



New Jersey Libertarian

2003 Off to a Winning Start!

IJ Successfully Challenges Civil Forfeiture!

NJLP Member **Chris Wuestefield** leads residents to victory! Read about the hard-won election that said "NO!" to more education over-spending on Page 3.

Members to Vote On Bylaws Change At 2003 Convention

At the 2003 Convention and General Meeting, NJLP Members will vote whether or not candidates must be registered Libertarians.

The exact wording of the bylaws change will be:

"All candidates must be NJLP members and registered Libertarians, and run under the designation of 'Libertarian Party' in partisan elections."

Institute for Justice
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New Jersey Court Declares State's Civil Forfeiture Funding Scheme Unconstitutional

Washington, D.C.—New Jersey's method of financing police and prosecutors through civil forfeiture is unconstitutional, Superior Court Judge G. Thomas Bowen of Salem County ruled in a December 11 opinion.

Under New Jersey's civil forfeiture law (N.J.S.A. 2C:64-6a) prosecutors and police had been entitled to keep the money and property confiscated from individuals through the state's civil forfeiture law, thus giving them a direct financial stake in the outcome of forfeiture efforts. The court ruled that this provision violates the Due Process clauses of the U.S. and New Jersey constitutions.

"We are thrilled with the court's ruling," said Scott Bullock, senior attorney at the Institute for Justice, a Washington, D.C.-based public interest law firm that litigated the New Jersey case. "The decision will ensure that police and prosecutors make decisions on the basis of justice, not on the potential for profit."

From 1998 to 2000, New Jersey police and prosecutors collected an astonishing nearly \$32 million in property and currency through the application of the civil forfeiture law. During that same period, on average, close to 30 percent of the discretionary budgets of county prosecutor offices came from civil forfeiture proceeds. As the judge recognized in his opinion, forfeiture money has been used for "rent for a motor pool crime scene facility, office furniture, telecommunications and computer equipment, automobile purchase, fitness and training equipment purchase, a golf outing, food, including food for seminars and meetings, and expenses of law enforcement conferences, at various locations."

As the court further declared: "In theory and in practice, there is no limitation upon the motivation for enlargement to which a county prosecutor is subject in deciding upon seizure of property This court concludes, that the augmentation of the county prosecutors' budgets, . . . provides to those in prosecutorial functions financial interests which are not remote as to escape the taint of impermissible bias in enforcement of the laws, prohibited by the Due Process clauses of the New Jersey and U.S. Constitution."

By ruling the statute unconstitutional, the decision affects every county in New Jersey. And the decision could prove a harbinger of future challenges to laws in other states. David Smith, an Alexandria, Va., attorney who has written a treatise on forfeiture laws and is a former deputy chief of the Department of Justice's asset forfeiture office declared last month, "This is the single most important civil forfeiture case being litigated anywhere." Several other states and the federal forfeiture law also permit police and prosecutors to keep forfeited property and proceeds.

"We will challenge laws in other states to guarantee that the due process rights of property owners are protected when confronted with civil forfeiture," Bullock added.

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The Members of the Libertarian Party (MLP) Constitutional TECH Repeal Project

By Alon Rand

Dear Members and Friends of Liberty!

I joined our party only a few weeks ago, and volunteered to head the Recruitment and Membership Committee. I think the first question that we should all be seriously asking ourselves is: "What is the purpose of the Libertarian Party and what is our purpose as members?"

As a businessman I wake up every morning with a feeling that if I do my part God will do his, and every day will bring new achievements and blessings. There is no limit to what I can learn and no limit to the ways my business can grow, and I feel petty much at the helm and in control. Unfortunately I couldn't say the same about the other business that I own, which is MY government. If anything I actually feel that I am owned by my own employees of my own government (politicians and bureaucrats). The well being of my family and indeed of my community is in the hands of people who are of very, very questionable character and intentions. But though I don't like what is going on in every facet of my government business I feel 100% capable and responsible for changing this undesirable situation. I guess I am a strong believer in the concept, "Where there is a will there is a way" and "Whether you believe you can or can't you are right." I believe we Libertarians can change OUR business called government.

One reason I feel confident about changing government is because people are not stupid, and if someone will open their eyes to what's really going on out there, with some basic principles, facts and figures they will do the right thing for themselves, their families and their community. True, for some 70 years now most people have shown disinterest, apathy and even disgust toward their own government. In fact in New Jersey approximately 65% of the eligible voters don't vote. They thus have allowed others of "very shabby and low character" to take control, telling them what they can or cannot do with their lives and property, what they must or must not buy or sell, and at what price, and how much they may or may not keep of their own hard earned income – without people themselves being aware that their own INACTION imprisoned them. But there is one immutable and permanent fact of life, which is that people do aspire for financial independence, to be respected for the unique and special people that truly are, and, above all, for that precious and dearest feeling of Freedom, Success and Ingenuity that can lead to the fulfillment of "the American Dream". That is why I am so optimistic about the imminent and upcoming Libertarian Revolution we are all going to witness and hopefully take part in.

This is where the Libertarian Party potentially fits in the grand scheme of things. I believe that the purpose of the Libertarian Party is to serve as the practical, true vehicle for social, intellectual and political change. It should be the fertile soil from which the ideas, social activities and leaders will come forth to change our communities and state.

And this is why I hope to bring to our party a business-like, down to earth approach that will laser in on getting out our clear message to our fellow neighbors, some of whom undoubtedly will join us as we go forward. I hope and pray that you will join me in this holiest work, of trying to make wrong right, and restoring to all in our Nation the great tradition of individual livery, higher ethics and self-fulfillment. That is what our Founding Fathers envisioned when they started the greatest adventure in human history. It is our privilege and duty to honor their vision by bringing it to its ultimate completion and fulfillment.

The N.J. Libertarian Party should launch a new project, I believe, to lay the groundwork for successful and persuasive campaigns, speeches, debates and other political and social events. It will be initiated by members who have the desire to lead New Jersey to a new dawn of respect for individual rights, liberty and the written law of the land. It will give our members, especially those who desire to be leaders, and the public at large, the technical tools and professional expertise to educate others and defend our specific policy recommendations.

Launching the new project: The Members of the Libertarian Party (MLP) Constitutional TECH Repeal Project, i.e. taxes, education, car and health insurance.

We will create five member committees to research and investigate the following areas as they pertain to New Jersey:

1. Constitutional committee – for mastering New Jersey's founding documents so that we can uphold the law of the land.
2. Taxes and spending committee – for radical reduction of taxes and government spending
3. Educational choice committee – for ultimately privatizing education and separating school and state
4. Car insurance deregulation – for abolishing compulsion and opening the market, which will result in huge premium cuts due to free market competition
5. Health care cost committee – for analyzing the factors contributing to the explosive cost of health care, so that we can make the right policy proposals

Note that the TECH topics are of keen interest to the public (not ourselves alone). The Constitutional committee is included so that we will understand the law and its remedies, such as how to recall elected officials.

Ideally each committee will consist of at least three members, and we'll divide research topics among the participants. We must do our research well, for we will take our case to the court of public opinion and there defend our philosophy of liberty and its policy applications. The people will be the judge and jury of our proposals. In the current political environment we need to convince only 20-25% of the jury (voters) in order to win our arguments and get our policy changes enacted into law. On the local level the winning ticket gets usually needs only 16-19% of the vote.

Each of the five teams will gather all the relevant data pertaining to its topic, analyze it and produce the sharpest and most striking arguments for our policy positions. As a result our candidates and the party as a whole, by knowing the facts and becoming experts on the issues, will be finally equipped with the strongest professional and business tools to run effective campaigns and other political activities that will promote our cause successfully.

Obviously there are other issues that are important to us Libertarians (abolishing gun control, the war on drugs, occupational licensing etc) but I believe we need to focus first on the areas which at the moment are of most concern to the public. We can tackle the other issues with new committees in the future.

In summary let us as a party launch this new MLP – Constitutional TECH Repeal Project, as an essential tool to grow our membership, to work toward wide public acceptance of our ideas and policy recommendations, and to lay the groundwork for an overall transformation of government policy in New Jersey. This project will help our members and candidates know the specifics when they promote a policy change. Armed with cogent arguments based on fact we can make striking and convincing proposals to our fellow shareholders of our government, the public. Then, having made our best case to the people's court of opinion may we join together and take back resolutely our natural, self-evident and unalienable rights to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

If you agree that the sole purpose of Libertarian Party (and for that matter Libertarians) is to serve as a practical vehicle for social, moral and political change then I think it's time for us to get in the vehicle, hold the steering wheel tight, look straight ahead and focus carefully on our final destination – and in spite of the fog, the rain, the sleet, the thick snow keep the clearest vision possible and push the gas as hard as we can.

Based on your most passionate issue identification and knowledge – if you have an interest in helping our party to promote the philosophy and way of life that we all hold so dear – please reply to either myself (AlonRand@aol.com; 973 761-1027) or Emerson Ellett, our party chairman (chair@njlp.org; 732 774-3684), regarding which of the five committees you would like to join. Independent research and teamwork will build the intellectual ammunition our candidates and members can employ to reach out seriously and professionally to the public so that we can affect the debate and begin winning elections.

Editor's Note: NJLP Members with online access have been following the stories in NJ.com, the Express-Times and the Hunterdon Democrat that followed Chris Wuestefeld as he led residents in a victorious vote against education over-spending. Way to go, Chris! And many thanks for sharing an account of your battle with our readers:

Drawing a Line on Education Spending

By Chris Wuestefeld

The education establishment, particularly here in New Jersey, believes that an education is so important that it trumps all other concerns. Worse, expenditures are advocated by a priesthood whose views cannot be questioned by the layman. For the past several months I've been fighting this dogma, and have just won an important victory on my local battlefield.

Twice this year, referenda for the expansion of Delaware Valley Regional High School had been defeated. The first was a narrow margin, the second a landslide 2-1. The School's administration was still convinced that expansion was necessary, and convened a committee of residents to explore the need and formulate a plan.

I volunteered to serve on this committee, along with a handful of other dissenters and a heap of education sycophants. About once a week through the summer we debated the necessity of various items on the School's wish list. I and my fellow dissenters, and even some of the supporters, attempted to find creative solutions to the school's needs that wouldn't be expensive for the towns. For the most part, though, the School administration quashed such exploration without any explanation. Thus it was that a proposal of some \$9.8 million (\$3.1 from State grant) was brought to the towns for a vote. Although the school is in need of some changes, we dissenters could not back this proposal, knowing that many of the requests were unjustified and others were solved inefficiently.

The School Administration was not interested in our objections. We attempted to submit a "minority report" from the committee itself, but were rejected. We asked to make a presentation to the Board on our own behalf, and again were rejected. We finally used the "public comments" portion of a board meeting to present our 37-page report to the Board. The result of this was a letter to one of our organizers, criticizing that we had no right to create such a report.

No meaningful answer was ever given to the concerns raised in our report, and I believe that this epitomizes the attitude of the education establishment. In this arrogance, though, I believe that the School sowed the seeds of its own defeat. With the investment of our own effort in researching the background regulations, codes, and figures, and then digesting this into information applicable to our situation, we created a body of information that undeniably contradicted the School's claims. The morass of regulation makes the raw data unwieldy for the uninitiated. I'd like to share some of the key points, in the hope that they might be useful in your own communities.

There are a number of ways to express the capacity of a school, enough that there's bound to be a number to support any argument. It was claimed that our school's capacity was 701, with a current population of 860 expected to grow to nearly 1,000. The State does recognize the calculation of 701, but not as a meaningful upper limit. Rather, it's the lowest population we could have at which the State would consider matching funds. Make sure you know which capacity numbers are being cited.

Our last construction project was done in 1979, and designed for a student population of 1,220. One then wonders why we'd need expansion if we only expected 1,000 students. It turns out that changing graduation requirements means we need more space for science labs, art and music rooms. This is true enough (although the need is itself manufactured by the education establishment). However, if kids are being taken out of study halls and electives to take physics or band, this doesn't necessitate additional classrooms. Kids are just moving from one classroom to another, so a room may need to be repurposed as a lab, for example. The argument also doesn't explain their purported need for a larger cafeteria, since eating takes the same space it always did.

The school also claimed additional classrooms were needed, but cited a meaningless statistical exercise as proof. Their "proof" showed that nearly all classrooms are already in use for nearly every period. This doesn't tell us anything because we still don't know how densely used each of these rooms are. Statistically, it would be possible to use every room every period with just 50 students – 1 in each room. State figures (available on the web) showed our classes are merely average in crowding. Additionally, when their own numbers showed a "need" for 4 rooms, 8 were requested, for an additional cost of over \$1 million.

Infrastructure repairs were also requested. While these may be necessary, a referendum for expansion is not the way to fund them. Upkeep of boilers, for example, should be funded through annual operating expenses. Failure to maintain them allows the school to keep their annual budget artificially low. This lets them underscore the necessity for improvements in referenda like ours, and to use bonds as a "stealth" maintenance budget. Worldcom-style accounting shouldn't be rewarded.

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Drawing a Line on Education Spending

From Page 3

There were numerous other issues with the Board's request. To view the details, see <http://www.NecessaryPublicEducation.com>.

We fought this through an aggressive awareness campaign. Our primary tool was a double-sided mailing signed by five core members. While expensive, we sent this 1st class mail to ensure delivery timing, and to lend an air of legitimacy. We were relying on the large body of information we'd built, so referenced the above web site, where complete documentation was available for anyone interested. This site had over 400 visitors in the last two weeks alone. A letter-writing campaign in two local papers also helped awareness. Another factor was handed to us by our opposition: vandals drawing swastikas on our roadside signs got us statewide media attention.

The real battle was not over the issues: we had those cornered. It boiled down to our ability to create awareness and motivation to get to the polls versus the School's ability to mobilize their boosters, guaranteed "yes" votes regardless of the facts. Indeed, many such irate people phoned and mailed us after being goaded by School administrators who asserted all our claims were lies (but without any rationale for these claims).

In the end, we were able to defeat the referendum by 153 votes. This is not the end of it, though. We are currently looking at actions by the School Board that we believe were unethical, such as mailings that contained incorrect data. There is also speculation that the School will go to the state to have the referendum defeat overridden.

So a battle was won, but the education establishment still asserts that their demands supersede all other priorities, even when real needs have not been proven. If nothing else, a majority of our community now shares our distaste for the way these affairs are conducted.

State's Civil Forfeiture Funding Scheme Unconstitutional

From Page 1

The case, *State of New Jersey v. One 1990 Ford Thunderbird*, was led by perhaps an unlikely crusader, Carol Thomas of Millville in southern New Jersey. Her case arose in 1999 when Thomas' then 17-year-old son used her Thunderbird without her knowledge and consent to sell marijuana to an undercover officer. Her son was arrested and punished, but that did not end the matter. The State still went after the car by filing a civil forfeiture action because the car was involved in illegal activity. Ironically, at the time of her son's arrest, Thomas was a seven-year veteran officer with the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office. Thomas has subsequently left the sheriff's department and decided to fight abusive forfeiture laws.

In 2001, the Institute for Justice scored a first-round victory in this case when it secured the release of Thomas' car. The judge allowed Thomas' challenge to New Jersey's unconstitutional profit motive to continue, and now the judge has declared the New Jersey statute to be unconstitutional.

The Institute for Justice is a libertarian public interest law firm. Through strategic litigation, training, communications and outreach, the Institute for Justice advances a rule of law under which individuals can control their own destinies as free and responsible members of society. It litigates to secure economic liberty, school choice, private property rights, freedom of speech and other vital individual liberties, and to restore constitutional limits on the power of government. In addition, it trains law students, lawyers and policy activists in the tactics of public interest litigation to advance individual rights. Through these activities the Institute challenges the ideology of the welfare state and illustrates and extends the benefits of freedom to those whose full enjoyment of liberty is denied by government. The Institute was founded in September 1991 by William Mellor and Clint Bolick.

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New Jersey Libertarian, c/o Deb Sackett, Editor, 69 Malaga Lake Boulevard, Malaga, NJ 08328
Editor@nilb.org

Minutes of the NJLP General Meeting of November 10, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM.

1. It was determined that a quorum (15 members) was present.
2. The agenda was adopted after addition of Bylaws proposals, County caucuses.
3. Officer Reports:
 - a. Secretary presented his report. The minutes of the October 20 State Board meeting were read and approved.
 - b. The Treasurer presented his report.
4. Under Unfinished Business:

1. BCRA:

The implications of Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA) were discussed, particularly as they impact the NJLP being a membership organization. Karlan moved, Paff seconded that the NJLP adopt the Unified Membership Program #2 of the National Party.

The motion was ruled out of order. Karlan moved to change the Bylaws to allow dues to be changed at any General meeting, by deleting "to set dues" from 5.b.1 paragraph 1 sentence 1 and adding "Specifically, any General meeting may set dues" to 5.a.5.

The motion failed, 10-6, on a show of hands (2/3 required).

Bob Jacobs moved (Kaplan seconded) that the NJLP become a Federal Filing Committee.

Paff moved (accepted as friendly) that this motion take effect December 11 if and only if the Steering Committee does not change this commitment.

Also accepted as friendly was the request that \$250 be allocated for Treasurer's expenses for the FEC filing requirements.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

20 minutes was allocated to Alon Rand for an informal presentation; this was extended to 30 minutes.

2. CAPP: Nothing to report
3. The Newsletter: Nothing to report.
4. The 2003 Convention: Doug Badow and a representative of the Free State Project will address the Convention; also Jack Cole will address us on the War on Drugs. The Convention will be held at the Trenton Marriott, March 1.
5. Web site: nothing to report
6. Strategic Plan: nothing to report
7. County Caucuses: recess for 10 minutes.
 - Union reported Chair and State Board representative are both Scott Lenger.
 - Monmouth reported State Board representative is Jay Edgar.
 - Ocean reported State Board representative is Pat Bontempo.
 - Middlesex/Mercer (combined) reported no changes.
 - Somerset reported no change.
 - Hunterdon reported no change.
 - Morris reported that Ken Kaplan is county contact.
5. Under New Business:
 - a. Campaigns: The unofficial total for Liz Macron was reported as 12,375, in a 4th-place finish.
 - b. Committee Reports:
 1. Fundraising: nothing to report
 2. Electronic Communication: nothing to report
 3. Recruitment and Membership: this will be pushed down to the county level, if possible
 4. Public Relations: There was discussion of participation in the Junior State of America, November 23. There was also discussion of implementing a "Contract with New Jersey" for campaign purposes next year.
 5. Paff presented a report on the lack of access to municipal court records, and advised Libertarians to attend to this information as a source of potential recruits. Also moved That the Chair sign his (Paff's) letter asking for information.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM when a quorum was lost.

Future meetings:

- Steering Committee December 10, Stefanelli-Macron residence, Tinton Falls, 7:30 PM
- State Board January 19, Tumulty's Pub, New Brunswick, 1PM

The Strategic Plan and the New Jersey Libertarian Party

By Dan Karlan

During 2001, the Libertarian National Committee's Strategic Planning Team (SPT), of which I was a participant, developed a comprehensive Strategic Plan for the National Libertarian Party. But the Plan we developed was never limited in scope to just the national party. While some of the strategies can be implemented best or first at the national level, others are best – or only – addressed at the state or local level, and still others will be achieved by a collaborative effort at several levels.

Due to budget constraints, the LNC has had to defer certain expenditures on implementing some of the higher priority strategies at the national party level. To the extent that the NJLP must wait for the national party to complete their work before proceeding at the state, and then local, level, we must continue to wait. Improved literature, the branding effort, and other tools that we need will simply have to go undeveloped for a while.

That leaves several other strategies in which we in the NJLP can proceed independently of the national party, which was how it was before the budget crunch hit anyway. As the NJLP's representative on the Strategic Planning Team, I have assumed the task of promoting those parts of the plan that we can do immediately. Over the course of the next several issue of the NJL, I will present one strategy in each issue, along with some commentary on how the NJLP can work to implement that part of the plan. Part of the plan included several hundred low-level tactics, for use in advancing particular strategies. And if anyone wants to learn of those ideas, they are accessible on the Web, and printed and electronic copies are available on request. I hesitate to print the list of ideas, not only due to expense, but especially because I don't think any of you should feel constrained or limited by just that list. Come up with your own ideas, and work on them, or enlist others to assist you. The plan was developed by the Strategic Planning Team, as constituted by the Libertarian National Committee, but each of the members of the SPT is also a member of a state affiliate. The plan was never envisioned as a top-down, command-center approach to achieving the growth and ultimate victory of the LP. This is very much of a "do-what-you-can" plan, and you must not think you need to wait for somebody else's approval before starting.

We developed 20 strategies, and for reasons that might become clear quickly, I start with the last strategy.

Strategy 20: Motivate the Libertarian Party support base to increase activism by recognizing and rewarding both effort and success and by making involvement in the Libertarian Party an enjoyable, positive experience.

SPT recommends that the LNC and state and local LP organizations undertake the task of changing the LP "culture" to provide stronger motivation for LP supporters to be volunteers/activists.

SPT believes that the LP faces high burnout and dropout rates largely because of unmet expectations – addressed with Strategy 19 – and displeasurable aspects of activism. Far too often the diligent efforts of volunteers/activists go unrecognized and unrewarded. SPT believes that both effort and success must be recognized and rewarded if the LP is to minimize volunteers/activists burnout.

SPT believes that far too often involvement in LP activities is not enjoyable and is a negative experience. Internal bickering and infighting are examples of the types of interaction that volunteers/activists encounter when working in support of LP organizations or campaigns. SPT believes that it is crucial to change this aspect of the LP "culture" so that involvement in LP organizational or campaign activities is an enjoyable, positive experience.

This constitutes a significant "culture" change for the LP and much of its volunteer/activist support base. Successful implementation of this strategy will require efforts by the LNC and state and local LP organizations.

Possible Tactics:

- Develop and encourage a culture within the LP that recognizes and celebrates political activity and success
- Emphasize enjoyable social interaction as a feature of association with Libertarians
- Motivate increased efforts by members, contributors, activists, and supporters through recognition and reward
- Develop and encourage a culture which discourages infighting

SPT urges all affiliated state and local parties to support this strategy. To be successful, the LP needs to reduce burnout and increase commitment. Electing more Libertarians to public office is probably the most effective way to reduce burnout. This strategy should also work to motivate increased activism among the LP's support base.

LP leaders and supporters need to understand the importance of making participation in LP activities an enjoyable, positive experience. Activists should be coached that there is room for disagreement among Libertarians. Arguing can serve to divide us. Respect for our common opinions helps us work together. Tolerance for our differing opinions also helps us work together. Instead of vigorously criticizing honest efforts because they happen to fall short of the objective, LP leaders should show appreciation for the people who attempted to achieve the objective. Nothing encourages volunteerism as much as public expressions of appreciation; nothing discourages volunteerism as much as public condemnation for having tried and, perhaps, failed.

SPT encourages affiliated state and local parties to lead by example – taking positive steps to recognize and reward both effort and success.

From The Chair

By NJLP State Chair Emerson Ellett



Convention Chairman Robert Jacobs has lined up two more interesting speakers for our annual convention March 1 -- Larken Rose who will speak on "The IRS and Taxable Income?", and our own Richard Bellush Jr., novelist and short story writer. We are also inviting Carol Thomas to speak. Ms. Thomas is the litigant from Cumberland County whose case, argued by the libertarian Institute for Justice, resulted in New Jersey's forfeiture statute being declared unconstitutional.

These speakers plus retired NJ State Police narcotics officer Jack Cole, speaking against the drug war; libertarian scholar Doug Bandow of the Cato Institute; and Barbara McKistrey of the Free State Project will provide provocative food for thought (and, hopefully, action).

To save a few dollars be sure to mail your Convention reservation postmarked no later than Feb. 1. Directions to the Convention are printed on the back of the reservation form included with this newsletter. Simply mail in the coupon at the bottom of the form, and hold on to the directions on the back.

Thanks to Tim Haas, Daniel Wright and Len Flynn several scores of high school students were introduced to libertarian ideas this past month. Tim and Dan represented the party at a Junior States of America gathering in Philadelphia, while Len planted the flag in Metuchen. Much of the credit is due to the students themselves; they and not their teachers contacted the party. It should be noted that neither event was connected to the government school system, where individual initiative is not always welcome. In September a government school teacher contacted me about providing a speaker to address her high school class. Unfortunately she was thwarted by a supervisor who said that in these times the school has to protect the students. Though I recommended our local Congressional candidate to the teacher (thank you for running, Keith Quarles) nothing came of it.

Anyone planning to speak in a classroom setting might want to do what Len Flynn did. He mailed a quantity of New Political Party brochures and World's Smallest Political Quizzes to the teacher and asked him to distribute them to each student a day or so before the talk. Before beginning his presentation Len wrote our website on the blackboard, and at the conclusion of the talk he raised a few chuckles by handing out "Million Dollar Bills" to questioners, along with the "What Ever Happened to the Family Budget" brochure, with the admonition to "give it to their mothers" (the school being an all boys school).

Have you visited Forums on our web site (www.njlp.org)? Click on the bottom button on the home page. There on Forums people are free to vent their spleen. One writer who is apparently not a member took the NJLP to task for not (he asserted) having opposed the misnamed USA PATRIOT Act. He (the writer) will be able to look his kids in the face 20 years from now because he did something about the PATRIOT Act (told Forum readers the NJLP was useless) while the NJLP did nothing. Actually we have joined a coalition opposing the act, and announced it on Announce@njlp.org. (If you're not already subscribed to the Announce list consider sending an email to majordomo@wallnet.com. Leave the subject line blank; in the body put: subscribe Announce@njlp.org. And while you're at it you may wish to join the Liberty Talk email discussion list too; to do so send an email to majordomo@wallnet.com. Leave the subject line blank; in the body put: subscribe liberty-talk@wallnet.com.) As to criticism we may want to consider adopting a New Jersey version of "Groushaw's Law". Barbara Groushaw, a Michigan activist, has an axiom that only after someone has volunteered 100 hours or donated \$100 is that person entitled to an opinion on what she has done.

One of our hardest charging members, Alon Rand, has taken Ralph Waldo Emerson to heart. "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm," wrote the sage of Concord, and Rand couldn't agree more. Be sure to read Rand's article, "The Members of the Libertarian Party Constitutional TECH Project." He lays out an ambitious plan to research New Jersey's constitutional basis, and its tax, education, car and health (TECH) insurance practices, with an eye to radically reforming all four. With the facts in hand, he believes, our party can present a program to our fellow citizens that they will agree will vastly improve their lives. Please consider joining him in that quest.

Time to wrap up. Don't forget to send in your convention reservation. We've put together a great program for you.

Please contact your county chair, myself (chair@njlp.org; 732 774-3684) or anyone else on the Steering Committee if you are willing to assist the cause of freedom 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 565 College Drive Suite #C-160 Henderson, NV 89015 Voicemail/Fax (702) 993-6593

Paid Advertisement



**Looking for freedom
at the Jersey Shore?**

Contact:

**Libertarians of
Monmouth County
PO Box 121
Tennent NJ 07763**

732 775-7263

www.MonmouthLP.org

Calendar

LPSMC Monthly meeting Date:
Thursday, January 16, 2003
Time: 7:00pm-10:00pm
Howard Schoen's residence,
2602 Merrywood Drive, Edison.
Call 732-572-0207 or email
hschoen@superlink.net for more directions.

State Board
January 19, 1PM, Tumulty's Pub

New Jersey Libertarian Party Annual
Convention
Saturday March 1, 2003
9 am- Noon – Business Session
Marriott Trenton at Lafayette Yard
1 West Lafayette St.
Trenton



**NEW JERSEY
LIBERTARIAN
PARTY**
P.O. BOX 56
TENNENT NJ 07763

**CALL TOLL FREE
1 800 201-NJLP**

I want to become a member of the 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 political or social goals.

(Signature required for membership only) **X** _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone (____) _____ Email _____

Occupation & Employer _____

Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax deductible.

☐ Please send me a Voter Registration Form

☐ Please send me a Voter Declaration of Party Affiliation Form

Membership Level: ☐ \$40 - Both National LP & NJLP ☐ \$25 - National LP only ☐ \$15 - New Jersey LP only

Newsletter subscription(s) are included with your membership(s).

Make check payable to NJLP and mail to: NJLP, c/o Jack Toussaint, 66 Cortlandt St., Belleville, NJ

Donation

☐ Enclosed is my additional contribution of \$ _____ to help the NJLP in its efforts to expand individual liberty.

Send to a Friend

☐ I have a friend who might be interested in the NJLP. Please send a complimentary copy of the *New Jersey Libertarian* to:

New Jersey Libertarian Party Annual Convention

Saturday March 1, 2003

9 am- Noon – Business Session (Free)

Speakers

Doug Bandow, Cato Institute

“Foreign Policy in an Age of Empire”

Jack A. Cole, Dir., Law Enforcement Against Prohibition

Larken Rose, “The IRS and Taxable Income?”

Richard Bellush Jr. Libertarian novelist

Elizabeth McKinstry, Free State Project

Carol Thomas, whose case overturned the New Jersey forfeiture statute (invited)

Location:

Marriott Trenton at Lafayette Yard

1 West Lafayette St.

Trenton, New Jersey 08608

609-421-4000

Directions:

- Exit New Jersey Tpke via ramp at sign reading "Exit 7A I-195 to Trenton/Shore Points" and go Northwest for 1.0 mile
- Continue on I-195 West for 6 miles to RT-29
- Continue on RT-29 and go Northwest for 3.5 miles
- Exit RT-29 via ramp at sign reading "RT-33 Market St" and go North for 800 feet
- Turn right on Market St, RT-33 and go Northeast for 1000 feet
- Turn left on New Warren St, US-1-Alt, S Warren St and go Northwest for 0.3 miles to Trenton Marriott at Lafayette Yard

Come early, stay late, make a weekend of it in historic Trenton. Marriott Trenton room rates \$84; \$99 with breakfast for two

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Full Convention Package (\$69; \$59 if paid prior to February 1) _____

Gourmet Buffet Luncheon only (\$35) _____

Speakers only (\$25) _____ Speakers only, Students with valid ID (\$5)

Reserve your place by sending payment to NJLP Convention, P.O. Box 56, Tennent, NJ 07756.

Reserve prior to February 1 and save \$10