

Liberty Rising

What's happening?

LP Sonoma

June 3, 2009 – 7:00 P.M., Round Table Pizza, 1003 Guerneville Rd., Santa Rosa.



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.

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?

Remember Gandhi

On the eve of the famous Salt March Mohandas K. Gandhi said:

I have sung the tune “God save the King” and I have taught others to sing it. I was a believer in the politics of petitions, deputations and friendly negotiations. But these have all gone to dogs. I know that these are not the ways to bring this government round. Sedition has become my religion. Ours is a non-violent battle. We are not out to kill anyone, but it is our Dharma (duty) to see the curse of this Government is blotted out.

Soon we may be facing the Gun March, the Health Care March, or the Supreme Court March. Remember Gandhi, make your plans, and be prepared.

Track down a copy of “The Freedom Outlaw’s Handbook,” by Claire Wolfe.

Don’t talk to the feds

From Scooter Libby to Martha Stewart, multitudes have made the mistake of talking to federal investigators. Title 18 of the United States Code, section 1001 spills the beans. It is a federal crime to lie to a federal investigator, even accidentally or unintentionally. Why take the chance?

Of course, the above is not legal advice, it pertains to self-defense. Seek legal advice whenever appropriate, especially before talking with the feds.

As with all civil rights in America your rights are void where prohibited by law. Join LP Sonoma to help rectify this abomination.

News break

Enemies will give us time

May 22, 2009, U.S. Navy Academy, Annapolis, Maryland – President Obama assured Academy graduates that he would not send them to war without “the strategy, the well-defined goals, the equipment and the support that you need to get the job done.”

Either we will never be attacked when we are not already fully prepared, or once attacked we will decline to engage the enemy until we are fully prepared. The first is wishful thinking and the second is folly. Unless, that is, our President has already surrendered.

As a show of support for our Commander-in-Chief, fly a white flag.

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LP Sonoma

The work begins

At its April meeting the Libertarian Party of Sonoma County (LP Sonoma) elected a team of officers headed by County Chair Katy Moore. At the recent May meeting, the real work began as the membership discussed goals, priorities, and tasks.

A strong case was made to wait, while marshalling our resources, so that we could capitalize on some key event or issue (like the recent Tea Party). Other ideas included doing a membership drive, prospecting among the Decline To State registered voters, and doing some long-range planning.

Kirkham Stewart won the donated door prize – a nice biography of Thomas Paine.

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

Agitator, ghost, or mole?

There are a multitude of strategies and tactics in the war against big government. Fundamentally, most libertarians start by choosing a role as agitator, ghost, or mole.

The agitator is the extrovert, in-your-face, demonstrating, bull-horn in hand, emailing, writing, and arguing with passion and verve.

The ghost is the introvert, hidden, flying beneath the radar of the oppressors, stockpiling gold and guns, evading regulations, avoiding meetings, solo monkey-wrenching, and otherwise engaging in passive resistance.

The mole is the spy, seeming to be part of the system while subverting it from within, sowing dissention, leaking secrets, using regulations to block regulators, and legislation to foil legislators.

By definition, the Libertarian Party is about agitation. We agitate for liberty and against big government. If you are an agitator, then join us. Agitation is fun. But, if you are a ghost or mole, let us help. We need all the ghosts and moles we can get.

Agitator, ghost, or mole, contact LP Sonoma. It is nice to be among friends.

LP Sonoma officers

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

Contact LP Sonoma, of course.

What's the answer?

Q: *What's on the internet?*

A: Check out www.anarchy.tv. You'll need to use the password: "GotLiberty".

Q: *What is the weight of resources available for each of earth's inhabitants?*

A: *About two million billion pounds.*

Q: *What is economics?*

A: *According to economist and author Mark Skousen, "Economics is the study of how individuals transform natural resources into final products and services that people can use."*

What do you know?

How do I get Liberty-smart?

Read, and read seriously. Jo Jorgensen, the 1996 Libertarian Vice-Presidential candidate came up with a method that suited her well. She scheduled and logged one hour of reading every night. She read with pen in hand and made marginal notes. Afterwards, she went back to her notes and used them to create index-card sized flashcards to help her study and learn.

"The smallest and most in-offensive state is still criminal in its dreams."

Michael Bakunin, Russian anarchist

It is one thing to read a book or magazine article that bolsters our confidence in libertarianism, and a very different thing to be able to discuss and defend the libertarian point of view. That takes serious reading, serious notes, and serious review.

You will spend untold hours reading facts and logic that support the libertarian viewpoint. Most of that time and effort (not

to mention money) will be wasted. That waste can be converted to gold if you will read more seriously, create your index cards and review them as necessary.

Fundamentals

More than a decade ago Harry Browne suggested concentrating on gaining converts as opposed to winning arguments. Since most people want to use government to achieve good results (seemingly), we need not attack their goals (very personal); instead, we simply show that using government leads to bad results.

Browne offered nine principles to counter the using government method. (1) Government failure – it hardly ever works, let alone works well. Just mention a few specific examples and suggest that there are better ways to do good work.

(2) Separate your wishes about government from the reality of how government works. Farm subsidies to keep food prices high come from the same source as the food stamps to keep food prices low.

(3) Using government makes any problem a political problem. Will sham hearings and payoffs to the politically connected really assist in solving the problem at hand?

(4) How does taking from the poor help? Sales taxes directly hurt the poor. Business taxes indirectly hurt the poor as businesses raise their prices to compensate. Regulations force prices up. Income taxes reduce paychecks and cause demands for higher wages. Higher wages are followed by higher prices, which hurt the poor the most.

(5) Where will it end? The income tax started with a 1% tax on incomes of more than \$8,000,000 (adjusted for inflation). Today, a single person pays a minimum 10% tax income that exceeds \$9,350. The minimum tax is ten times higher on an income 800 times smaller. The minimum tax is now 8,000 times more than it was in 1916. You may have a great idea, but where will it end?

(6) Beat this offer: Wouldn't you give up all the federal programs you like in exchange for never having to pay income taxes again?

(7) Will yet another unconstitutional program, trampling the rights of others, give you any assurance that your rights will be protected?

(8) Is this the lesson you really want to teach your children? Is using a gun to get what you want the lesson you want your children to learn and take to heart?

(9) Really? In the face of a corrupt and bankrupt government pushing trillions of dollars of debt off onto your children and grand-children, and you think we have time to waste implementing yet another government program guaranteed to fail?

Who killed GM?

Any large corporation will make lots of mistakes. General Motors (GM) has made a lot of mistakes. Still, it wasn't the mistakes that killed GM; it was simply that they played the game.

Decades before GM there was anti-trust. Our government decided that it was okay to attack, punish, and dismantle corporations simply because they were successful. Any American car company that reached the top of the heap would likely fall victim to anti-trust, but other factors also assisted in this crime.

Strikes are devastatingly expensive to companies with large fixed costs. American automobile companies were increasingly victimized by union strikers that effectively had government on their side. Non-union workers were driven away with open aggression and violence. Factories were occupied and forced into idleness, all with government acquiescence.

Union workers were appeased with excessive wage and benefit packages made affordable by anti-trust. With over 40% of the domestic market, GM had to find ways not to grow. Higher prices, declining quality, and stale designs all ensured GM would not be targeted by the government for being too successful.

The last straw was government imposed CAFE standards. GM had to build small, fuel-thrifty cars that weren't popular with the public. Prices had to be kept low on these unwanted cars in order to get enough of them sold to meet CAFE standards. Wisely, GM expanded its production of expensive truck-based vehicles (exempt from CAFE) in order to make a profit and fund union wages and benefits.

This tactic broke on the rocks of competition and sank in the face of high gas prices. GM was dead before it was born because that's what government does best.

The government game is simple: Heads they win and tails you lose.

Directory

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

The deadline for the June issue is 6/15/09. Please submit your letters, opinion pieces, and news to:

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Subscriptions are free to members, free by email, and \$10/yr by government mail.

Libertarian Party of Sonoma County:
www.LPSonoma.org

Libertarian Party of California
www.LPC.org

Comics

5/21 *The Press Democrat*

The stupid SMART train now faces a funding gap. Apparently the train that could is now the train that won't. Too bad the media couldn't be bothered to ask simple questions, like what else could we use \$900 million for?

"What is this oozing behemoth, this fibrous tumor, this monster of power and expense hatched from the simple human desire for civic order? How did an allegedly free people spawn a vast, rampant cuttlefish of domination with its tentacles in every orifice of the body politic?"

Do the math. Instead of spending \$900 million to haul 2,000 to 3,000 people a day, SMART could have swapped hybrid cars for commuters' existing gas-guzzlers. That would save fifteen times more gasoline than the stupid SMART train will save. High on fumes, laughing sickly.

5/23 *The Press Democrat*

Regarding the delay in allowing firearms in national parks, "the associate director of the National Parks Conservation Association" stated, "We are pleased, because that provides more time that our parks will remain safe and free from shotguns, rifle and semi-automatic weapons."

Are you as confident that criminals leave their guns behind, or is this hilarious?

5/23 *The Press Democrat*

Yet another phony front-page graph left out the origin. This time the phony graph depicted "Jobless in Sonoma County." First impressions are important, and leaving out the origin guarantees a distorted first impression. No amount of attached data will compensate for the bad first impression created by a phony graph. Welcome to 1984, courtesy of a free press. Big Brother is funny!

5/24 *The Press Democrat*

In preparing to pick a Supreme Court nominee, President Obama stated "that he was also looking for 'somebody who has common sense and somebody who has a sense of how American society works and how the American people lives.'"

Does this mean that how we live and how society works trumps the Constitution? Incredulously funny.

5/24 *The Press Democrat*

A guest column by a retired commercial pilot warns of the danger posed by tired flight crews. Lacking any accident statistics one is left to wonder if this is simple fear mongering. Is it fair to wonder if the author wears a

crash helmet while driving? Does he check the battery in his smoke detector every year (good), every month (safer), or every day (safer still)?

Perhaps safety is a laughing matter.

5/24 *The Press Democrat*

Columnist Pete Golis laments that our “fire-prone state that may not be able to pay for fire protection.” Nearly fifty years ago the National Fire Protection Association studied the problem of Southern California brush fires. Even when driven by hot and fierce Santa Ana winds, it was found that simple precautions would save 98% of homes during a brush fire! Homeowners simply need to maintain adequate brush clearance, install fire-resistant roofs, and eliminate overhanging eaves. It should be added that piling kindling (wood decks) against your house is not a wise move in brush-fire country.

But, why bother when the government provides unlimited fire protection for a miniscule fee? At least we can laugh while politicians intentionally bankrupt us.

5/25 *The Press Democrat*

A letter writer wails that “bridges, dams, levees, etc.” are “insufficient to our current needs.” In France the private sector recently completed the world’s tallest suspension bridge. At one and a half miles long this two-lane bridge is comparable in size to the Bay Bridge connector section. The bridge in France was built to earn a profit via toll collections and cost \$500 million. California’s bridge is being built in typical government fashion and will cost more than \$5 billion. Funny, isn’t it, that California will have \$4.5 billion less to spend on needed infrastructure.

5/25 *The Press Democrat*

“Pregnancy and childbirth kill more than 536,000 women a year, more than half of them in Africa.” How many more will needlessly die as economic growth is slowed and resources are diverted to fight global warming?

Tragedy as farce.

5/25 *The Press Democrat*

Surprise! “With billions at stake, industries try to expand meaning [of renewable energy] beyond solar, wind,” says the *New York Times*. Duh, doesn’t everyone know that if you throw a billion dollars onto the table there will be a mad scramble to get a share? It’s funny how politicians never, ever learn.

Media silence

Guns to Mexico

High level government officials from Senator Diane Feinstein to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton have been claiming that vast quantities of American machine guns, bazookas, rocket propelled grenade (RPG) launchers, and hand grenades have been purchased in America for use in Mexico.

Somehow the news never details that the sale of destructive devices (bazookas, RPGs, and grenades) have been illegal since 1968. You simply aren’t going to find any for sale at a gun show, let alone by a licensed dealer. Machine guns have required a difficult-to-get license since 1937 and are rarely used in crimes.

A compliant media + politicians = a cesspool.

My \$0.02

“Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human freedom. It is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves.”

William Pitt the Younger, British prime minister

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 I)

Welcome to Part I of a four-part introduction to economics. If you’ve been putting off writing that letter to your local paper, or have been shy about discussing economics, then take this free mini-course in economics.

The first lesson in economics is simply that for any economic activity there is an **opportunity cost**. This isn’t a monetary cost, rather, it is the next most important thing we could have done with the resources consumed by our first choice.

For example, one person takes a bicycle ride. Her opportunity cost is an almost equally enjoyable swim. Another person goes to the movies, giving up a softball game. To do one thing means we give up doing something else. We can’t escape the opportunity cost of our economic decisions.

This reality also holds true for government. Anytime government uses resources to do one thing, it can’t do some other thing with those resources. If the government decides to save lives that would otherwise be lost to HIV, then those resources can’t be used to save lives from malaria.

Sadly, our legislators all seem to take the same Cuban mail-order economics course, where opportunity cost means: never waste the opportunity to spend money or it will cost you the election.

Future installments will cover rational decision making, 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

Mark Burchill had a nice letter printed in the 4/25/09 edition of *The Press Democrat*. Mark nicely detailed how government so often works at cross purposes.

Katy Moore and David Koolhaven have been handing out fliers in downtown Santa Rosa. Libertarians need not be bashful about publicly advocating freedom.

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