

## Meeting Notes Rich Acuff

May's meeting was well attended and sported lively discussion.

Mike Moloney and Chris Inama continue to do yeoman's duty in bringing libertarian ideas to public forums. Mike spoke to four *high school civics classes* at the Aragon and San Mateo high schools last month and has been invited to speak to a Kiwanis group. Additionally, he has produced-at his own expense-a very *nice brochure* which presents some libertarian approaches to current political issues, and offers his *services as a speaker*. Good work, Mike!

Chris Inama attended a *Credit Union PAC* fund raiser where he spoke (and auctioned off a poster of San Francisco 49er Steve Young). Chris has also been highly honored with an invitation to the Critical Review Seminar sponsored by the publication of the same name. Of the 15 invitees, Chris is the only one from the west coast.

We were joined by first-time attendee Peter T. as we discussed *various issues*, including the National LP's proposal to collect both state and national dues; the "Each One Reach One" membership drive; and the several surveys and questionnaires our 12th district congressional candidate Christopher Schmidt has been responding to. -It's fascinating how the democrat-or-republican pigeon holes pervade even the most non-partisan seeming groups. Often the questionnaires simply don't allow an answer of "Yes, I think your special interest should be allowed to do its activity, but I don't think the government should pay for it." Until the mindset that holds that "if you don't want to make other people pay for what I'm doing, then you're against what I'm doing" is relaxed, we'll have a hard row to hoe.

Our *next meeting* will be Wednesday June 19, at the office of Amy Guthrie, D.D.S., in Palo Alto, from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. (See the map on the back page.)

## IEEE Candidate Debate Christopher R. Inama

I was brilliant last night [5/20] in Los Altos at the IEEE candidate debate between the candidates for Assembly District 21. There were 40-50 people in the audience, many of whom were members of the IEEE; averaging in age over 60 years. [The IEEE is an organization for electrical and computer engineers.] A number of audience members approached me after the debate and stated they would vote for me if I was GOP. (One old-timer wants me to be Dole's VP running-mate!) Even GOP candidate Ted Laliotis said he would vote Libertarian, but he wants to have a "realistic chance" to win.

This was the first time all 4 candidates were in the same place at the same time. I don't think we have to fear any threat from the (somewhat weird) Natural Law Party. -They have nothing to do with the natural law political philosophy which is one of the philosophical bases for libertarianism. They espouse imposing "scientifically proven" methods on the population. (Wasn't Karl Marx a "scientific" socialist?) In addition, there is a strong transcendental meditation streak in their program. My conclusion is that I am running against three candidates who are pushing government solutions for all problems. In addition, I am the only anti-abortion candidate (the GOP candidate having switched on this issue).

From audience response, I feel like I carried the debate, at least emotionally. Too bad they are so "locked in" to the 2-party system.

Chris Inama (crinama@ix.netcom.com), is the Libertarian candidate for the 21st Assembly District, covering southern San Mateo County and northwestern Santa Clara County.

[Editor's note: It bears noting that even though Chris is anti-abortion and I am pro-abortion, we both differ radically from our Republican and Democrat counterparts in that, as Libertarians, we oppose the state's forcing citizens to bow to the beliefs of the majority of the moment. Libertarians favor reason and persuasion at the individual level-not coercion by the state.]

## Each One Reach One Wraps Up Kate O'Brien

The LP of San Mateo will wrap up the "Each One Reach One" project this month, with Vice Chair Mary Steiner calling it a "minor success."

"Several San Mateo County residents got to hear about the Libertarian Party and its freedom philosophy thanks to this innovative program, and thanks to the support of LPSM members. To everyone who participated, we definitely owe you a big round of thanks," said Steiner.

"It was especially timely during the spring months, when inquiries were at a predictable low during the lull between the March primary season and the excitement leading up to the November election."

*Five percent did so*The "Each One Reach One" project, announced two months ago, encouraged LPSM members to send in the names of people they know who might have an interest in the LP, along with a dollar to help cover the cost of postage. 5% of LPSM members did so, and information packages are on their way.

Although the LPSM is planning to move on to other membership projects, Steiner said it is not too late for LPSM members to send in any final "Each One Reach One" names. We are hoping for 10% participation!

"If you haven't done it yet, now is the time to send in that name!" she said.

Send the full name and complete address (including zip code) of a San Mateo County resident to "Libertarian Party of San Mateo County, "Each One Reach One" Project, 204 East Second Avenue, #842, San Mateo CA 94401-3948.

## Separation of <everything> and State C. Schmidt

Chuck Miller (cam22@earthlink.net) asks, in talk.politics.libertarian:

Can anyone out there help me solve this...very complex problem: equal representation in the political structure?

In most democratic countries the leadership is often (but not always) drawn from a limited ethnic segment or the elite strata of a society. The results of this process is a dominant political culture which usually does not reflect the values or attitudes of everyone, subsequently reflecting their own views instead. The question is then how do you achieve equal representation for all of the states citizens and not just the prevailing views of the elite.

You allude to a thorny problem. Indeed-if the government is powerful-an impossible problem. Imagine a country where two of the religions have, as respective tenets: (a) marketing must be done on Saturday only, and (b) commerce is forbidden on Saturday. If the government controls the markets there is NO representation or system of representation that is fair to all. Religious conflict of this nature is almost unknown in the U.S. because the government (for the most part) does not run the markets, and under a (wisely) broad interpretation of the first amendment, can base no policy on religious considerations. By contrast, Europe's history is one of war and discord because people ceded so much authority to the government. Wanna end the bitter debates on the subject of our national school curricula? (and the equally bitter question of ethnic/religious/cultural representation on the curricula committees?) Fold the Department of Education. End the federal nuclear/solar/coal debate? Close the Department of Energy. End the question of Social Security's generational fairness? Privatize it. Solve the problem of "unfair" budget cuts/spending increases? Get the government out of the process. Let people choose their own charities, investments, and culture themselves. Abortion? Ditto. Don't get me wrong- I don't claim everyone will be happy-especially those who want to run the lives of others. You may disapprove of phonics. I may disapprove of whole-word theory. We will do so whether the government sets teaching standards or not. But if the government doesn't, neither of us will worry that the other might use the power of government to impose his theory on the other, and we won't particularly care which school of thought is predominant among our legislators.

I think you asked the wrong question. The **answer** is limited government.

As a thought experiment, consider the troubles in Ireland and Israel: Which would be a likelier salve: a different system of elections, or separation of church and state in the American mode? (Hint: in the U.S. probably no more than 10% of the citizens know the religion of their representative in Congress.)