

Santa Clara Libertarian

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SURPRISING LACK OF CANDIDATES! Finally Ray Strong, Joe Dehn, John Hugdahl and Seven Others Coaxed To Serve, at Annual Meeting of LPSCC

It was no surprise that Marv Rudin didn't run for a fourth term as LPSCC chairman at the annual meeting on Jan. 11th at the Campbell Community Center. Everyone knew he'd said that this would be his last tour as chair when he ran in Jan. 2000, and reiterated that intent in the front page article in the Dec./Jan issue of the Santa Clara Libertarian. What was a surprise was that Marv (Newsletter Chair) and newcomer Zander Collier (Publicity Chair) were the only nominees on the first round of nominations!



Marv Rudin
chairs meeting



Jon Hugdahl
reports finances

But all's well that ends well. After the unanimous election of Marv and Zander, the spectre of having a two-man Excom moved several old timers and some new faces to bite the bullet and offer to fill the other positions when Marv decided to reopen nominations and go down through all remaining offices again, and we ended up with a pretty potent group of Excom members in addition to Marv and Zander headed by Ray Strong as Chair, Joe Dehn as Vice Chair, Jon Hugdahl repeating as Treasurer, Dennis Unphress as Secretary, Joe Beene as Membership Chair, Frank Groffie as Fundraising Chair, Scott Lieberman as Campaign Chair, and John Webster, Activities Chair, Mark Hinkle, LPC Rep, and Joe Dehn LPC Alternate Rep.



Rudin hands gavel to Ray Strong

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LPC DELEGATES NEEDED

You Can Be A Delegate - It's Close To Home

Want to be a delegate for Region 43 at the upcoming annual LPC state convention in San Jose at the Doubletree Hotel Feb. 16-19? There are several openings left and you can replace delegates who may not be present on some days. Why unfilled slots this year? Because last year, the LPC bylaws were changed to a formula that increased the number of delegates allocated to Region 43 to 18. At our annual meeting in on Jan. 11th, all delegates submitting their names for nomination were elected. But the number, 13, fell short of the 18 allowed. So we can elect alternate delegates at the convention at the start of each day's session. The presently elected delegates are (but Stemberger now says he can't attend):

John Webster
Dennis Umphress
Michael Laursen

Tony Stemberger
Laura Stewart
Marv Rudin

Travis Jones
Scott Lieberman
Paul Rako

Mary Gingell
Linda Hinkle
Thomas Spielbauer
Elizabeth Brierly

If you decide to be a delegate, meet with our delegation on the convention floor at 9 am on Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, when a vote will be taken to seat you and others as alternate Reg. 43 delegates.

Libertarian Party of
Santa Clara County
P.O. Box 60171
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TRAVIS JONES AND ZANDER COLLIER OUTREACH AT THE MOVIE THEATER

New Drug Issues Org Starts With "Traffic" Movie Action

Travis Jones and new Publicity Chair Zander Collier came up with a novel idea for outreach triggered by the drug war film "Traffic" now running #3 in the movies popularity derby. In January they went to Century theaters in Santa Clara with a fistfull of ISIL drug freedom pamphlets and Libertarian cards to hand to Traffic's outgoing audience. Asked about their initial public outreach adventure, Travis said "It felt good to be out there trying to reach people."

About the movie Travis said: "The movie was pretty good. Some points made in the movie:

- "You have no property rights if you're growing marijuana" - Robert Wakefield, Drug Czar
- When complimented on the job he's done, the former Drug Czar Landry says, 'I'm not sure I made the slightest bit of difference'
- The drug cartels have more money and technology than our government can ever get by taxes
- When Robert Wakefield's daughter, Caroline, is caught with drugs Robert works to keep it off her record

(Zander said about this favoritism: "This demonstrates that there is one set of justice for the rich and those with connections. Those without the means or connections get jail.")

- Caroline Wakefield: 'For someone my age [16] its easier to get drugs than alcohol'"

On the outreach experience, Travis said "The brochures worked well. Probably 1 out of every 3 people took one. We handed them out in the exits of the theater room we were in. This probably won't be an option next time unless other LP members want to watch the movie." But Zander wasn't so thrilled with the reception of the movie goers. "I was rather shocked at the number of people who were simply uninterested in hearing what we had to say, even after seeing the movie."

This may be the beginning of a long term program to capitalize on the public's dissatisfaction with U.S. drug policy and the drug war. And it's one of our causes that appeals to liberals. At the suggestion of his wife, Travis has created a flyer with a graphic using some material Harry Browne's book "The Great Libertarian Offer" showing the crime rate versus history. This highlights that during prohibition and the drug war crime has escalated. He has agreed to head up the Drug Issues Committee, and he is rounding up Libertarians to pass his flyers out at the following theaters on weekends as long as Traffic is running in this area:

On strategy, Zander said "We should push the message 'Drugs are bad. The Drug War is worse.' Additionally, I think it is probably more important to try to convince people to end the drug war, rather than to join a new political party. Let's get them thinking like us first. After they do that, convincing them to join the party will be much easier."

Discussing things that impressed him about the Traffic movie: "The really scary part is where they take you through a facility (I don't know if it is fictional or not) that keeps track of ALL incoming and outbound traffic into the United States. What is so scary about it is that: 1.) They are able to do this; 2.) That it is a collection of 15 different agencies. All of this is paid for by our taxes."

How to reach Travis Jones: travis@keepandbeararms.com 650-969-2787

**LETTER LAMBASTING MERCURY NEWS FOR
PROPAGANDA AGAINST LP GETS PUBLISHED!!**

**Later, Claim By SJMN That Bomber Suspect Is Libertarian Turns Out to Be
False and Publicity Chair Submits Followup Letter to Exploit Their Error**

by M. B. Rudin

The LPSCC publicity program took off on Feb. 5th with the publication by the San Jose Mercury News of the following letter, minus the text in red which was submitted but cut by the editor:

“In reading your front page article today (‘De Anza student pleads not guilty in bomb plot’, Feb. 2) about the recent college bomb scare, I read with dismay the inclusion of suspect DeGuzman’s political party registration (Libertarian) as one of only two facts in evidence from court records about ‘his actions’. Have you ever given the Democratic or Republican parties, or any other parties for that matter, as evidence or as pertinent information in connection with an alleged crime?”

In view of the fact that unlike all other parties, all members of the Libertarian Party’s controlling body - its Central Committee - must take an oath to not initiate force against others, this smear attempt by the Mercury News and law enforcement officials to connect Libertarians with potential violence is especially hard to accept.

From my experience as a Santa Clara County Libertarian Party officer for the past four years, this Mercury News article appears to be consistent with a long standing editorial policy which I’ve observed - to publish only articles about Libertarians likely to do more harm than good as far as the party’s reputation is concerned.

A party that wants peaceful free market solutions without the heavy hand of government - the Libertarian Party - must be so fearsome to a paper that loves big government and its never ending “solutions” and “reforms” to problems it often causes, that it attempts to undermine the LP at every opportunity.

Thankfully some people are smart enough to see through this propaganda and the Libertarian Party is growing rapidly despite the Mercury News.

*Marvin B. Rudin
651 Princeton Drive
Sunnyvale, CA 94087
408-738-8204”*

Because I thought it was so unfair to portray LP affiliation as evidence in an alleged crime, I was motivated to write the letter immediately on my wife calling my attention to the article while we were at breakfast on Friday, Feb. 2nd. I dashed upstairs to the computer and by 9:30 AM the letter was written and emailed to the Mercury News letters editor. I got a call from him minutes later, saying he was going to run it. I’ve had a number of letters (always containing “Libertarian”) published over the past 4 years, but never has one been accepted so quickly.

He felt I was a bit hard on the paper and its reporter, but I said she could have omitted the suspect’s political affiliation as irrelevant if she’d been fair, and said I could support my contention about the SJMN anti-Libertarian policy with many examples. I then praised him on his bravery in publishing letters I’d seen by conservatives criticizing his paper’s policy. He said he has the latitude to run whatever he wants and said he planned to include my comments against the papers policy concerning LP coverage.

Ironically as it turns out, he demonstrated their policy again. By leaving out my opinion as to why the SJMN is against the LP, which cited our belief in free market solutions, and by cutting out that we are managing to grow despite their propaganda, he eliminated two statements I wrote to appeal to libertarian

leaning readers.

Also as it turns out, the suspect, DeGuzman is actually registered Decline-to-State (nonpartisan), and the Libertarian cards found in his name were cards that the National LP sends out to people who inquire or take the Advocates for Self Government quiz and give their name and address.

That the SJMN's published "fact" was false - DeGuzman was never registered Libertarian as the article stated - presents a further opportunity for LP publicity. Publicity Chair Zander Collier has quickly jumped on this opportunity. He submitted a letter to the SJMN and several other leading California and national papers hoping to exploit this error by getting comments published which will show the attractiveness of the LP principles.



Zander Collier

In considering the situation, Zander said "I think we need to be more thoughtful and provide a perspective that is not "deny deny deny". We can deny that DeGuzman is in our party until we are blue in the face, and I really doubt whether or not the body politic (in SCC, CA, and nationally) is going to care.

I think it would be more important to state that while DeGuzman was arrested and that Libertarian materials were found in his possession, that we are not the arbiters of personal action - of his or of anyone else's. We never have, and we never intend to take that mantle for ourselves.

The letter he submitted reads as follows:

"In regards to the 'Al DeGuzman Affair', the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County would like a moment of your time to help clarify what we see as the important issues:

It was reported a couple of days back that Mr. DeGuzman, the alleged conspirator to the "planned bombing" of De Anza College, was arrested with a Libertarian Membership Card in his possession.

After some reflection, our initial anger has waned and we have come to the conclusion that it is more important to spell out the ideals of Libertarianism, and show how contrary they are to

Mr. DeGuzman's actions, rather than engage in an ill-conceived blanket policy of denial.

The Libertarian Principles are very simple: 1.) Personal Liberty and Freedom of Choice, 2.) Free Markets and Prosperity, 3.) The refusal to initiate force. These principles are so very core to our belief system that those donating money, or running for elective office within the party sign a pledge confirming these commitments.

We hope a more reasoned perspective will prevail so that those of us watching this drama unfold remember that we live in a country founded on a principle of Freedom of Association. The Libertarians of Santa Clara County could no more prevent Mr. DeGuzman from registering Libertarian than anyone could prevent you, the reader, from registering your affiliation with your local Registrar of Voters. Nor would Libertarians ever desire such.

A review of Libertarian roles, and a verification with the Registrar of Santa Clara County has revealed that Mr. DeGuzman, has been registered "Decline to State" for both years of his political life. Al DeGuzman is 19. Again, we think this incidental to the issue.

Blaming the media for identifying Libertarian literature in Mr. DeGuzman's possession, when they probably would not have done so were it Democratic or Republican literature also misses the point. We believe that reporters usually make every endeavor to get their stories correct. A guilt-by-association oversight such as this can be made by anyone. We refuse to play the blame game.

We would hope that those of you reading this Letter come to the understanding that Libertarians are not some "Radical Fringe" third party but instead regard us as your neighbor down the street who believes that our government has gotten too big, and in turn, is fighting for your freedoms (including the Freedom of Association) which are being trampled in the process.

-Zander Collier
Publicity Chair, Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County"

STILL HOLDING CARDS? NO CAR SIGN?

CAN'T GROW A PARTY THAT WAY!!

by M.B. Rudin

With the help of Don Cormier, I've been gradually calling members to get feedback on what you folks have been doing to get out the LP word. Thus far I'm sorry to say responses haven't been stellar - most people reached haven't used the 4 cards delivered with last newsletter, and very few said they wear bumper stickers or window signs. Worst of all many said they

weren't willing to use car signs period!

These two methods of outreach - cards and car signs - entail

about the most minimal time, effort, or cost imaginable. So friends, if you hope freedom will come without any effort at all on your part, please reconsider. Our numbers are small and we need to grow many fold to impact the election process. A poll last year by Rasmussen Research found that 1 of 6 Americans measure libertarian on the ASG quiz - more than measured conservative or liberal! But a poll last year locally showed that just 1 of 4 people could name the LP as one of the "3rd parties", and just 1 of 9 new what it stands for. So we can grow by letting those 1 of 6 out there know there is a party that represents their views, but we have to find an efficient way to let them know about the LP. The media won't cover us. A reporter for the Mercury News covering the U.S. Senatorial race in California said to me last year when I offered an interview with our U.S. Senate candidate, Gail Lightfoot, "Don't you know our policy? We don't cover 3rd parties." And the few times they have covered the LP, it's always been in a way to tarnish its image. And advertising would wipe out our funds in little time without making a dent on the public mind. So the only way to consistently get a positive image to the public is for all of us to do it ourselves, regularly and often. And the only practical way to do that is wear signs and pass out cards and brochures while going through our normal activities outside our homes while driving or walking around. You really aren't being asked to do very much to further the freedom movement. Consider what our country's founders risked compared what you're being asked to do... ■

Don't Blame Me. I Vote



Libertarian

Find Out Why at:

LPTY.ORG/A

FREE STUFF

by Frank Groffie
Fundraising Committee Chair
and Quartermaster Pro Tem



Frank Groffie

We're in the process of reassigning some of the items the LPSCC owns. Right now these possessions are in Marv Rudin's garage and storage unit. We own furniture, office tools and supplies, computer hardware and software, display items, and literature. Some of these items we will distribute to the various officers and committee chairs for their use in carrying out their duties. The plan is they will devote a tiny area of their garage or bedroom to an "LPSCC office" of their own. (Just a glorified desk, cabinet, or bookcase.)



My point is, we don't need a lot of these things. You may have any of these things FREE:

Desks (2), woodgrain laminate
Mating Chairs (3), large, wooden, brown vinyl upholstery
File cabinets (2), steel, off white, 4 drawers and 6 drawers
File cabinet, horizontal, woodgrain laminate, 3 drawers,
Chairs (35), wooden, folding
Table, wood top folding, approx. 2' by 3'
Computer cabinet
Computer cart

All are at least in good condition. You may get your free stuff by calling Marv Rudin (408-736-5626) by February 28 to make arrangements to see and to pick them up from his house in Sunnyvale.

Editors Note:

By closing the office at the end of May 1999 and storing the furniture in my garage, I've saved the LPSCC \$424/mo. for 20 months = \$8480. But it's cost me the use of my garage which I feel I can no longer do without.

Also available are an HP Laserjet III printer, a Sharp Z70 copier, and an IBM Selectric typewriter.

The 30+ folding wooden chairs are of very high quality and are in excellent condition.

SPEAKERS BUREAU MEETING LOOKS AT ELECTRICITY CRISIS AS ROSE WIEGLEY LOOKS FOR HER REPLACEMENT OR AN ASSISTANT



Speakers Bureau Manager
Rose Wiegley is seeking
replacement or assistant

At the February Speakers Meeting at Cocos on Feb. 8th, Manager Rose Wiegley first said Ann Strangman, who was preparing a speech on Social Security for the meeting, didn't feel quite ready yet and would give it at the March meeting. She then went into backup mode, and presented a summary of the web of causes of the California electrical power shortage under so-called "deregulation". She then proceeded to ask prepared questions to which attendee-volunteers were to stand up and speak extemporaneously, as a way to practice thinking on their feet. She asked questions such as "Is deregulation the cause of the shortage?", "Should the state save the power distribution companies from bankruptcy?", and "If prices are allowed to rise instead of the state absorbing the higher cost of power, won't it ruin the poor?" and let attendees willing to try take a turn presenting their opinions.

Making presentations in response to these were Don Cormier, Jon Hugdahl, both Dana and Katherine Albrecht (who won't be leaving for New Hampshire for another month), John Webster, Dennis Umphress, and Marv Rudin. Responses were the insightful kind you'd expect from Libertarians, such as:

1. The state may soften the blow in the short run by their present policy of subsidizing power purchases while keeping a lid on consumer prices, but it won't be fair to taxpayers, and it won't solve the shortage because consumers won't conserve without a rise in prices (By Albrecht, Rudin, Cormier, and Webster).
2. Bankruptcy of PG&E and other distribution companies won't cause a loss of distribution facilities - just a change in ownership worked out under a settlement with creditors by a bankruptcy judge; and since the distribution companies wrote the deregulation provisions it wouldn't be unfair for them to suffer under the unexpected consequence of their work. (By Hugdahl, and Rudin)
3. In the long run, if free market competition in distribution were permitted by government, lower cost without shortages and blackouts would result. Power distribution is considered to be a natural monopoly, but it doesn't have to be if cities would provide or allow poles or underground ducts with the capacity for competing power lines and local gas turbine generators near where the power is used. (Rudin, Albrecht, Webster)
4. Everyone wastes power to some extent now, including the poor; so there is room to conserve enough if prices rise to free market levels. Electricity is not a necessity in all its uses. If prices rise poor people won't leave lights burning when a room is empty and won't use electric heaters as much. (Webster, Wiegley, Rudin)

When the speaking had subsided, Rose told everyone that her job has become too demanding to allow her to manage the Speakers Bureau, and she is looking for a member to take over or become her assistant. She will continue to help speakers train, but needs someone to help by doing one or more of the following functions: running the speakers web site, seeking speaking opportunities in the community, organizing the speakers meetings, training speakers, and coordinating their appearances at events. If you want to try doing any of these, contact Rose, call (408) 244 - 9041 or email rwiegley@yahoo.com. ■

NEW PUBLICITY CHAIR PLANS CREATIVE WAYS TO GET ATTENTION



Zander Collier

New Publicity Chair Zander Collier has lost little time in pursuing public attention for the LPSCC. Since being elected Jan. 11th, with Travis Jones he has passed out drug freedom brochures at the Traffic movie, and written a letter to the editor to the Mercury News and other big California and national papers concerning their false report that the DeAnza bomb threat suspect is a Libertarian.

A Libertarian who moved from the Democratic ranks back in '93 when he became active in gathering signatures for the '94 California Hemp Initiative while attending UC San Diego, Zander became more politically active and discovered the LP on-line while researching the hemp issue. Also, he was impressed with the LP because of San Diego LP leader Richard Rider's successful lawsuit calling for the removal of the cross which was up on Mt. Helix public park for some 50 years, in violation of separation of church and state.

Zander, who works as a network engineer at XO Communications has some interesting and novel plans for reaching the public. For starters, if have you've ever wanted to see your opinion published in the paper, here's your chance to do it the fun way. He's launching a monthly Libertarian LTE get together at Stoddards Brew Pub in Sunnyvale on the 3rd Sunday of each month - 1st one is on Feb 18th. He'll have papers there for you to read and you can discuss ideas with your fellow Lpers about letters to submit. Hopefully letters will be written and sent in right on the spot. But if not they'll be drafted to a point you can easily complete from home.

Also, as a way to improve media coverage, he wants to invite reporters and editors to speak at Speakers Bureau meetings in the hope of forging a closer relation.

At press time, his full plan is still in formation, but he's contemplating a novel program involving smokers (a big unrepresented segment of the population), and those (in the words of Zander) who would consider themselves "hedonists". He intends to work closely with new Membership Chair, Joe Beene, with many outreach functions such as County Fair, and DMV/market-mall poster-table outreach, and Tax Day to introduce the party to the public and to sign up new registrants and dues paying members.

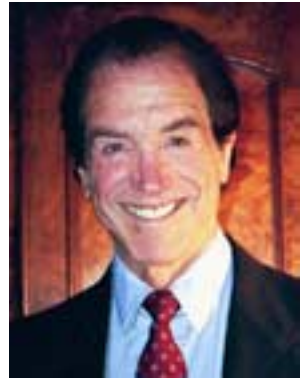
Feel free to contact Zander and get details on the "LTE Sunday" meetings or his other publicity plans; or to give him your ideas, please see his phone and email information under "Publicity Chair" on page 10. ■

T.J. RODGERS COUNTERS ANTI-LIBERTARIAN AUTHOR BORSOOK ON LOCAL CABLE SHOW

Appearing on Peter Robinson's s cable TV show, "Knowledge Base" in January, TJ Rogers, President and CEO of Cypress Semiconductor spoke very effectively for libertarian views when he and CEO John McCaskey of Epiphany took on "Cyberselfish" book author Paulina Borsook. In the book, apparently Borsook calls high-techers "techno-libertarians", and says they are "selfish" because they don't show the concern she'd like for their communities. He said sure he and Cypress care about community problems such as transportation and education - but they delegate action on that concern to the Silicon Valley Manufacturers Group. With regard to his employees, he said his company employment is a color, race, and nationality blind meritocracy, and with the competitive market challenges many don't have much time to devote to community affairs. When challenged as being anti-government, he said there is a role for government but that it shouldn't be excessive. McCaskey said little but never disagreed with Rodgers. In general they seemed calm, precise, and reasonable in contrast to Borsook's vague verbiage expressing her anxieties about "selfish" techers, and her lack of appreciation for how their hi tech products help people all over the the world. ■

OPINIONS

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



Marvin B. Rudin

LPSCC MEETINGS TO DATE - WHERE'S THE BEEF?

by Marv Rudin , Editor

The party definitely should have a comprehensive administrative structure. Things like having a constant mail address and phone number, having a knowledgeable person, if available, to answer the party's phone line, having the party phone number in all county phone books so people can reach us, having a consistent Central Committee meeting place and time, having an accurate and well conceived set of financial accounts, and a constant email address and fax number should all be established. However the primary purpose of the party - the purpose which the administrative functions are there to serve, namely dissemination to the public of our principles and ultimately the election of Libertarians to office should always be our priority. And since we can't adequately perform our primary purpose yet because our numbers and finances aren't large enough, expanding the number of Libertarians as fast as possible is of paramount importance. And that's going to take a big dose of publicity and advertising and of "sales" effort, which for a political party is usually called member "acquisition" or "recruiting" because "sales" sounds too commercial. And who in the LPSCC is responsible to lead these much needed activities? The Publicity and Membership chairs.

Under these circumstances one wonders how we can already have held two Excom meetings without either agenda requiring a word of discussion with these two chairs about their plans for their two functions. That's two meetings that went approximately 2-1/2 hours each - 5 total hours - in which administrative functions - some of low priority or easily handled by going with existing structure - were addressed in profuse detail, but these two most important activities were ignored as if plenty of time remains to look at them later. No wonder the party has been stuck in slow or no growth for so many years! It's difficult enough to grow an organization fast if that's your priority. It's practically impossible if it's not.

Of course the administrative functions are needed, but excepting a mailing address which was in limbo because the mail service we were using got driven out of business by the USPS, they really weren't urgent. I'd been answering the phone for 3 years and was willing to continue. I'm home a lot because I have to be there - I do business from my home office. The Treasurer from last year agreed to run again, and his books and procedures were established last year. Since he is the main user of the mailing address to receive checks and bills, and is retired and therefore available to arrange a new address during the day, he could easily have been assigned the task of setting up a new address without the lengthy discussion on the matter. As it turned out that's what the decision was anyway after all the discussion. And the lengthy discussion about a fax number, after I revealed that there hadn't been any need for an incoming fax to the party in 3 years was a travesty! Where are our priorities?? Perhaps one important administrative matter would have been an annual audit, and a review of the accounting system to ensure visibility of net cost for each project. But that subject was never raised!

Well that's now water under the bridge. Hopefully the two chairs handling the priority functions will move ahead on their own and in its next and subsequent meetings the Excom will set and adhere to a policy of emphasizing adding registrants as fast as possible as our first priority and dues paying members as our second. Of course, when the day comes that we have the numbers, campaigning for public office will be the priority. But with registrations at 0.75% of the electorate we're not even close to being there yet. ■

OPINION PAGES POLICY

I want to make the Opinion Page(s) primarily a place for opinions about local news and party operations. Up to two pages will be allocated at the tail end of the Santa Clara Libertarian for the editor's opinion piece and for letters and opinion articles-to-the-editor. Please email (snail mail only if you have no email capability) your letters/articles to me at rudin@lpty.org. Please keep material as compact as you can without sacrificing content and I will try to include all submittals, carrying some over to future issues if necessary.

Your Editor

LETTERS ARE GREAT OLD IDEA

edited version of recent article by Richard Rider
Chair Emeritus, LP of San Diego County

As we look for new, improved ideas, we sometimes forget what is cost effective and has been beneficial for years. In particular, I'm referring to an active letters to the editor effort.

With today's email and fax broadcast capabilities, we should continue to push libertarian letters to the editor.

Without a doubt, the most cost effective way of reaching the most people for the least money is a letter to the editor. We cannot overemphasize the importance of such letters in influencing both the general population and the decision makers. Studies indicate that letters to the editor are the most widely read part of a newspaper--surpassing the funnies, sports or even the front page!

What makes the letter to the editor approach exciting is the advent of the computer, the fax machine and email. With these innovations we can replicate a letter to numerous papers along with radio and TV stations and bigwigs, politicians reporters, allies, LP members and others for nominal cost.

We use a fax board within a PC hooked to phone lines. A fax board is simply a fax machine that sends and receives faxes via the computer. It has the advantage that it can hold hundreds of fax phone numbers, calling whatever subgroups the sender designates at whatever hour desired.

As Ross Perot would say, "here's the deal." If you want to inexpensively send a letter to the local media (including radio and TV), then send us a fax or hard copy of that letter and we will re-fax it to the appropriate county media for "free" (although party contributions are encouraged). Our only cost is whatever local area tolls we pay the phone company. The letter must be generic. By having the author not put a date on it, we can have some latitude as to which day we send it. {Editors note: I herewith offer you} this same service here in Santa Clara County.}

A fax machine or fax board has an option to put a time/date stamp and originator title at the very top of each fax sent out. We do not use this option so the fax goes out without having the Libertarian Party name or phone number on it. If you fax something to us to distribute, your fax origination information will be at the top when we "reflect" out your letter to the press.

The letter must be reasonably libertarian in content, a subjective judgment left solely to me (no time for committee review). We are interested in letters that include the word "libertarian" in some manner.

Frequently a letter is written in response to an editorial or story in a particular newspaper. We suggest that one personalized letter should be sent to that paper, with a second generic letter sent to us for faxing. By replacing the first sentence referencing a specific article with a more generic phrase such as "recent calls for. . ." or "media reports of. . ." will allow us to send the letter to other papers and media outlets as well.

After all, the hard part is writing the letter. It is a shame to use all that effort for only one paper that may or may not run the letter. Our method almost assures publication somewhere. In addition, the letters are sometimes read on the air or otherwise referred to by the broadcasters.

Any letter should give the author's name, address and phone number as some papers like to check the validity of authorship. If a friend would be willing to sign the letter, it is perfectly okay to do so provided the person signing the letter agrees with its contents. After all, politicians have speech writers, don't they?

One minor disadvantage is that you will not likely know all the papers where your letter is printed.

Try our approach. We think you'll like the results. Let's start making our voices heard without spending a fortune. ■

Editor's Note:

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

Officers:

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

Table listing Judicial Committee members: Paul Rako, Elizabeth Brierly, Mary Gingell.

Had a Libertarian outreach experience? Converted someone? Write about it to the editor! scl@lpty.org

651 Princeton Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

For further information, call (408) 736-5626. Or see our web page at http://www.sc.ca.lp.org.

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

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY



of Santa Clara County

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

Please Print:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

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

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

Signature: _____

Membership Application

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

Plus an additional contribution to the LPSCC:

- o Monthly pledge
o One-time donation

Total: _____

Payment Method:

o Check payable to: Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County

o VISA or MasterCard (circle one)

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder Name: _____

Signature: _____