

Liberty Rising

What's happening?

Libertarian Party of Sonoma County
 April 7, 2010 – 7:00 P.M., Round Table
 Pizza, 1003 Guerneville Rd., Santa Rosa.



Libertarian Party of Sonoma County
 May 5, 2010 – 7:00 P.M., Round Table
 Pizza, 1003 Guerneville Rd., Santa Rosa.
 Elections will be held to select a Chair
 and Vice-Chair.

An Evening with the Skeptical Environmentalist – Bjorn Lomborg

Mid-May, 2010 – This 80-minute DVD will
 be shown at a date, time, and place to be
 determined.

Freedomfest 2010

July 7-11, 2010 – Last year's event fea-
 tured "over 100 speakers, 90 exhibitors,
 and nearly 1700 attendees."
www.freedomfest.com

Bill of Rights Day

December 15, 2010

What's a Libertarian to do?

Resist, organize, transform

In response to the federal government's abominable assault on health care and health insurers, Libertarians must first resist. This assault must be repelled. Our Constitution, including the commerce clause, the protection of contracts, and the 9th, 10th, and 14th Amendments must be restored.

Libertarians must also organize so that the futile resistance of one becomes the principled resistance of many. Passive resistance and civil disobedience are our tools of choice. We must disobey any tyrant who tramples our Constitution.

Libertarians must transform society by transforming their own lives. Live a principled life of non-aggression. Stand up for the free market. Liberty is too precious to deny it to the next generation.

Contact LP Sonoma for information on a local currency (denominated in silver dimes) that is 100% backed in pre-1965 U.S. silver coin (90% silver).

News break

Nolan Chart

Wow. FOX cable channel. Top-rated program in its time slot – 5 P.M. Eastern time. The Nolan Chart. One hour.

In 1971 David Nolan hosted a gathering of libertarians and the result was the creation of the Libertarian Party. To help identify Libertarians as a distinct political party/philosophy, not found on the traditional Left – Right political scale, Nolan created a two-dimensional chart and a set of questions

so that people could plot their political/philosophical home.

Typically, the Libertarian Party did not know what to do with such a gift and the concept languished until resurrected by The Advocates for Self-Government. Redesigned and much revised, the "World's Smallest Political Quiz" lives on as the most commonly used Libertarian outreach tool.

See the original at glennbeck.com and go to theadvocates.org and order massive quantities for distribution.

V-I-C-T-O-R-Y

Healdsburg's attempt to impose community impact reporting on developers failed to garner enough votes at the 3/9/10 council meeting. It may have been coincidence, but LP Sonoma's effort to defeat the proposal prevailed.

Contact LP Sonoma to encourage more such efforts.

NEWS BREAK continues on page two

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Libs to host skeptic

The Libertarian Party of Sonoma County is hosting a DVD presentation by Bjorn Lomborg titled, "An Evening with the Skeptical Environmentalist."

Lomborg is an environmentalist who believes in global warming, but not the extreme versions trumpeted by so many. He also makes a cogent case for making only modest efforts to curtail global warming.

Stay tuned for this event, which will be the first in a series of DVD presentations. The date and time has not been set, so watch for a flyer with a mid-May date.

Join the fun and host this presentation at your local library – just appoint yourself project chair and contact LP Sonoma!

LP Sonoma

LP Sonoma

Acting-Chair James Oglesby
Vice-Chair (vacant)
Secretary Frank Ball
Treasurer James Oglesby

Contact LP Sonoma, of course.

Moore steps down

Kate Moore has resigned as LP Sonoma Chair. She plans on remaining active in the organization. David Koolhoven has also resigned as Vice-Chair, and like Kate will remain active.

An election will be held to fill the vacancies and has been scheduled for May 5, 2010. This constitutes the required thirty-day notice for an election.

James Oglesby will fill in as Acting-Chair until the election. Candidates are welcome to submit short statements to this newsletter for inclusion in the April edition. Only Sonoma County residents who are dues paying members of the Libertarian Party of California may vote in the election.

Throw your hat in the ring and make your pitch to become LP Sonoma Chair or Vice-Chair - attend the April 7, 2010 meeting of LP Sonoma.

2010 Action Plan

LP Sonoma members were briefed on the 2010 Action Plan prepared by James Oglesby. The first effort in this plan is the attempt to block the City of Healdsburg's attempt to mandate Community Impact Reports on developers (property owners).

LP Sonoma approved spending up to \$75 to host a DVD presentation of "An Evening with the Skeptical Environmentalist." Other activities and events looking for project chairs and budgets are working against the Cotati sales tax measure, the Guerneville Fire District tax measure, the Rohnert Park sales tax measure, hosting a seminar titled, "Meet Your Constitution," a July 4th ammunition giveaway (.50 BMG, of course), an honors dinner with guest speaker, and a high-profile "Disgrace in Government" awards presentation.

To participate contact LP Sonoma Acting-Chair James Oglesby.

April / June ballots

April 13 – Cotati is seeking a sales tax increase, hoping to grab \$600-900,000 more per year from taxpayers.

June 8 – (1) Rohnert Park is seeking a sales tax increase, hoping to grab \$2.4-2.8 million more per year from taxpayers. (2) Mark West School District is seeking an \$18 parcel tax for every \$100,000 of property value. (3) Russian River Fire Protection District is seeking a \$70-350 parcel tax.

Each of these June ballot measures needs a project chair to oversee a relatively simple grass-roots campaign. Avoid the rush and volunteer now!

What's the answer?

*Q: Why must we serve the state?
A: In 1905 (Lochner v. New York) the Supreme Court struck a state law limiting hours that could be worked in a bakery. In dissent, Justice Harlan opined that the law should have been upheld since long hours "may endanger the health, and shorten the lives of the workmen, thereby diminishing their physical and mental capacity to serve the state." Thus the*

seed was sown and nurtured by 95 years of progressive/liberal activism.

What do you know?

Stay tuned

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

Comics

2/25 FOX News

President Obama played his trump card as he chastised Republicans for resisting further government intrusion into health care. With glee the President pointed out that Republicans had supported and even led so many other "intrusions."

Implied but unsaid were: Medicare Part D, No Child Left Behind, the Dept. of Energy, the Dept. of Education, the FDA, Social Security, and Medicare. Thank you Mr. President for pillorying Republicans for their past transgressions against our liberties.

2/28 The Press Democrat

A significant number of state employees retire with huge payments for unused leave. The Press Democrat says, "In the past 4 years, nearly 500 workers left public service with \$100,000-plus checks." Is anyone surprised? Government work is so easy that vacations are easy to skip (what with all the paid days off). Rather than reasonable wages and benefits, the politicians abuse the taxpayers while state employees laugh all the way to the bank.

3/1 FOX News

Two talking heads presented as "Democratic strategists" passionately defended liberty except where trumped by the necessity for responsibility. Two such areas, of course, were health care and guns. The brain-dead manikins insisted that our rights come with responsibilities that can force us to cede our rights in order to fulfill our responsibilities to others.

A careful examination of our Constitution finds no such restrictions. Free speech

carries with it no responsibility to speak, let alone speak sensibly (see first paragraph). The right to vote carries with it no requirement to vote, let alone to vote responsibly.

Our Constitution and Bill of Rights are millstones around the neck of government. They are bound and must obey. We citizens are free. We accept responsibilities through our voluntary agreements and contracts.

Directory

LibertyRISING is published by the Libertarian Party of Sonoma County, James R. Oglesby editor. The deadline for the April issue is 4/15/10. 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

Ludwig von Mises Institute
www.mises.org

Lew Rockwell
www.LewRockwell.com

Cato Institute
www.cato.org

Foundation for Economic Education
www.fee.org

3/2 The Press Democrat

Healdsburg will spend \$2.8 million to study the replacement of their old steel truss bridge across the Russian River. Not really. About 90% of the funds will come from "state and federal grants."

Here is how this sleazy game works. Both the state and federal government offer grants to entice local government into wasting money. If the local government says no, the grants are just awarded to another agency to waste the money.

Twelve years ago the city of Cloverdale

used that scam to build a train station. It has yet to serve a single passenger or freight train. Yet, if it hadn't been wastefully built some other city would have gotten the money to waste. Now it's Healdsburg's turn to waste state and federal taxpayer dollars, with gusto.

"In a moral society, your fear of freedom cannot require my forfeiture of liberty."

Vantage Vigilance Valor

3/4 The Press Democrat

While Charles Rangel has been forced to step down as chair of the House Ways & Means Committee, his "leadership" shows how carefully government officials feed at the government trough.

Rangel "used" four rent-controlled apartments even though New York's rent stabilization program only applies to one's primary residence. This begs the question of why a powerful and wealthy congressman was even entitled to a rent stabilized residence. Apparently political power entitles moochers to mooch.

3/6 The Press Democrat

As a parting gift to her staff, Assembly Speaker Karen Bass gave promotions and 10% pay raises to twenty employees. Of course, she wasn't giving away her money. Once again, power entitles the moochers to mooch.

3/7 The Press Democrat

In a brilliant plan to save money, California furloughed many employees only to find those savings lost to the many employees paid overtime to pick up the slack. These people can't even run their own affairs and yet insist they can best run ours.

3/7 The Press Democrat

Neither carbon taxes of up to \$60/ton, nor tax credits for fuel efficient cars appear likely to sufficiently influence people to give up their gas hogs. Consequently the *Washington Post* suggests that the populace be brutalized with a gas tax that raises the price of gas to \$7/gallon. This is rather elegant – when people disagree, just tax them until they give in and cooperate.

3/12 The Press Democrat

After decades of mismanagement, the city of Detroit is going to begin tearing itself down. Faced with forty square miles of vacant property, including 33,500 homes and 91,000 residential lots, Detroit plans to tear down nearly one quarter of the city. Too bad Detroit just doesn't make them free trade zones. That would at least save taxpayers the cost of tearing so many buildings down. And, freed from city services, the free trade zone properties would not be a drain on taxpayers.

3/13 The Press Democrat

Plagued with an unspecified illness that seriously affects her, state Senator Pat Wiggins will no longer perform her job, "except in a limited capacity." Of course, she continues receiving full pay and benefits. Once again, political power entitles moochers to mooch.

Media silence

The "n" word

In the wake of the passage of the health insurance destruction bill, a cadre of congressmen flaunted their unconstitutional deed in the face of protesters who had been urging "kill the bill." Several black congressmen claimed some in the angry crowd used the "n" word. Perhaps, but no independent witness has verified that claim and none of the multitude of recordings have produced any evidence. Why is the media silent on the simplest of explanations: In the cacophony of a noisy crowd with dozens of people yelling, the congressmen either mistook what was actually said or even simply heard what they wanted to hear?

My \$0.02

March 25, 2010

Dear Editor,

In the movie “300,” the Persian King, who is very kind to those who give in to him, says, “I require only that you kneel.” Welcome to American, where you will be treated kindly if only we kneel and ask for government alms.

The movie ends just before a subsequent battle where the Persian army is crushed. A Greek warrior says, “This day we rescue a world from mysticism and tyranny.” Welcome to American where pro-government mysticism is entwined with anti-capitalist mysticism to entrench tyranny from sea to shining sea!

James R. Oglesby

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

On Vacation

As usual, privatize, de-regulate, and un-tax.

Disgrace in government

In the recent opinion piece carried by *The Press Democrat*, Congressman Mike Thompson nicely illustrates how those who would command our obedience first seek to fool us. Thompson claims, “The bill [health care reform] is paid for and will reduce our budget deficit over the first 10 years by \$143 billion.” Sorry, but that check isn’t even in the mail. Congress has simply promised that Medicare savings will reduce deficits during the first ten years. Does anyone who doesn’t believe in magic trust that promise?

Medicare has been riddled with waste and fraud for over forty years. Many times Congress has promised reform, but here we are still with

rampant waste and fraud that Congress again promises to eliminate. Magically, Congress has also promised to use this savings twice. It will first be used to shore up the bankrupt Medicare system and then it will be used to fund the expansion of socialized medicine.

In previous magic acts Congress promised Amtrak and the Post Office would at least break even. Instead they run chronic deficits. Now, their next trick is to reform the insurance industry with a torrent of mandates. Thompson lists six specific attacks against insurance companies. Each of those attacks will cause those companies to raise their premiums, making access more difficult.

Like the Wizard of Oz, Thompson, with booming authority lists eleven provisions of the bill that would dramatically increase the demand for



medical care.

Such a rapid increase in demand will inexorably force up the cost of medical care,

just as the cost of Medicare increased almost ten times faster than originally predicted by Congress.

There is no magic wand to wave to move production resources from their current use (privately planned) to their new use in medical care (government planned). Those resources have to be bid away from their current use by offering higher prices. Higher prices for medical care will then be reflected by higher prices for health insurance. This double whammy is delivered with smiles and bows from so-sincere congressmen who can’t be bothered to complete a college level course in economics.

Thompson closes his remarks with the most galling deception of all. He forgets that what matters is our liberty. He has sworn an oath to defend

our Constitution, including the restrictive “commerce clause,” and the onerous Tenth Amendment. Instead, Thompson trumpets the false promise of affordable government provided health care that doesn’t bankrupt the country. Apparently he didn’t get the memo from the Congressional Budget Office that Social Security is paying out more in benefits than it is collecting in taxes, and has promised to pay out \$10-20 trillion more in benefits than it will collect in taxes. Even worse, Medicare has promised to pay out \$30-40 trillion more in benefits than it will collect in taxes.

Our health care system needs dramatic reform. We only need look to the great capitalists who steadily drove prices down. Rockefeller drove down the price of kerosene, Ford drove down the price of automobiles, and today’s capitalists have worked wonders with computers and cell phones. In a capitalist, free market system, yesterday’s luxuries quickly became affordable to the middle class and then to those with low incomes. The same will happen with health care. The solution is to free the market and constrain the government. Everything else is just waving a magic wand.

With minor changes the above article was submitted to *The Press Democrat*. Congressman Thompson has justly earned the Disgrace in Government award for March.

This newsletter registered 9.8 on the Flesch-Kincaid grade level scale, with 2,834 words.