

Liberty Rising

What's happening?

LP Sonoma

July 1, 2009 – 7:00 P.M., Round Table Pizza, 1003 Guerneville Rd., Santa Rosa.



Liberty Marathon

July 4, 2009 – Instead of celebrating the 4th, celebrate Independence Day by exercising your rights – all that you dare.

freedomfest

July 9-11, 2009 – www.freedomfest.com. Over 100 speakers, 200 exhibitors, 9 great debates, dozens of panels, etc.

LP Sonoma

August 12, 2009 – 7:00 P.M., Round Table Pizza, 1003 Guerneville Rd., Santa Rosa.

Bill of Rights Day

December 15, 2009 – Cancelled due to the continuing economic crisis. You will be notified by the government when your rights have been restored. Until then, obey!

What's a Libertarian to do?

Exercise your rights

The U.S. Constitution is neither very long nor very complicated. It is actually easy to scan and note the various rights recognized and guaranteed by the founders. Now is the time to make a list of all those rights you can (and will) exercise on the 233rd anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Say a prayer, go to church, post a flyer, broadcast a speech (internet or handheld radio), or assemble with friends and read the Declaration of Independence.

Carry a concealed weapon (may be illegal without a permit), order plans to build a machine-pistol or a .50 BMG rifle, sight in your hunting (sniper) rifle, or test fire a black powder canon.

Print your own currency, such as one denominated in silver dimes and printed on readily available paper used for checks. Pay state taxes with gold or silver.

Petition your government. Demand an end to foreign wars, an end to the war on poverty, an end to the war on drugs, an end to the war on auto makers, and an end to the war on our economy.

Government will respect your rights only when it is afraid of your knowledge, your skills, and your determination.

Prepare for the obvious

The more Obama attacks our economy the more that jobs will move overseas. Position yourself in an industry where that is difficult. Keep nimble, with some or all of your efforts in self-employment. Be prepared to shrug, as Galt's Gulch is wherever you want it to

be. As government debt grows and the printing presses roll, prepare accordingly for inflation.

Small, valuable, and easily divisible items are key. Start by satisfying your needs and then add more to sell/trade (gold & silver coin, ammunition, medicines).

News break

Welcome to the soft Reich

June 26, 2009, Washington, D.C. – Congress voted today (cap-and-trade climate bill) to fully embrace a socialist command economy while maintaining the fascist controls so dear to the American Left.

Uniquely pursuing both socialism (government ownership of the means of production) and fascism (government control of the means of production), the Obama administration is re-making America. Please have your papers in order.

After a decade without appreciable global warming, the U.S. has decisively acted to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Whew!

Contents

- 1 What's happening?
What's a Libertarian to do?
News break
- 2 LP Sonoma
What's the answer?
What do you know?
- 3 Directory
Comics
- 4 Media silence
My \$0.02
Your econ guru
Freedom tracks

Wednesday Night Market

At its June meeting the Libertarian Party of Sonoma County (LP Sonoma) agreed to sponsor a booth at Santa Rosa's Wednesday Night Market. With a budget of \$300 Kate Moore and David Koolhoven rushed to gather the necessary resources (table, chairs, literature, etc.) in time to make a presence at the 6/10 event.

To help with this project contact Kate or David via the LPSonoma.org website.

See 'What's happening?' for the next scheduled meeting.

Disgrace in government

The Wednesday Night Market is the perfect opportunity to bring back our "Disgrace in government" award. Past luminaries have included Ernie "King" Carpenter (former supervisor), and Sal "Pants on Fire" Rosano (former police chief).

Bring your nominations to the next meeting or email them to LPSonomaNews@aol.com.

This is too easy. Everyone knows a disgraceful government figure or two ... hundred.

LP Sonoma officers

Chair Kate Moore
 Vice-Chair David Koolhoven
 Secretary Frank Ball
 Treasurer James Oglesby

Contact LP Sonoma, of course.

What's the answer?

Q: Why is the FDA going to regulate tobacco?

A: To reduce the nicotine content which will boost sales and desperately needed tax revenues.

Q: Seriously, where do I start on the self-defense thing?

A: Start with Jeff Cooper's "Principles of Personal Defense" (56 pages). Continue with Geoff Thompson's "Three Second Fighter" (90 pages). And, if guns will play a role, study "The Book of Two Guns," by Tiger McKee (172 pages).

What can you learn from a First Lady?

In 1958 Eleanor Roosevelt (age 74) was invited to speak at a clandestine anti-government meeting. This was a civil rights workshop, and the demand for rights is always anti-government. It was clandestine because of the violent actions and threats of the Ku Klux Klan.

How do you read the 2nd Amendment? Perhaps, "A well-regulated populace, being necessary for the security of a police state, the privilege of keeping and bearing arms shall be restricted."

The Secret Service had warned Eleanor that they could not guarantee her safety during her trip to Tennessee, especially since she would be traveling alone. Undeterred, as those who believe in liberty must be, Eleanor headed south by train.

In Tennessee Eleanor was met at the train station by an elderly woman friend and they proceeded by car to the workshop. But first, Eleanor tucked a pistol between them.

Liberty is not free. The pursuit of liberty carries a price – eternal vigilance. Self-defense is best not left to others. Be prepared.

We humans have our faults. Eleanor Roosevelt had hers. Still, she left a legacy to all Americans that few understand. – we may perish in our pursuit of liberty, but we need not perish naked, on the brink of an open pit, as we compliantly follow the orders of government agents.

How can we cut the state budget?

It is easy to cut the state budget, especially if you care about people (taxpayers and consumers). As a general rule 1/3 of government spending is graft, corruption, and waste. Another 1/3 could be cut through privatization. That leaves 1/3 for real needs.

To be more specific, let's look at the recently proposed 2009-10 California budget. This budget consists of \$96 billion of General Fund spending, \$32 billion of Special Fund spending, and \$7 billion of Bond Fund spending. This totals \$133 billion in spending at a time when the state pension plans are unfunded by \$48 billion.

K-12 spending can be reduced from \$61 billion to \$46 billion through vouchers.

Higher education spending can be cut from \$39 billion to \$35 billion through a combination of fee increases and increased class time for instructors. Or, we could just save \$5 billion by privatizing community colleges.

Health and human services spending can be cut from \$82 billion to \$74 billion just because.

Corrections and rehabilitation spending can be cut from \$14 billion to \$12 billion by releasing many convicted of victimless crimes and laying off employees until the remaining sue for reasonable wages and benefits.

Business, transportation, and housing spending can be reduced from \$18 billion to \$14 billion through dumping unneeded departments and privatizing most new construction. The \$5 billion Bay Bridge replacement span should have been a \$500 million privately funded and operated toll span.

Resources spending of \$12 billion can be cut to \$9 billion just by doing less. Or, privatize the Dept. of Forestry to save \$2 billion per year and save the other billion by doing less.

Environmental protection spending can be cut from \$2 billion to \$1 billion.

State and consumer services spending of \$28 is held hostage by \$25 billion in spending on public employee and teacher retirement. No public employee contracts should be signed or extended if they include health and retirement benefits while the state has any unfunded liabilities.

Labor and workforce development spending of \$15 billion shall be reduced to \$10 billion. In turn the California minimum wage will be repealed.

General government spending will be reduced from \$9 billion to \$7 billion.

Legislative, judicial, and executive spending shall be reduced from \$8 billion to \$6 billion.

This all totals a \$46 billion reduction in state spending from \$133 billion to \$87 billion. The method is simple. Cut spending, and turn out public employees so they can do useful work in the private sector.

Privatize, deregulate, and un-tax, that's the Libertarian prescription.

Directory

LibertyRISING is published by the Libertarian Party of Sonoma County, James R. Oglesby editor.

The deadline for the July issue is 7/15/09. Please submit your letters, opinion pieces, and news to:

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*Libertarian Party of Sonoma County:
www.LPSonoma.org*

*Libertarian Party of California
www.LPC.org*

Comics

6/25 *The Press Democrat*

A George Will column reports that a study of green energy jobs in Spain determined that it costs nearly \$800,000 to create each such job. In particular, wind energy jobs cost more than \$1 million each.

One can only laugh at those who believe that government created green jobs will exceed the number of jobs lost by the attendant taxes.

6/17 *The Press Democrat*

Next year Healdsburg "will add 64 affordable housing units" via a \$21.3 million housing project. The math works out to \$332,800 per unit. Easily affordable to the targeted farmworkers and low-income families.

Only the stand-up comics on the Healdsburg City Council can get away with doing everything possible to force housing prices higher while getting accolades for providing "affordable housing." There's nothing funny about getting help from the government.

6/17 *The Press Democrat*

Despite a World Health Organization (WHO) review of the scientific studies on secondhand cigarette smoke that found no basis for health concerns, Petaluma has now banned smoking in parks.

Political correctness will always trump science, especially since politicians use government schools to ensure a vapid understanding of the natural world. Laughing at politicians is the best medicine.

"The only purpose for which POWER can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilized community against his will, is to prevent harm to others. Over his own body and mind, the individual is sovereign."

Harriet and John Mill, 1859

6/16 *The Press Democrat*

"Economy helps put off exodus of nurses, but shortages still loom." What nonsense. Shortages never "loom," they are imposed by the government.

In a market economy an excess of demand simply forces prices higher until demand equals supply. Higher wages for nurses will both encourage many to keep working and many others to become nurses. Higher wages for nurses will also encourage more automation by hospitals. Likewise, cheaper substitutes will be sought for the increasingly expensive nurses. All-in-all, there will never be a shortage of nurses in a market economy.

We will only have a nursing shortage if it is so desired by government. And, of course, with socialized medicine apparent costs will be held

down by holding down wages. The resulting shortage of nurses will be the least of our worries.

Who are more funny, politicians that don't understand economics, or editors and reporters who don't understand economics?

6/7 *The Press Democrat*

Yet another writer laments the lack of "some form of single-payer health care. Apparently he is upset that "America [federal government] will not be able to **control** ... **solve** ... or **attain** ..." (emphasis added)

Unfortunately he forgot to point out where in our Constitution the federal government is authorized to control, solve, or attain anything regarding health care.

6/8 *The Press Democrat*

A letter from a Santa Rosa resident argues against conversion of mobile home parks into "condos." The writer would like to see the parks purchased by their residents via a non-profit corporation. This would ensure that "the residents have control and ownership of their park."

How will residents have control and ownership when the current owners don't have control and ownership? With rent controls, zoning regulations, and conversion prohibitions, the current "owners" have no such "control and ownership." Funny, isn't it, how many believe that they can preserve their own rights while trampling the rights of others?

6/17 *The Press Democrat*

A Cotati resident writes that it is really "simple math" that makes the case for "single-payer, non-profit health care." Without profits to guide their decisions, non-profits will be unable to provide the care most desired by consumers. Instead, the minimum level of care demanded by the government will be provided.

Single-payer means that taxpayers will fund health care regardless of how much care they consume. Consequently, they will demand and consume as much as possible.

The ultimate irony is that free health care guarantees bankruptcy while pro-

viding that level of health care worth the free price. Laughing sickly from the grave.

6/7 *The Press Democrat*

An “innovative” school in Manhattan will try paying teachers \$125,000 per year in order to attract the best teachers. Fine, but there aren’t enough good teachers for every school to try this, even if the money was available. Wouldn’t it be better and much cheaper to allow competition to improve the quality of our schools? Laughing while the school bell tolls.

6/13 *The Press Democrat*

Due to the danger of fire the Cloverdale City Council has severely restricted the sales and use of fireworks. Apparently, since building codes, weed abatement regulations, and a staffed fire department aren’t enough, the possession and use of things must be further regulated. Heaven forbid that parents be expected to teach and monitor their children; that garden hoses be connected to the front and back of homes; that garden hoses be equipped with water nozzles that can cast water to any part of one’s roof. Right, we are all morons and deserve to moronically laugh while our freedoms disappear.

6/23 *The Press Democrat*

A letter from someone who grew up in England was confounded that “we do not have a national health service.”

Apparently he never learned that American citizens have constitutionally protected rights while British subjects have their rights protected by Parliament, which can nullify them at whim. How do you laugh with a British accent?

6/25 *The Press Democrat*

SRJC plans to eliminate 430 classes from its fall schedule, saving \$5,800 per class cut. Since it costs about \$270 per student-unit, these classes average

only 21 student-units per class, or 7 students in a three-unit class. Why were these classes ever offered? At least we can laugh as our pockets are picked.

Media silence

Expensive health care

Most in the media seem unable to think about health care. Instead, they remain fixated on the high cost of care in America.

Let’s see. Health care is very important. America is very rich. Why wouldn’t we be spending a lot on health care? Many other nations have far more serious problems than health care (food, pollution, aging populations – do they realize the implications in China where by 2050 60% of the population will be over 65?). Might our high spending on health care reflect our priorities and their low spending reflect theirs?

Even with the same priorities, will less wealthy countries spend as much per capita as the United States? Will countries that keep prices low by force of law spend as much per capita as the United States? In countries where certain health care purchases are not available (CAT scans, certain medicines and other treatments for the elderly, etc.), will their per capita health care costs be a useful guide?

How long do we have to wait for the media to intelligently report on our health care crisis?

A compliant media + politicians = a cesspool.

My \$0.02

The “Don’t Tread On Me” flag first flew on ships of the Continental Navy plying the Delaware River in 1775, a time when LIBERTY mattered.

This is the opinion section. Send in your two cents worth, just keep it short. Longer opinion pieces are welcome. Very long articles will be considered for publication on a \$20/page fee basis (you pay to cover the additional printing and postage costs).

Your Econ Guru

Basic Economics (Part II)

Welcome to Part II of a four-part introduction to economics. Lesson one dealt with **opportunity cost**. Keep in mind that this is next most valuable economic act forsaken for the first choice.

The second lesson in economics is that human decisions are assumed to be rational. This simply means that the human actor had reasons behind her economic choice. Anyone else may disagree with that choice, find the reasons to be insufficient and the choice unwise, but that doesn’t change the fact that the original choice was back by reason.

We all remember the movie “Rudy,” about the older student who tried for years to play football for Notre Dame. Thousands of times over the years Rudy had to decide whether to quit or continue his quest. Most anyone else would have quit. Rudy didn’t, and eventually succeeded. In trying to decide if his choices were foolish, idiotic, irrational, or just perhaps rational, we are confounded by not being Rudy. We were never in his shoes, facing his choices, and chasing his dream.

In other words, regardless of what we might have done, we can only conclude that Rudy’s choices were economically rational.

Future installments will cover why incentives matter, and the importance of marginal analysis.

James R. Oglesby received his B.A. degree in Economics from Sonoma State University in 1984.

Freedom tracks

Scott Moyer made a donation to help fund this issue of *LibertyRISING*.

Kate Moore and David Koolhaven have revived the Libertarian presence at Santa Rosa’s Wednesday Night Market. Kate has also added two more YouTube videos with a libertarian message. Search for “laws and opinions” and “socialist cat fight.”

Are you laying freedom tracks? If yes, let us know. If no, ...