



New Jersey Libertarian

February 2006

Federal Fundraising Update

By Len Flynn, NJLP Life Member

In the first four weeks of the Project Full Slate fundraising, the NJLP Federal Fund has collected over \$1,000. We are one fourth of the way to the minimum amount projected for this effort to succeed, so please keep your contributions coming.

Our 13 Congressional candidates for 2006 need our support. Send your donations to the NJLP Federal Fund now or contribute through the NJLP website at: http://www.njlp.org/donate/donations_federal.php. Thanks for your help.

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Help Wanted – Volunteer Newsletter Editor

The NJLP is in need of a volunteer editor for the New Jersey Libertarian.

Motivated individuals should have good writing skills and a working knowledge of computer word processing, especially Microsoft Word or Microsoft Publisher. The NJLP can provide a desktop computer, but the editor must have Internet access in order to communicate with contributors, printer and web host.

For more information, please contact Deb Sackett at editor@njlp.org.

NJ Libertarian Party Annual Convention

The 2006 New Jersey Libertarian Party annual Convention will be held on Saturday February 25, 2006 at Rutgers University Inn on Cook Campus, 178 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ.

The schedule for Saturday is a business session from 9:00AM to Noon where we will elect party officials and select our 2006 candidates. There is luncheon followed by entertainment and Speakers from 12:30 to 5:30PM. A continental breakfast will be available for those who show up early.

Register for the convention at http://njlp.org/convention/conv_res.php or with the registration form on page six of this issue. The entire convention package is \$65; \$55 if paid prior to February 21. See the registration page for more payment options. Students with a valid and current student ID can attend the speakers/entertainment for free.

Speakers and Entertainment:

Bradley Smith. A leading authority on Election Law and Campaign Finance, Bradley Smith is Professor of Law at Capital University, where he returned after five years in Washington, D.C., serving as Commissioner, Vice Chairman, and Chairman of the Federal Election Commission (FEC). His book "Unfree Speech: The Folly of Campaign Finance Reform," strongly condemns the federal governments attempt to regulate campaign speech.

Pokerface. Returning to us for their second NJLP convention, Pokerface has made it their mission to spread the message of freedom and truth with their music. With a sound that is unmistakably their own, Poker Face mixes a variety of styles & orchestrations to take you on a true musical journey.

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Directions:

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Rooms at the inn are available. Make your own room reservations; be sure to mention that you are attending the convention. Telephone: 732-932-9144.

Book review by Len Flynn for the *New Jersey Libertarian* newsletter

***Empire of Debt* by Bill Bonner and Addison Wiggin**

Have you ever wondered why the Libertarian Party view is not more favored? Why can't others see the Libertarian approach and join in to assist our venerable movement? In my younger days I wondered the opposite: How is it that the German people so easily fell behind Hitler and marched their country to oblivion in World War II? Now thanks to the best-selling book *Empire of Debt* we may have an explanation. (When was the last time you saw a best-selling book written by libertarians?)

Bonner and Wiggin jointly market the "contrarian" e-newsletter the *Daily Reckoning* (www.dailyreckoning.com). They have written a most entertaining book that describes the current economic and political situation of the United States. Their insights and their writing style remind me of H. L. Mencken, who like the authors, also hailed from Baltimore.

The authors provide a history of past empires and demonstrate how America has evolved into one. (Page 49 has a table of 53 empires.) How did America become an empire? The authors answer: "People do not choose to have an empire; it chooses them. Gradually and unconsciously, their thoughts, beliefs, and institutions are refashioned to the imperial agenda." The authors show this transformation with the example of the war against Iraq. There is much discussion of what should be done in the Middle East, but no one asks the big question that has already been settled without ever having been raised: "Why should Americans care what happened in the Mideast? Or anywhere else? ... The debate surrounding the invasion of Iraq was an imperial debate – about means and methods, not about right and wrong or national interest."

Now is there any surprise that the non-interventionist foreign policy advocated by libertarians is not even considered by our fellow citizens? Do you notice that discussions of foreign policy begin with the question "What shall WE do about ...?" The imperial mindset dismisses the moral question, "Why is the United States interfering with the internal affairs of other countries at all?"

There are two vital questions that the authors suggest "every publicly elected official" should pose: "Why are we meddling all over the world? And, how are we going to pay for all promises we've made?" For libertarian candidates in this coming 2006 election, I suggest these questions are ready-made. Someday the American empire will exterminate itself, and libertarians need to be able to present an explanation for the collapse and provide civilized ways to correct past mistakes.

The *Empire of Debt* is a hard money/gold advocates delight. The authors are relentless in their criticism of paper money and government spending. They make the point that what really matters to an economy is not the nominal tax rates, but the percentage of the economy's resources taken away by the government. Lower tax rates are not necessarily beneficial if government spending still increases. Government borrowing may be worse than taxes because it is hidden, and restraining spending can be more difficult. President Reagan was praised as a "conservative" but borrowing during his eight-year term increased federal debt from less than \$1 trillion to \$2.6 trillion. President George W. Bush is no slacker in the spending/borrowing domain, federal debt now (2005) is \$8 trillion.

And this is only the federal debt, total current U.S. debt is about \$37 trillion. The total value of all assets in America is only about \$50 trillion. If you add the present value of the biggest federal government liabilities (Social Security and Medicare trust funds), these unfunded benefits liabilities have a current value of \$74 trillion, according to the Social Security and Medicare trustees themselves. Do the math and you find: "America is broke. Busted. Bankrupt. No bread. Like nothing. It couldn't pay its debts even if it wanted to."

This book provides many remarkable insights and comparisons. For example, for the last hundred years the dollar has lost value faster than the decline of the Roman Dinarius after the reign of Nero? In less than 100 years the U.S. dollar has lost 95 percent of its value. (For what a nickel bought in 1905 you pay \$1.00 in 2005.) If this rate continues for just another 150 years, the dollar will do in half the time what took the Dinarius almost 500 years.

The authors fill the book with clever quotes. Their witty quips help make a book on economic history far more enjoyable to read.

Finally, what are the authors' hopes for the future? Despite the glum statistics throughout the book, buried at the bottom of Page 216 is this encouraging description:

"Americans cannot expect foreigners to support them indefinitely. Someday, perhaps soon, they will realize that their main customers cannot pay their debts; they will get tired of lending to them.

Then, the long, dark night will begin. It will not last forever. In our previous book, we foresaw a "long, slow, soft slump" coming. But just as every summer day comes to an end sometime, so does even the darkest night. If Americans keep their wits about them, they can hope to get through it and begin another sunny period bright and refreshed."

This book provides the history and information to help us Libertarians provide some guidance and assurances to our fellow citizens. Eventually, we may guide them back into the light of America's original heritage – freedom and prosperity.

Liberty in our Lifetime Free State Project

Free State Project What is the Project About?

The Free State Project is a plan in which 20,000 or more liberty-oriented people will move to the state of New Hampshire and work within its political system to reduce the size and scope of government.

The Project will reduce burdensome taxation and regulation; reform state and local laws; opt out of federal mandates; and press for the restoration of constitutional federalism.

The Free State Project will show the world what liberty can accomplish!

Free State Project Liberty in Our Lifetime

We don't want to wait decades for most citizens in the US to realize that the nanny state is an insult to their dignity. For those of us who already understand the debilitating effects of a government bent on reducing liberty rather than increasing it, the Free State Project aims at liberty in a single state.

What do we mean by liberty? We believe that being free and independent is a great way to live, and that government's maximum role should be to help individuals defend themselves from force and fraud.

Free State Project Where & Why?

The state where we will move was decided by a vote of the FSP membership after we reached 5,000 commitments. Population was the critical factor. Our research so far indicates that 20,000 activists could heavily influence only states with under about a 1.5 million population, or which spend less than \$10 million on political campaigns in any given two-year election cycle. New Hampshire met the population criterion, and its distaste for big government and a generally welcoming attitude toward the Free State Project were pluses.

Free State Project Get Involved!



Join the Free State Project and take part in a rapidly growing movement aimed at securing liberty in our lifetime. To learn more, you're invited to visit our website at www.freestateproject.org. Check out our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page, and visit our articles sections which contain more detailed information about the project. Whether you wish to become a full-fledged member or are sympathetic but unable to relocate, the Free State Project wants you!

www.freestateproject.org ● Call toll-free 1-888-532-4604

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Calendar

LPCNJ Meeting

Friday February 10, 2006

7:30 pm - 10:30 pm.

Libertarian Party of Central New Jersey monthly meeting. Lone Star Steakhouse, Route 22 W, Scotch Plains, NJ.

This event repeats on the second Friday of every month.

GCCLP Meeting

The Gloucester and Camden County Joint Committee of the New Jersey Libertarian Party will have a reorganizational meeting on Tuesday, February 21st at the Johnson Memorial Library in Deptford. (aka Deptford Free Library). The meeting will begin at 7 pm. The library is located at 670 Poplar Ave. Library # is 856-848-9149. Hope to see you all there!

State Convention

Saturday February 25

University Inn at Rutgers University

9 am

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The New Jersey Libertarian

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Contact us at: New Jersey Libertarian, c/o Deb Sackett, Editor, P.O. Box 870, Malaga, NJ 08328 or Editor@njlp.org



NEW JERSEY

**LIBERTARIAN
PARTY**
P.O. BOX 56
TENNET 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) _____

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 Robert Hull P.O. Box 558 Brielle NJ 08730-1414

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:

2006 NJLP Annual Convention

February 25, 2006

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Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Email Contact _____ Phone Contact _____

Full Convention Package (\$65; \$55 if paid prior to February 21) _____

Speakers/entertainment only (\$45, \$40 if paid prior to February 21) _____

Full Conv. Package w/ VALID CURRENT student ID (\$20, \$15 if paid prior to Feb 21) _____

Become a Patron member of the NJLP and get the Full Convention Package for free \$100 _____

Students with a valid and current student ID can attend the speakers/entertainment for free.

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