

Liberty Rising

What's happening?

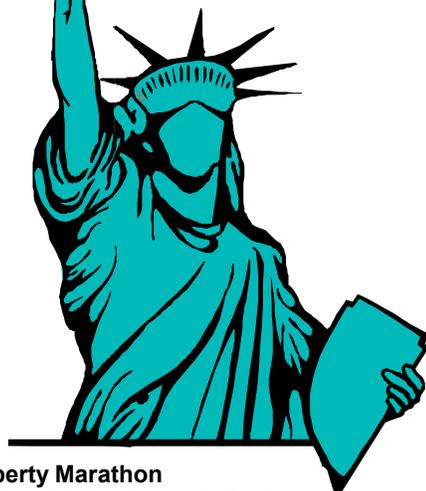
LP Sonoma

–May 6, 2009 – 7:00 P.M., Round Table Pizza, 1003 Guerneville Rd., Santa Rosa.



Statewide Special Election

May 19, 2009 – Another ugly election to weather, with five bad ballot measures and one good.



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?

Cross the street

Like so much else in life the quest for liberty is tempered by the economic Law of Diminishing Returns. The more liberty we have, the less we value obtaining more.

With an abundance of freedom other interests attract our attention. The fight for freedom wanes. The Founders pledged their lives and fortunes to fight for liberty. Most today won't cross the street.

We've got it good, but what of tomorrow. The Bush-Obama deficits are staggering. The Golden Goose of Social Security and Medicare tax collections is about dead.

While we still have a modicum of freedom and wealth, isn't it time to cross the street?

Cross the street, contact LP Sonoma. Attend a meeting, write a letter, or even donate \$5.

Adopt a precinct

Political action inevitably requires talking to strangers. Why not talk to the strangers who live near you? Yes, I'm referring to all those strangers who live in your voting precinct. Isn't it time to say hello and introduce the Libertarian alternative?

LP Sonoma can provide you with a list of the "decline to state" voters in your precinct. Send some (or all) of them a short note introducing yourself and the Libertarian Party. Don't argue. Just point out that the Libertarian Party has solutions to our current problems that aren't based on the popular fantasy "if only everyone..."

Even if you just re-mailed flyers provided by LP Sonoma, your efforts

would be a big help in introducing the Libertarian Party to independents who are so frustrated with the Republicans and Democrats.

Contact LP Sonoma to volunteer, request flyers or brochures, and to donate \$5 if you think this is a good idea.

News break

May 19 special election

The Libertarian Party of California (LPC) recommends a NO vote on most of the ballot propositions. Specifically:

- Proposition 1A – NO
- Proposition 1B – NO
- Proposition 1C – NO
- Proposition 1D – NO
- Proposition 1E – NO
- Proposition 1F – YES

For more information go to www.lpc.org.

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LP Sonoma

Katy Moore elected

The Libertarian Party of Sonoma County (LP Sonoma) kicked off the 2009-10 political season by electing a team of officers headed by County Chair Katy Moore. Other officers elected were Vice-Chair David Koolhoven, Secretary Frank Ball, and Treasurer James Oglesby.

In attendance were five former Libertarian candidates who had run for various partisan offices, from State Assembly to Congress. Surprise guests included California Libertarian Party Chair (CLP) Kevin Takenaga, and CLP Northern Vice-Chair Richard Newell.

The prelude to the election of officers was a spirited raffle. Barry Larson won the Grand Prize, a 3'x5' Gadsden (Don't tread on me) flag. All prizes were donated, and LP Sonoma netted \$305.

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

First Amendment Militia

The First Amendment Militia is that subset of freedom fighters determined to make the Second Amendment a last resort in the battle against tyranny.

We need a letter a week in *The Press Democrat*. That requires a militia of but thirteen members. With a modicum of drill each member will easily be able to dash off a short letter every calendar quarter.

Next, we need two letters a week – a militia of 26. Four letters a week can be achieved with 52 members. That can be done this year. Isn't four letters a year something you can do? Isn't it time to join the First Amendment Militia?

Contact LP Sonoma and start writing. You already have enough guns for later, now is the time to write.

Fire service tax

The Russian River Fire Protection District is mulling over an increase in their parcel tax. A volunteer is needed to monitor the local newspaper, or even

attend a few District board meetings.

If the district moves ahead with its tax plan, we can move ahead with a plan to defeat such a tax.

Contact LP Sonoma, of course.

What's the answer?

Q: Name a good boarding school?

A: I have no direct knowledge, but the Freedom Mountain Academy in Tennessee looks good. www.freedommountainacademy.com.

Q: Is there a better way to run our schools?

A: There are endless ways. Start by investigating the Harrison System and George Richmond's book, "The Micro-Society School." Then look into the Sudbury Valley School.

Q: Will there be a raffle at the next LP Sonoma meeting?

A: Only if you bring a raffle prize.

Q: Why did Senator Arlen Specter switch from Republican to Democrat?

A: Wrong question. Why do Republicans keep voting for moderate Republicans who are actually Democrats?

What do you know?

What about the 'Free State Project'?

After a long succession of failed 'free country' projects, the 'Free State Project' surfaced in 2001 with a simple plan – get 20,000 libertarians to move to some state where they could have a profound influence on the political climate.

Phase One involved securing commitments to move to whichever state was selected. Once a minimum level of commitment was obtained, Phase Two selected a state (by ballot). The winner was New Hampshire.

For all its many virtues, New Hampshire has some major drawbacks. In the heart of the liberal northeast, New Hampshire already has an in-migration of 20,000 new residents (predominantly liberal) each year. Needless-to-say, but 700 libertarians have made the move.

Perhaps New Hampshire is the "Bridge

Too Far' (good movie) of the libertarian MOVEMENT. The problem libertarians face is the ability to demonstrate private alternatives to government, and the 'Free State Project' seems like a difficult way to proceed.

The many 'free country' projects have failed. The 'free state' project is failing. What's next?

What about the 'Free City Project'?

There is certainly no publically promoted free city project, but there should be. It is government provided city services that we bump heads with every day. From regulatory services to fire departments, schools, and libraries, what are the alternatives? If we could demonstrate how a free city would work, there could be a powerful political impact.

But, what town? Well, Trona, California comes to mind. It used to be virtually a company town, mining the nearby dry lake beds for their mineral wealth. The production of chemicals tends to be a smelly process, but as late as the 1960s Trona had a population of over 6,000.

Since then production has declined and the major employer moved its headquarters and engineers back east. The population has plummeted and the city is collapsing. Crisis – opportunity!

Would moving to Trona be as risky as crossing in Atlantic in 1650? Would it be as difficult as settling the New World? Would it be as daunting as facing British Grenadiers at Lexington and Concord?

Trona, CA, the not-to-far bridge to liberty?

Directory

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

The deadline for the May issue is 5/15/09. Please submit your letters, opinion pieces, and news to:

*James R. Oglesby
c/o LibertyRising
5774 Lois Ave*

Santa Rosa, CA 95403

The same street address may be used to contact LP Sonoma.

Comics

3/29 *The Press Democrat*

A letter writer wailed, "The bottom line is guns kill. Pretty funny, at least until the streetlight glints off your assailant's knife blade."

"At all times sincere friends of freedom have been rare, and its triumphs have been due to minorities."

Lord Acton

3/29 *The Press Democrat*

Another writer said, "... but you forget that you have the obligation to support that government that allowed you to achieve your goals." Welcome to serfdom - no time to laugh.

4/02 *The Press Democrat*

Harold Myerson, in his opinion piece from the Washington Post, and among other silliness, praises a proposal by Senator Tom Harkin to give tax credits to people trading their cars in for one that gets five more miles per gallon.

Senator Harkin apparently knows no more about mathematics than the legislators who have given us the Social Security and Medicare Ponzi schemes. Trading up from 30 mpg to 35 mpg saves only as much gas as trading up from 10 to 10.5 mpg (assuming 15,000 miles per year).

Innumeracy is hardly a laughing matter.

4/03 *The Press Democrat*

In responding to another letter, a writer asks, "Does the writer believe that these programs would be better and more cheaply run as private enterprises? If so, this defies both credulity and plain reality." Every serious study ever done shows the reverse. That's why government operates monopolies - competition must be forcibly prevented. Incredulously funny.

4/03 *The Press Democrat*

Mendota, a city of 10,000, lies midway between Fresno and I-5, and has a 40% unemployment rate. Inanely believing that every endangered fish is more important than any human, federal environmental policy is devastating this farming community. And, what about California's minimum wage of \$8/hour?

Mendota went more than 3-1 for Obama last November. Tragically funny.

4/06 *The Press Democrat*

Yet another writer takes offense at Obama being called a socialist. He wondered if that meant Bush was a fascist. Let me simplify. Socialists want the government to provide most everything because the government would also own most everything. Fascists, simply want the government to control everything, which ultimately is the same as owning everything.

Bush supported both fascist and socialist government policies, as does Obama. This is so funny, George Orwell must be laughing.

4/06 *The Press Democrat*

Healdsburg is working on 'green building' standards. The city council will leave no stone unturned in its goal of keeping low-income families out of their bucolic city.

Rent controls, developer fees, zoning ordinances, and 'green building' standards all target low-income families. It's painfully funny to watch the government pull the ladder to economic well-being out of reach.

4/21 *The Press Democrat*

The City Healdsburg has decided to give preference to Healdsburg vendors in its purchasing decisions. This will cost each resident \$14/year while putting an extra \$167,000 into the pockets of Healdsburg businesses.

Just imagine walking around the block. Every few steps take money from your right pants pocket and put it in your left pants pocket. By the time

you get home you'll be wealthy! Adam Smith is laughing in his grave.

4/23 *The Press Democrat*

"The California Highway Patrol office in Sonoma County is looking for senior volunteers to help out at the station as well as in the field." Apparently, you can work for free for the government but you absolutely cannot work for less than minimum wage in the private sector. Hypocritically funny.

Media silence

Social Security sucks

For the first time ever, this past February Social Security benefit payments exceeded Social Security tax collections. Like a silent but deadly disease, Social Security is now consuming our capital accumulation. It is both destroying our ability to fund current needs, let alone invest for the future.

Social Security is now a cancer, fat, happy, and voracious. It is time for surgery, radiation treatments, and a return to voluntary retirement planning.

A compliant media + politicians = a cesspool.

Living wage again

One of the most common news stories of the year has been employees accepting wage cuts in exchange for keeping more workers employed. This has occurred in both the public and private sectors, in both union and non-union jobs. This proven link between wages and employment stands in stark contrast with living wage ordinances.

Sebastopol, Petaluma, and Sonoma all have living wage ordinances. All three cities insisted that such ordinances wouldn't adversely impact employment, and appeared to buy the argument that it would be good for both employers and employees.

How is it that not a single reporter has noticed that just as lower wages allows increased employment, higher wages reduces employment?

Does even a single journalist at The Press Democrat have a degree in economics? Have any even taken a course in economics?

My \$0.02

The April/May issue of the *Sonoma County Peace Press* carried several “Why I Am an Activist” columns. One was titled “Why & How (I became an Activist, A Red, A Radical, A Revolutionary). It is truly amazing how the left screams “peace” while fawning over the likes of Stalin, Mao, Castro, and Chavez.

Apparently, to the Left, slavery is good when it provides health care, education, or a living wage. It’s okay to “TAKE BACK THE WEALTH,” particularly if it didn’t belong to you to begin with. Also, “Stealing is a Sin,” unless you have the government steal for you.

The saving grace of this otherwise ugly newsletter was two cartoons. One had Summers and Geithner as wolves guarding the public henhouse. The other had Obama as the service station attendant filling up a rolling wreck labeled “GM Chrysler.”

The Left clearly recognizes the failings of government, yet they want ever more governmental control over our lives. Truly horrid.

But then, one need only to read the memoirs of former radicals to learn the truth. Most recent is Mark Rudd’s “Underground.” Read it and David Horowitz’s “Radical Son.” It is important to know our enemies.

James R. Oglesby, Santa Rosa

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

The May 2009 issue of *Scientific American* has an opinion piece by Jeffrey D. Sachs. He is the director of the Earth Institute – Columbia University.

Sachs insists, “The scientific discipline know as public economics describes why government is needed alongside markets to allocate resources. These reasons include the protection of the poor through a social safety net; the correction of externali-

ties such as greenhouse gas emissions; the provision of ‘merit goods’ such as health care and education that society deems to be essential for all its members; and the financing of scientific and technological research that cannot be efficiently captured by private investors.”

Our government does maintain a food safety net know as food stamps. These do help the poor, just as the vast array of agricultural price supports, crop restrictions, and subsidies hurt the poor. Throw in a dysfunctional educational system, regressive Social Security and Medicare taxes, massive deficits, and strangling regulations, and the poor are net losers.

Markets do produce externalities, just as government produces externalities. Why is one better than the other? At least voluntary markets produce voluntary solutions to externalities as opposed to government mandated solutions twisted by politicians to reward their toadies and punish their opponents.

The fact that “society deems” something to be essential to all doesn’t make it so. Anyway, society is a fiction. Government is made up of people imposing their will upon others. Exactly how will politicians know what is essential for all? Isn’t each individual the best judge of his own essentials?

Let’s see, government uses anti-trust to attack and break up successful market businesses, making it difficult to accumulate the wealth necessary to fund speculative scientific research.

It was the great wealth of the robber barons that allowed them to fund libraries and institutions of higher learning. Vast sums were also being spent directly on research. Was it really a great idea to attack that wealth with anti-trust and income taxes? Today, capital gains are still not indexed for inflation.

Our activist government assaults us all. Most can survive, work around, or even find ways to profit from the assault. The poor can’t. The poor are hurt the worst. Simple economics.

James R. Oglesby received his B.A. degree in Eco-

nomics from Sonoma State University in 1984.

Freedom tracks

Socialism and jumping

Kudos to Kate Moore and David Koolhoven. Their YouTube video nicely demonstrates how socialism would change the nature of trampoline jumping.

Such videos appear to be fertile ground for demonstrating libertarian concepts. Imagine a similar video on the invention of the airplane. While launching a Wright Flyer the voiceover could explain how the Wright brothers risked their own money. They used model planes and invented the wind tunnel to ensure they could first control an airplane. Then they moved onto powered flight.

Meanwhile, the government gave four times as much money to the former head of the Smithsonian Institution in an effort to demonstrate powered flight. Plane after plane was crashed, at great risk to the pilots’ lives, and soon the government funded project was out of money.

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

Help wanted

Reporters, columnists, researchers, movie critics, photographers, and other interested parties are invited to join *LibertyRISING*.

In particular, if you subscribe to one of the local weekly papers, forward any interesting items that may warrant political action.

That’s right, just contact LibertyRising. Join the battle against big government zombies.

“The ultimate consequence of protecting men from the results of their own folly is to fill the world with fools.”

Herbert Spencer