



Santa Clara Libertarian

Volume 32, Issue 2 February 2004 News of Local Libertarians' Efforts and Feats

■ Campaign 2004

Get Primed for the Primary! Vote on March 2

Thinking Outside the Boxer: LP Senate candidate visits local university

Judge James P. Gray, a Libertarian running against incumbent Democrat Barbara Boxer for U.S. Senate, visited Santa Clara University on January 15, speaking on U.S. drug policy. Gray is a Judge of the Superior Court in Orange County.

"For more than two decades I was a soldier in the War on Drugs. In the course of my career, I have helped put drug users and dealers in jail; I have presided over the break-up of families. I have followed the laws of my state and country, and have seen their results."

Before he became a trial judge in 1983, Gray served as a federal prosecutor and as a criminal defense attorney in the U.S. Navy JAG Corps and in the Peace Corps. He is a member of the United Methodist Church, is married to Grace Walker Gray, has a family of four children, including an adopted son from Vietnam, and is the author of *Why Our Drug Laws Have Failed and What We Can Do About It—A Judicial*

■ See Judge page 4



Judge Gray (left) was welcomed by Prof. Dan Klein at Santa Clara University, Jan. 15. Both will speak at our state convention.

Contested Race in Local Libertarian Primary: Laursen wins Party endorsement for State Senate District

Libertarians don't see many contested races in their primary elections. But we have one right here in Santa Clara County. On the March 2 ballot, Libertarian voters will have two choices for California Senate District 13.

Michael Laursen, who won the LPSCC's endorsement at its convention on Jan. 8, says he "entered the race to give District 13 Libertarians a choice where they needed one." He encourages LP voters to review the web sites for both District 13 candidates:

Michael Laursen: <http://VoteLaursen.org>

John Webster: <http://JWebster.com>

Laursen continues, "Certainly, it is a prerequisite that a Libertarian candidate have libertarian views, but it is no sin to consider the messenger as well as the message: Is the candidate an articulate spokesperson? Is there anything about the candidate that would drive voters away

before they even listen to what he or she has to say? Does the candidate know the issues of the day, and have specific stances on those issues?"

Laursen says that although he's as well-versed in libertarian theory as any-

■ See Endorsement page 5



Alex Vassar, President of and reporting for ElectionVolunteer.com, snaps a photo of LP-endorsed candidate Laursen; Jan. 8

■ Election 2004

Ballot Bullets: Help shoot down tax hikes on March 2!

The Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County opposes most of the local March 2 ballot measures. Here are our recommendations:

- Measure 2** Regional Traffic Relief Plan..... Yes No
- Measure A** Juvenile Hall & Probation Dept. Charter Amendments..... LPSCC takes no position.
- Measure B** Special Tax—Santa Clara Co. Library District Joint Powers Auth. Yes No
- Measure C** Residential Growth Control—City of Morgan Hill..... LPSCC takes no position.
- Measure D** Design—Build Procurement Process—City of San Jose..... LPSCC takes no position.
- Measure E** Gavilan Coll. Job Training, Overcrowding, Repair/Safety Measure Yes No
- Measure G** Parcel Tax—Union School District..... Yes No
- Measure H** Parcel Tax Extension—Cambrian School District Yes No
- Measure I** Parcel Tax Extension—Loma Prieta Joint Union School District..... Yes No
- Measure J** Parcel Tax—Mountain View—Whisman School District..... Yes No

Read more about these measures at www.SmartVoter.org/2004/03/02/ca/scl/meas/.



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**“Private enterprise
pays for everything in
this country.”**

—Dr. Bill Wattenberg

■ **Message from the Chair**

Let's Make this a Special Year

Let me launch this special issue of the newsletter of the Libertarian Party (LP) of Santa Clara County by thanking all of you who voted for me for County Chair. And let me thank you all in advance for giving me a chance to help our party complete its turnaround. No, I want to do more than that: let's go where we've never been before.

I've set some pretty stiff goals for 2004. Though they might seem a little shocking, I see them as possible. Of course, they require your help.

This Special Issue is being mailed to nearly 2,000 registered Libertarians. But only about 350 of you are actual members of the Libertarian Party. The rest of you are what we've identified as "high propensity" Libertarians: you vote! So we're already doing something new: we're reaching out to the next round of party members.

That's right. You registered Libertarians already know what we're about. You've registered to vote Libertarian, and you are ready to take the next step: join the Libertarian Party. An investment of just \$25.00 will keep this newsletter coming to you every month for an entire year. And it'll help us grow. It's a small amount. Certainly not enough to prevent me from inviting you to donate more as the year progresses, so we may reach out to even more voters, more potential registered Libertarians, and ultimately, more new members.

Now get this: if only three of every four of you would participate, that would be an additional 1200+ members. We'd suddenly

have nearly 1,600 members, 4 ½ times our current membership, and more than 3 times that of our best year. With that, we can begin to have an effect around here.

So I've set three goals for myself as Chair to achieve by the end of the year.

(1) Grow membership to 3,000! We'll get there in two steps. First, 1,200 of you join the Libertarian Party before the March 12–14 convention of the LP of California.



Second, after that convention and before the end of the year, each one of us brings in a new member—just one each!

(2) Grow fundraising to \$25,000 per month! That's easy, too, if only one in three members

(1,000) each pledge a donation of \$25 per month, on average.

(3) Institute a four-part, proven approach to party-building and getting candidates elected. I'll hold details on this until later. This will depend upon and flow from rapid progress on Goals 1 and 2.

I will say this: if we accomplish this—and there's no reason we can't—then we can also send a Libertarian candidate to a state office this year.

Am I dreaming? Delusional? That's up to you. If you're willing to take the chance, and to reach with me, you just might learn what it feels like to be a libertarian with the prize in hand. ■

— Allen Hacker, Chair

■ **State Convention 2004**

Road to Success Runs through San Jose

by Mark Hinkle
LPC 2004 Convention Manager

To my fellow members of the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County, it's convention time again!

Each year, the Party faithful get together to conduct business, hear speeches, and dine together. Libertarians up and down the state and from across the nation come to the LPC convention. Each year we hold the largest convention of all the state parties.

Why is that? Well, we're the largest LP state organization, having over three times



the membership of any other state LP organization. So, what does that mean to you? Being the biggest means we can afford to bring you great out-of-state speakers. Speakers such as Con-

gressman Ron Paul (R) Texas, our former Presidential candidate (1988). Speakers such as **Joe Seehusen**—new Executive Director of the national LP office in Washington, D.C. Then there's the current

■ See *Road page 4*

■ **LPSCC Business Update**

The Baton is Passed: County Convention

Our annual tradition of officer elections kept a rapid pace on January 8. The convention being held once again at Cupertino's Hong Fu Restaurant, the LPSCC family chowed down on chow mein while chatting freedom. Chairman Ray Strong ran a tight ship and for the most part, kept the meeting's agenda on track.

Up for discussion and balloting this year were officers passing the baton to new leadership, selecting delegates for the state Party convention, candidate endorsement for the March 2 primary election, and honoring worthy activists.

Leadership

Assuming leadership roles this year are:

- Chair:* Allen Hacker
- Secretary:* Mike Laursen
- Treasurer:* Allen Rice
- Newsletter Chair:* Mark Hinkle
- Activities Chair:* Cathi Brown
- Local Organizing Chair:* Zander Collier

The position of Vice Chair is currently vacant, along with the chairmanships of the Membership, Publicity, Campaigns, and Fundraising committees.

A big "thank you" goes to the outgoing officers and committee chairpeople for their contributions over the past year.

Representing LPSCC to the LP of California (LPC) Executive Committee for this year will be:

- Allen Rice:* Representative
- Mark Hinkle:* First Alternate Rep
- Mike Laursen:* Second Alternate Rep

Elected to the Judicial Committee was incumbent Kennita Watson, along with Ray Strong and Dennis Umphress.

LP of Calif. Convention in March

With the LPC's annual convention coming up March 12-14, we also elected M Carling as representative to the LPC Platform Committee, and Allen Rice as representative to the LPC Program Committee.

Serving as delegates to the LPC convention will be:

- Elizabeth Brierly*
- Cathi Brown*
- M Carling*
- Zander Collier*
- Laura Ferrer*
- Allen Hacker*
- Linda Hinkle*
- Logan Hinkle*
- Mark Hinkle*
- Linden Hsu*
- Mike Laursen*
- Scott Lieberman*
- Al Newman*
- Allen Rice*
- Ray Strong*
- Dennis Umphress*
- John Webster*

In addition to these delegates officially elected, all eligible LPSCC members who attend the LPC convention will be automatically appointed as alternates, with their order to be selected by the delegation.

Candidate Endorsements

With the Primary election coming on March 2, candidate endorsements were in order.

In the contested race between Michael Laursen and John Webster for State Senate District 13, Michael Laursen was endorsed, as were these candidates who are uncontested in the primary:

■ See **Business page 5**

Going Above & Beyond: Activist Appreciation

Cathi Brown and Kennita Watson, Judicial Committee members in 2003, embraced a challenging charge from Chairman Ray Strong to determine which activists had gone beyond the call of duty in 2003. Santa Clara is lucky enough to have two such members this year: Dennis Umphress and Mark Hinkle. Each was



Dennis Umphress makes a point at Silicon Valley Taxpayers' meeting, March 18, 2003.

presented with a \$25 certificate good for a year's membership in the LPC, for their own use or to be bestowed on a lucky friend who needed that extra impetus to join the Party.

In 2003, **Dennis Umphress** managed our ballot arguments and our candidates for public office. He was very active as Campaigns Committee chair, and the LPC presented him with their 2003 Karl Bray Award for Activism. Umphress had a statement published in *San Jose Mercury News* opposing a county parcel tax.

He led a team with Silicon Valley Taxpayers' Association, on whose board he serves, and Republican organizations to write anti-tax ballot arguments, writing three himself. He lined up candidates for 2004 elections and led a protest by Americans for Safe Access at the DEA.

Congratulations on a well-deserved award, and thank you for your dedication, Dennis!

Mark Hinkle, a former Chair of the LPC, took the lead in 2003 in circulating ballot arguments for signature and delivering them to the Registrar of Voters. When the proponents of Measure E took legal action to diminish our anti-E arguments, Hinkle brought in attorney Gary Wesley. He drafted some of the six

ballot arguments in our most recent set.

All this was in addition to his regular duties as our rep to the LPC Executive



Mark Hinkle accepts award from Cathi Brown of Judicial Committee, Jan. 8, 2004.

Committee. Hinkle was interviewed by Fox News on the California budget crisis in April. He participated in a door-to-door membership drive among registered Libertarian voters.

Congratulations, Mark, and thank you for your dedication!■

■ Campaign 2004

Allen Rice for California Senate District 11

In the campaign for State Senate District 11, the Libertarian Party banner is being carried by Allen Rice.

Rice, a resident of San Jose, has a three-decades-long career in the technical community, having been at various times a first-line manager in various facets of software development, working for Bechtel, Tandem, and Compaq. These days he makes his living as a technical writer. Rice also currently serves as the Secretary for San Jose Unified School District's Measure F Bond Oversight Committee, charged with monitoring the District's use of the huge \$429 million bond passed in March, 2002.

Said Rice, "I intend to run an issue-oriented campaign. Though true, I don't believe that the usual imprecise Libertarian statements about the wonderfulness of liberty are going to resonate with the voters. Instead, I will focus on several real issues: balancing the state budget without lasting tax increases, by cutting expenditures; fixing the problems in education by moving toward more local control of schools; breaking the political monopoly held by the two older parties by reforming the redistricting process; and ending the shadow governing now being done by redevelopment agencies, by severely reducing their powers."

Rice, who is unopposed in the Libertarian primary, says his strategy will be to

spend February organizing his campaign team and preparing strategies for the months ahead. "We're already attending competitive candidates' forums," he says, "which I think are being offered this early because the Democrats' primary is contested. I am using these forums as a way to hone my presentation skills, and as a way to discover my opponents' political strengths and weaknesses well before the actual election."

"Win or lose, I will try very hard during my campaign to bridge the communications gap between the small number of dues-paying members of the Party and the ten-times-larger group of people who are registered Libertarian voters. I was able to meet many of them during our successful drive to gather the 165 petition signatures required to waive the \$990 filing fee for this office. I found them to be interested in issues and eager to have a Libertarian candidate actively trying to win. I pledge to do that. In return, I'll be counting on them to help distribute my literature, install yard signs, and, where possible, make donations to cover campaign expenses." ■

**For more on the
Allen Rice for Senate campaign:**

Web site: Rice4SD11.org

E-mail: AllenMontr@Earthlink.net

Road to Success *Continued from page 2*

LNC Chair, **Geoff Neale**, now of Texas, but also a former member of the California LP. Better yet, his lovely wife, **Nancy Neale**, will be coming along. She's the convention manager for the national LP's convention in Atlanta over Memorial Day weekend. So, if you want to know what's coming there, she's the one in charge.

And because we're big, all of the major LP presidential candidates (**Gary Nolan**, **Michael Badnarik**, and **Aaron Russo**) are coming to our convention. Locally, we've also got big names. How about the founder of Paypal: **Peter Thiel**. Think we can learn a lesson or two about success from him? Speaking of which, you can pay for your LPC convention package via Paypal on our web site (www.CA.LP.org/conv/2004).

And because the LPC 2004 convention is being held at the San Jose DoubleTree Hotel (March 12-14), we can also draw upon local talented and entertaining speakers. We have David Henderson, author of *The Joy of Freedom* and an associate professor of economics at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey. He's speaking on "You Can Beat City Hall: How Libertarians Beat a Tax Increase Against 100 to 1 Odds." We're talking real world success stories, not just theory.

From Benicia, we bring you **Vince Miller**, President of International Society of Individual Liberty (ISIL), whose 2004 annual convention will be in New Zealand, but you can hear him here.

■ See **Road page 5**

Judge Gray *Continued from Page 1*

Indictment of the War on Drugs (Temple University Press, 2001).

Daniel Klein is Director of Civil Society Institute at Santa Clara University, and hosted Judge Gray. Klein is Associate Professor of Economics and will be a guest speaker at the LPC's state convention March 12-14 in San Jose. He likes to engage students in what he terms "intellectual adventure," and welcomes LPSCC members to hear other guests speak at the Institute.

Clifford Thies will speak on "American Politics in Two Dimensions: Left, Right, and Libertarian," on Wednesday, February 25, from 5:30 to 7:00 P.M.

Both of these events will be held at Santa Clara University, in the Benson Memorial Center, Brass Rail, basement. For a map of SCU's campus, visit: www.SCU.edu/map/mapa1.html. To be added to Civil Society Institute's mailing list, send e-mail to CSI@SCU.edu. ■

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Winner *Continued from page 6*

Republican money is going elsewhere. Democrat money is going elsewhere. I'm running against two losers.

As a Libertarian, I can win.

I can beat Konnyu on the issues. Furthermore, Konnyu won't be able to outrun his very public and rather unsavory past. I can beat Cohn on the issues. Though you may not recognize it when you see it, I have an October Surprise planned for her. Are you ready to see a Libertarian sitting in the State Legislature?

I am proud to represent you. I'm eager to bring a Libertarian victory to our county, to California, and to the nation. As the months unfold, my campaign will become increasingly visible.

Let's get there together. ■



**The Libertarian Party
of Santa Clara County**
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Endorsement for Laursen *Continued from page 1*

one, “my greatest strength as a candidate is that I always bring it down to a concrete, practical presentation that voters can understand. I have studied, and continue to study, the facts and figures of California government. My platform is concentrated on the California issues that are discussed in Silicon Valley newspapers and lunchrooms: education, jobs, the budget crisis.”

Admittedly, it will be a shock if a Democrat doesn't win the District 13 Senate seat this Fall. Regardless, Laursen's main campaign goal is “to work closely with and complement the campaigns of fellow candidates Allen Rice and Zander Collier. It will be exciting to work with these two outstanding Libertarians who are venturing beyond mere paper candidacy. In the general election this fall, I want to see all three of us win a percentage of the vote substantial enough that

voters will start to see the Libertarian Party as the second party in our county. The Republicans have become so irrelevant here that we can really pull off this coup!”

Through his work on the LPSCC Executive Committee and on local petitioning efforts, Laursen (left) says he has earned a reputation for following through and completing the tasks to which he committed. “You can ask any other activist who has been there working right alongside me,” he says.

We don't see many contested Libertarian primary races. But, enthuses Laursen, “I hope we will be seeing more of them. It means the Libertarian Party is growing up.” ■



Road to Success

Continued from page 4

Along with hearing these folks and many more, we'll be selecting delegates to the national Presidential nominating convention. Come on out and make them earn your vote!

We'll be selecting members of the LPC's Executive Committee for the new term. We've got Platform, Bylaws, and Program business. If you've ever wanted to see logical, rational libertarians go emotionally nuts, watch the platform debates.

We hope you'll join us for the fun at the newly renovated San Jose DoubleTree Hotel (408/ 453-4000) near the airport (free shuttle to/from). Parking is free, and room rates are \$89/night (plus tax—damn!). For you MapQuest junkies, the address is: 2050 Gateway Place, San Jose, CA 95110.

See you at the convention! ■

Business *Continued from page 3*

- Brian Holtz U.S. Congressional District 14
- Markus Welch U.S. Congressional District 16
- Allen Rice State Senate District 11
- Zander Collier State Assembly District 24

Several of these candidates share their plans and platforms for the primary election in this issue of *Santa Clara Libertarian*. ■

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■ Member Services

Stay Connected!

We hope you are enjoying this special edition of *Santa Clara Libertarian*. We plan another special edition in the fall, before the November election. In the meantime, if you'd like to stay informed about what the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County is doing, there are three ways to do so.

You can use the form provided in this newsletter to sign up and become a dues-paying member of the Party. You can go on line and review the information under the Events link at our web site, www.SC.CA.LP.org.

And, if you'd like to get all your information in real time, including candidate achievements and calls for action, we'll gladly add you to our action list. Just send at least your e-mail address (phone and residence information are useful too, but not required) to AllenMontr@Earthlink.net. We'll get you started and keep you in touch. ■ – *Allen Rice*

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■ Campaign 2004

Candidate Collier Runs to Win

by Zander Collier, Candidate
California Assembly District 24

I have had the pleasure of working with many of you over the past three years on projects for the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County. This year, I'm your Libertarian candidate for California Assembly District 24 (www.ElectCollier.org). I will be running a serious campaign. I'm ready to win.

The campaign has already begun: I have made campaign appearances, filled out candidate questionnaires, and begun mailing constituents. I have a plan for fundraising and am now beginning to execute against that plan. I know that the mother's milk of politics is money and until the campaign season heats up in earnest, I am dedicated to raising money to run a competitive campaign. I have set a goal to raise \$200,000 for this race. To win, I'll need all the help I can get. But I'll help myself first, by dedicating 80% of my campaign time to fundraising.

Instead of just catering to the 3% registered Libertarians, I'll be building bridges to Independents, Democrats, and Republicans. If we're to win, we need their votes. And of course to get their votes we must be dedicated to registering new voters to the Libertarian

Party. Remember that a Libertarian victory in a race as important as the California State Assembly will be nationwide news—it will be a California earthquake. I'm ready to rumble—are you?



Though incumbent Rebecca Cohn appears strong, I can tell you now: she is desperately weak. My advisors and I are building a campaign strategy that will be turning heads come October and November. The conventional wisdom

claims that a third party cannot win. We'll prove the conventional wisdom wrong.

The field of Republican challengers is also remarkably weak. The opponent I most feared, a log-cabin Republican, has dropped from the radar screen. Of the remaining, only Ernie Konnyu has any name recognition and will undoubtedly win the Primary. Furthermore, my contacts tell me that the Republicans will not be contesting this county.

■ See Winner page 4