paid petitioning company had not yet succeeded, possibly because the number required is too small for them; and there was discussion of whether it would still make sense to authorize spending on a paid effort and what alternatives there were to continuing with the drive with volunteers.

Ed Allison moved to authorize up to \$3000 for paid petitioning, and Laura Stewart moved to amend to provide that the contract must include that if the paid petitioners are asked to leave private property they will do so (no doubt because of a bad reputation caused by paid petitioner for Home Depot in a recent effort to overturn a Mt. View zoning ruling that blocked putting up a store on Home Depot's property on El Camino by the 85 Freeway.) There was discussion of alternative ways of dealing with this issue and how likely a petitioning company would be to find them acceptable. The amendment passed on a vote of 4 to 3, following which \$3000 was authorized by a vote of 6 - 0 (2 abstentions), after a discussion of the prospects for success, including: who would be able to do fundraising; how much has been pledged to date; expenses to date; how likely it is that paid petitioners would be able to get the signatures needed; whether more volunteers could be enlisted; who would be responsible for future tasks; how many signatures might be collected at the upcoming parade; and who would be available to handle various management tasks.

Dehn said he abstained because he was uncomfortable proceeding without more involvement by people from Mountain View. Umphress and Allison volunteered to work on locating and interfacing with a paid petitioning company. Stewart and Collier volunteered to work on recruiting and managing volunteers.

Santa Clara Libertarian -- Schedule of Publication to Year End

<u>COVERAGE PERIOD</u>	<u>FINAL EDIT</u>	<u>PUBLICATION</u>
May Issue:	June 10th,	printed & bulk mailed June 20th
June Issue:	July 12th,	on web site July 15th
July Issue:	August 9th,	on web site August 12th
August Issue:	September 10th,	printed & bulk mailed September 20th
September Issue:	October 11th,	on web site October 14th
October Issue:	November 15th,	on web site November 18th
November Issue:	December 13th,	printed & bulk mailed December 20th
December Issue	January 10th	on web site January 13th

COMING EVENTS...

Central Committee Meetings: 2nd Thursday in July/October/January; Location to be announced

LTE Sunday - 3rd Sunday of month, 3:00pm - 5 pm; Stoddards Brewery and Eatery, 200 E. Campbell Ave. at 2nd, Campbell

Executive Committee Meetings Normally 1st Saturday of month, 10:00am

Usually on 1st: *Saturday of month* at Rosegarden Library, Naglee & Dana Aves, San Jose

Speakers Meetings 2nd Thursday in months without central committee meeting

Cocos Restaurant, Sunnyvale (Oakmead Pkwy & Lawrence Expy)

Next speakers meeting: *Thursday 9 May*

Come at 7pm for dinner, meeting at 8pm

Mt. View Petition Drive - Call party telno 408-243-2711 for information.

TS Gun Show - June 8th & 9th - San Jose Fair Grounds

(Tax-Day protests, Continued from page 3)

Libertarians because she'd heard a big contingent of LPers had been there last year, and asked where are they this year? Later 3 more sign holders appeared including Roger's friend, Phillip Helmut, a 9 year old boy, Michael Foster, who apparently Roger got helping while his parents were occupied inside, and a man named Jim Regalla who's not an LP member but gave a thumbs up for Libertarianism. Regalla said he's eager to be an LP activist and asked when was our next meeting, which I said was 3 days later in San Jose. (He took my phone number, called, and showed up at the meeting.) I took photos of all the sign



Angelica, SJSU journalism student holds up "Tax Slaves Unite!" sign

holders and since traffic was sparse compared with Meridian last year and Sunnyvale this year I decided to leave after an hour.



Phillip Helmut at Meridian

Dennis Umphress was at the Lundy main USPS office in San Jose with John Webster holding up a copy of my TAX SLAVES UNITE sign, when Roger Ver, Nick French, and Phillip Helmut arrived after things slowed down at Meridian. Dennis said he had a lot of trouble with postal employees asking him to go to a location too far from passing cars dropping off



Dennis Umphress (l) and Zander Collier at poorly attended De Anza prep on April 14th

returns to be seen by the drivers. He argued repeatedly and wouldn't move until an officer was called in. He said after 11 pm just when traffic got dense with last minute filers, the police went home (editor's note: Just as a Libertarian would expect from incentiveless government employees :-).

Ray Strong led the contingent at the Mountain View Post Office (on Hope Street). He said "The team was out in force between 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm, handing out literature and collecting signatures for the Energy Tax Rollback Initiative. While there were LP members present at other times, these two hours were the time of our major presence. Circulating the Mountain View petitions were Bill Stewart and John Inks. Assisting and handing out literature were Zander Collier, Ed, Angela, and Zoe Wimmers, Joe Dehn, and I.



Bill Stewart Signs up prospect at MV USPS

I observed that most people did not want to engage with the petitioners or were not Mountain View registered voters; but almost all of the registered voters who would stop to find out what the petition was about ended up signing. Many were disappointed that they could not help because they were not Mountain View residents. The willingness of Mountain View residents to sign the petition confirms our telephone poll findings (in which we measured support for the Energy Tax rollback at better than 66%). It suggests that when our petitioners go door-to-door next weekend, they will find lots of willing signers. We handed out a good quantity of literature and enjoyed

entertainment from street musicians. I was surprised to see that the amount of foot traffic dwindled around 9:00 pm and the lines inside the post office began to shrink. This is in stark contrast to my experience in other years at the Meridian and Lundy post offices in San Jose, where traffic remained strong until midnight."

APRIL ACTIONS & WHAT WAS LEARNED

by Activities Chair Zander Collier

Greetings Fellow Libertarians. I have been engaged in our latest fights. I have the activities that the LPSCC has helped put together outlined here and fleshed out below. They are:

- The April Central Committee Meeting
- Preparations for the Income Tax Protest
- The Tax Day Income Tax Protest
- The Mountain View Energy Tax Rollback Initiative
- Letters to the Editor meeting

1. **April Central Committee Meeting:** If you were unable to come to the April business meeting at Original Joe's, you missed out on some good company, good food and, to my utter surprise, a successful dinner event.



A. I realize that \$30 a head for a banquet dinner is probably more than most Central Committee members are used to. When the Central Committee meeting was accidentally double-booked at Original Joe's last October, the price was around \$25.00 a head. It was only upon having made the arrangements that I found out that the price had climbed the way it had. For those of you caught off-guard, I offer my apologies.

B. We were benefitted, ironically, by a \$30.00 pricing, as payment for the meal seems to have been an investment on the part of those attending and as such, everyone who paid had a vested interest in showing up. I was very happy to see the effort that Joe's went to in order to accommodate everyone. If you attended and your experience was not satisfactory, please find my phone number and email at the bottom of this report. Don't hesitate to let me know where your experience was lacking.

C. I would like your help. If you did not attend the dinner meeting at Original Joe's because you felt that the meal was too pricey, I would appreciate your help in determining a new, more affordable, location.

D. I know that in another case or two there was a concern because of Original Joe's lack of access for those whose mobility might be impaired. I again apologize if you wished to attend but could not because of Original Joe's inability to accommodate those with physical disabilities. I did not foresee and account for this. I would like to see this rectified with our next Central Committee meeting hosted at a fully accessible venue.

For all intents and purposes, it would appear that Original Joe's is not suitable for future Central Committee meetings. If you have a suggestion for our next Central Committee meeting (July) I would, again, appreciate your input.

2. **Preparations for the Income Tax Protest:** The preparations for the Income Tax Protest were essentially non-existent and therefore quite a disappointment. After last year's showing of 60+ protesters and 20+ individuals showing up to engage in the preparations, this year's preparations were rather dismal.

I really don't know where things fell down. I had sent out mailings to the lpsc-misc email list announcing this event a few times. It was also mentioned in the March newsletter, if a bit obscurely. Four individuals, myself excluded, showed up in order to prepare signs for the Tax Protest. They were, Randy Overbeck, Mike Laursen, Dennis Umphress, and Marv Rudin.

It would appear that there were a number of things that are required every year in order to get people revved up for the Income Tax Protest:

A. Announce vociferously and announce many times. It is now obviously required to repeatedly announce what preparations are being held and where.

B. Have a much clearer announcement (headline) in the printed and mailed newsletter so that there is no question of there being a preparation session.

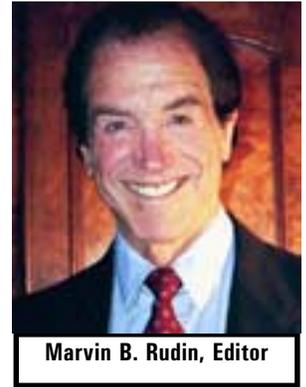
C. Have a complete protest plan that everyone can have access to many weeks before the protest and the protest preparations day. ■

OPINIONS

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

USING ALLIES TO GROW THE LPSCC

by Marv Rudin



Marvin B. Rudin, Editor

One possibly valuable way to help grow the LP is for Libertarians and the LPSCC officially, to lead or join allies on various issues in order to gain publicity for the LP without expending an inordinate amount of time and money. In this context, “inordinate” is defined as time and money which, at our present size, the LPSCC can’t afford or justify versus other opportunities. A bad example, from this point of view, is carrying the total weight of an initiative campaign on our backs and wallets, such as the current MVETR project has thus far demanded. Whether allied non-Libertarian organizations or individuals can be brought into the fight under Libertarian leadership (and media credit?) remains to be seen. But we need to try.

On the other hand, a good example of allying with non-Libertarians is what Libertarian Mark Werlwas of Fremont has managed with respect to the so-called Patriot Act, a new law which very likely will be used to unnecessarily reduce personal freedoms at every level of government, including local. We should emulate him in our county on this issue. He writes:

“Hello Marvin. Long time no see. In April, I attended the Libertarian Party of the East Bay (EBLP) and got them to pass a resolution condemning the USA PATRIOT act for it’s infringement on our civil liberties. The EBLP then gave me the authority to represent the EBLP on this matter. I attended the Fremont Human Relations Commission meeting in support of a proposed measure condemning the USA Patriot Act — copy of newspaper article attached [Editor’s note: Werlwas was quoted in the BayAreaOnlineNews arm of Ang Newspapers, owner of most East Bay papers plus the San Mateo Times]. I have been working with members of the Human Relations Commission and the South Alameda County Peace and Justice Coalition to draft the resolution. Should it be successful and it pass the HR Commission then it will go on to the Fremont City Council for a vote.

On April 27 I represented the EBLP at the San Francisco Regional Civil Liberties Solidarity Summit in Hayward. This summit had representatives from numerous activist and civil liberties groups in attendance. Our congressman (Pete Stark) even stopped by to speak about the USA PATRIOT act — why he voted against it and what can be done to limit the damage it may have on our civil liberties. It was a great opportunity for networking with other like minded groups such as the South Alameda County Peace and Justice Coalition, Refuse and Resist, and the Tri-City Peace Action group. I passed out copies of the Resolution of the Libertarian National Committee Regarding the USA PATRIOT act. I also passed out the Libertarian Party’s national press release from October and explained that we took the lead, along with the ACLU, in opposing this measure. I expressed satisfaction that other groups were joining us in opposing the PATRIOT act.”

Mark Werlwas, Fremont Area Director, Libertarian Party of the East Bay
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SIGN ‘EM UP WHILE THEY’RE NEW?

Another potentially efficient growth means that has been suggested by Starchild, a leader of the LP of San Francisco, and recently looked into by Dennis Umphress, is to try to register new voters at Naturalization Ceremonies conducted monthly in San Jose. There may be difficulties due to government managers attempting to interfere such as is commonly encountered at the post offices on Tax Day. But even such an eventuality could be exploited by our Publicity Chair as a happening worthy of media coverage if photos or videos are taken to show them (also true of Tax Day and other confrontations). A web site giving the dates and location of the local naturalization ceremonies is at: <http://www.cand.uscourts.gov/cand/CourtInfo.nsf/> (need to select San Jose schedule). Most are during the week, so probably would fit LP volunteers who are retired or self employed. But an occasional ceremony is held on a Saturday, which would enable all members to go and seek new Libertarian registrants.

Editor's Note:

Had a Libertarian outreach experience? Converted someone?

Write about it to the editor! email or phone - see at right

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

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY



of Santa Clara County

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

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Name: _____

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

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

Signature: _____

Membership Application

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

Plus an additional contribution to the LPSCC:

- Monthly pledge
- One-time donation

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