



New Jersey Libertarian

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October, 2002

Is Not Voting an Option?

By Pat Bontempo

Last month I addressed those who've declined to register Libertarian because they want to vote in primary elections. At the opposite extreme are those libertarians who've stopped voting at all.

One libertarian I met at the recent Monmouth County Fair quipped, "I don't vote anymore -- it just encourages them." It's an old joke that, while still funny, is still nonsense.

Not voting doesn't discourage politicians or the government in the least. They'll pass repressive laws and raise taxes anyway. In fact not voting actually encourages them to do so.

There will always be those who'll use the ballot box to manipulate the government for their own ends. Democrats will vote for politicians who'll implement the "entitlement" program they want. Republicans will vote to implement their personal social agenda.

If it appears votes can be captured by jumping on such a bandwagon, to hell with your rights and your property. There will always be politicians willing to pander to the most grasping of voters, all the more so when there isn't a significant, principled vote in protest to it all.

A strong Green Party is telling politicians there is a significant leftist sentiment in the country. That is, there are votes to be had by endorsing high-tax, big-government programs such as those Ralph Nader proposed in 2000. After all, it can be argued that Nader's vote total cost Al Gore the presidency.

Every libertarian who fails to vote (or doesn't vote Libertarian for that matter) does nothing to curb the politicians or the government. If anything they surrender to the Left without firing a shot and allow the Left to appear relatively larger by lack of an accurate contrast.

Yes, there's much non-electoral work that must be done. But education and issue advocacy must be converted into political action at some point if it's to produce results. That's simply how the system works.

Of course registering and voting Libertarian will not, in and of itself, do the trick. Dressing nicely and arriving to the interview on time won't necessarily get you the job. But if you stay home -- if you don't even bother to apply -- it's guaranteed that someone else will fill the position. The job won't disappear.

"But I don't want the job," you could reply. "I reject the whole corporate, work thing. I refuse to play the game, and by my refusal I withdraw part of the system's support structure."

That's an appealing argument. But again I say: someone else will fill the job regardless of what you don't do. The job won't go away. And the person who fills it won't perform in elected office like a libertarian when the voters who gave him the job are sending a pro-government, pro-taxation message with their votes.

Sometimes refusing to play the game does send a pro-liberty message as when you refuse to divulge your Social Security number. But refusing to register and vote only creates a silence that allows the opponents of liberty to be heard more clearly.

Meet the Candidates Night

The Monmouth/Ocean Libertarian Party will hold a Meet the Candidates night on Friday, October 25 at the Spring Lake Heights Community Center, Ocean and Ninth Aves., Spring Lake Heights.

Local voters are being invited to this opportunity to meet one on one with the Libertarian Party candidates who will be on the ballot in Monmouth and Ocean Counties this November.

Coffee and light refreshments will be served. The start time will be 7:30 p.m. For more information call 732 323-0841 or E-mail PDB10752@aol.com.

Calendar

State Board – October 20,
1 PM Tumulty's Pub

General Meeting –
November 10, 1 PM at
Tumulty's Pub.

**Check it out! 2nd CD
Candidate Michael
Matthew has a web site
at <http://mm.itgrid.com>**

Notice of Bylaws changes to be considered at the General Meeting

At the September 17 meeting of the Steering Committee, two motions were proposed and passed regarding changes to the Bylaws.

The first motion was “To place on the Agenda for the November General Meeting the proposal to change the Bylaws to allow dues to be changed at any General Meeting. (The precise text of the proposal is ‘to delete “to set dues;” from 5.b.1 paragraph 1 sentence 1, and to add to 5.a.5 “Specifically, any General Meeting may set dues.”’) “

Background: The recently-passed BCRA (Bipartisan Competition Restriction Act – correct that, it’s the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act) makes illegal the revenue-sharing arrangement currently in place between NJLP and National LP. There are several ways the illegality can be resolved, but at least 1 of them requires changing the dues structure. Because BCRA takes effect the day after Election Day, and the Bylaws specify that dues can only be changed at the State Convention, a potential conflict might develop. So that the NJLP will have available to us the options which require changing the dues, this proposal will be on the agenda. It will only be considered if the members adopt one of those options that implicates a dues change.

At the General Meeting, a thorough explanation of the options will be available. It is expected that National Director Steve Dasbach will be present to answer any questions regarding the dues-sharing programs open to the NJLP.

The second motion was “To amend the first sentence of 9.c to insert ‘and registered Libertarians,’ after the word ‘members’, so that it would read:

‘All candidates must be NJLP members and registered Libertarians, and run under the designation of “Libertarian Party” in partisan elections.’ “

Background: New Jersey residents recently won the right to declare party affiliation as “Libertarian”; this is analogous to registration in some other states. Some of us on the Steering Committee believe such declaration should be required of candidates of the NJLP, as a minimal declaration of undivided party loyalty.

Dan Karlan
Secretary, NJLP
18 September, 2002

2002 Election Dates to Remember

Oct. 7: Last day to register to vote in the November General Election.

Oct. 29: Last day to apply by mail for absentee ballot for General Election.

Nov. 4: Last day to apply in person for absentee ballot for General Election.

Nov. 5: Election Day. Polls open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Atlantic County

1333 Atlantic Ave., 4th Floor
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

Bergen County

1 Bergen County Plaza, Room 310
Hackensack, NJ 07601

Burlington County

P.O. Box 6000
Mount Holly, NJ 08060

Camden County

P.O. Box 1066
Camden, NJ 08101

Cape May County

10-12 W. Mechanic Street
Cape May Courthouse, NJ 08210

Cumberland County

60 Broad St. W., Suite 210
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Essex County

33 Washington Street
Newark, NJ 07102

Gloucester County

P.O. Box 352
Woodbury, NJ 08096

Hudson County

595 Newark Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07306

Hunterdon County

P.O. Box 2900
Flemington, NJ 08822-9952

Mercer County

P.O. Box 8068
Trenton, NJ 08650

Political Party Affiliation Declaration Form

I, being a registered voter at the address listed below, do hereby declare that I desire to vote in the primary election of the Libertarian Political Party.
(Name of Party)

Name: Last _____ First _____ Middle _____

Residence: Street Address _____ Apt. No. _____

Municipality _____ County _____ Zip Code _____

Signature or mark of registered voter _____ Date _____

DECLARATION MUST BE FILED NO LATER THAN 50 DAYS PRECEDING THE PRIMARY IN WHICH THE VOTER WISHES TO VOTE.

Revised 2/96

Middlesex County

777 Jersey Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-3605

Monmouth County

300 Halls Mill Road
Freehold, NJ 07728

Morris County

P.O. Box 900
Morristown, NJ 07963-0900

Ocean County

P.O. Box 2006
Toms River, NJ 08754-2006

Passaic County

311 Pennsylvania Ave.,
Room 103
Paterson, NJ 07503

Salem County

90 Market Street
Salem, NJ 08079-9856

Somerset County

20 Grove Street
Somerville, NJ 08876-1262

Sussex County

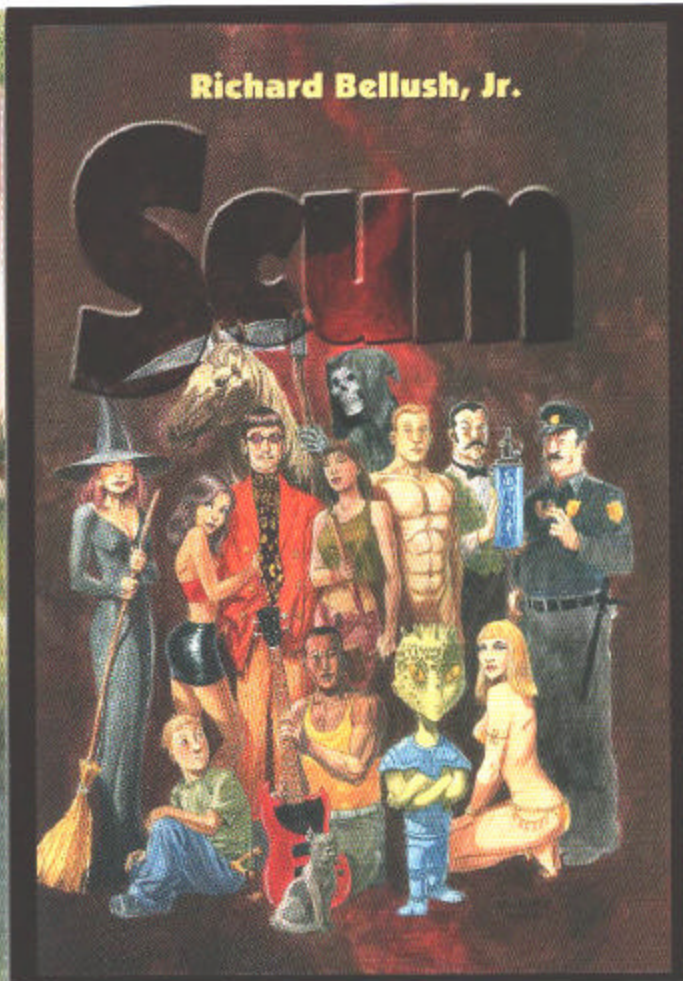
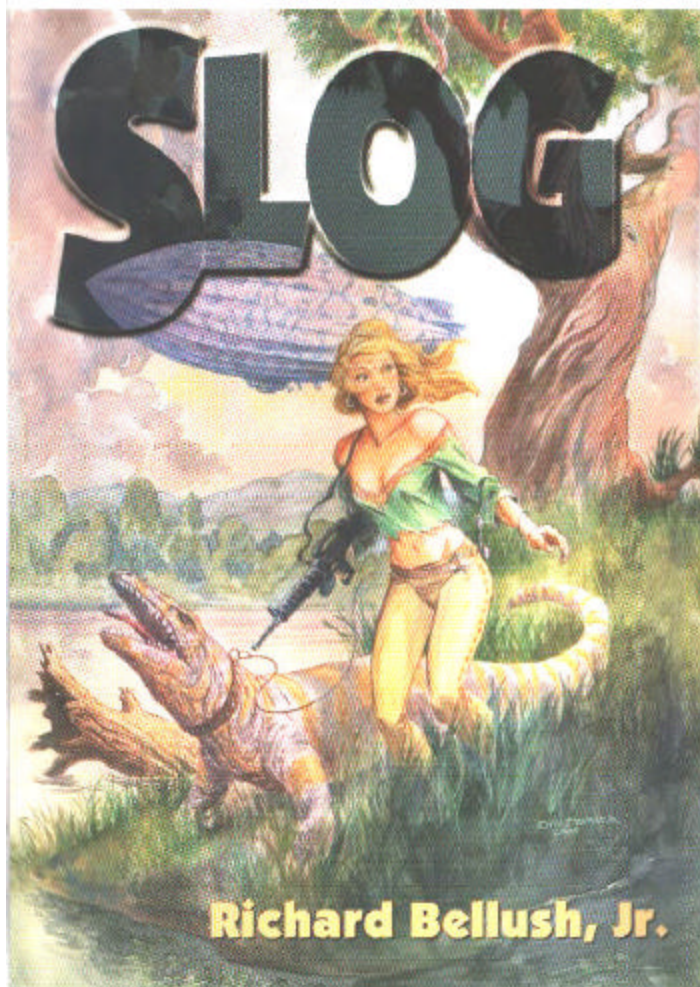
18 Church Street
Newton, NJ 07860-9965

Union County

271 North Broad Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07207

Warren County

413 Second Street
Belvidere, NJ 07823



THOUGH NOT HEAVY HANDED, LIBERTARIAN THEMES INTERWEAVE THE TALES OF NJLP MEMBER RICHARD BELLUSH, JR.

SLOG

A NOVEL

DISEASE, DEVASTATION, ARMED THUGS, NEW JERSEY HAS CHANGED. HONEST.

_____ \$15 INCLUDING TAXES AND HANDLING. 40% OFF BOOKSTORE PRICES

SCUM AND OTHER TALES

A DOZEN SHORT STORIES OF MODERN LIFE, ODDBALL CHARACTERS AND IMAGINATION.

_____ \$15 INCLUDING TAXES AND HANDLING. 40% OFF BOOKSTORE PRICES.

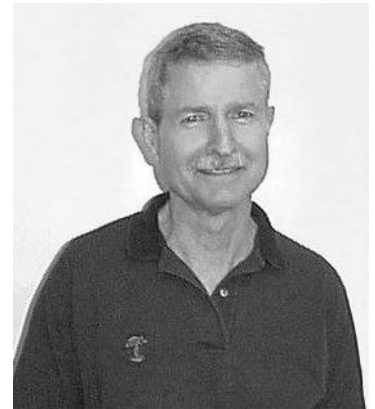
\$1 DONATED TO THE NJLP WITH EVERY ORDERED ACCOMPANIED BY THIS FORM.

**SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO RICHARD BELLUSH JR. TO:
R. BELLUSH ASSOCIATES, INC. 20 EAST MAIN STREET, MENDHAM, NJ 07945.**

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From The Chair

By NJLP State Chair Emerson Ellett



Is the Libertarian Party having any effect on New Jersey election law? Time will tell, but at least the state is asking us for our opinion. In fact we recently provided comments to the NJ Law Revision Commission regarding its "Tentative Report relating to Election Law." The Commission promises to consider our comments (and others) and submit its final recommendations to the Legislature.

Following are some of our comments. The numbered paragraphs are keyed to NJSA Title 19, Elections:

We recommend that the final Report submitted to the Legislature address the inequities masked by the terms "political party" and "political parties". Anyone unfamiliar with NJ election law would assume from the Tentative Report that the terms "political party" and "political parties" includes all

political parties rather than only the Democrats and Republicans. Though the Libertarian Party has run candidates at all levels of government in New Jersey for nearly thirty years NJ election law discriminates against it by not recognizing it as a political party. We recommend that political party be defined as an organization that has officers and bylaws, and that regularly runs candidates for office in partisan elections.

To correct another discriminatory inequity we recommend that the method of placing names on the ballot be changed so that all candidates have an equal chance to get the top line or (if a mechanical voting machine) one of the far left columns or top-most rows. At present the first two ballot positions are reserved for the two State-favored "political parties."

It seems unnecessary to create a costly Commission on Elections with its attendant patronage and staff, which will possibly issue a flood of regulations, when the county election boards already are doing a creditable job. If the proposed Commission will replace the Election Law Enforcement Commission that point needs clarification.

19A:1-1.b. If the Legislature does create a 6-person Commission on Elections, recommend that at least two of the six Commissioners be drawn from political parties other than the two parties favored by the State. The rest of the section should be reworded so that all political parties are eligible to participate.

19A:1-2.d.(2) Recommend that the current Voter of Declaration of Party Affiliation form be revised to include the Libertarian Party as an option.

19A:1-3 Recommend that at least one member of the County Board of Elections be drawn from political parties other than the two parties favored by the State. The rest of the section should be reworded so that all political parties are eligible to participate.

19A:1-7 and all other sections mentioning oath of office Rather than empower the Commissioner to prescribe an oath, recommend that all members be required to swear (or affirm) to uphold and defend the U.S. and N.J. Constitutions.

19A:1-10.b. Recommend that two of the four election officials (poll workers) assigned to each election district be drawn from political parties other than the two parties presently favored by the State. The rest of the section should be reworded so that all political parties are eligible to participate.

19A:2-1 The creation of a costly statewide voter registration database tied in to the DMV database seems unnecessary and even harmful in its potential to erode privacy further.

Comment on page 12 The Libertarian Party wishes to participate in the design of the "uniform registration form." Please let us know whom we should contact.

19A:2-5.b Rather than allowing voters to register 14 prior days to an election, recommend same day registration, i.e. permit voters to register and vote on voting day.

Comment on page 18 Recommend wording be included in the report submitted to the Legislature that grants registration lists to other than currently defined "party officials;" see New Jersey Libertarian Party et al v. NJ Division of Elections (MER-C-000006-99)

19A:4-7a., b. and elsewhere throughout the Tentative Report Please rewrite so that all discriminatory references to candidates "who are not candidates of a political party" are removed. – End of comments.

Our recommendations to other state Commissions have not been well received. The rabidly bi-partisan Election Law Enforcement Commission in particular has pointedly ignored both our comments and testimony over the years. Perhaps the NJ Law Revision Commission will treat us differently.

Please contact the Steering Committee or myself at chair@njlp.org or 732 774-3684 if you are able to assist the party or our candidates in any way.



FREE STATE PROJECT

Liberty in Our Lifetime

*"A free state might show the rest of the world what can be done...Let's think seriously about this."
--Claire Wolfe*

As featured on Free-Market.Net, LewRockwell.com, "The Libertarian Enterprise," "The Sierra Times," Anti-State.Com, and Brian Wilson, KSFO Radio...

"The Free State Project is a plan in which 20,000 or more liberty-oriented people will move to a single state of the U.S. to secure a free society there. We will accomplish this by first reforming state law, opting out of federal mandates, and finally negotiating directly with the federal government for appropriate political autonomy. We will be a community of freedom-loving individuals and families, and create a shining example of liberty for the rest of the nation and the world." (from the Free State Project website, www.freestateproject.com)

The Free State Project is a **new** strategy for freedom. Rather than continuing the same failed strategies aimed at bringing Washington, D.C. to the light, the Free State Project aims at liberty in a single state. What can be done in a single state? A great deal. We could repeal state taxes and wasteful state government programs. We could end the collaboration between state and federal law enforcement officials in enforcing unconstitutional federal laws. We could end asset forfeiture and abuses of eminent domain. We could privatize utilities and end inefficient regulations and monopolies. Then we could negotiate directly with the federal government for more autonomy. In other countries, provinces have obtained the right to opt out of national programs and receive a tax rebate instead. We could do the same.

Where will the Free State Project succeed where others have failed? First, we aren't asking for "donations" in exchange for your participation; the F.S.P. is not a scheme for making money. Second, we formulate strategy and policy by consulting the membership; unlike some other failed "free nation" attempts, this is not some cult of personality. Third, we will choose our destination rationally and by looking at all the available evidence. **The state where we will move will be decided by a vote of the full F.S.P. membership after research has been done on all the candidate states.** The vote will be conducted according to the method of Cumulative Count, which more closely approximates the ideal of individual choice than simple majority rule.

The Free State Project unequivocally rejects violence, racism, and fraud. We are a peaceful, legal group, and we support working within the electoral process.

Join the Free State Project and take part in a rapidly growing movement aimed at securing *liberty in our lifetime*. We don't want your money, just your signature - and when the time comes, your willingness to carry through on your word of honor.

www.freestateproject.com - visit today!

Free State Project 385 Canner Street #2 New Haven, CT 06511

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2002 Libertarian Candidates

U.S. Senate Elizabeth Macron
U.S. House, 1st District Tim Haas
U.S. House, 2nd District Michael Matthews Jr.
U.S. House, 3rd District Raymond Byrne
U.S. House, 4th District Keith Quarles
U.S. House, 6th District Barry Allen
U.S. House, 7th District Darren Young
U.S. House, 11th District Richard Roth
U.S. House , 12th District Tom Abrams
Freeholder, Camden County Colleen Fida Foster
Freeholder, Camden County Daniel S. Wright
Freeholder, Monmouth County Jennifer Carter
Freeholder, Monmouth County Joe Conklin
Clerk, Monmouth County Robert Hull
Town Committee, Lebanon Township Ned Kelley

Waiver of Written Notice

Whereas The New Jersey Libertarian Party has a requirement under New Jersey State Law and its Bylaws to give notice of General Meetings to each member; and

Whereas The New Jersey Libertarian Party has a requirement under New Jersey State Law and its Bylaws to give notice of Proposed Amendments to its Bylaws to each member; and

Whereas The New Jersey Libertarian Party has a requirement under its Bylaws to give notice of Proposed Party Platform Changes to each member; and

Whereas New Jersey State Law ("Uniform Electronic Transactions Act") permits legal notice requirements to be satisfied by electronic notification; the undersigned, a party member, hereby elects to receive notice as follows:

1. Meeting notice shall be made by Electronic Mail. The Member understands and agrees to accept Electronic Mail Meeting Notice as Meeting Notice for General Meetings.
2. Proposed Bylaws Amendments shall be made by Electronic Mail. The Member understands and agrees to accept Electronic Mail Notice of Proposed Bylaws Amendments as Notice of Proposed Bylaws Amendments.
3. Proposed Party Platform Changes shall be made by Electronic Mail. The Member understands and agrees to accept Electronic Mail Notice of Proposed Party Platform Changes as Notice of Proposed Party Platform Changes.
4. The Member will provide the necessary Electronic Mail address(es). Notice of Member's Electronic Mail address and changes shall be made to chair@njlp.org and secretary@njlp.org respectively.
5. This waiver shall remain in effect until it is revoked by the member.
The member may revoke this waiver by notifying chair@njlp.org and secretary@njlp.org of his or her intention to do so.

Signature of Member

Print Name

Member's Electronic Mail Address

Date

Mail to NJLP, P.O. Box 56, Tennent, NJ 07756

**New Jersey Libertarian Party
P.O. Box 56
Tennent, NJ 07763
1-800-201-NJLP**

Steering Committee

Chair Emerson Ellett
chair@njlp.org
732 774 3684

Vice Chair Len Flynn
vicechair@njlp.org
732 591 1328

Secretary Dan Karlan
secretary@njlp.org

Treasurer Lou Stefanelli
treasurer@njlp.org
732 450 0270

At Large Member Robert Hull
atlarge1@njlp.org

At Large Member Ken Kaplan
atlarge2@njlp.org

At Large Member Lou Elwell
atlarge3@njlp.org

At Large Member Elizabeth Macron
atlarge4@njlp.org

**NJLP Members In Public
Office**

Elected Officials:

John Aglialoro, Commissioner of Tavistock
(Camden County)

William Krouse, Franklin Township (Warren
County) Board of Education

Christian Joest, Blairstown Township
(Warren County) Board of Education

Appointed Officials:

Paul Anderson, Chairman of the Chester
Boro Planning Board; Member, Chester
Boro Historic Preservation Committee

Tony Federici, Community Dispute
Resolution Committee, Vernon Township

Ken Hetrick, Administrator, Chatham
Township; Acting Town Manager, West
Milford Township

Diane Hittner, Old Bridge Municipal Alliance
for the Prevention of Substance Abuse

Joseph Higgins, Woodcliff Lake Borough
Emergency Management Coordinator

Paul Horuzy, Commissioner, Sussex County
Municipal Utilities Authority

Ned Kelley, Hunterdon County Local
Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and
Drug Abuse

John Paff, Member, Franklin Township
(Somerset County) Attorney Ethics
Committee

Hal Shute, West Amwell Township Open
Space Committee and West Amwell Zoning
Board of Adjustment

Bill Thawley, Cape May Mayor's Advisory
Council and Transportation Committee

Ed Wiessmann, Chairman, Sparta Township
Community Dispute Resolution Committee;
Member, Vernon Township Community
Dispute Resolution Committee

Frank Warren, member North Plainfield
Environmental Commission

Ronald Wishart, Secretary, Manalapan
Township Planning Board

Thanks, Folks!

County Organizations

The NJLP has affiliated county organizations for advocacy, activism and discussion at the county level. All meetings are open to the public, and guests are welcome. Contact these organizations through any of the individuals listed. If you do not see your county listed State Chair Emerson Ellett at chair@njlp.org or 732-774-3684 for information on activism in your area.

Hudson

Erik Purasson, Contact
201 434 7938
epurasson@hotmail.com

Hunterdon

Meetings: Generally on the first or second Monday of each month. The agenda is split between business and social activities. Contact Hal Shute at 609-397-5913 for information or shute@blast.net to be added to announce list.

Hal Shute, Chair
609 397-5913
shute@blast.net

Robert Jacobs, Rep
908 534-6764
robertlj@yahoo.com

Mercer

Meetings: Contact Chris Toto for information on the next meeting

Chris Toto, Chair
609 883 0697
ChrisToto@aol.com

Andrea Nadolny, Rep

Monmouth and Ocean

Meetings: Second Sunday of the month at the Alexis Steakhouse & Tavern, 403 Higgins Ave., Brielle starting at 2:00 p.m. For more information visit www.MonmouthLP.org.

Robert Hull, Chair
732-528-0796
rhull@wallnet.com

John Taylor, Vice Chair
732-291-0419
jmtaylor99@comcast.net

Lou Elwell, Secretary
LibertarianLou@aol.com

Ginny Flynn, Treasurer
732-591-1328
vflynne@juno.com

Jay Edgar, Monmouth Rep
609-758-0975
richedgar@hotmail.com

Chris Weimann, Ocean Rep
cweimann@wallnet.com

Somerset/Middlesex (LPSMC)

Meetings: For information, join the LPSMC announce list (LPSMC - Announce-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) or contact Howard Schoen at 732-572-0207.

Howard Schoen, Chair
hschoen@superlink.com

Ray Babecki, Vice Chair
mrsience@erols.com

Barry Allen, Treasurer and Middlesex Rep
732 463 5405

Frank Warren, Somerset Rep
Kb4cyc@webwarren.com

South Jersey Libertarian Party (SJLP)

Henry Cheney, Chair and Rep
hcheney@camden.rutgers.edu

Sussex

Sean Twomey, Chair and Rep
seanptwomey@hotmail.com

Union

Joe Saturnia, Contact
908 464-7307 x712

On the Record – Liz Macron

U.S. Senate Candidate Liz Macron recently received a query from the New Brunswick magazine The Collection.

Hi, my name is Danielle and I work on a small magazine called The Collection based in New Brunswick. I am working on a piece about third party candidates in the race for Senate. I have a few questions that I would like to ask you that will help our readers get a clear picture of what you stand for.

I'd be glad to answer your questions. And if you would like to learn more about the libertarian party, please visit www.lp.org. Here are my thoughts on your questions:

Question #1. Anyone who lives in NJ knows how densely populated and developed the state is, what is your policy on open space? If elected how would you put your ideas into action on a state or national level?

The LP advocates the freedom philosophy. We believe that the best solution to problems such as over-population lies in the voluntary actions and interactions of individuals. We favor freedom over government force. We do not see state action as a real solution. Thus, my campaign focuses on the fact that government is not the solution.

The libertarian philosophy is based on both moral and practical considerations. For example, take the "problem" of over-population. Morally, the state does not have a right to compel population control. In countries where such a right exists, you see the government punishing women for having too many children. Practically speaking, government action rarely solves the problem it was intended to deal with and usually results in other, unintended consequences.

I do not subscribe to the view that the world's natural resources are inadequate to sustain the world's population, however large it may become. That idea, which came from the 18th century thinker, Thomas Robert Malthus, was flawed. Malthus failed to recognize that humans are a part of nature, not alien to it. Humans are not mere consumers. We are also problem solvers, finding more efficient ways to use existing resources, finding new applications of old resources and inventing ways to utilize heretofore unused resources. In a free-market economy, where creativity is rewarded by wealth, you see constant problem solving. In a static economy, where decision making and problem solving are the province of the government, you see stagnation and despair. Compare, for example, the former Soviet Union, with the United States. Thus, the libertarian approach would be to get the government out of the way by reducing its size and power.

Question # 2. What is your favorite book?

It's very hard for me to pick one favorite book. I have thousands of them that I treasure! From a political point of view, my favorite is The Road To Serfdom, by Friedrich Hayek. I like the poetry of Wordsworth and Byron. I like the novels of Charles Dickens and Ayn Rand. I like the essays and science fiction of C.S. Lewis.

Question #3. At what point in your career did you become affiliated with the Libertarian Party? What prompted this choice and what are your goals for the party?

I became affiliated with the libertarian party when I was in college. My studies of free market economics and philosophy prompted this choice. My goals for the party are to expose as many people as possible to the libertarian ideas and ideals. My hope is that the American people will vote intelligently to restore freedom to America.

Question #4. What would you tell a 18-24 year old to get them to vote? Do you see any good reasons not to vote?

A vote for the Libertarian party, or for any third party candidate, expresses dissatisfaction with the status quo. It expresses it more clearly than simply failing to vote at all. There are good reasons not to vote. If none of the available candidates express what you believe, then a vote for ideas you don't respect is a waste. If all you see on the ballot are "two evils" it makes perfect sense not to vote!

Frequently Asked Questions

What does the Libertarian Party stand for?

The Libertarian Party stands for small government, less taxes, individual rights and free market solutions to our nation's problems. Liberals and conservatives, Republicans and Democrats, want to use government power to impose their social and economic agendas. Consequently our property rights and personal freedom are taken away by an ever-growing government, which increasingly dictates every aspect of our personal lives.

Why don't you guys unite with other third parties to unseat the Democrats and Republicans?

We're not simply anti-Democrat or anti-Republican. We stand for things such as the right to keep and bear arms and the relegalization of drugs. As such we oppose the left-wing program of the Green Party and the right-wing proposals of the various Conservative parties as much as we do those of the Republicans and Democrats. Most third parties are simply groups that have splintered from the old parties because they feel the Democrats and Republicans are too moderate on one or more issues. The Libertarian Party is a true independent opposition party.

Wouldn't it be more effective to work within one of the major parties, such as the GOP?

Experience says no. Most of the time your candidate will lose the party primary and you'll be without a decent candidate in November. If he or she does win then the party deserts the candidate in November. The Democrats and Republicans confidently ask "Where else can they go?" and so take your support for granted while they run the usual high-tax, big-government politicians.

Realistically, you can't win. So wouldn't I be wasting my vote?

Actually we do win; the 500 or so Libertarians in public office nationwide are evidence of that. But if you vote for politicians who'll raise taxes and pass repressive laws, well, you'll lose, and that's the important thing. In the long run you'll win by helping to build a new party that truly represents the hardworking taxpayers of America.

Sometimes the Republican candidate is slightly better than the Democrat, sometimes vice versa. Isn't it better to vote for the lesser of two evils?

The overwhelming majority of the time there is no fundamental difference between the Republican and Democrat. On the rare occasion when there is a slight difference -- perhaps on an issue or two -- once in office the winner governs no differently than his or her opponent would have. In any case, by failing to vote for what you truly want you're telling the politicians that you endorse their high-tax, big-government agenda -- after all, you helped elect them.

But what if the Libertarian Party vote total is large enough to cause the worse of the two candidates to get elected?

Since their agendas are virtually identical, and they all govern pretty much the same way once in office, there is no real danger in such a scenario. And something very good will come of it. When politicians realize there are votes -- enough for victory -- to be had by supporting small government and true tax relief they'll finally start changing their tune.

Why don't you guys run for local office or nonpartisan offices like school boards?

We do. And sometimes we win. But it's important to challenge the Democrats and Republicans at all levels regardless of the outcome. It not only gives voters a real choice, high profile races such as those for the US Senate or Governor provide a forum for reaching voters. Odds are you've heard of one of our presidential candidates rather than an elected Libertarian city council member.

I'm fed-up with politics and politicians. Wouldn't it be better to stop participating and thus withdraw our support from the system?

Sorry, that wouldn't work. There will always be those who'll use the ballot box to implement their personal moral agenda or enact their favorite "entitlement" program. And they'll be politicians who'll be happy to accommodate them. Staying apart from the fray will just make their task easier.

What's the difference between joining the Libertarian Party and registering Libertarian?

By becoming a dues-paying member of the Libertarian Party you can vote for party officers and help shape the LP program and its activities. When you register Libertarian with the county election board you withdraw your support from the old parties and their failed programs. Your registration is a brick in the edifice of a new political party. In New Jersey we only recently won the right to register Libertarian. It's a first step to winning full, legal equality with the Republicans and Democrats.

Is there a difference between joining the national, state or county Libertarian Party?

Currently membership dues are the main source of funds for our state party. So by joining the NJLP you provide sorely needed dollars to help build the party here in the Garden State. You would not, however, have a vote at the Libertarian Party's national convention. If you join as a national member you will, and all national members are considered members in good standing of the NJLP with full voting rights. There is no cost to join the Libertarian Party of Monmouth and Ocean Counties and you'll be able to vote at county meetings, but not at state or national meetings.

Minutes of the NJLP General Meeting of July 13, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 1:50 PM.

1. It was determined that a quorum (15 members) was present.
2. The agenda was adopted as proposed.
3. Officer Reports:
 - a. Secretary presented his report. The minutes of the June 23 Steering Committee meeting were read and approved.
 - b. The Treasurer presented his report, noting that membership, dues, and expenses are all down. The implications of Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA) were discussed, particularly as they impact the NJLP being a membership organization. Pat Bontempo moved

That we investigate the National LP's Unified Membership Plan (UMP) and select the most advantageous plan.

The motion passed. Dan Karlan will collect the necessary UMP documentation.

Regarding the steps needed for compliance with BCRA, it was suggested that contacting the CAPP lawyer is in order.

4. Under Unfinished Business:
 1. CAPP: Ellett reported that the lawsuit dismissal was in error.
 2. The Newsletter: Nothing to report.
 3. The 2003 Convention: Late March (22nd?); location to be determined.
 4. LP Convention Report: Emerson reported on what occurred in Indianapolis.
5. Under New Business:
 - a. Campaigns: The Rich Edgar party was discussed.
 - b. Committee Reports:
 1. Fundraising: Letters will be mailed this week for candidates. The possibility of an NJLP Torch Club was referred to Liz Macron. The question of sub-contracting out the fundraising was discussed; Dan Karlan will inquire of National HQ of a typical contract for their tele-fundraising ventures.
 2. Electronic Communication: No progress to report. Dan Karlan advised the subcommittee to contact Nick Dunbar in the National office regarding integrating NJLP's system with National's, when the latter is implemented.
 3. Recruitment and Membership: Dan Karlan was invited to spearhead implementation of the Strategic Plan in New Jersey.
 4. Public Relations: The Million Dollar Bills and the ISIL brochures were made available. A motion
To continue the Webguide for another 6 months, with donors paying half the \$300, was made and approved.
 5. Candidates: A lack of interest in Gorman's program was revealed. Len Flynn moved
That the Steering Committee must assist all candidates who meet election law requirements with \$50 in matching funds.
The motion was approved.
 6. Improvements: Implementation of National's Strategic Plan (parts) was recommended; see above. A resolution commending Emerson Ellett for his candidate recruitment efforts was approved.

The agenda was amended to include 10 minutes recess for County Caucuses; the recess occurred at 2:55 PM.

The meeting was re-convened at 3:10 PM.

Party 'Registration' cards were distributed.

Minutes of the NJLP State Board Meeting of August 18, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

Present were Emerson Ellett (Chair), Len Flynn (Vice-Chair), Dan Karlan (Secretary), Lou Stefanelli (Treasurer), Robert Hull (At-Large), Liz Macron (At-Large), Sean Twomey (Sussex). A quorum is 9 out of 16; there were only 7 members present. There being 5 members of the Steering Committee present, the Steering Committee was called to order. At 1:45, Ken Kaplan (At-Large) arrived; at 2:10, Lou Elwell (At-Large) arrived, bringing the attendance to 9, at which point the State Board quorum was assembled. Absent were representatives of Monmouth (Edger), Ocean (Weimann), Mercer (Nadolny), Hunterdon (Jacobs), Camden (Cheney), Somerset (Warren), and Middlesex (Allen) counties.

The agenda was adopted after the addition of County business.

The minutes of the July 13 General Meeting were distributed and accepted.

The Treasurer presented his report, followed by discussion. It was noted that regarding UMP, we do not yet have enough information for a decision. Karlan promised to follow up. Karlan was asked to inquire how National used NJLP's budget information.

Under Unfinished Business:

5. CAPP: Ellett reported that the lawsuit dismissal is itself in error, and resolution is being attempted.
6. The Newsletter: There was a suggestion to have a welcome column for new members (FAQ as well), and removing repeated information to save space.
7. The 2003 Convention: March 8 was approved without objection. Karlan will contact Geoff Neale about appearing, if schedule can be combined with other affiliates in this area to reduce expenses.
8. Web Site: There was some discussion of the "Flag-Burning" item. Liz' campaign activity is to be provided. It was suggested that the Voter Affiliation form might be displayed for downloading/printing. It was noted that County events do not appear.
9. Strategic Planning: the membership retention problem was discussed.

Under New Business:

1. Fundraising: a report from National showing performance of several fundraisers (telephone) was turned over to the Chair. Follow up regarding a specific contract will be pursued.
2. Electronic Communication: nothing to report.

With Kaplan due to leave, it was moved

That 7:30 PM Tuesday be set for the Steering Committee meeting.

The motion was approved by a vote of 5-3. With Kaplan's departure (3:35), the quorum of the State Board was lost, and the meeting reverted to the Steering Committee.

3. Recruitment and membership: the Web Guide ad and web page were discussed. There is a need to track visitors to the web site. Regarding college campuses: there was discussion of making a list of speakers available, advertising as ways to help new clubs.
4. Public Relations: nothing to report.
5. Candidate Recruitment and Support: nothing to report.
6. County business: Monmouth requested its annual payment.

There were no announcements.

Future Meetings:

- Steering Committee – September 17, 7:30 PM (see action item above), Ellett residence.
- State Board – October 20, 1 PM at Tumulty's Pub.
- General Meeting – November 10, 1 PM at Tumulty's Pub.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Karlan
NJLP Secretary
25 August. 2002

Letters to the Editor

Maybe it's just me, but lately it seems like the year 2002 is really a scene from the Godfather movie, where an offer is being made that you just can't refuse. Who can forget those breathtaking moments of choosing between having your signature or your brains on a paper? Only that, in 2002 it is the White House that is making a suicidal offer towards Saddam Hussein. Given that Saddam Hussein is not likely to commit suicide any time soon, the White House can claim victory no matter what Saddam Hussein does.

In a high stakes game of "damned if you do, damned if you don't", I really try not to feel sorry for Saddam Hussein. After all, he is an evil man who poisoned his own people, who invaded Kuwait, and who hearing upon Bush's order to the CIA to assassinate him earlier this year, is probably not too "crazy" about letting weapons' inspectors in. But of course, he must let the inspectors in, claims President Bush, or otherwise he'll be dead meat. But according to Vice-President Cheney, he'll be dead meat anyway, because of his past indiscretions, and because he just might not be honest enough before the inspectors. Not to mention, because he might acquire nuclear weapons in the future, and because "there is no doubt" that he will use them against the United States. I say, "Yes, Mr. Vice-President, let's attack any nation that is trying to acquire nuclear weapons, after all, there can be "no doubt" that it will be used against us. Certainly, the Bush Administration's adopted "first-strike" policy against non-nuclear nations, would give you all the justification you need, and would likely create more nuclear nations, which of course would be great news for people like you."

But wait, I am getting a bit ahead of myself. On Saturday, September 7th, President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair met, and President Bush was claiming that there are aerial photographs that show construction at several sites of nuclear weapons. The President also cited an Atomic Energy Agency report, which according to President Bush, showed that Iraq was about 6 months away from getting the bomb... "I don't know what more evidence we need", said President Bush. But, alas... by evening everything has changed, and the White House issued a clarification. Apparently, the photographs were misinterpreted and the report actually suggested that in 1991, Iraq was at least 6 months from having reaching nuclear capability, which was destroyed during the Persian Gulf War.

All of which is probably irrelevant. According to CBS News, on September 11, 2001, while the American people were dealing with a national tragedy, Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld was writing in his notes, "best info fast. Judge whether good enough hit S.H." "at same time. Not only UBL". "Go massive", continued Rumsfeld. "Sweep it all up. Things related and not." Yes, so much for weapons of mass destruction...

Meanwhile, Saddam is thinking... "I allow inspectors in, they find nothing, I get whacked, because I must be hiding those weapons. I get whacked, if they do find something, because I must be violating UN resolutions, and must be a dangerous man, unlike the leaders of India and Pakistan. I get whacked if I don't allow the inspectors in, because I must be trying to develop weapons of mass destruction. So, with the stated policy of the "regime change" via CIA assassination plot, or some other tool, I see no point of allowing the inspectors in, especially if they are going to dig into intelligence information like last time, which would be used to whack me..."

Yes, the White House can learn a lot from the Corleone family. Not that, the former administration wasn't good at twisting arms. "Sign the damn peace treaty!" Clinton told the Serbs in 1999, "or you'll be dead meat!" To which President Milosevic was replying, "How can I sign the treaty, if this would mean the occupation of my country?" The Serbs refused, which gave Clinton the cover to start bombing Yugoslavia, after which we started seeing all those refugees on television.

When the historians (if they would live to see the day), would ask themselves how WWII started, they might answer it the following way. "The US government, much like the Corleone family in the Godfather, made an offer that the Iraqi government could not refuse. The unquenched thirst for a "regime change" started a chain of events, where a great desire to avenge the deaths of thousands of innocent people, prompted revolutions throughout the Middle East, and a multilateral response to what was perceived as the US aggression. In the end, many people lay dead, and the United States Empire was no more." Not that, the Bush Administration would have any control over this, once the bombs would start falling... If the US troops suffer many casualties battling the streets of Baghdad against the Iraqi troops or if American civilians become a target in a series of terrorist attacks to avenge the deaths of Iraqi Arabs, one can certainly see a "those men are real heroes who died for our country, how dare you oppose this?" response from the White House. The real question is, for how long would the patience of the American people last?

Vic Kaplan



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