

Candidate petition mailing a success!

Over \$6,000 saved in government filing fees

by Margret Schmidt

Many thanks to the 217 registered Libertarians who responded to our recent candidate petition mailing. We circulated petitions for five different candidates, who otherwise would have had to pay a total of \$6,405 in filing fees if they weren't able to collect the 660 signatures needed to put them on the ballot for the June Primary. So far, four of them have qualified for the ballot without paying any fees, and we're pretty close on the fifth!

A special thanks to all of you who came out to Palo Alto on December 27 and helped out with all the stuffing, sorting, folding, and hilighting for the petition drive. Without your dedicated help, our success wouldn't have been possible!

We would like to welcome the 18 new San Mateo County members (including one new life member!) who joined as a result of the petition mailing. Thanks for your support! In addition, everyone who filled out and returned our petitions will receive a free 3-month subscription to this newsletter. We hope you'll consider joining the party too!

Internet anti-"spam" resolution passes unanimously

by Robert Giedt

During January's business meeting, Christopher Schmidt introduced a resolution which focused on Internet "spamming"--the practice of sending unsolicited electronic mail to a large number of e-mail addresses (generally done for advertising purposes). Spam is widely frowned upon on the Internet and the use of it on behalf of the Libertarian Party could potentially cause severe damage to our party's name and reputation. This resolution had already been passed in our neighboring county (Santa Clara) and was voted in unanimously by the San Mateo County members present.

Here is the text in its entirety:

Libertarian Party of San Mateo County
RESOLUTION REGARDING SPAM
Adopted 21 January 1998

WHEREAS the practice of advertising by broadcasting e-mail messages to people who have expressed no specific individual interest in a product, service, or organization ("spamming") is widely considered rude and obnoxious, and

WHEREAS spamming for the purpose of publicizing the LP could damage the reputation of the LP among users of e-mail and result in condemnation of the LP across the Internet, and

WHEREAS complaints and retaliation triggered by spamming have the potential for wasting LP resources and causing other damage to the LP's interests, and

WHEREAS a policy of avoiding spamming does not preclude responsible use of e-mail to communicate with interested members and prospects within the bounds of commonly accepted Internet etiquette, and

WHEREAS decisions by LP organizations and activists over the years to refrain from spamming have maintained a good reputation for the LP in this regard up to now, and

WHEREAS any spamming that appears to be done on behalf of the LP, whether or not officially sanctioned, could have the same negative consequences for the LP, and

WHEREAS the increased use of e-mail by LP activists makes clarification of policy in this area desirable,

Now Therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that it is the policy of the LP of San Mateo County not to advertise by spamming, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to advise all LP candidates, officers, and other activists that spamming for the purpose of advertising the LP or which could be seen as being done on behalf of the LP is likely to harm the LP and should not be done.

The torch is passed

New SMLP officers elected

by Robert Giedt

No, it's not the Olympics, but rather the annual election of officers to the Libertarian Party of San Mateo County. In all, 10 positions were filled by January's elections and we have a full complement of officers for the new year.

Steve Marsland (our candidate for the 19th Assembly District) was elected Chair, replacing retired chair Mary Steiner. The SMLP would like to acknowledge the great work Mary did throughout her tenure as Chair and wish her the best in her continuing pursuits!



The remaining officers were reelected to their previous positions (as seen on the masthead to the left), and we added Bernie Jackson as our first official Campaigns Chair. Feel free to contact any of the officers if you have questions or concerns. We're here for **you!**

December and January meeting notes

by Christopher Schmidt

In December and January we held two business meetings, a special petition mailing assembly meeting, and a postcard mailing assembly meeting. All told, 21 people showed up (at different events), 16 of whom participated in the petition mailing--thanks, guys!

December's Bylaws/Constitution changes

At December's meeting we completed the process of debating and voting on proposed bylaw changes begun in November.

A change in the treatment of vacancies was adopted 700, as were minor revisions to the stated responsibilities of the Chair, Newsletter Chair, Campaigns Chair, and Treasurer.

A new section, creating the position of Database Chair was adopted 601.

The requirements for bringing a matter before the judicial committee were reduced by a vote of 700. Miscellaneous changes to grammar and capitalization were also approved unanimously.

My proposal to revise the executive committee's mail-in voting procedure to adapt it for e-mail was debated at length. No one except me was prepared to approve the motion as written, but all were prepared to vote "aye" subject to the addition of various strictures. I withdrew the motion for rework and reintroduction at a future date.

The revised constitution and bylaws are posted on the LPSM Web site at <http://www.california.com/~lpsm/constitution.html>

December's Party Caucus

We concluded the December meeting with the official "party caucus" at which we unanimously voted to designate [Mike Moloney](#) as the LPC's candidate for the 12th Congressional District and Steve Marsland as our candidate for the 19th Assembly District. We also voted to support [Joe Dehn](#)'s candidacy for the 14th Congressional District (though technically a caucus sponsored by the [LP of Santa Clara County](#) has that authority).

Petition Mailing

At the special petition mailing assembly meeting December 27, we worked most of the day to hi-lite and assemble 6,000 pieces of paper and 3,000 envelopes into 1,500 sorted pieces of mail in 14 trays weighing a total of 94 pounds. In addition to our local candidates, we circulated petitions for Jon Petersen (candidate for State Treasurer) and [Kennita Watson](#) (candidate for State Board of Equalization, District 1), both of whom participated in the work party.

The response has been everything we hoped it would be! As of this writing, 13% have returned their petitions (almost the number we need to avoid ballot-access filing fees), and many included donations or membership contributions. Because of the way memberships are shared with the LP of California and the LP National Committee, we (the LPSM) get to keep (as it turns out) almost exactly enough money to cover our petition drive costs (yes!!) and the LPC and LPNC will be able to use their cuts to support state and nationwide programs.

January's officer elections

At January's meeting we elected officers for 1998, named delegates to the state LP convention, passed a resolution against "spam" on the Internet, and discussed plans for a social get-together in March.

Steve Marsland narrowly edged out Lacy Nelson with a 54 vote for the office of Chair. Lacy and the other officers in the masthead were elected or reelected to their respective positions by unanimous votes. Mary Steiner, the retiring Chair, was thanked warmly for her two years of service in the post. She will continue to participate in special projects in the future.

Other January business

Margret, Bernie, and I were named delegates to the LPC convention in Los Angeles with authority to name other delegates as we see fit.

I introduced a resolution against "spam" (e-mail advertising that is broadcast to people expressing no prior interest in a product). The resolution (see accompanying article) was adopted by a vote of 900. The same resolution was adopted a week earlier by the LP of Santa Clara County in response to a proposal to promote a libertarian Web site by sending unsolicited e-mail to computer industry corporations' internal e-mail lists.

We also discussed ideas for our first purely social get-together of the year, to be held on the afternoon of Sunday, March 15. The location will likely be a hotel in Foster City or San Mateo. Although the primary intention is to allow libertarians to meet like-minded people, we will also enjoy a brief dramatic reading by Steve Marsland on what became of Tom McKeen and other signers of the Declaration of Independence. Call Barbara Less (Activities Chair) for details or to help set up at 650/355-9069.

Jon Petersen (candidate for State Treasurer) attended the meeting to personally thank our region's volunteers, members, and donors for our help circulating (and signing!) his ballot access petitions. He and the other candidates extended their personal thanks to Margret Schmidt for designing the mailing, preparing the envelopes, and coordinating the effort.

Jon also brought copies of the California "Free the People" initiative (to repeal the state income tax), authored by former LP of Santa Clara Chair David Bonino. We will debate the merits of circulating this initiative at February's meeting, where copies will be available to interested parties.

Entertainment Book sale results

Through our Entertainment Book drive in November and December, we managed the sale of 16 books which equated to a total of \$128 for our local region!

Thanks to all of you that purchased a book and we appreciated your patience as we promoted the living daylights out of our fundraiser. Dine and entertain in good health with your discount books!

Next meeting of the LP of San Mateo County:

Wednesday, February 18
Prime Time Athletic Club
1730 Rollins Road, Burlingame (between Broadway and Millbrae Avenue)
Informal chat/dinner: 6:30-7:30pm in the cafe
Business meeting: 7:30-9:00pm in the multipurpose room.
Business agenda:

1. Discuss whether to include the "Free the People" as an insert in the next newsletter.
2. Libertarian Party of California convention report.
3. Final summary of candidate petition drive.
4. Web strategy and campaign updates for Mike Moloney and Steve Marsland.
5. Clarify roles of working committees and officers.
6. Planning for March 15 social event.

Mark those calendars for Sunday, March 15!

The afternoon of **Sunday, March 15**, we'll be holding a casual mixer in **San Mateo** where you'll be able to meet fellow libertarians, listen to a talk on our Declaration of Independence by Chair Steve Marsland and partake in food and drink. Complete details are coming in March's newsletter. See you there!