

# LibertyRising

Our Vision: More freedom through less government, fewer regulations and lower taxes for all.

## What's happening?

### LP Sonoma

Monday, April 20, 2020 - 7:00 PM via Zoom. Freedom of assembly has been temporarily (?) forbidden.

### Anniversary of Lexington and Concord

Sunday, April 19, 2020 - Celebrate the 245<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battles at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts - **If you dare**

### LP Sonoma

Monday, May 18, 2020 - To Be Determined

## What's a Libertarian to do?

### Communicate !

LP Sonoma needs your eyes and ears to monitor local government activities, for the sooner they know of impending government actions, the more effectively they can respond. A good example is the upcoming special elections on May 5, 2020.

Ballot Measure J (Coast Life Support District) is asking for an increase in the current special tax to raise \$1,180,350 annually. While the voter guide has an argument in favor, there is no argument against.

Similarly, ballot Measure K (Northern Sonoma County fire Protection District) is asking for a parcel tax to raise \$650,000 annually.

Again, there is a ballot argument in favor, but not one against.

Both measures require a two-thirds vote to pass, leaving them very vulnerable if even a small campaign is waged against them.

Voter silence is deafening in the face of insatiable government growth. It is time to apply the tool of tyrants - "see something, say something." LP Sonoma needs to hear from you about government expansion, government failure (the two go hand-in-hand), government obstacles to freedom, and government hubris.

**Stay "thirsty my friends," thirsty for liberty!**

## News break

### NJ Governor dismisses Bill of Rights

After proudly trampling First Amendment rights, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy said, "I wasn't thinking of the Bill of Rights when we did this." He had also quipped that such concerns were "above my pay grade."

In comparison, an anonymous email to LewRockwell.com was suitably outraged: *"I'M NOT IMPACTED BY COVID-19. I'M IMPACTED BY UNCONSTITUTIONAL DICTATORIAL FATWAS BY TYRANTS AND BUREAUCRATS."*

**Survive COVID-19, yes; survive Socialism, no.**

## Tyranny marches

The LP News (national LP) recently reported that the ACLU is suing to "stop the demolition of Amish-owned homes" in Michigan (Lenawee County). Apparently the Amish in Lenawee County live in residences that feature hand-pumped wells and outhouses. What's next, demolishing home with dial-up internet, or those that lack microwave ovens, or (yes, of course) those with actual books instead of Kindles and such?

Likely, this is just a tax grab on the part of Lenawee County as new homes with modern "necessities" would dramatically increase the value of the Amish properties.

**Silence is golden to tyrants of every stripe. What do we bequeath posterity if we stay silent?**

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### What's the answer?

Q: Why were some women jubilant at the recent news that female labor force participation now exceeded that of men? A: Likely because they were not looking at the broader context. Since WWII 90% of working-age men were in the labor force. In recent decades that has declined and now stands at 70%..

Q. Who was Erwin Penry? A. He was the author of the sole letter published in the Press Democrat denouncing the internment of American citizens of Japanese ancestry during WWII.

*Tu ne cede malis sed contra sudentior ito. If you are as poor at Latin as your editor, it means, "do not give in to evil but proceed ever more boldly against it." See Virgil's Aeneid.*

Q. Okay, why the internment? A. Because every crisis must be seized by the stupid to increase their power. During WWII, Lt. General John L. DeWitt told FDR that the lack of evidence of sabotage by Japanese Americans was

proof that sabotage was going to occur.

**A crisis is always an opportunity to trample freedom, be it war or pandemic.**

Q. How to grow the middle class? A. From the Summer 2019 edition of New Jersey Libertarian, Murray Sabrin makes a few points: "A middle class is the result of investment and production." "[T]here is no shortcut to creating a middle-class other than to have a vibrant free-market economy based upon investment and production."

Q. What is the Brushfire of Freedom Contest? A. In 2018 San Bernardino County Libertarian Party established an annual essay contest "on a liberty based theme." The contest is for high school students and the prize is \$1,000. Perhaps we could emulate this, with a different name, of course.

Q. Which to pursue, Libertarian moralizing or Libertarian social engineering? A. In an essay, Jason Kuznicki suggest the former is both easy and satisfying, while the latter is difficult and thankless. He advocates for the latter. He believes we need to make deliberate attempts "to create, on an incremental, case-by-case basis, the new, voluntary institutions and practices that a society would need if it were to become significantly more private, more decentralized, and more free."

Q. Uh, a follow up, please. What does that mean. A. It means we start creating and growing the voluntary institutions needed to replace the existing non-voluntary government services. In many cases there are existing private institutions that the general public doesn't even know about? For example, Rural Metro Fire in Arizona.

It started in 1948 as a rural subscription fire department and has grown over the years to include providing fire and ambulance service to local governments in several states. Most everything government does has or can have private alternatives. For a small annual fee Amazon operates a library service that allows its Prime customers to check out up to ten electronic books at a time. Once at the limit, to get another book you have to "return" one.

### What do you know?

#### Santa Rosa J.C.

A decade ago an analysis of the SRJC budget divided by the number of units consumed by SRJC students revealed it was costing taxpayers over \$100/unit (before tuition fees). Thus the three semester calculus sequence cost about \$5,000 per student. Considering the cost of an internet connection and some occasional tutoring, students could learn calculus (the calculus?) for less than \$500.

Why, in the fullness of the internet age, are brick and mortar schools still allowed to devastate taxpayers? Perhaps with so much schooling online, taxpayers might actually listen to those arguing for separation of school and state.

**Check out the Khan Academy and the endless variety of You Tube videos.**

#### Read von Mises

Read anything by Ludwig von Mises. Here is a nice sample:

"The champions of socialism call themselves progressives, but they recommend a system which is characterized by rigid observance of routine and by a resistance to every kind of improvement. They call

themselves liberals, but they are intent upon abolishing liberty. They call themselves democrats, but they yearn for dictatorship. They call themselves revolutionaries, but they want to make the government omnipotent. They promise the blessings of the Garden of Eden, but they plan to transform the world into a gigantic post office. Every man but one subordinate clerk in a bureau. What an alluring utopia! What a noble cause to fight!"

## More books

Since knowledge can lead to more confident action, here are a few more books to digest:

The Politically Incorrect Guide to capitalism by Robert P. Murphy (2007, 206 pages).

Roadmap to Liberty by Lucas Vincent (2015, 411 pages)

The Activists Handbook by Aidan Ricketts (2012, 282 pages).

The Community Activist's Handbook by John Huenefeld (1970, 143 pages).

Humanomics by Vernon L. Smith & Bart J. Wilson (2019, 215 pages)

## Comics

### 04/14 *The Press Democrat*

A letter from Harriet Palk is displeased with Sheriff Essick allowing gun stores to remain open despite the shelter-in-place order.

Isn't it a good idea for all public officials to obey the law? The Supreme Law of the United States of America is our Constitution. In the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment we find the guarantee of the right to peaceably assemble (even in gun stores). In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment we find the right to

"keep and bear arms" (not to keep bears or bare arms). That right cannot exist without the right to purchase arms and ammunition.

### 04/16 *The Windsor Times*

In another miss-guided editorial, in a near endless stream of miss-guided editorials, Rollie Atkinson argues for "A new New Deal."

Atkinson blames the entire 10-year depression on Herbert Hoover and praised Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal, "comprised of 26 economic relief, reform and recovery programs." He admits to "families going hungry," without mentioning the government ordering the destruction of vast quantities of food stuffs (like 6 million baby pigs). He mentions the thousands of bank failures without mentioning that only a handful of banks failed in Canada where they were much less regulated and could diversify by opening branches wherever desired.

Atkinson does not even mention the devastation that occurred when FDR made the possession of gold illegal and then had Congress nullify contracts specifying payment in gold. At every turn FDR attack the productive and thrifty, saddled them with a maze of regulatory organizations, which included knowing exactly what every dry cleaner in the nation should charge for cleaning a suit - 40 cents (regardless of location, regardless of the rent the business paid, regardless of the modernity of their equipment & regardless of the skill of the employees. What mendacity!

**No need to wish a pox upon *The Windsor Times*, but call them to express your disdain (433-4451).**

## Actual cartoon

If you look, you can find various versions of a cartoon depicting "How the welfare state begins," and "How

the welfare state ends." One version (from Glenn Beck's book "Arguing with Socialists") begins with six people pushing and pulling a cart with one injured person riding. It ends with the injured person joined

*"Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety." - Benjamin Franklin*

**(Editor's note - true for any crisis, even pandemics.)**

by five of the able-bodied while only one is left to push. At "thefederalalispapers.org" you will find a similar cartoon in a four-panel progression from 1970 to 2020. The first panel has five people pushing one person in a wheelchair. The final panel has one person pushing four in wheelchairs. There is another version in a Wordpress blog by Dan Mitchell from 3/17/14. In real life, the thirty-two people who used to support one on Social Security has declined to less than three supporting the one.

## Directory

*LibertyRISING is published by the Libertarian Party of Sonoma County, James R. Oglesby editor. Unless otherwise noted the opinions expressed are those of the editor.*

*The deadline for the May issue is 4/30/20. Please submit your letters, opinion pieces, and news to:*

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## How soon we forget

Time magazine's person of the year in 1942 was Joseph Stalin. Time applauded Stalin's collectivization of farms with no mention of the millions that were intentionally starved to death to achieve that goal. In short, "Stalin's methods were tough, but they paid off."

Don't forget that capitalism makes it easy for socialists to practice socialism without fear of patriots with guns. They can share cars (Uber & Lyft), vacation homes (Airbnb), and even expensive clothes (Rent the runway).

Don't forget that the endless parade of failed socialist states is excused by the lament that the right leader has not been found. In contrast, capitalism creates the necessary decentralized "leaders" automatically by allowing them to emerge: John D. Rockefeller, J.J. Hill, Vanderbilt, Carnegie, Edison, Tesla, Jobs, Gates, Musk, and so many others.

## Your \$0.02

### George Orwell, 1984

In his famous novel, Orwell nailed the totalitarian vision: "The party seeks power entirely for its own sake. We are not interested in the good of others; we are interested solely in power, pure power. What pure power means you will understand presently. We are different from the oligarchies of the past in that we know what we are doing."

### Letter to the Editor

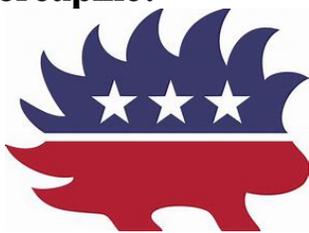
I define *libertarianism* as universal support for individual human rights that transcends governments, nations, and religion." - Gerald Schneider, PhD.

## Rights, Not Privileges

Also, from the Summer 2019 edition of New Jersey Libertarian, are these quotes from Mike Guadagnino, IV: "One of the defining characteristics of the libertarian ideology is the belief that government should act as a defender of our rights not as a distributor of privileges." "When debating these policies, it is crucial to separate rights from privileges and concentrate the conversation on whether or not government is fulfilling its responsibility to its people." "We must refocus the conversation. The difference between rights and privileges is an easier pill to swallow than widespread government overhaul."

*The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessings.  
The inherent virtue of socialism is the equal sharing of miseries.*  
- Winston Churchill

## Who likes the libertarian porcupine?



There are a variety of styles available, perhaps you can find one for your personal letterhead. I like this version of Lady Liberty:



This is the opinion section. Send in your two cents worth, just keep it short. Longer opinion pieces are welcome. But may take longer to get published.

## Freedom tracks

In mailings to a list of expired Sonoma County members of the Libertarian Party of California, James is able to report some good and bad news.

The bad news is that seven of the addresses are no longer valid and one of the other twenty-four names requested removal from his mailing list. The good news is that one of the twenty-four volunteered to help. If that holds true for LP-Sonoma's list of those registered to vote Libertarian in Sonoma County, we could have over 100 volunteers willing to help a little.

Currently, a text file is being created of local government officials. The first version will soon be ready and will include members of the Board of Supervisors and of the various city councils.

This effort will make it easier for LP Sonoma members to quickly write letters to public officials as it will be a simple cut and paste operation to get a letter started.

Don't keep quiet about your efforts. Lead by example and let people know. Some will follow your lead.

**Are you laying freedom tracks? If yes, let us kn4ow. If no .....**