



THE NEW JERSEY LIBERTARIAN

FEBRUARY

1990

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 10 -- NJLP Steering Committee Meeting
2 PM at Dan Karlan's parents' home in Clearbrook, Jamesburg. Specific directions are needed. If you haven't received them, call Dan at 201/444-2846. All NJLP members are welcome and invited.

Feb. 19 -- Somerset/Middlesex Area Libertarians (SMAL)* meet at Howard and Althea Shoen's home, 2602 Merrywood Dr., Edison at 7PM. Call (201/572-0207) for directions.

Feb. 23 -- Libertarians of Monmouth County meet at Lucille Bender's, 1167 Lincoln Ct., Elberon, NJ at 7 PM. Ocean County residents are especially welcome at this meeting. Call Lucille, 201/222-9182, or Laura Stewart, 201/264-4492, for directions.

Feb. 26 -- Thelma McKoy will speak on "One Can Make a Difference in Reforming the Legal System" at the Constitutionists meeting in Elmwood Park. Call 201/327-7878 for details.

March 10 -- NJLP Annual Convention at Days Hotel in New Brunswick. See "NJLP State Committee Meeting".

March 24 -- NY State LP Convention at White Plains Hotel, White Plains, NY. Call 212/966-5772 for details.

April 20 -- Pennsylvania LP Convention in Harrisburg.

*SMAL has regular meetings on the third Monday of the month.

Nat'l Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) holds regular

monthly meetings. Call 201/968-8226 for details.

NJLP STATE COMMITTEE MEETING

By Len Flynn

The NJLP State Committee met on October 6, 1990 at Dan Karlan's parents home in Cranbury. At 2:35 PM Dan called the meeting to order. Also present were Zeldin, Flynn, Stewart, Edelston, Kaplan, Hill, Peters, Montelione, and Stefanelli (late). Harris, Meinshausen, Kerr, Pierone, Agnew, and Novak were absent.

The group first heard reports from County Representatives. Carl Peters said the Mercer County Libertarians were looking for local student groups to introduce to the libertarian approach to issues. John Hill told how the Camden Libertarians were planning to hold the Operation Political Homeless booth at the Berlin Farmers Market in April 1990. Howard Schoen and Sam Edelston said the Somerset/Middlesex Area Libertarians were hoping to revive interest in the NJLP Supper Club. Finally, Laura Stewart mentioned the demonstration against the INS detention center in Brooklyn organized through the Libertarians of Monmouth County.

The State Committee discussed the possibility of NJLP testimony on public questions. Carl will check on upcoming issues and John will consider NJLP positions on the issues.

Dan Karlan suggested a

continued on p.4

COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS

	<u>State Committee Representatives</u>	<u>County Chairs</u>	
Bergen County	Mike Harris	Mike Harris	201/891-3395
Camden/Gloucester	John Hill	John Hill	609/468-9571
Hudson County	Don Meinshausen	Don Meinshausen	201/659-6786
Hunterdon County	Joe Kerr	Joe Kerr	609/397-8119
Mercer County	Carl Peters	Carl Peters	609/737-7667
Monmouth County	Claudia Montelione		201/583-8721
Somerset/Middlesex	Vee Novack	Laura Stewart	201/264-4492
Sussex County	Mike Pierone	Howard Shoen	201/738-3863
Warren County	Jim Agnew	Mike Pierone	201/572-0207
		Jim Agnew	201/827-5226
			201/475-4845

NJLP STEERING COMMITTEE

State Chair:	Dan Karlan	201/444-2846
Vice-Chair:	Jerry Zeldin	609/783-4306
Secretary:	Len Flynn	201/591-1328
Treasurer:	Louis Stefanelli	201/751-8675
Members-at-Large:	Laura Stewart	201/264-4492
	Sam Edelston	201/906-0766
	Ken Kaplan	201/992-3991
	Howard Schoen	201/572-0207

COUNTY ORGANIZERS

Passaic County	Ken Kaplan	201/992-3991
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NJLP PHONE: 201/781-6171



N. J. LIBERTARIAN

Letters to the editor, articles, and commentary are welcome. Send to the Editor:

Claudia Montelione
P.O. Box 913
Matawan, NJ 07747
201/583-8721

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Advertising and editorial material must be received by the editor on or before the 27th of the month to be in the following issue. We are currently on a monthly schedule.

The following article was written some years ago but it is so apropos of our encouraging candidates that we've trotted it out again, updated and condensed.

WHY THE FUTILE CRUSADE?

by Len Flynn

Why should you run for office as a candidate for the New Jersey Libertarian Party? After all, most libertarians hate politics. To a libertarian, a typical politician has to be among the dregs of the earth. So why should any of us participate in an election and have to deal with such disreputable people -- even as our opponents?

And what is to be gained from getting the usual NJLP vote of about 1% after weeks of arduous campaigning? Based on my experiences as an NJLP candidate, you can expect problems like these during a campaign:

- * Fruitless debates in front of hostile audiences consisting primarily of the campaign workers of your opponents and bored reporters;

- * Frustrating arguments with businessmen who care far more about their government franchise monopoly or Federal subsidy than free market principles;

- * Comment after comment from voters proclaiming, "I agree completely with you, but...", then a litany of objections so long that it's clear they don't agree with you at all;

- * Long hours composing well-researched and carefully prepared position papers and press releases on the issues, only to find them ignored by reporters and voters alike.

Finally, and perhaps most disappointing of all, are the possible responses from your fellow libertarians: apathy, indifference, and even bitter criticism of your campaign (usually by someone who did absolutely nothing to help). Contributions of money and time to LP campaigns are frequently minimal for anyone but the candidate.

As a Libertarian campaigner, I often found my race to be a lonely crusade; I felt I was "The voice of one crying in

...progress for libertarianism cannot be measured by votes but by the success of our ideas.

the wilderness" (Mark 1.3); no one seemed to listen. So I ask (to borrow Leonard Liggio's title) "Why the Futile Crusade?" Why shall I and why should you fight against hopeless odds and be an LP candidate?

The first answer is WHAT "futile crusade?" Here in New Jersey we have a fitting success to crown the NJLP's first decade of effort -- Dick Siano was an elected Libertarian Party town council member in Kingwood Township. No futility there but a victory -- the first Libertarian elected in a partisan race in the "lower 48."

Dick led the way. He cut Council salaries (including his own) by 10% and identified a \$500,000 budget surplus. He moved to use the surplus to cut the Kingwood Township real estate tax for municipal purposes from 11

cents per \$1,000 assessed property valuation to...ZERO! Siano also repealed two obnoxious Kingwood ordinances, one which restricted horse ownership to 3 acres and the other restricting the construction of windmills. This should forever lay to rest the charge that the Libertarian Party is fighting windmills!

Unfortunately, unlike the Kingwood Council, most government officials haven't gotten the message. The years have seen a number of ominous and dangerous incursions against liberty at the Federal, State, and local levels. There is no "quick fix", no cheap and easy cure for statism. Dick Siano's victory came about because of hard work. Any triumph for freedom will require sustained effort by each of us.

Remember this: progress for libertarianism cannot be measured by votes but by the success of our ideas. Indeed, one measure of success may well be that so many voters STAY HOME on election day! Skepticism about government and political leaders abounds. Resistance to our rulers grown daily from young men refusing to register for the draft to their grandfathers fighting the IRS. Hardly anyone believes government officials these days, and many thoughtful people are eager to hear our alternatives.

And these people are out there, waiting for your campaign to touch them. Every so often you will find someone who said, "Yes, I know the Libertarians. I VOTED FOR RON PAUL MYSELF." Even at those tiresome debates I have found a few thoughtful people, people who actually listened to what I had to say. Answering their questions after the debate may plant our ideas where they do the most good -- with the people who care about ideas, who know that ideas matter.

Can any movement really be futile when so many individuals having such vastly different views come together voluntarily to work for the common goal of freedom? We have here today representatives of polar opposites like atheists and Christians, LP activists and nonvoters, free enterprise executives and leftist volunteerists, and finally, optimists (a la Rothbard) and pessimists like me. We are united in the cause of liberty, and unlike so many Americans, we are committed to doing something.

What can YOU do, then to try and make our glorious "crusade" a little less "futile?" The answer is: whatever you can. You can be a candidate or help someone else's campaign. You can help educate others about the libertarian philosophy through the LP Speaker's Bureau, letters to the Editor of local newspapers, or editorial replies to radio and TV programs.

So will you help the New Jersey Libertarian Party and run for public office this year? Will you step forward and help spread libertarian ideas as widely as possible? Our

rulers need you to give them "the sanction of the victim" so they can continue their piracy and oppression unopposed. Don't give it to them! Don't give up!

Think of the brave dissenters in the Soviet Union, or more recently in China, who, for a few lonely minutes of protest in Red Square, or in Tiananmen Square, can expect years of brutal imprisonment. They have a conviction that we share, as the late -- and great -- Ayn Rand put it, "a fundamental conviction...that ideas matter...that somewhere on earth...a proper, human way of life is possible to human beings, and justice matters." (The Objectivist, 1/69, p.3 quoted in The Obj. Forum for 8/80, p. 14).

We know that they are right, because in our more open society we can experience many liberties the slaves of communism can scarcely imagine. Yet this is but our greater obligation to fight the injustice and oppression growing and thriving in our own country. We know what we are losing and must act, or we will wind up like the helpless victims of totalitarianism throughout the world.

As Ayn Rand put it at her final address to the Ford Hall Forum: "...hard or easy, we have to continue to fight. It will be harder and more necessary than ever. We cannot give up this magnificent country -- to nothing." (The Objectivist Forum, 6/81, p.10).

You can help. Will you join me and help those who will run for office -- or better yet, run for office yourself?



MEETING continued from p.1

Legislative Watch Committee. Carl Peters was appointed LWC Chair with Ken Kaplan assisting. (Anyone interested in helping should call Carl at 609/737-7667 or Ken at 201/992-3991. The new committee will (1) monitor legislation, (2) select issues ("triage") to work on, and (3) create a panel of speakers to testify or issue news releases thereabout. Four volunteers for the new speakers panel were Dan, Len, John, and Laura.

Dan mentioned he was withdrawing his proposal to limit terms of office for NJLP to two years. He asked for opinions about removing the restrictions on NJLP membership to people who "live or work in New Jersey" and the consensus was opposed.

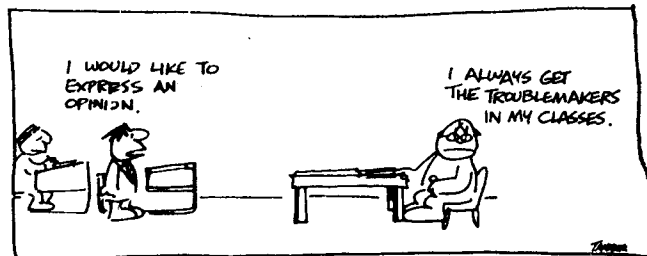
The 1990 NJLP Convention will be held on March 10, 1990 at Days Hotel in New Brunswick. Admission to the convention program is \$35 prepaid (\$39 at door) for the whole program including dinner or \$20 without dinner. Main speaker for the convention will be a spokesman for Quebec's Equality Party. National LP Chair Dave Walter, new National LP Field Coordinator Marla Bottemiller, and Don Ernsberger of the International Society for Individual Liberty are also expected to speak at the convention.

The NJLP business meeting will be held from 9:00 to 11:00+ AM with county caucusses to follow to help organize counties. Strategies for 1990 campaigns and candidates were discussed. Recess was called from 4:25 to 4:40 PM.

Lou Stefanelli presented the Treasurer's report showing a bank balance of \$840. Lou plans to send at least two more letters to nonrenewers then he may send county chairs listings of expired members for follow-up. A motion to authorize up to \$300 for a deposit on the NJLP convention passed unanimously.

Lou mentioned that obtaining a postal permit renewal for the political rate is costly (obtaining an IRS ruling or else a CPA audit) so he is attending to other priorities (e.g., NJLP renewals) first. Lou and Laura will follow up with National LP on whether we can use their approvals because the NJLP is their affiliate.

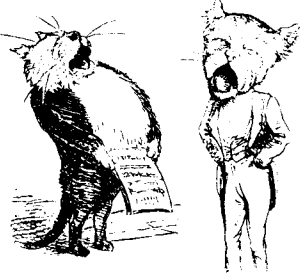
The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM. The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 10, 1990 at 2:00 PM.





News you may have missed --

These items appeared in the Feb.'90 issue of the *Libertarian Party News*. The NRA's ambivalent position may be indicative of that of other organizations as well.



Keep Your Paws Off

I am one cool cat but this proposed registering and collaring of cats gets my fur up. I do not want to sound catty but being forced to wear a collar is a scenario worse than getting a bad case of fleas. Unlike dogs who are aggressive and disturb the neighborhood by barking, we cats are very libertarian. We are peaceful, independent, and simply want to be left alone to chase mice, rats, and other rodents. If there were more cats during the Middle Ages, the bubonic plague would have ended quicker.

Cats and their pets (humans) should not be catatonic about this enslaving legislation. We do not have time to pussyfoot around. I used to think witches were bad until you humans created politicians. I, Rocky the Cat, will resist registering and collaring even if it means a life sentence in jail. I still will have eight more lives. Hey Mr. Politician, keep your paws off my body.

Rocky the Cat, owner of Fred Stein
Dayton, NJ

SMAL is still seeking fairs and other functions in which to set up an Operation Political Homeless booth. Please call Michele Maloney at 201/572-1614 if you know of a suitable location.

NRA Extols LP Stand

The National Rifle Association, largest gun owner group in the world, has responded positively and usefully to the Libertarian Party's unswerving support of gun ownership. In three successive issues of its 3,000,000-circulation monthly magazine, *American Rifleman*, the Libertarian Party has been mentioned and praised.

In an editorial discussing alliances with political parties, J. Warren Cassidy, NRA executive vice president, rejected the all-too-familiar temptation to mention only the two older parties and, throughout the editorial, referred to Democrats, Republicans, or Libertarians.

Later on in the editorial he said that "out of respect for our Libertarian members—and they are many—I will repeat here what I have said to so many of them by mail and by phone. I had the pleasure of visiting with Dr. Ron Paul, the Libertarian presidential candidate. I found him to be totally committed to our Cause, as well as being an intelligent and articulate gentleman of great dignity and presence. It pained me to have to tell him that NRA could not endorse his candidacy because of the realities of political life and power in the United States.

"I explained that our members expected NRA not only to back pro-gun candidates, but to back possible winners, thus bringing to bear our influence on legislation affecting our rights. To do this our candidates must gain political office, and at this

point in our history Libertarian candidates, by and large, do not have this potential. In other words, while they may be supportive and committed men and women, their candidacies are not yet viable tools for the enactment of pro-gun legislation."

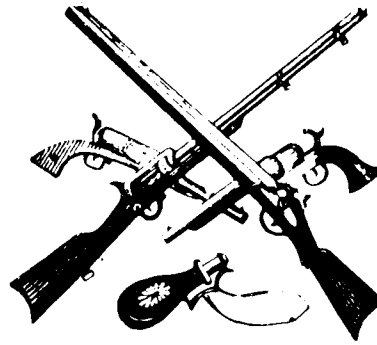
In another issue of *Rifleman*, however, a letter to the editor said that "I am planning to take the Libertarian Party more seriously than before."

Then, in the January issue, there was a letter asking for more information on the LP and the party's address and toll-free number were printed in response—a major addition to our hope to increase members by recruiting among pro-gun groups and

a welcome, gratefully received series of friendly gestures from NRA that could do a lot to change "the realities of political power."

The entire sequence of comments by the NRA has powerfully increased the motivation to get winners, for instance, on state legislatures where important gun legislation is formed.

(The editors want to thank Andy Barniskis, a Levittown, PA, libertarian, for helping us monitor NRA activities. If there are other readers who keep in touch with the work of other single-issue groups with whom the LP could consider cooperating, the NEWS would appreciate hearing from them when the party is mentioned or an opportunity to raise awareness of the party becomes evident.)



If none were to have liberty but those who understand what it is, there would not be many free men in the world.

Halifax



Our 'victories' over drugs will bleed us

A great battle was won in the war on drugs during this past week. A jury in Washington convicted Rayful Edmond 3d of leading a continuing criminal enterprise as a drug dealer, and under the law he faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole. It will be a long time, for Edmond is 25.

With the victory achieved, the prosecutors basked in the glory. U.S. Attorney Jay B. Stephens, flanked by his three trial attorneys, said the verdict proved the ability of the prosecutors "to bring to justice those who seek to bring bloodshed and violence to our cities." He said law enforcement officials "stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of this community to turn the tide of drugs that have so devastated this city."

That it was a great victory there is no doubt. So, with this major triumph, how goes the war on drugs? On the same day that Rayful Edmond 3d was convicted in Washington and sent to jail for life, a truck loaded with half a ton of dynamite blew up outside secret police headquarters in the city of Bogota, Colombia. At least 50 people were sent away forever, and hundreds were wounded. It was a huge blast, digging a hole 20 feet deep and

damaging scores of buildings.

The explosion came a day after U.S. and Colombian experts concluded that a bomb had caused the crash of a Colombian jetliner last month, killing 107. While there is no direct proof that either bomb was planted by Colombia's drug lords, their supporters are claiming credit. The score in the war whose battle lines run from the coca fields of Bolivia, Peru and Columbia to the bloody streets of the District of Columbia is about 142 to 1,



Otis Pike

and the wrong team is ahead. There were, of course, other convictions here and elsewhere. There were also many other murders.

There is a real question of how serious we are about the campaign and whether we are willing to pay the much greater price for continuing it. The Rayful Edmond case took two years of investigation by the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the D.C. police. The trial required 117 witnesses and 56 days. Feeding, housing and transporting the jury cost \$258,700. It will cost a great deal to feed, house, clothe and guard a 25-year-old man for the rest of his life.

To put the matter in perspective, Congress has just appropriated \$125 million to be spread over the 60 million people of the three Andean nations for military and law enforce-

ment assistance. That is a very small drop in a very large bucket. Rayful Edmond's criminal enterprise alone took in about \$100 million a year at its peak. The Federal Reserve Board reported that cash deposits exceeded cash withdrawals by \$4.49 billion in the banks of Miami last year. We can't prove that this was drug money, but Miami has a reputation for such unlawful activities.

Lewis H. Lapham, the articulate editor of Harper's magazine, argues with passion in this month's issue that the war on drugs is "a folly and a menace," a political opiate with only these beneficial results: "The politicians get their names in the papers, the media have a story to tell, and the rest of us get off the hooks that might otherwise impale us on the questions of conscience or the obligation of higher taxes."

Of the \$7.9 billion that President Bush requested for the war on drugs in September, says Lapham, "the bulk of the money swells the budgets of the 58 federal agencies and 74 congressional committees currently engaged, each with its own agenda and armies to feed, on various fronts of the campaign."

One is genuinely torn. We get satisfaction from seeing the great victory in Washington's court, but on the streets drugs are just as available as ever and at cheaper prices.

A genuine war would require things that wars entail: Monumental costs, the putting aside of cherished constitutional rights of privacy, mandatory testing, warrantless wiretaps and warrantless searches.

Is it worth the varied costs to pursue the dealers and users of cocaine, from which 3,308 people died in hospitals last year compared with 390,000 in some way attributable to tobacco and 100,000 directly related to alcohol?

A man cannot think if he places something—anything—above his perception of reality. He cannot follow the evidence unswervingly or uphold his conclusions intransigently, while regarding compliance with other men as his moral imperative, self-abasement as his highest virtue, and sacrifice as his primary duty. He cannot use his brain while surrendering his sovereignty over it, i.e., while accepting his neighbors as its owner and term-setter.

Leonard Peikoff
The Ominous Parallels



"WELL, YOU DEMANDED YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF BEING CONFRONTED BY YOUR ACCUSER, DIDN'T YOU?"

NEW JERSEY LIBERTARIAN PARTY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____ Phone: (H or B) _____

Address: _____ County: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

NJLP Bylaws require that members either live or work in New Jersey.

NJLP DUES:

All memberships include subscription to "New Jersey Libertarian". Premium membership categories provide needed funds for outreach and other educational activities.

- | | |
|--|---|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50 Sustaining | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5 Student (School: _____) |

I am not the first member at this address so don't send the Newsletter. I have deducted \$10 from Basic membership only.

\$10 "N.J. Libertarian" subscription only. \$15 Nat'l Party dues (1 year)

Please remove my name if and when the NJLP list is rented to other organizations.

\$_____ Additional contribution to NJLP (Thank you!)

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

X

Date: _____

(Signature indicating acceptance of above statement is required for membership.)

Make checks payable and return to: NJLP, P.O. Box 56, Tennent, NJ 07763

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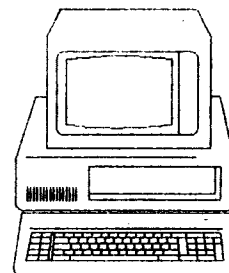
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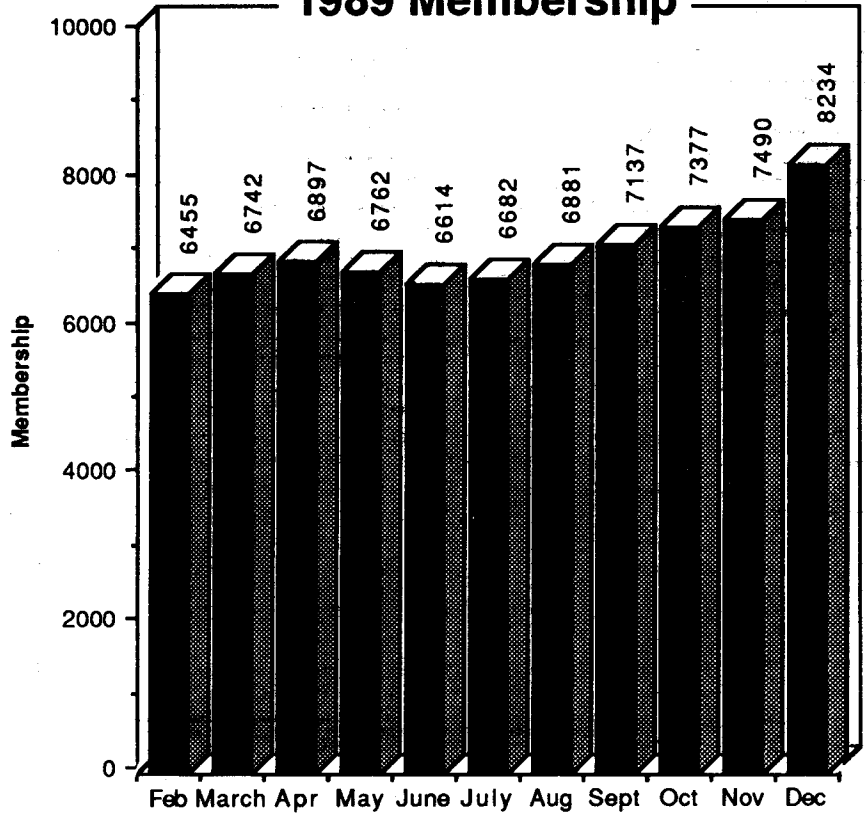
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**BREAK
THE STATE
STRANGLEHOLD!**

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