



image: Robert Santorelli

san mateo county

libertarian

the newsletter for the Libertarian Party of San Mateo County

december 2012

message from the vice chair

By Lois Garcia

This past year in the LPSM has been both gratifying and frustrating. On a personal level, I was pleased to bring back the LPSM newsletter in an effort to reach out to our membership, but have yet to meet most of you. Libertarian incumbent **John Inks** was elected Vice Mayor of Mountain View, but our LPSM Judicial Committee member, **Jack Hickey**, lost his race for the Sequoia Health Care District. The LPSM fought the county's Measure A tax increase, with both a ballot argument and a video, and lost that fight.

The November 6th elections brought many other disappointments. At the same time, Libertarian presidential candidate **Gary Johnson** captured just over 1 million votes, twice the number of votes garnered by the Libertarian presidential candidate in 2008.

What about 2013?

There are signs of hope for the spreading of libertarian values. **Antiwar.com**, with offices in San Francisco and Los Angeles, is planning a Bay Area rally next year. **Ron Paul** followers in our area, many (if not most) in the 25-35 year old demographic, are remaining politically active and working to uphold Paul's anti war, anti tax, and pro free market principles. **Tea Party** activists in San Mateo County are pushing for fiscally conservative leaders. Whatever their political label, these groups are making efforts to change things for the better, in areas that matter to Libertarians.

If I remain in office next year, I would like to be appointed

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webmistress and redesign the LPSM website. I'd like to contact each one of you with a phone call or email, and find out what you think we can do to promote liberty. It would be great to work on some liberty-oriented projects next year, and gain exposure for the LPSM.

This January's meeting is to elect LPSM officers and make position appointments. Some positions require a very minimal time commitment, and are appropriate even for the busiest person. If you would like to learn ways of getting involved in your local Libertarian Party, please come to the meeting on January 15th. I hope to see you there!

Lois Garcia

Vice Chair, Libertarian Party of San Mateo County

november 2013 elections

By Lois Garcia

According to shapethefuture.org, the San Mateo County elections and voter registration website, 2013 will bring us:

- special district elections for fire, recreation, sanitary, police protection, water and community council
- school district elections for elementary school, high school and community college
- municipal elections for the cities of Belmont, Brisbane, Burlingame, Foster City, Millbrae, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Bruno, San Carlos, San Mateo, South San Francisco and Woodside

Generally, more than one City Council position in a city will be filled in November. For example, in San Carlos, two City Council member terms will expire. In San Mateo, three City Council seats will be available.

There are also appointed positions up for grabs throughout the year in various cities. These positions are filled in a process similar to a job interview. There is no political experience needed, no campaigning required, and no fees to pay.

If you are interested in getting involved in the 2013 elections, or with any upcoming ballot measures, please visit one of the monthly (3rd Tuesday) meetings and let the LPSM executive committee know of your interest as soon as possible.

online activism

By Lois Garcia

Before the world wide web (aka The Internet) was part of everyday life, long and contentious discussions about politics took place online through mailing lists called newsgroups. The audience for these discussions was narrow in that only the most computer literate people were subscribed, and people usually subscribed to those lists that most interested them. There is an old saying, "preaching to the converted"...

Online activism has evolved since then. There is a greater potential to reach more people with different viewpoints. News sites and portals like Yahoo! invite readers to comment. YouTube videos also allow user commentary. AOL has a set of locally oriented web sites called Patch, which focus on different cities, and are driven by user content rather than by big media. Neighborhood residents can add their point of view and submit ideas for stories to be cover. The most active users of the sites are invited to become regular bloggers.

Social networking sites like Facebook encourage as many connections between you and other people as possible. Other sites and services leverage your Facebook login, so that your activity with them becomes part of your Facebook page. Creating a Facebook group page for the LPSM would be a great first project for a membership chair.

The omnipresent click tracking online provides an opportunity for passive activism. Entering "libertarians in California" or "Constitutional violations" in a search box and following some links leaves a trail of bread crumbs for data analysts to follow.

There is a dark side to online activism. A wise person considers the possible consequences before clicking "post". Like a classic email "reply all" gaffe, it's usually not possible to retract online actions.

Although we risk some negative reactions, like in the newsgroup flame wars of old, to challenge ignorance and stand up for our principles online just might make someone think twice. It might give someone else the courage to speak up. It might produce better results for the LP than being silent victims.

I'm Joining the Libertarian Party of California!

Yes! I want to become a member of the Libertarian Party of California.

- \$25 Dues
- \$ _____ Additional one-time gift
- \$ _____ Monthly Pledge (\$10/month minimum; counts as dues)
- \$2,000 Life Membership

Mail completed remittance form to (and make checks payable to):

The Libertarian Party of California

14547 Titus Street, Suite 214 - Panorama City, CA 91402-4935
office@ca.lp.org - (818) 782-8400 - www.ca.lp.org

The Libertarian Party is the Party of Principle. To publicly affirm our belief and ensure that our party never strays from our principles, we ask members to proudly sign and date this statement:

I certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

Check or money order enclosed. Monthly pledgers please include a voided check to authorize automatic monthly payments.
Or: Please bill my Visa MasterCard AmEx Discover

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san mateo county libertarian party

LPSM annual meeting

IHOP Restaurant
510 El Camino Real, Belmont

January 15, 2012

6:30-7:30pm Dinner/Conversation
everyone welcome

7:30-8:45pm Business Session
dues-paying members only

Central Committee Meeting for the election of officers and

**discussion of the LPSM in the
coming year**

libertarian party of san mateo county
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