



New Jersey Libertarian



2003 Convention goes enjoying the amenities at the Trenton Marriot.



Larken Rose addresses Convention-goers

Proposed Bylaws Change Fails

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

Robert Hull presented the Bylaws proposal. There were questions and discussion. The motion failed 12-11 (two-thirds required).

For complete minutes of the general meeting, see Pages 9 and 10.

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Contrarian's home to become haven

Wednesday, March 12, 2003, The Times
By LISA CORYELL

HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP - When Carl Peters died in 2002, he left behind a legacy of fierce independence, strong political views and a dilapidated house on a junk-filled lot in Titusville.

Wrick Avenue residents this week said it would please their renegade neighbor to know his land is slated to become home to a low-income family under the state's Habitat for Humanity program.

Peters' heirs are planning to donate the property to the organization, which would raze the ramshackle house and build a new one for a needy family.

"Carl would want that," said Dave Wyckoff, a neighbor. "He was a Christian and would want someone not so fortunate to get a nice house."

Not to mention the fact that part of the deal calls for the township to forgive the back taxes that Peters refused to pay on principle.

"I'm sure Carl's chuckling about that one," said Wyckoff's wife, Linda.

Peters died in July 2001 after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was 76.

For decades before his death, the decorated World War II veteran fought neighbors and elected officials over his right to collect junk and debris in his front and back yards.

His lawn, overgrown with weeds, was strewn with rusty cars, old tires and other objects. Several times, at the behest of irate neighbors, the township bulldozed Peters' property to remove the junk. But he just collected more.

The one-time mechanical engineer and founder of the Mercer County Libertarian Party was known as a man who fought for his beliefs and was bright, friendly and well-intentioned.

When he died, residents expressed mixed emotions, but many said they looked forward to seeing the property cleaned up once and for all.

When Peters' heirs attempted to sell the house they learned there was more than \$50,000 in tax and other liens on it, including about \$3,000 the township had charged for its cleanups. Further thwarting the feasibility of a sale was the fact that the house, without running water or plumbing, was structurally unsound and had to be razed.

Family members decided to donate it to charity as affordable housing.

"It's very common for people to do that," said Jocelyn Bines, associate director of Trenton's Habitat for Humanity. "The properties are usually distressed, and they do it as a tax write-off."

Wrick Avenue residents said the plan is a wonderful idea.

"I'd love to see the place fixed up and a nice family move in," said one resident who did not want her name used. "My daughter is dying for a playmate. And I think it would be great if someone has the chance to live in a lovely neighborhood."

"I've seen the homes Habitat for Humanity builds, and they're beautiful," said neighbor Joyce Burke. "I really can't see anyone in the neighborhood objecting to it. I think it's a unique idea."

Bines said her organization does most of its work in inner cities but also has built affordable housing in neighboring Princeton Township.

"We always thought it would be great if we could get into Hopewell Township, too," she said. Final approvals for the project are pending, Bines said.

Township Committeewoman Arlene Kemp, who sits on the local Affordable Housing Committee, said the Peters project is a unique opportunity to help the township meet its low-income housing requirements.

By locating units within existing neighborhoods, the township can avoid putting them all together in new developments, she said.

Kemp is also working on a new program that would provide owners of multiunit dwellings with funding to rehab their properties in return for one or more of the units to be rented as affordable housing.

"We are reaching out to residents for their ideas on how to address our affordable housing goals," she said.

Announcing the 2003 NJLP Candidate Call-a-Thon

Calling all cell
phone users!
Come on out and
use your free cell
phone weekend
minutes to
canvass for
candidates and
donations for the
2003 legislative
elections. Free
pizza and sub
lunch (paid for by
anonymous donor)
to volunteer
callers.

Be at Len and
Ginny Flynn's
home Saturday
April 19 from 10
am to 4pm. Come
one come all to
the Flynn
residence,
264 Tennent Rd.,
Marlboro
(Monmouth
County) 732 591-
1328

Former cop pushes for drug legalization effort

Sunday, March 02, 2003
Trenton Times @nj.com
T.A. PARMALEE

TRENTON - Imagine a 20-something Bill Clinton sitting in a circle of smoke and passing a marijuana cigarette to the kid wearing bell-bottoms on his right.

Now, imagine that the kid in those bell-bottoms is Jack A. Cole, who worked 26 years for the State Police - 12 of those years undercover.

The next day, Bill Clinton's door would have been "knocked down at 5 a.m., they would have drug him out in chains and charged him with a felony," Cole, 64, told a roomful of people yesterday at the New Jersey Libertarian Party convention at the Trenton Marriott at Lafayette Yard.

Clinton would have been considered a drug dealer by handing the drug to another person - he would not have needed to receive money, Cole told the audience. "Clinton would not have even become an attorney, let alone president," Cole said.

Where would our nation be if this same scenario happened to suspected one-time drug users such as Al Gore, Dan Quayle, Newt Gingrich or George W. Bush, asked Cole, now the executive director of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition. LEAP was formed nearly a year ago and includes more than 300 current and former members of law enforcement who want drugs legalized.

Cole said that the lives of many young people are being ruined by drug arrests, because "you can overcome an addiction, but you can't overcome a conviction." He said he ruined many of those lives himself. "My job was to target individuals and become their best friend," Cole said. "I became their closest confidante so I could betray them and send them to prison. Over 1,000 people went to prison because of what I did. I can't tell you how many good young people's lives I've ruined."

The entire war on drugs - which began in 1968 when Nixon launched a presidential "law and order" campaign - has been a failure, Cole said. He cited many statistics to support his opinion: -- There are 1.6 million people arrested each year for nonviolent drug violations, equal to the "population of New Mexico."

-- The Drug Enforcement Agency was created in 1973 with 3,000 people and a budget of \$75 million. It now has 79,000 employees and a \$1.5 billion budget.

-- A 2002 survey shows students at all grade levels using marijuana at higher levels.

After legalizing "all drugs," Cole believes the government should produce the drugs to make sure they are mixed properly to prevent overdoses. He suggests the government distribute these drugs free of charge to people requiring "maintenance doses," but he is open to alternative legalization plans.

He said once people can use them, there will be less crime, less disease and even less drug use.

While the majority of the Libertarian audience applauded Cole's advocacy of ending prohibition, some disagreed on how it should be done.

Ed Forchion, 38, of Pemberton Township, who has run for Congress three times on a marijuana legalization platform, said Cole was "right on with everything."

Cole, who is white, argues that the war on drugs is racist, something Forchion, who is black, feels is true. "The task forces operate in urban areas where (blacks) live," Forchion said. "I call it a racist war on drugs and I'm surprised organizations like the NAACP don't pick up on that."

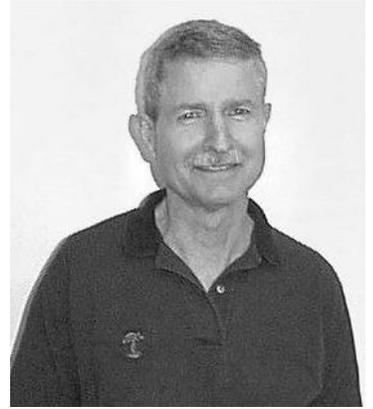
Forchion added that Cole knows what he did for 26 years and "is trying to make amends. That's not a criticism - I praise him."

Cole, a former Chambersburg resident who now lives in Boston, came to yesterday's convention at the invitation of the Libertarian Party, not as an endorsement of its platform.

From The Chair

By NJLP State Chair Emerson Ellett

Guess what \$12 product in 1973 was less than 2% pure (98% filler), and today costs \$5 and is 36% pure? If you guessed a heroin fix you'd be right, according to Jack A. Cole, the former NJ State Police undercover narcotics officer who spoke at our Convention. Cole confessed to "ruining" a thousand lives by befriending narcotics users and then sending them to prison. He related how in the 70s he participated in a drug raid in the Corona section of Queens that netted 19 pounds of narcotics. The story made a big splash in the NY Times. Thirty years later Cole, now Executive Director of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (www.leap.cc), happened to read of another drug bust in Corona, Queens that netted hundreds of pounds; the Times reported that story toward the back of the B section. He concludes that the drug war is not only unwinnable but destructive, because "you can get over an addiction, but you'll never get over a conviction."



Sixty NJLP conventioners heard Cole, Cato foreign policy analyst Doug Bandow, IRS adversary Larken Rose (www.taxableincom.net) and a speaker from the Free State Project. For the first time in years the convention received press coverage, a tribute to convention chairman Robert Jacobs who included among the speakers one (Cole) who added a New Jersey angle that appealed to the Trenton Times. Jay Edgar deserves our thanks too. At his own expense Jay advertised the convention in Princeton U's student American Foreign Policy newspaper.

Conventioners re-elected the entire Steering Committee without opposition except for one At-large representative. The new line up consists of myself, chair; Len Flynn, VC; Dan Karlan, Secretary; Lou Stefanelli, Treasurer; Robert Hull, Ken Kaplan and Jay Boucher, members At-large. Elizabeth Macron, member by petition, resigned effective February 1. (Thanks, Liz, for your dedicated service and your pledge to keep active.)

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to our 2002 candidates and Jacobs.

Congratulations to our 2003 county chairs, Ray Cragle (Mercer), Robert Hull (Monmouth) and Howard Schoen (Somerset/Middlesex), who were chosen by county caucus at the Convention. Our by-laws state that any county that has elected a chair and treasurer and has a bank account will receive funds from the state party based on the number of members in the county. The funds can be spent on county fair fees, newspaper advertising or other purposes decided by the county party. So if you live in an unorganized county and would like to get involved consider contacting myself or another Steering Committee member. The next time unorganized counties can be recognized by a General Meeting will be at the July picnic, but you can get started now.

Candidates approved by the Convention are Robert Hull, 11th District Assembly and Emerson Ellett, 11th District Senate (part of Monmouth); Lou Stefanelli, 12th District Senate (parts of Monmouth and Mercer); Jany Sabins, 27th District Assembly (part of Essex); and Dan Karlan, 39th District Assembly (part of Bergen). Monmouth County has nominated Len Flynn for Freeholder and John Taylor, Highlands Borough Council.

Note that Karlan has agreed to run on the condition that others gather ballot petition signatures for him. He made the same offer in last year's Congressional race, but fell short by fewer than twenty signatures. Petitioners, therefore, are essential in getting our candidates on the ballot. A handful of signatures on a properly notarized petition can make the difference. To obtain Assembly and Senate petitions call the Division of Elections at 609 292-3760.

Just as a reminder New Jersey has 40 legislative districts, each represented by one senator and two assemblypersons. Of 120 legislative seats up for grabs this year the NJLP is challenging at the present time only five seats in three districts. We're going to need a lot more legislative candidates if we hope to loosen the bonds of the current election law. That's because a large number of candidates constitutes credibility in the eye of the courts. Our pro bono attorney assures us she and her co-counsel will start moving the case against the State again. They will need all the ammunition they can get. So even if you are not interested in running, consider running anyway. Petitions are available from Trenton at 609 292-3760.

To support our legislative candidates Vic Kaplan, one of our most tireless members, is working on a flyer concentrating on education, state taxation and auto insurance, the issues of most concern to voters.

Congratulations to John Taylor, MD, who was quoted in the NY Times March 10 with regard to the recent doctors' walkout. In a medical Internet forum Taylor said running for political office alone has its benefits. "There is nothing like a direct threat to a professional politician's job by a well-funded challenger to set their pants on fire, even if you don't win the election." He added that gathering petition signatures for the ballot would be "a piece of cake". Doctors' waiting rooms alone would provide enough signatures, he wrote. Perhaps our other MD members will heed Taylor's words and join the battle to reform New Jersey's health care system.

Jack Toussaint will be turning over the management of our database and membership renewal functions to Bob Hull. Thanks, Jack, for your many years of faithful service. Thanks are also owed Bob, who is taking on the task as a volunteer.

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

Updating 'smart gun' information

The Times' article, "N.J. is first state to pass 'smart gun' legislation" (Dec. 24), misstates some facts about the new law. The Times' editorial, "Smart legislation" (Dec. 26), repeats the misinformation. Since the article was written from staff and wire reports, I take it to be essentially a press release rather than a piece of honest journalism.

The story states that the law will require "a mechanism that allows only their owners to fire them." Actually, the law is almost, but not quite, that irresponsible. It does not say that only the owner can fire a smart gun, but rather that only an "authorized" user can fire it. The difference is substantial.

Take for example a situation in which the owner of one of these smart guns is using it to defend her family from home invaders and is wounded or killed by the thugs. If only she, the owner, could fire it, then her family is toast. However, if she had programmed the gun to recognize and authorize other family members, one of them could still use the gun to ward off the killers.

The story says the technology will be required after the state attorney general determines a "smart gun prototype is safe and commercially available." Actually, the law requires that a production model be available. It specifically rules out a mere prototype as evidence of commercially [sic] availability.

The article states that the technology will be required in all new handguns sold after the attorney general makes his determination. This statement is false on multiple grounds.

1) The law applies only to licensed firearm dealers, so a nondealer can still sell his dumb handgun to another individual.

2) The law prohibits dealers from selling any handguns - new or old - that aren't smart. So, even with the required permit from your local police chief, you will not be able to buy a used, normal gun from a legitimate gun store.

Contrary to what the story says, the law does not require the attorney general to determine that these guns are safe, but that he test them for reliability, not safety.

The irony here is that the law calls for the same reliability standards the manufacturer uses for its dumb guns. So smart guns will be no more reliable or safe than normal guns. After the smart gun has been programmed to recognize family members, there may still be an accidentally [sic] shooting.

Bryan Miller and others pushing this law claim that it will reduce the number of children who "accidentally" shoot themselves or another child. However, two children (ages 0-16) were unintentionally killed by a gun in New Jersey in 1999 and 2000 combined. We don't normally fire up the legislative, regulatory and prosecutorial machinery to address a danger that has resulted in only two deaths in two years.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site, <http://webapp.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate10.html>, reveals that there were but nine suicides by gun among children in New Jersey in 1999 and 2000 combined. Again, nine suicides in two years is a small number to justify this new law.

For perspective, note that during that two-year period, 92 children were unintentionally killed in New Jersey by motor vehicles. But we don't see lawmakers and lobbyists pushing for automobiles that only an authorized user could crash.

TERRY WINTROUB

Lawrence Township

The writer is N.J. Libertarian Party liaison to the gun rights community.

Libertarians in Print

War of Words on "Smart Guns"

Editor's Note: The following three letters are Terry Wintroub's skillful response to an article in the Times of Trenton (left); a rebuttal from Bryan Miller of Ceasefire, NJ (below), and Terry's countering arguments (page 6). Good job, Terry!

Published 1/8/03

'Smart' support

Letter writer Terry Wintroub took The Times to task for applauding Gov. James E. McGreevey's recent signing of the Childproof Handgun Law, a statute that will, in the not-too-distant future, limit handgun sales in our state to those that are designed and manufactured to fire only for adult authorized users ("Updating 'smart gun' legislation," Jan. 2).

Contrary to Wintroub's claims that they will be no more "safe than normal guns," childproof handguns will not fire for a curious child who might pick one up, or a momentarily depressed teen intent on suicide who finds dad's handgun, or a disturbed adolescent seeking to harm classmates or teachers, or even a felon who steals one.

That certainly seems safer to me, as it does to the parents, grandparents, teachers, health and medical professionals and others who constitute the vast support for the law the governor signed, making New Jersey the first state in the country to so value its children as to seek to protect them by requiring gun makers to adopt readily available technology to make their products safer. Kudos to the N.J. Legislature, the governor and The Times.

Wintroub's real beef seems to be that, in his view, not enough children have died in New Jersey in recent years to justify enactment of the Childproof Handgun Law. He, apparently, has a threshold of death and injury below which we should sit on our hands and do nothing to make our homes, schools and communities safer from handgun death and injury. As someone who has lost a loved one, my only brother, to senseless gun violence, I find Wintroub's numbers game callous and obnoxious. I'd like to see him explain to a family that lost a child to handgun violence that sorry, but we must wait to require the life-saving technology in handguns that could have saved your child's life, because insufficient numbers of other children have died. Cold comfort, indeed.

I am certain that any parent whose child's life might be saved in the future by a childproof handgun would feel the same. Which is precisely why the support for the governor's signing of the Childproof Handgun Law is so enormous. No one wants to wait to make our state safer for our children. Why would we?

BRYAN MILLER

Trenton

The writer is executive director, Ceasefire New Jersey.

The truth about "smart-gun" legislation

Ceasefire N.J. executive director Bryan Miller's letter continues to propagate falsehoods about "smart" guns and New Jersey's recently enacted smart-gun law ("Smart' support," Jan. 8). He writes that this law will "limit handgun sales in our state to those that are designed and manufactured to fire only for adult authorized users." Here, once more, is the truth.

1. This law, if and when it ever takes effect, applies only to sales by licensed firearm dealers. Individuals who are not dealers will remain free to sell their "dumb" handguns privately. In fact, doing so will be their only option for selling any of their guns in New Jersey.

2. The law does not limit "smart" guns' authorized users to adults, nor should it. How is a parent who buys one of these supposed to teach his or her child to safely use it if only adults can be authorized to operate it?

Ergo, Miller is wrong when he contradicts my claim that these guns are no safer than normal guns. They will fire for Miller's "curious child," "momentarily depressed teen," or "disturbed adolescent," as long as they are authorized users. They will fire for the "felon who steals one," as soon as the authorizing devices hit the market.

Miller claims, but has never substantiated, "vast support for the law." He cannot possibly substantiate such a claim, for a very simple reason. None of the newspapers, television stations, pundits, politicians or lobbyists has been willing to accurately describe the law, let alone its implications. How could there be vast support of something when there isn't even vast understanding of it?

Miller attributes to me, "a threshold of death and injury below which we should sit on our hands and do nothing." Of course, he has no factual or logical basis for that claim, either. But when you're a gun-ban lobbyist, you don't let facts or logic interfere with your rhetoric. When you encounter an opponent who does rely on facts and logic, you dismiss them [sic] as "callous and obnoxious."

Ask yourself these questions: Do the people who leave their loaded handguns accessible to irresponsible, untrained children seem to be the sort of people who will get rid of their "dumb" guns and replace them with "smart" ones?

Will the gang-bangers, drug warriors and drive-by shooters turn in their illegally acquired guns and run out to acquire "smart" ones? Will suicidal teenagers who find their fathers' handgun, but see that they can't fire it, give up on killing themselves and instead go watch TV? Or call the hotline? Or will they head for dad's shotgun or rifle, the medicine cabinet, or the family auto with its painless carbon monoxide?

Miller doesn't like my statistics: two children killed with guns by accident and nine killed in gun suicides in two years. Were I in his business, I wouldn't like them, either. They demonstrate that such incidents are so rare that no new law can possibly make them any rarer.

People need to realize that no matter how much the Millers, McGreeveys, Codeys, Weinbergs, et al, bleat otherwise, this law is not about child safety. It is about achieving the goals of the Guns-Are-Yucky-and-Only-Government-and-Other-Criminals-Should-Have-Them crowd.

TERRY WINTROUB
Lawrence Township

The writer is N.J. Libertarian Party liaison to the gun rights community and a newly appointed board member of the N.J. affiliate of Gun Owners of America.

Craig Chapman's letter published
in the February 7th, 2003
Investors Business Daily, a
nationwide paper with around
300,000 circulation. Way to go,
Craig!

To the Editor:

You assert that people in the US think we are spending too much on defense and that they say why not more on education, health care and transportation? Your answer is that it is something most Americans overwhelmingly support and you correctly state that it is something the Constitution calls for. You should take your civics lesson farther. You could point out that education and health care are not mentioned in that same document! My point is that the federal government is trying to run TOO MANY things in this country and doing none of them well. The 9/11 attacks were a monumental failure of our \$300 billion defense and intelligence system.

As witnessed by Bush's budget the Republicans are now bigger nanny state spenders than the Democrats ever were. IBD, you can't have it both ways, don't support basic Libertarian ideas on taxes and the markets but ignore what the interventionist military industrial complex has done to us with its foreign policy.

Craig P. Chapman
Pine Brook, NJ 07058

Are you a
"Libertarian in Print"?
You are if your published
letter includes any version
of the word libertarian!

Email your letter to
editor@njlp.org, or
snail-mail it to

Deb Sackett,
Editor, NJL
69 Malaga Lake Blvd.
Malaga, NJ 08328

The Strategic Plan and the New Jersey Libertarian Party

By Dan Karlan

In the first two issues of this year's newsletter, I introduced Strategies 20 and 19, the last numerically of those drafted by the national Strategic Planning Team (SPT). These were the 'cultural' strategies, directed at making activism more effective and reducing infighting and burnout. Finally, with this month's strategy, I direct our attention to a strategy that involves activism.

But Strategy 17 is not just ordinary political activism as we think of it. Going into our Convention, we tend to think of campaigns and elections as our prominent form of activism. But this is misleading. Politics happens very often outside of campaigns and elections. In fact, *most* of the political activity in this or any other state happens at the day-to-day time scale and local level, at town councils and school board meetings.

When any one of us 'announces' to the world that he or she is a libertarian, an important thing happens. Due to our small numbers, to most of the non-libertarians you meet, *you* will be their window to the libertarian world. You will be their representative libertarian. You are the emissary of the party and the movement to your corner of the world. People will look to you for answers to their questions regarding the implications of our philosophy for their lives. If you are reasonable, they will think libertarians in general are, and will take more kindly to our ideas. They will retain an open mind. On the other hand, if you appear intransigent and unsympathetic, you will close their minds to the entire libertarian approach.

Yes, this can be a serious burden. But I for one welcome it, and recognition of the responsibility infuses me with a spirit that I think is analogous to what the Founding Fathers must have felt when they pledged "[their] Lives, [their] Fortunes, and [their] sacred Honor."

Now on to Strategy 17. This is what I call the "Politics is Local" strategy. When reading the following presentation, consider who your audience might be. If there is an issue under consideration which strongly divides your town, then your target audience would be everybody in the meeting room. You must have your facts straight, and be prepared to present them in a coherent, simple, and concise form. Have written copies of your statements ready to hand out to anyone who asks. That would include the media.

But if the meeting room is nearly empty, and the issue under discussion doesn't rouse much interest, consider that you might be speaking to your neighbors, not the council or board. And be prepared to listen to what others say. You might find out that a neighbor has some interesting ideas. Introduce yourself, and find out if he wants to discuss the matter privately.

And no matter what the audience, remember that the instant you identify yourself as a libertarian, you become a face on the entire libertarian community to those people. Be a good neighbor.

Strategy 17: Encourage state, local, and campus Libertarian Party organizations and our entire support base to be involved in political processes at all levels outside of campaigns and elections

SPT recommends that local LP organizations and individual volunteers/activists engage themselves in a wide variety of political processes at all levels of government *outside of campaigns and elections*. Becoming more active in non-electoral aspects of government and community affairs will increase the visibility of Libertarians and libertarian ideas. Such involvement can greatly increase the effectiveness of local volunteers/activists in future campaigns – either as a potential candidate or as a campaign worker. There is no substitute for a long history of positive, favorably-viewed community involvement when it comes time to run for office or assist a campaign. Being well known and well respected within one's own community opens doors and influences others.

Possible Tactics:

- Identify opportunities for the LP support base to be involved in political processes at all levels outside of campaigns and elections – including lobbying, initiatives and referenda, attending public meetings, recall efforts, volunteering for local government committee appointments, working as an intern for a government official
- Report and recognize those who participate in political processes outside of campaigns and elections
- Actively promote participation in this activity to the LP support base
- Create organizations -- real or virtual -- which actively support libertarian ideas
- Encourage the LP support base to respond to national LP action items
- Initiate a program whereby the national LP recognizes state affiliates that excel in implementing this strategy

Minutes of the NJLP Steering Committee meeting of 11 February, 2003

The meeting was called to order by the Treasurer at 7:45 PM. Present were Secretary (Karlan), Treasurer (Stefanelli), At-Large 1 (Hull), and At-Large 2 (Kaplan). Vice-Chair (Flynn) arrived at 8:00 and assumed the acting chairmanship. Absent were Chair (Ellett) and At-Large-3 (Elwell). A quorum is 4 of 7.

The prior Agenda was adopted without objection.

The Minutes of the January 19 State Board Meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer distributed his reports. There was discussion regarding the 2003 budget. Flynn arrived during that discussion. Adjustments were made to the proposed budget, which was then approved.

The Treasurer reported he is ready to begin filing FEC reports for 2003.

The Agenda item "CAPP" was enhanced to include the New Jersey Law Revision Commission. Flynn reported that the NJLRC had incorporated several of the NJLP-approved suggestions into their current set of proposals. He also noted that the Chair had requested that he (LF) prepare and submit NJLP comments on the 12-31-02 LRC "Tentative Report" by the 2-16-03 deadline.

Regarding the Newsletter, it was discussed whether or not there was enough material to warrant a March issue. Karlan moved, Stefanelli seconded, that

We direct the Newsletter Editor to not publish a March issue.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

Regarding the Web site: it was noted that not only Convention registration but also membership renewals can be made on-line using a credit card. With Macron's resignation as At-Large by petition effective February 1, her name will be removed from the Steering Committee distribution list.

Regarding the Strategic Plan, it was noted that a continuing column by Karlan has been initiated as a "Strategy of the Month." There was nothing new to report regarding the Convention.

Regarding the Fundraising Committee, it was noted that the Budget proposal includes specifics for additional fundraising this year.

There was nothing to report from the Electronic Communication Committee.

The Treasurer reported (Recruitment and Membership Committee) that National LP has cashed our December and January checks. November and December have not been deposited. According to Nick Dunbar at the national office, the December check will be deposited, but the November check will be returned to us for re-submission from the Federal Fund.

There was no motion regarding a proposal to purchase a quantity of National's tabloid introduction for insertion into college papers due to lack of specifics (quantity, cost). Karlan moved, Kaplan seconded, that

We purchase 100 of the tabloids at \$30 (\$25 cost plus \$5 shipping) to be delivered for distribution at the Convention.

The motion passed by general consent.

There was nothing to report regarding Candidate Recruitment and Support.

Future meetings:

- **Convention – March 1.**
- **State Board – March 16, 1PM, Tumulty's Pub.**
- **Steering Committee – April 8, at a location to be determined.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 PM.

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

Minutes of NJLP Annual Convention, 1 March 2003

The meeting was called to order at 9:25 AM, when 15 members were in attendance.

The minutes of the 11 February 2003 Steering Committee were distributed without additional comment.

The Treasurer's report was presented and discussed. There were questions regarding BCRA compliance, which the Treasurer answered.

Officer election results:

For Chair

Emerson Ellett	15
NOTA	0

For Vice-Chair:

Len Flynn	13
Fred Stein	1
NOTA	0

For Secretary:

Dan Karlan	15
NOTA	0

For Treasurer:

Lou Stefanelli	15
NOTA	0

For At-Large:

Robert Hull	17 *
Jay Boucher	13 *
Ken Kaplan	13 *
Lou Ellwell	6

Those with * were selected to the Steering Committee

The recess for County caucuses was called at 9:55.

The meeting reconvened at 10:20

County Caucus results: for State Board:

Monmouth	Richard Edgar
Ocean	Chris Weimann
Middlesex	Barry Allen
Somerset	Frank Warren
Mercer	Andrea Nadolny
Hunterdon	Ned Kelley

County Officers:

Monmouth/Ocean reported the selection of Robert Hull Chair, John Taylor Vice-Chair, Kristin Butler Secretary, and Virginia Flynn Treasurer.

Middlesex/Somerset reported the selection of Howard Schoen as Chair, Ray Babecki as Vice-Chair, John Paff as Secretary, and Barry Allen as Treasurer.

Hunterdon/Mercer reported the selection of Ray Cragle as Chair and Treasurer.

Continued on Page 10

Candidates:

Monmouth/Ocean: Lou Stefanelli for 12th Assembly, John Taylor for Highlands Borough Council, Robert Hull for 11th Assembly, Emerson Ellett for 11th Senate, Len Flynn for Monmouth County Freeholder, Chris Weimann for Ocean County Freeholder, and Barbara Jones for 11th Assembly.

Essex: Sabins for 27th Assembly

It was moved and seconded that we accept these candidates *en bloc*. Objection was raised; a motion to divide the question was passed. Individually, these candidates were approved (other candidates are entirely within the jurisdiction of a county organization, and did not need Convention approval):

Emerson Ellett
Robert Hull
Dan Karlan
Jany Sabins
Lou Stefanelli

Election Law: Len Flynn reported on progress with NJLRC

Newsletter: it was noted that we are saving money by doing our own franking.

Fundraising: to be implemented after the Business session of the Convention.

Web Site: the webmaster asked for things to post.

Recruitment and Membership: Jack Toussaint is leaving; his duties will be taken over by Bob Hull at no charge to the NJLP. A question was raised regarding welcoming new members. Rob Tannen offered to host a new member party.

Strategic Planning: Karlan reported on his newsletter column.

Public Relations: John Taylor reported on his project to focus on the college crowd. There was a suggestion that we implement a Libertarian Education Fund. Karlan reported on his conversations with Getz (National Communications Director) to set up a workshop for NJLP activists interested in PR. Kaplan, Allen, Pratt, Sabins, Tannen, and Taylor expressed interest in this. Karlan will coordinate. It was also suggested that an announcement to the announce e-list might elicit more interest.

Candidate Recruitment and Support: there will be forthcoming a state, county, and local fund appeal. The idea of a candidate post-mortem was endorsed, even as a prerequisite for receiving funding from the NJLP.

Tax Protest Day: There was some discussion of this matter.

Flynn moved and it was seconded to suspend the rules to change the agenda to consider the Bylaws proposal (from last November's General meeting, not considered due to the loss of a quorum, to require NJLP candidates to register their party affiliation as "Libertarian") as New Business. The motion to amend the agenda passed on a show of hands. The Bylaws proposal was presented by Hull. There were questions and discussion. The motion failed 12-11 (two-thirds required).

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Letters to the Editor

When is war justified?

After Secretary of State Powell spoke before the UN Security Council, his report was shown to be based on plagiarized work of a graduate student describing the state of affairs in 1991. Needless to say that such "intelligence information" hardly represented intelligence on the part of the State Department. But all jokes aside, the question to be asked is, "When is war justified?"

A country, which poses a direct threat or an imminent threat to the United States, would make war justified on the US side. Or to put it another way, if you have a gun pointed at me, I don't have to wait for you to shoot me. Has a similar case been made by the Bush Administration? The answer is no. Aside from the changing reasons of why the war is necessary (to "liberate" Iraqi people, to have a "regime change", to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, etc), the White House hasn't shown where does Iraq pose a threat to the US. The argument that to enforce the UN resolutions, the US government must ignore the UN sounds more like "destroying the village in order to save it."

After overplaying the argument that Iraq poses "an imminent threat" to the US, Colin Powell suggested that the latest bin Laden tape shows that Saddam Hussein bin Laden are in a "partnership". Who knows, maybe its possible that the State Department missed the part on a tape about bin Laden calling Saddam Hussein an "infidel" and calling for his overthrow. The State Department apparently missed the part about bin Laden welcoming the war as a membership drive for al-Qaeda, as well. War against Iraq means a war of aggression. Organizations like the Communist Party of the Philippines is already feeding on the resentment of the war, and is threatening to terrorize "US interests" in case a war happens. It is not surprising that among the protestors on the 15th were the families of the 9/11 victims. The anxiety over terrorist retaliations is making more people nervous. It is unlikely that millions of protestors can stop this war, but they are an angry group, and if the White House and Congress would continue to ignore them, they would do so at their own peril.

Vic Kaplan

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 Green Party Libertarian Party Natural Law Party
 Reform Party U.S. Constitution Party

OR
I, being a registered voter at the address listed below, wish to formally disaffiliate with any political party:

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v11.12.02

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Calendar

Steering Committee –
April 8, at a location to be
determined.



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



John Taylor, NJLP Candidate for Highlands Borough Council



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