

Liberty Rising

What's happening?

LP Sonoma Elections

April 1, 2009 – Election of officers will be held at 7:00pm, Round Table Pizza, Coddington, Santa Rosa. Per LP Sonoma by-laws the following offices will be filled by majority vote of party members in attendance: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer.



2009 LPC Convention
 April 24-26, 2009 – Check out the details at www.ca.lp.org/events.

Sonoma County Friends of NRA

May 9, 2009 – 17th Annual dinner and auction fund raiser. 7:00pm, Sonoma Veterans Hall, BMH8787@comcast.net

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 panel, 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?

Register your disgust

Gravenstein Union School District Measure A has failed. That doesn't diminish the fact that the district held a rigged election to deliberately bypass the will of the electorate.

With just under a 42% turnout, it would have only taken 28% of the actual voters to win this election. Since only about half the eligible bothers to register, that means 14% of the eligible voters could have passed this tax measure.

That's why the district scheduled this tax measure at a special election rather than at a general election that would attract a much larger turnout. Then, in open defiance of our heritage (no taxation without representation) Measure A allowed seniors to opt out of paying the parcel tax.

This clear bribery was shameful. Their defiance of our heritage was arrogant. A special election for a tax measure is intolerable. Take a minute to register your disgust with the district. Better yet, take two minutes and send a tea bag.

G.U.S.D., 3840 Twig Avenue, Sebastopol, CA 95472. Phone 823-7008.

News break

The Missouri Information Analysis Center (MIAC) was established in 2005 to gather intelligence to help law enforcement combat terrorism. Part of that effort targets teaching law enforcement how to recognize potential members of domestic terrorist organizations - militias.



MIAC issued a report this past February titled "The Modern Militia Movement." Some key indicators that someone is likely to be a member of a militia are: Third-party bumper stickers, anti-government literature, and flying the Gadsden flag.

If you don't have any of those items, come to the next LP Sonoma meeting and buy a raffle ticket.

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
 Help wanted

Demographics

The three Sonoma County cities with the highest density of registered Libertarians are: Healdsburg, Windsor, and Sebastopol. The cities with the greatest concentration of nearby Libertarians are: Sebastopol, Sonoma, and Windsor.

Demographics suggest that Sebastopol is the key area for political action. Healdsburg and Windsor are tied for second. Importantly, all three cities are near Santa Rosa. Over 500 Libertarians have a Santa Rosa mailing address, and could easily provide additional volunteers for efforts in nearby cities.

Now we just need to know what issues are of interest to Libertarians in Sebastopol, Healdsburg, and Windsor.

As usual, contact LP Sonoma with your ideas.

LP Sonoma meets

The Libertarian Party of Sonoma County (LP Sonoma) kicks off the 2009-2010 election cycle April 1, 2009, at Round Table Pizza, Cottington, at 7pm. New officers will be elected.

Only members of the California Libertarian Party (CLP) who are also residents of Sonoma County may vote. Registered Libertarian voters are invited to attend, meet local activists, and participate in planning for the next two years.

Join CLP at www.ca.lp.org.

Effective outreach

Possibly the most effective outreach material is most any of P.J. O'Rourke's humorous books. They effectively use humor to drive home the point that people seem to do best when free, and that the source of most problems is government intervention.

Parliament of Whores (1992), *Give War a Chance* (1992), *All the Trouble in the World* (1994), *Eat the Rich* (1998) and *On the Wealth of Nations*

(2007) are just a few of his efforts. His humor keeps you reading, allowing time for his pro-freedom message to take hold.

On the other hand, what interested citizen could resist reading Frederic Bastiat's slim (75 pages) and inexpensive booklet, *The Law*?

Many Libertarians came through the forge of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*, which is now very dated in its depiction of technology. Would *Capitalism the Unknown Ideal* be a better introduction? What of *The Incredible Bread Machine*, *Free to Choose*, or *Economics in One Lesson*? What is the best book for Libertarian outreach?

Contact LibertyRISING with your suggestions.

Keep your powder dry

Not in the literal sense, because that doesn't need to be said. Rather, in the sense of being prepared.

In a crisis, it is too late to take a first aid course, pick up a supply of ammunition, or attempt to buy a firearm. Similarly, when political action is necessary it is too late to organize and round up supplies.

"Helping the poor through the government is like feeding sparrows through horses."

Walter Williams, 1953

The time to organize is now. Who would you call – make a list. Who would you write to or send a flyer – make a list. Have stamps and envelopes on hand. Ten minutes of effective political action is easy if you are prepared.

Contact LP Sonoma. They likely have some little task you can help with.

What's the answer?

Q: What's a "letter of Marque"?

A: From Wikipedia, "a letter of marque is an official warrant or commission from a government authorizing the designated agent to search, seize, or destroy speci-

fied assets or personnel belonging to a foreign party." Typically this is used to authorize privateers to raid enemy merchant ships.

Q: What's a "Bill of attainder"?

A: It is a legislative act or law which punishes an individual or group, bypassing the niceties of a trial.

Q: Why was the Twentieth Amendment passed?

A: Although faced with agitation to regulate alcohol, the federal government had no authority to act. Amendment XX gave that authority to the federal government which quickly passed legislation to control alcohol. Ninety years ago our Constitution still had meaning.

What do you know?

Handle guns like students?

Sharon Harris of Advocates for Self-Government has a wonderful blog discussing how gun owners would react to a proposal to have the government store our guns during the day.

Professionals would look after our firearms, cleaning, adjusting, and tinkering as they thought best. To make this service convenient, the government would send trucks to our homes twice a day to pick up and return our valuable weapons.

If we were dissatisfied with their efforts, particularly the tinkering, we would be free to pay a private business to tend to our firearms during the day. Of course, we would bear the cost and receive no rebate from the government for not using their service.

This would be intolerable to gun owners, the same people who tolerate the government picking their children up every morning to clean, adjust, and tinker with their minds.

If we don't stop the government's cleaning, adjusting, and tinkering with the minds of our children, will we ever regain our freedom?

What about global warming?

By chance I stumbled upon "An Appeal to Reason, a Cool Look at Global Warming" by Nigel Lawson. This slim book directly confronts global warming hysteria in barely 106 pages. Nicely backed with 23 pages of

notes and a ten-page bibliography, this book is must-read.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) attempts to predict the cost of global warming by examining five areas: water supply, food supply, health impacts, ecosystem impacts, and coastal impacts. Lawson then skips past the inflated claims of the hysterics and uses the IPCC conclusions to show how little there is to worry about in all five areas.

This eminently readable book is both likely to be read by the concerned while being inexpensive enough to lend out. Buy several copies and get busy.

Knowledge is power.

How to get an outstanding liberal arts education for \$7,000

On LewRockwell.com I found a link to a commentary by Joe O'Donnell. He suggests using the Socratic Dialogue method while spending four to five years studying just seven books. Most of the \$7,000 cost is for tutors who are knowledgeable in the various subject areas, and who will use the Socratic method.

Here is O'Donnell's book list: *Complete Works of Shakespeare*, Bertrand Russell's *History of Western Philosophy*, Randall's *The Making of the Modern Mind*, Rothbard's *Man, Economy and State*, Courant and Robbins' *What is Mathematics*, Abelson's *Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs*, and Feynman's *Lectures on Physics*.

O'Donnell admits there needs to be an eighth book on general world history. Any suggestions? I am enjoying H.G. Wells' *The Outline of History*, but it was last updated in 1949. It also suffers from being a two-volume work. An interesting alternative is *Babylon is Everywhere*, by Wolf Schneider, and first published in German in 1960. This unique book looks at world history by examining the history of cities.

Considering the season I spent in a weekly bowling league, this sounds like a lot more fun, especially as a group. — J. Oglesby

Directory

LibertyRISING is published by James R. Oglesby, Acting-Chair of the Libertarian Party of Sonoma County.

The deadline for the April issue is 4/15/09. 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

2/25 *The Press Democrat*

The California state Controller has reported that California's employee retirement benefits are unfunded to a tune of \$48 billion. Pretty funny.

3/1 *The Press Democrat*

Two Santa Rosa city employees had opinion pieces regarding cutbacks at city hall. Jodi Alton assured us that city employees "are not spoiled government workers cruising along on a free ride of the taxpayers' money." Oh? Who ever claimed "free ride"? Isn't the issue simply that when unions butt heads with politicians, the taxpayer loses every time? No time to laugh.

3/3 *The Press Democrat*

Syndicated columnist Bob Herbert wails about "an especially grim time for young workers." Bob somehow hasn't noticed the vast array of barriers government has placed between young workers and gainful employment.

Truancy laws keep many in the classroom (bored and disruptive) who would be better off learning a trade. Those who endure the full twelve years of basic education in America are rewarded with a sub-standard education. Among the elite graduates who go on to the California U.C. system, roughly 40% require remedial classes in English and mathematics.

Minimum wage laws make it illegal to hire those with minimal skills. Employer taxes steer companies towards automation. And, there are many man-

dated benefits that kick in once an employer has a certain number of employees (10 – 25 – 50 – 100 – whatever). Laughing in the soup kitchen.

3/4 *The Press Democrat*

As part of the federal stimulus plan California is getting \$8 billion for a high speed rail line to be built in eight stages. Stage one will be complete in 2015. Now we know why Congress rushed to pass the Obama stimulus package – just have to get the money spent before the recession/depression ends. Stimulatingly funny.

"Every man has a property in his own person. This nobody has any right to but himself. The labor of his body, and the work of his hands, are properly his."

John Locke, 1690

3/14 *The Press Democrat*

Just weeks after solving the \$45 billion California budget crisis, the legislature's budget analyst says we'll still have an \$8 billion deficit because the economy has worsened.

Of course, this doesn't include the unfunded pension liabilities for state employees. That's another \$45 billion. Where's the Joker when we need him?

3/15 *The Press Democrat*

"Chronicle union OKs concessions." In an effort to save their paper and their jobs, union workers have agreed to a variety of concession, including a longer work week for the same pay. Once again the connection between wages and employment is made clear. Higher wages reduce employment. Yes, living wage ordinances reduce the demand for labor at the new and higher wage rates. Laugh only if you still have a job.

3/22 The Press Democrat

Possessed by a “progressive” majority, the City of Santa Rosa is poised to embark on a self-destructive descent into policy madness. To “keep” affordable housing, the owners of an apartment complex are being denied the right to convert those units into condominiums.

The “progressive” City Council apparently believes that denying property owners the right to control their property is a good way to encourage private investment in housing. “Progressives” are always willing to help until it hurts. Tickled, anyone?

Media silence

False praise of G.I. Bill

In praising the effects of the G.I. Bill on post-WWII, President Obama forgot that the G.I. Bill was essentially a voucher plan good at any college in America (public or private, religious or not). If that was so successful for college students, why not vouchers for elementary and secondary students?

Government provided education is a hoax.

“Government is the great fiction through which everybody endeavors to live at the expense of everybody else.”

Frederic Bastiat, 1848

Jail for Ponzi king

Story after story has been devoted by the mainstream media to Bernard Madoff and his Ponzi scheme. Where is the coverage and analysis of the Social Security and Medicare Ponzi schemes? Their unfunded liabilities are \$50-100 trillion, depending upon how far out we run our projections.

Don’t misunderstand the math. If we invested the \$50-100 trillion today, those funds would grow into the actual amount needed to pay those liabilities in full.

Government provided security is a hoax.

My 0.02

19 March 2009

Dear Supervisor Kelley,

I am writing to express my disappointment over County plans to get into the energy conservation loan business. This seems to me to be an area already well-served by the marketplace. There are a wide variety of lending institutions (banks, savings & loans, credit unions, pawn shops) that are fully capable of making small loans to consumers and businesses. Additionally, both property owners and business owners have lines of credit, credit cards, savings accounts, and monthly cash flows from which to extract small sums for energy conservation projects.

In turn, Sonoma County is facing many problems that require the focused attention of the Board and its staff. Without attempting to be thorough, there is the continuing decline and disrepair of the many veterans’ buildings, the many miles of rural roads in disrepair, and the closed main dump (due to disrepair?).

Are there no longer things that people should do for themselves? Is government, at some level, really expected to do everything for us? Am I really capable of voting for you but not capable of evaluating the need for energy conservation projects? Am I really not capable of finding a way to pay for worthwhile energy conservation?

I find myself ever more tired of government doing ever more. I am disappointed that it does so ever more poorly. My message to you is simple and clear. Please vote for the County to do less, and to do it better. Keep doing less until the County has enough money to do its remaining work well.

- J. 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

In his address to the nation President Obama foolishly lamented that American-made hybrid cars were using batteries made in Korea. Most obviously, attacking free trade was the same tactic used by Herbert Hoover. Not a good plan.

People trade to make themselves better off. When that trade is forbidden by government, both parties are made worse off. Such an order would “benefit” some American workers and battery companies, but only by harming Americans who buy from those same companies. Workers building products made from those more expensive batteries would also be hurt, along with their customers.

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

Freedom tracks

Project outreach

1,700 postcards mailed. 150 newsletters mailed. \$400 in donations collected. Two volunteers to help with mailings.

Libertarian voters alerted to issues: Living wage; Gravenstein U.S.D. Measure A; County energy conservation loans.

Volunteer found to cover cost of the monthly newsletter sent to LP Sonoma members.

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.