

#### Editor's Notes

March's meeting was lightly attended and lasted not much longer than an hour.

I reported on distribution of our press release on the ballot propositions...We discussed the County Supervisors races...I announced that we (the San Mateo LP) finally have a web presence, after two earlier false starts...<http://www.california.com/~lpsm/>

We discussed and decided to copy the LP of New Hampshire's Each One Reach One membership drive. Because we have relatively few members (compared to New Hampshire), it is important that everyone participate, if possible.

Our *next meeting* will be Wednesday April 17, at Amy Guthrie's office in Palo Alto, from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. (See the map on the back page for directions)

**Each One Reach One** A big boost in membership-that's the goal of the new "Each One Reach One" project announced by LPSM Chair Kate O'Brien.

"A major goal in 1996 is to increase our membership, and the Each One Reach One project is an easy way for everyone to help," she said.

To participate in the Each One Reach One project, every LPSM member and supporter is asked to send in the name of one friend who may be interested in the less government/more personal freedom message of the Libertarian Party, plus one dollar per name to help cover postage costs.

The biggest favor

"We want the name of anyone who might be sympathetic to our cause; friend, neighbor, family, or coworker," said O'Brien. "Maybe you've discussed Libertarianism with them and they seemed interested. Or maybe they said something about government getting out of control.

"Either way, the biggest favor you can do for them is to give them the opportunity to be introduced to the Libertarian Party."

The LPSM will mail out an information package to each person, which will contain an issue of the San Mateo Libertarian and two copies of the Advocates for Self Government's World's Smallest Political Quiz cards. Each package will include a personally addressed, hand-signed letter from O'Brien, explaining why they are receiving this information, and the name of the person who contributed their name. An introductory package from the LPC (LP of California) or from the LPNC (LP National Committee) will follow within a month.

"People take such mailings more seriously when they know that a friend asked for them to receive it," explained O'Brien. "Otherwise they look on it as junk mail."

Complimentary

In addition, every person will receive a complimentary six-month subscription to the San Mateo Libertarian. "That way, they can get a good idea of who we are and what we stand for," said O'Brien. "There will be no hard sell or demands for money-just an invitation to join us."

"Of course, all this will cost a lot more than the dollar we're asking you to send in, but your contribution will make it easier to afford the price of such a mass mailing," said O'Brien. "And everyone can surely afford to spend a buck for liberty."

More successful

O'Brien said that while obviously not everyone will choose to join, "A certain percentage of any group of people who hear about us will choose to join, so the more names we get, the more successful it will be."

To participate, LPSM members and supporters should send the full name and complete address (including zip code) of a prospect (who must be a resident of San Mateo County) to: Libertarian Party of San Mateo County, 204 East Second Street #842, San Mateo, CA 94401.

"Be sure to include your name, too," said O'Brien. "-And that dollar to help pay for the postage is really appreciated."

"This is a chance to help the LPSM grow," she continued. "It's easy, quick, and cheap! And if each one of us can reach one person, we can keep our membership growth strong."

#### Election Results C.V.A. Schmidt

The best thing to come out of the election hoopla that concluded on March 26 was the large amount of press coverage received by Libertarians because we were one of very few public interest groups to question the wisdom of increasing the State of California's borrowing authority from \$24 billion to \$29 billion (= \$2,800 in debt for each of California's 10.4 million households plus another \$2,600 in interest (if payment is annuitized over 25 years); even more if payments are deferred till due)

The press was able to identify us with opposition to bond debt because long-time Libertarian Ted Brown authored the ballot argument against Proposition 203.



Ted represented us on KQED-FM's Prop 203 panel (as well as on many others). Don Harte (state senate candidate from Marin) represented us on a KPFA panel. I was contacted by the Pacifica Tribune for a quotation. Mark Valverde (SFLP) spoke on several panels. Judging from discussion on the LPC electronic mailing list, the same story was repeated throughout the state.

We fielded a (3-year) record number of inquiries last month as a result of Prop 203 coverage.

Unfortunately, only 30-40% of the voting public joined us in voting against the bond issues. On the positive side, that's a huge voting block which is not represented by either Democrats or Republicans in the legislature (who voted overwhelmingly for Prop 203). §

			CA	CA	Co.	Co.
	<b>Proposition</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Yes%</b>	<b>No%</b>	<b>Yes%</b>	<b>No%</b>
192	Seismic Retrofit Bonds	No	59.85	40.15	70	30
193	Property Re-Assessment Waiver	Yes	67.28	32.72	65	35
194	Unemployment Insurance Exemption	No	73.75	26.25	72	28
195	Death Penalty Circumstances	No	85.72	14.28	82	18
196	More Death Penalty Circumstances	No	85.73	14.27	82	18
197	Wildlife Mountain Lions	No	41.80	58.20	36	64
198	Open Primary	No	59.44	40.56	60	40
199	Mobilehome Rent Control Phase-out	Yes	39.08	60.92	42	58
200	No-Fault Bodily Injury Insurance	Position not taken	34.73	65.27	31	69
201	'Loser Pays' in Shareholder Class Actions	No	40.58	59.42	37	63
202	Attorneys' Contingent Fees Limits	No	48.70	51.30	43	57
203	Still More School Bonds	No	61.85	38.15	70	30

It's my impression that very few voters really understood most of the issues this time around. Some ballot titles were extremely misleading. E.g., how many knew that "No-Fault Motor Vehicle Insurance" didn't concern insurance of the motor vehicles themselves?! (The measure concerned bodily injury claims only.)

How many knew that Prop 198 represented a blanket primary, and not an open primary (the incorrect term used in the ballot title)?

I don't think that the public (or even the measure's authors) understood that Prop 194 grants a preference for prison labor by eliminating unemployment insurance.

I suspect that even some major Prop 203 advocates failed to realize that because bond payments come out of the general fund, schools (which normally receive 40-60% of general fund revenues) will lose as much out of their operating budgets (which come out of the general fund) as they stand to gain in their capital budgets (which buy only half as much as you'd think because the state must spend roughly as much money on interest payments as on the construction projects themselves). And, of course, the other state agencies that draw on the reduced general fund are completely screwed by the deal.

The moral? We need to work harder on public education, and perhaps on 'get-out-the-vote' efforts. §

Jon Matonis, Chris Inama, Joe Dehn, and I each won our (uncontested) primaries for the 11th State Senate, 21st Assembly, 14th, and 12th Congressional Districts, respectively. We each did so with more votes than were cast for any other 'third-party' candidates in our races. §

<b>California Libertarian Presidential Primary</b>	
Harry Browne	50.31 %
Douglass Ohmen	10.55 %
Irwin Schiff	15.41 %
Rick Tompkins	23.74 %

The Presidential Primary is non-binding because of the way our convention works, but winner Harry Browne also leads in straw polls of likely convention delegates.

Illustrating the gulf between reality and that which is reported by the media, Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne garnered more votes than Republican Morry Taylor, despite Taylor's having received hours of coverage on national TV and over 2 million more Republicans who could have chosen him. §

All data shown are taken from the Secretary of State's web site at <http://www.primary96.ca.gov/>, sponsored by Digital. To my great irritation as a statistician, abstentions (which can be substantial) were discarded before calculating the percentages below.

#### **An Appeal for Compassion (Medical Marijuana)**

The State Convention brought good news and bad news: the good news being that the CCRI had collected and submitted over one million signatures, assuring it a place on the November ballot. The bad news is that the Medical Marijuana Initiative is only very close to having the 700,000 signatures required to appear on the November '96 ballot. *Please remember to return all signed initiative sheets in your possession by 4/18/96* to Californians for Compassionate Use, 1444 Market Street, San Francisco CA 94102. Donations are also

welcome.

If you want to collect some last-minute signatures, contact Eric Harlow at (415) 964-3655 (in the South Bay) or CCU at (415) 621-3986 (in San Francisco).

Remember, this initiative will help relieve the suffering of thousands of seriously ill people, many of whom will soon die. The person that you help might be yourself some day.

Cribbed from the Santa Clara Libertarian

#### **Local Outreach Events C.V.A. Schmidt**

Local Libertarians participated in at least three different 'outreach' events last month. (Editor's note: Maybe more-keep me informed!)

¥ Mike Moloney and Chris Inama spoke to a local luncheon group. I'm told the response was apathetic, but with any luck the appearance had a value in increasing name recognition and thereby credibility.



¥ Mark Valverde, of the SFLP, arranged an information booth at a 'Rock the Vote' free concert at Justin Herman Plaza in San Francisco on election day. MTV staged the concert performed by Everclear. Our booth was manned by Mark, Anton Sherwood, Tim Starr, Don Harte, two Libertarians whom I didn't know, and me. Don and I distributed campaign handbills. I might have been able to reach more voters at this event if I had had some facial piercings, though...

¥ Our own Chris Inama and a large group of South Bay Libertarians turned out at a Come Meet The Candidates Night in Milpitas, sponsored by the Curtis Trading Company. The 'town hall' style meeting was attended by roughly 500 voters. Terry Savage and David Bonino (as congressional candidates) were each allowed 2 minutes to address the full assembly and Chris and Jon Petersen and other candidates "worked the crowd" and manned an information booth (with still more Libertarians) where they administered the

"World's Smallest Political Quiz" and distributed literature.

Chris Inama will be speaking this month at a panel for assembly candidates hosted by the IEEE (a professional society for electronic engineers). He also tells me he's teaching a course in business law at the University of Phoenix in San Jose.