



# New Jersey Libertarian

Volume XLV, Issue 2

## Summer 2020

### Message from the Editor

*By Jay Edgar*

(Well Acting Editor!) The Party has been quite busy since our last issue. We held our State Convention completely virtual for the first time (and hopefully last!). Overall, it was a success. We completed our business meeting, nominating candidates and electing our state officers. But it certainly wasn't the same as one of our normal conventions.

We had two National Convention sittings. The first was held completely virtual. During this event we nominated Jo Jorgensen and Spike Cohen to represent our Party in the Presidential race. The second sitting was a hybrid online and in person event. A small number of our delegates traveled to Florida while most participated online. Like our State Convention, this was a success, but nothing like the real thing. Nothing beats being able to actually meet candidates and fellow delegates.

I'm rushing this issue to press! We are busy collecting signatures and planning the election. ♦

### NJLP State Board

Chair, Dan Krause	chair@njlp.org
Vice-Chair, Gregg Mele	vicechair@njlp.org
Treasurer, Eve Brownstein	treasurer@njlp.org
Secretary, Matt Kaliss	secretary@njlp.org
VP Marketing, Mike Guadagnino	vpmarketing@njlp.org
VP Membership, Jay Edgar	vpmembership@njlp.org
VP Programs, William Sihr	vpprograms@njlp.org
South Rep., Mike Rufo	southrep@njlp.org
Central Rep. James Ripley	centralrep@njlp.org
North Rep. Ken Kaplan	northrep@njlp.org

### Presidential Petitioning Effort

*By Jay Edgar*

By now, I hope you are aware that we are in the midst of petitioning to get Jo and Spike on the ballot. We have had a satisfactory response to our call for signatures using the new single signature petitioning method,

However, with just a week left of petitioning we are still short of our goal. Please consider visiting <https://njlp.org/petitions> and printing out a petition and getting us some signatures. If you have not yet signed a petition for us please fill it out, sign it and return it to us quickly.

The best way to return a petition to us is to scan it and email it to [petitions@njlp.org](mailto:petitions@njlp.org). Scans can be performed at most office supply stores. It can also be snail mailed to us – but as the deadline gets closer snail mailing is not preferable.

I cannot stress the importance of this effort enough! This coming weekend we will need to collect a few hundred more signatures if we want to make it on the ballot. Please do whatever you can to help. And a big thanks to those who have provided us with signatures already. ♦

### *In This Issue*

.....	
Petitioning Effort.....	1
Member Spotlight.....	2
Libertarians and Coronavirus.....	3
Picnic/meeting Announcement.....	5

## Member Spotlight: Jim Tosone

by Patrick McKnight

There will be many unanticipated consequences from the COVID-19 pandemic. As Libertarians, it is easy for us to focus on the expansion of government and the massive interventions in markets. We understand these actions will have unfortunate long-term consequences.

These valid concerns notwithstanding, there is also a personal side to these recent events. For me, the pandemic prompted me to reach out and reconnect with several treasured friends. Sometimes uncontrollable forces can be a reminder how important people and friendships can be. I suspect other people had a similar reaction.

Many of the people I reached out to are my friends from the New Jersey Libertarian Party. I had the opportunity to serve as Chair from 2013 through 2017. Since that time my responsibilities to my family, career, and education have prevented me from being as involved as I once was.

One of the first people I reached out to was Jim Tosone. I had the pleasure of serving with Jim on the NJLP Board for several years, most notably during Jim's tenure as Vice-Chair. During these years Jim's leadership and guidance were invaluable. I believe any success we had during this period is largely attributable to Jim's hard work. I consider Jim one of my greatest mentors and one of the NJLP's greatest leaders.

In some small way, I would like to publicly recognize Jim's achievements and thank him for everything he has done for the party.

### Jim's Contributions to the NJLP



One of Jim's most significant contributions to the NJLP is his work building our current regional structure. It's easy to forget that just a few years ago, the NJLP's local chapters were formed at the county level.

Unfortunately, many counties were inactive because they lacked a critical mass of dedicated volunteers. Planning and implementing the regional structure was an incredible amount of work. I believe Jim's efforts in this regard have been a significant factor in the NJLP's continued success.

Another one of Jim's major accomplishments was reframing the roles of the NJLP Board. Jim helped establish individual responsibility for the VPs and introduced us to the concept of SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Based).

Jim has also represented the NJLP as a candidate. In 2018 he ran for U.S. House of Representatives in the 5th District. In 2017, Jim represented the party by running for New Jersey Senate in District 39. Jim is active in Toastmasters and is a great advocate of libertarians improving their public speaking skills.

Jim continues to do an outstanding job spreading the message of liberty by writing letters to the editor. Jim has written for newspapers, including the Sunday New York Times, The Bergen Record, and others. Jim has also been published in magazines including The Toastmaster, Soundboard, and Guitar Review. Jim is the author of the book Classical Guitarists: Conversations, and a contributor to the encyclopedia Music in the 20th Century and the book Idiot's Guide: The U.S. Constitution.

### Who is Jim Tosone?

Jim graduated with degrees in mathematics and technology management from Stevens Institute. Jim retired from Pfizer after an illustrious 30-year career as a Business Technology Executive. Pfizer is the world's leading pharmaceuticals company. Jim held a number of positions of responsibility, including Head of Pfizer Healthcare Informatics.

Since "retiring" in 2010, Jim founded a consulting business sharing his passion for improvisation. He now travels across the country leading workshops. One of my earliest memories of Jim was when he led a class on improvisation at the 2012 NJLP Convention. I can still see him working through his exercises with Ken Kaplan and continue to value that experience. Jim studied improv at the world-famous Second City theater. Second City is where legendary improvisational artists including Bill Murray, John Belushi, and Stephen Colbert learned their craft.

Jim loves history, especially the American Revolution. He is an authority on the Constitution and, as mentioned above, helped write "An Idiot's Guide to the Constitution" (a book title perhaps targeting modern elected officials). Jim enjoys

participating in the monthly Revolutionary Roundtable in Bergen County.



Jim is passionate about music and is an accomplished multi-instrumentalist. He plays classical guitar, electric bass, and recently added tenor banjo to his arsenal. In addition to commercial gigs, Jim performs regularly at elder care facilities. Jim is a classical guitarist who studied privately with Nicholas Goluses, the then Chairman of the Guitar Department at the Manhattan School of Music.

Many of us know Jim as a talented public speaker. Jim earned his Advanced Toastmaster Gold (ATM-G) and Competent Leader (CL) certifications from Toastmasters International.

### **Conclusion**

Jim is the type of leader the liberty movement needs. Jim never says, “Someone should do something.” Instead, Jim always leads by example by shouldering the most difficult responsibilities himself.

Jim treats all people with respect and dignity, in particular when differences of opinion are involved. As I reflect on how much Jim has given to the party, I can’t help but feel how lucky we are to have him. It was my privilege to work with him as a colleague on the NJLP Board. It’s my honor to call him my friend.

Jim lives in Bergen County with his wife Lynne. He is a proud father of his daughter Austen, who recently graduated from Barnard College with a degree in Art History.

For more information on Jim and his work, visit his website: <https://jimtosone.com/> ♦

## **Libertarianism and the Coronavirus Pandemic**

*By Andy Craig*

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In recent days, there has been snark from some quarters about the current crisis somehow catching libertarians flat-footed. The argument goes that the need for a big government response disproves a political ideology that is often, though in somewhat oversimplified fashion, summarized as favoring “small government.” A better description would be a government limited in scope but sufficient to meet that scope.

Libertarianism, properly understood, encompasses certain core functions as the proper role of government. It is not the libertarian view that government should be ineffective at protecting individual rights or dysfunctionally paralyzed in the face of a massive threat to people’s lives. Government has a role to play in responding to the pandemic in much the same way it is the government’s job to prosecute murderers or defend the country from invasion.

At the same time, libertarian principles and insights can provide some guideposts for how to respond in this unprecedented global emergency.

One thing to keep in mind is that some limits on government power are even more crucial now. Emergency powers should be limited in duration and limited to directly addressing the present situation based on the facts as best we know them. Such policy responses shouldn’t be larded up with a pre-existing wish list of unrelated concerns. It is essential to preserve constitutional liberal democracy and resist excessive long-term concentration of power in the executive.

Social distancing measures should rely on voluntary compliance to the greatest degree possible, and most people have been voluntarily complying. Even when enforcement is necessary, simply breaking up gatherings without citation or prosecution is possible and preferable in many cases. A heavy-handed reliance on coercive enforcement might not only be unnecessary in some regards, it can also backfire by sparking protest non-compliance, and it might also be redundant to all the other measures already in place. With so much shut down, the only place most people have

to go is to one of the essential businesses left open such as grocery stores. You don't need to order people to stay home—except for the list of exceptions—if they already have almost nowhere to go that isn't on that list of exceptions. For that reason, some states have so far rejected compulsory “stay at home” or “shelter in place” orders. There is no need to fuel further panic or distract police from their more important duties to worry about safe and benign activities like taking the family dog for a walk.

At the same time, many jurisdictions have moved to suspend petty arrests altogether, mostly for victimless crimes, in an effort to reduce jail populations. Also, under consideration are proposals to release many of those individuals currently in jail awaiting trial for minor offenses. This is a welcome shift that should prompt us to reconsider the necessity of some of these laws, many of which have long been the target of libertarian ire.

Another insight comes from Nobel laureate, libertarian icon, and Cato Distinguished Senior Fellow, the late F. A. Hayek. In works such as *The Constitution of Liberty*, he wrote that good laws should be general, equal, and certain. That is a principle that is relevant even in something as far removed from the libertarian ideal as the emergency economic responses currently under consideration. Rather than targeted industry bailouts and micro-managed interventions, policy responses should be clear, simple, system-wide, and with a defined end date as soon as possible. Simple universal payments to individuals are also preferable to corporate bailouts. It is not feasible for the government to abruptly order massive shutdowns of so much economic activity without some kind of compensation, in much the same way we require just compensation for eminent domain. It is proper for the government to own the consequences of its orders and to soften the shock of this sudden disruption. But in doing so, it's best to follow the KISS principle: Keep It Simple, Stupid.

Libertarian criticisms of bad regulations have proven especially prescient. A crucial government failure has been the FDA's inflexible and heavy-handed bureaucracy, which has held up tests and prevented thousands of private and academic labs from quickly increasing testing capacity. For most

of February, the FDA required everybody to rely solely on tests produced by the CDC and refused to grant permission to other labs. This proved to be catastrophically flawed when the first round of tests produced by the CDC did not work and had to be replaced. This failure is a large part of why America's coronavirus testing response to date compares so unfavorably with South Korea's.

Another example of a libertarian response to the pandemic has been the quick need to suspend many occupational licensing restrictions, such as by letting doctors practice interstate and upgrading the permissions of nurse practitioners and doctors' assistants. Even mundane and trivial regulations of the sort that only libertarians would have worried about before having suddenly been cast aside. Two months ago, who would have thought it an urgent concern to suspend alcohol regulations so that restaurants can serve beverages to go for home delivery by rideshare drivers?

While we can welcome these wins, there is no doubt that we have also seen extreme impositions on personal freedom. [Libertarians can find that loss especially painful](#). Even when these new rules are sadly necessary and justified by the facts, it is a cost we should carefully weigh as we eventually move to unwind restrictions and return to some kind of normalcy. In the name of saving lives from the immediate threat, governments around the world have suspended most international travel and heavily curtailed consumer freedoms and freedom of association. The acute loss of freedoms we've long taken for granted underscores how valuable they truly are. And some freedoms, like freedom of speech and the right to privacy, should remain sacrosanct and defended tenaciously even in the face of an emergency.

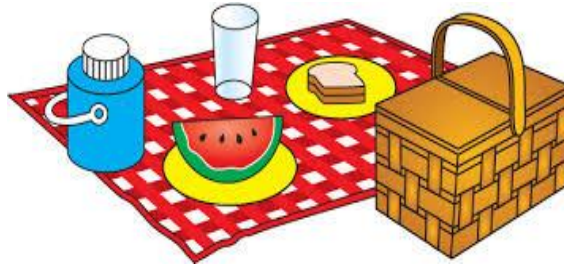
While much of the policy response so far has been in good faith (if often inept), the propensity for power grabs by authoritarian populists should not be discounted. Preserving the rule of law, checks and balances, and constitutional liberal democracy is essential. Elections should proceed on time and with whatever accommodations prove necessary. Legislatures and courts should be kept open for essential business, including by remote participation if necessary, and foundational constitutional structures should remain in place. We have no need of a dictator in the United States nor in other countries around the world.

And perhaps most importantly: emergency rules and powers should extend only for the duration of the emergency and be repealed at the earliest feasible opportunity. We should be wary of the ratchet effect, where governments tend to retain powers and keep open programs long after their original justification has disappeared.

Freedom is precious, and in the grand sweep of human history it has often been fleeting and

tenuous. Right now, we are facing the greatest threat to a free and open society that most of us have ever witnessed, at least in the United States, if not in many other nations that have been through worse scourges of totalitarianism and major wars. So, libertarians will continue as they always have, ready to defend the principles of human freedom at every turn. ♦

## NJLP Picnic and Regular Business Meeting



**August 8, 2020**

**Innovative Pressure Cleaning  
77 Yellow Meeting House Road, Cream Ridge, NJ**

Come hang out with fellow freedom lovers. The NJLP Summer General Membership Meeting will be on Saturday August 8th starting at 3:30 PM in Cream Ridge. The picnic will start around 4:30 PM following the General Membership Meeting.

Some food will be provided, but please consider bringing your favorite dish to share. Gas grills and tubs of ice with cold soft drinks will be provided along with snacks and picnic utensils. Extra lawn chairs would help. A donation to help cover our costs is encouraged.

There will be room to set up tents for those who want to stay late. There is also a swimming pool on the premises! ! A friendly beer brewing competition is being held, tasters and brewers will be needed.

The property is convenient to Route 195, being accessible from either exit 11 or 16. Call 848-525-0578 if you get lost.

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# New Jersey Libertarian Party - - - - -



## Are you a current member? **Please consider joining.**

I'd like to join the NJ Libertarian Party! I have checked the level at which I want to join and have enclosed the corresponding dues. I certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force to achieve social or political goals.

(Signature required for membership only) X \_\_\_\_\_

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