



# New Jersey Libertarian

Volume XXXVII, Issue 1

January - February 2012

## Chair's Message

by Jay Edgar [chair@njlp.org](mailto:chair@njlp.org)

Since the start of the year I've seen a surge in interest in the Libertarian Party. We have had many new members join and lots of requests for information from potential members, voters and the press.

I'm encountering many young people who are speaking up for personal freedom, understanding the differences between crony capitalism and free markets, and rejecting the status quo political rhetoric of the two tired, old political parties. The Ron Paul campaign for president is again exposing vast numbers of people to the libertarian philosophy. As Ron Paul has stated "Freedom is popular!" Its looking like 2012 will be an exciting year for libertarians.

The LP must be ready to meet the challenge of carrying on Ron Paul's campaign, regardless of the success or failure of him obtaining the Republican nomination. We must run quality candidates across the state at all levels. We will be nominating candidates at our convention on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Our convention is an opportunity for the party to reorganize itself and get ready and energized for another year of activism and campaigning.

I urge you to run for office, volunteer for a campaign, and financially support our candidates at any level you can. In addition to our elections to the party Steering committee, we will be filling many other positions. We will be looking for representatives to the state board to represent each county, campaign chairmen, a newsletter editor, and other positions. Your help is the only thing that will enable the party to be a success.

## NJ Libertarian Party 2012 Annual Convention Planned

By Joe Siano

The 2012 Annual NJLP Convention will take place on March 24<sup>th</sup> at The Tavern on the Lake in Hightstown, NJ. Registration information is included in this newsletter and at <http://njlp.org/convention>.

There is a morning business meeting planned. During the morning business meeting we will be tackling the

important tasks of election of officers, nomination of candidates for public office, organizing county committees and discussing official party business.

In the afternoon we have an exciting line up of speakers. See page 9 for more details.

The Board has worked to make this convention

- Convenient - It is right in the middle of Jersey, less than a mile from Turnpike Exit 8. Also, plenty of free parking nearby.
- Affordable - \$35 - includes hot buffet lunch and continental breakfast. Students rate is \$25
- And fun - We are on the second floor of a pub.

This event is the most important event of the year for the party. It provides us with the opportunity to regroup, reorganize, and set our goals and objectives for the year. I want to see you in Hightstown on March 24, to kick off a great year for the NJLP. Register today!

## *In This Issue*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Chair's Message                                 | 1 |
| NJLP State Convention                           | 1 |
| Volunteers and Activists Needed                 | 2 |
| Asking the Wrong Questions                      | 2 |
| Marijuana Decrim Bill Reintroduced              | 3 |
| Public Financing Elections Violates Free Speech | 3 |
| December Steering Committee Meeting             | 4 |
| Egg Harbor Exonerates Cop                       | 5 |
| NJLP Requests Late Tax Penalty Reduction        | 5 |
| Why I am A Libertarian                          | 5 |
| NJ Juries: 20 Years Ago                         | 6 |
| Audits Need Closer Look                         | 7 |
| Nullify Now Philadelphia Update                 | 8 |
| Ken Del Vecchio for U.S. Senate                 | 8 |
| Convention Registration Form                    | 9 |

## Volunteers and Activists Needed

By Jay Edgar [chair@njlp.org](mailto:chair@njlp.org)

Looking to get more involved but don't know how?  
Here are some ideas:

- Attend our state convention. You need to be a dues paid member to vote at our meeting, but even if you aren't attend anyway. Listen to what goes on and decide where you can help
- Attend the 2012 LP National Convention in Vegas on May 4-6. Its a bit of an investment, but well worth it.
- Volunteer to take on the job of editing this newsletter. Its the only job that actually pays a small stipend.
- Organize your county. This could easily occur at the convention, however you could set up a county meeting and have an email sent to activists in your county announcing the meeting.
- Join the party if you are not already a member.
- Write a letter to the editor about an issue based on a libertarian point of view. Bonus points if you can get the word libertarian published in your letter.
- Be creative, the best activism methods probably have not even been tried yet.

Contact me for assistance on any of these endeavors.

## Asking the Wrong Questions

by William Kern

One of the greatest quotes of all time was written by Thomas Pynchon in his book [Gravity's Rainbow](#):

"If they can get you asking the wrong questions, they don't have to worry about the answers."

The government and the media frame every issue by asking the wrong questions. They do this for two reasons: to try to make sure every viewpoint has a partisan association, and to make sure the right questions are never asked.

Examples of wrong questions abound, but a recent example concerns the Obama administration, insurance companies, religious institutions, and birth control (and presumably everyone who buys insurance). The New York Times describes it as "a new rule that requires (read: forces) religious schools and hospitals to provide employees with access to free birth control." But according to the [National Women's Law Center](#), such a policy has already been law for over a decade. To me the specifics are vague (intentional?), but they're not as important as Your Favorite News Source would have you believe. All you need to know is this: the government is

going to use its police to force some group of people to do what the group doesn't want to do, ostensibly for some common good.

The rhetoric is tired and predictable. People who support the mandate choose to see it as a preventative health issue (in this instance, making it easier to obtain birth control), which is all that's needed to justify the government doing whatever it wants at gunpoint. It's a question of women's health, you see. You're not against women's health, are you?

The most vocal opposition to the mandate comes from religious groups. They object to being forced to pay for things they find incompatible with their beliefs. If it is true that this mandate will force churches et al to directly or indirectly pay for what they find objectionable, then they do have a legitimate complaint. Therefore, the law should be on their side, and that's the angle they should be pushing. But this is almost totally ignored, and instead is portrayed as some sort of an [assault on religion](#). Obama wants to destroy religion, you see. You're not about to let him take away your religious freedom, are you?

See how that goes? Nowhere in there is it asked whether any government (let alone the federal government) should use force (backed by men with guns) to make insurance companies do anything\*. And why *would* they bother asking such a thing? Doing so is clearly not in the interest of the political class. Could you imagine any prominent politician or lapdog pundit on mainstream TV bringing up whether this is even an appropriate use of the awesome force of government? Of course not, because it would only raise more questions about the legitimacy of power, government's role, personal responsibility, individual rights vs. the will of the majority, and much more. But nobody wants to rock that boat.

The truth is that this is not a religious freedom issue or a women's health issue, though it may be paraded around as such. It's also not a preventative care issue, an economic issue, or an employee benefit issue. Like everything else in which the government has the last word, it is (or has now become) just another political issue- to be decided by whichever faction with more political pull at the time.

This is why the issue is framed the way it is. It's designed to get people on board with some political agenda they might not otherwise support. It's much easier to provide people with a false choice and just have them argue over that. That way, whichever position a person comes to adopt, there will always be some politician who will be there to take the credit. And so long as politicians keep getting the credit, they'll continue to be the ones who decide which questions get asked.

\*except refrain from using force or fraud.

## Bill Decriminalizing Possession of Marijuana Reintroduced

by Jay Edgar

Last year the NJ Libertarian party [endorsed A-4252](#). This bill would have decriminalized possession of up to 15 grams of marijuana (just under one half ounce). This bill expired with the end of the 2010-2011 State Assembly term. The bill has now been reintroduced as [A-1465](#).

The bill has five primary sponsors and thirteen co-sponsors in the Assembly. A companion senate bill has not yet been introduced.

[SCR-89](#) was released out of Senate Committee by a vote of 8-1. This resolution urges Governor Christie to commute the prison sentence of [John Ray Wilson](#). Mr. Wilson was sentenced to five years in prison for growing marijuana to treat his multiple sclerosis. Mr. Wilson is not in jail alone, there are thousands of prisoners being held for various non-violent drug crimes.

## Public Financing of Elections Abridges Free Speech

by Seth Grossman

“Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

This First Amendment, adopted on Dec. 15, 1791, is the most important part of the Constitution. With free speech and press, we can be informed when government officials violate other parts of the Constitution. And we can inform others any way we can, and form organizations strong enough to either make them stop – or vote them out of office.

Without the absolute right to freely speak, assemble and organize, a constitution is useless. The Soviet Union under the dictator Stalin had a constitution that gave its citizens all sorts of rights. But anyone who reported

violations of those rights or who tried to organize any opposition to the government was killed or sent to prison.

Last week Norm Cohen, my fellow columnist, wrote that he, and others with him on the left, want to “[take the money out of politics](#).” They include filmmaker Michael Moore and MSNBC commentator Dylan Ratigan.

They want us to lobby for a new amendment to our Constitution with these four provisions:

“All elections for president and members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate shall be publicly financed.”

That means the people who already run the government would force all of us to pay taxes to support their campaigns for re-election – even if many of us despise them.

“No political expenditures shall be permitted in support of any federal candidate, or in opposition to any federal candidate, from any other source, including the candidate. Nothing in this section shall be construed to abridge the freedom of the press.”

That means we would only have the right to share our political opinions with friends over the telephone or a cup of coffee. If we were to spend any of our own money to tell others how we feel by printing and mailing out leaflets, putting out signs, or paying for ads on radio, TV, or a newspaper, we could be arrested and fined as criminals. And the owners and managers of any newspaper, radio or TV station could also be punished or shut down.

“Nothing in this section shall be construed to abridge the freedom of the press.”

Oh really? Would all newspapers be allowed to freely support or oppose candidates just before the election, or just certain “selected” newspapers? Could candidates set up their own newspapers and mail them out to every voter before the election? Or would some new government agency issue licenses to only those newspapers it found to be “genuine”? Would a liberal government official give such a “freedom of the press” license to a conservative talk radio host like me? Would liberals like Michael Moore (or conservatives like Citizens United) still be free to show movies that boost some candidates or trash others? What about newsletters or websites by unions or other groups?

“Congress shall, by statute, provide limitations on the amounts and timing of the expenditures of such public funds and provide criminal penalties for any violation of this section.”

The president and each of the 100 U.S. senators and 435 members of Congress together spend more than a billion of our tax dollars each year on travel, mailing and personal staff members who do favors for voters and who get them to look good on every local TV station and newspaper so they can get re-elected. Would they agree

### Future Meetings & Events

**Saturday, March 24** – NJLP State Convention, Hightstown NJ

**Saturday, March 31** – Tenth Amendment Center hosts the Nullify Null Philadelphia conference

**Sunday, April 8 1:00** - Steering Committee Meeting via conference call. Join by calling (218)339-2222 and using a conference Code of 901478

to "public" financing that would give their challengers enough money to knock them out of office?

What happens when we take big corporate money out of politics? In 1978, Republicans and Democrats pushed through state laws that forbid casino companies and most casino employees from spending any money or doing anything else to support or oppose any candidates or government officials in Atlantic City.

The people who paid 80 percent of the taxes had no voice in government, while people who paid no taxes controlled it.

This gave Atlantic City one of the most corrupt, mismanaged and expensive local governments in the country. It spends \$216 million each year on its 39,558 residents. Its public schools spend \$167 million each year (\$20,875 per student), but its high school is ranked by [www.schooligger.com](http://www.schooligger.com) at the bottom 11 percent of New Jersey schools.

We need more people involved in political campaigns – not more government control over them.

---

Reprinted with permission from [January 11, 2012 Current-Gazette Newspapers of Atlantic and Cape May Counties](#)

Somers Point attorney Seth Grossman appears on 92.1FM 8-9 a.m. Saturday. For information see [www.libertyandprosperity.org](http://www.libertyandprosperity.org), email [sethgrossman49 @ gmail.com](mailto:sethgrossman49@gmail.com) or call (609) 927-7333 . Breakfast discussions are held 9:30-10:30 a.m. every Saturday at the Shore Diner on Fire and Tilton roads in Northfield.

## **Minutes of December 11, 2011 Steering Committee Meeting**

by Emerson Ellett, NJLP Secretary

Jay Edgar called the conference call meeting to order at 1:36 pm. Steering Committee members present: Jay Edgar, Bill Sihr, Ken Kaplan, Joe Siano, and Kevin Ferrizzi. Absent: Emerson Ellett, Bill Howcott.

Secretary's Report - The minutes of the October 2011 Board Meeting were approved. Lacking a quorum there was no official November general meeting.

Treasurer's report - The General Account currently has \$7,600, \$2,100 in our state fund, and \$450 in our federal fund. A check for our convention location has been sent out. A discussion was held on how much money we should keep in our account and various places where we should spend money.

### **On-going business**

NJLP Newsletter - Last copy went out at the end of October. An invoice for the newsletter is outstanding. We would like to get our next newsletter out in January. The position of newsletter is currently vacant.

Columnists could also be used. The January newsletter will include an announcement on vacant party positions.

Membership Report - Membership Report was provided. Bill Sihr has written a script to get prospects and registered voters to join.

2012 State convention planning - Tavern on the Lake in Hightstown is reserved for March 24th. This years convention is expected to cost less than previous conventions. Speakers are needed. Suggested was a NYC councilman who was elected as a Republican and a Libertarian, Dr. Paulis who runs a private school near the tavern, Seth Grossman, someone from the Tenth Amendment center, and someone from the medical marijuana movement. Also suggested was Dr. John and Alieta Eck and NYC Councilman Dan Halloran. We also discussed having people invited as guests. Suggestions included columnists, the tea party movement (Jeff Weingarden), Occupy Trenton, Ron Paul activists, and other activists. We decided to aim for a rate of \$35 per person for the full convention, and \$20 student rate.

Bill has been asked to be the Awards Chair to come up with and present awards to people who are deserving.

County Committee News - Discussion was held on ways to incentivize the county committees to organize and become more active. Newsletter will contain story on organizing counties. The only organized counties are currently Mercer (Ray Cragle is the County Rep), Gloucester (Chris Feeney is the county rep), and Somerset (Frank Warren is the county Rep). Ocean, Camden, and Monmouth are active however do not have current County Representatives on the state board.

### **New business**

- The tenth amendment center is holding their Nullify Now event in Philadelphia on March 30-31.
- Our national convention is planned for May 4-6 in Vegas. We have been allocated 23 delegates. So far we have Jay Edgar, Melissa Edgar, Emerson Ellett, Tony Federici, Ken Kaplan, Dan Karlan, Fred Stein, Bill Sihr, and Pat Stone as delegates.
- There will be a Bill of Rights gathering on 12/17th at General Poors Tavern at 7 PM. This is being organized by Joe Dunsay.

2012 Elections - We have 13 federal seats up for grabs. 1 U.S. Senate seat, 12 congressional seat, and 1 presidential seat. A minimum of only 50 signatures is needed for to get on the ballot for each of the congressional seats. Ken Kaplan may consider running for Congress against Freylinghuysen in the 11th district. Patrick McKnight has expressed an interest in running the 7th district, Mick Erickson in the 8th, and John Ordille in the 2nd.

Ken noted that a candidate is not required to live in the district in which he is running.

The [Federal Fund](#) balance is very low. We shall make mention of this fund in the newsletter.

A discussion was held on the activists on developing a federal candidate platform. This discussion needs to be summarized and made available to our candidates.

Campaign positions (managers, treasurers) are needed and could be a big help to candidates who are running.

Fundraising - Telephone solicitations for funds was discussed. A donation link needs to always be present on our website.

Proposed future meetings - 1/8/2012 Board Meeting Location to be announced

The meeting adjourned at 2:48 pm.

## **Egg Harbor Exonerates Cop Who Conducted Warrantless Search**

by John Paff

On May 23, 2011, the New Jersey Libertarian Party's Police Accountability Project filed an Internal Affairs complaint against an Egg Harbor Township (Atlantic County) police officer who conducted a warrantless search of a motor vehicle. The complaint was filed after two-judge Appellate Division panel found that Officer Michael Bordanaro's search of a vehicle, which resulted in him finding a loaded 9 mm handgun, was illegal because there were no "exigent circumstances" excusing him from first getting a search warrant.

In his November 14, 2011 response to the complaint, Police Chief Michael J. Morris determined that Officer Bordanaro's "actions were ... in compliance with departmental policy and law." He noted that there is "no magic formula" that would enable an officer to know for sure whether a given search requires a warrant, but that each case needs to be "determined on a case-by-case basis."

He also stated that the Appellate Division's ruling is being considered by the New Jersey Supreme Court and that "once an opinion is available [the Police Department] will conduct a review in order to ascertain if there is a need to re-open the investigation, change policy or provide additional training."

The complaint, Appellate Division decision and Chief Morris' response are on-line here: <http://ogtf.lpcnj.org/2011322Pd//EggHarbor1t.pdf>

## **NJ Libertarian Party Requests Reduction in Exorbitant Late Fees**

by Jay Edgar

I sent an [email](#) to the Borough Council in Little Silver on behalf of the NJLP, requesting that they reduce their late fees. Many towns across New Jersey are charging exorbitant late fees for property taxes. Many towns choose to charge the maximum penalties possible.

According to existing state law they can charge 8% for the first \$1,500 and 18% for delinquencies beyond \$1,500.

These rates were set back in 1979, when annual taxes were significantly lower than they are today. \$1,500 of back taxes in 1979 represented several years of taxes, today they are typically much less than three month's of taxes. In addition, in 1979 interest rates were much higher than they are today.

8% and 18% interest rates may have been compensatory back in 1980, they are fairly viewed as punitive in 2012. Mayor Neff responded and thanked me for my letter and claimed he will consider my request. At this time I'm not sure if it was an agenda item during their reorganization meeting.

This issue needs to be escalated to the NJ State Assembly. Much thanks go to John Paff for his contributions to this effort.

## **Why I Am a Libertarian**

by Neil McGettigan

The Rutgers campus newspaper, The Targum published an opinion piece by Justin Haydn entitled "[Why I am a Progressive](#)." This is my response.

It does not take a very advertent person to notice that people around the age of 20, especially those that attend this University consider themselves liberal. Last week a column appeared titled "Why I Am a Progressive" in the spirit of political discourse encouraged by that author I feel I should explain why I am not.

As a student of history I chuckled at the statement "Throughout America's 236 years, progressives have continually come out on the right side of history." Progressives were right about women's suffrage, but let's not forget prohibition, and Wilson's brutal suppression of War time decent. FDR did not reverse the Great Depression as the US came out of WWII on top because it had dictated many of the terms of peace whilst acting as banker for the Allied cause, and when the war ended it had torn down many trade barriers, allowing its factories untouched by the Luftwaffe to produce for the world market. More importantly Truman faced a more empowered GOP in congress that pushed for tax cuts and ending war time regulations, which spurred investment and caused industry to expand. Across the Atlantic the opposite was seen, the Labor Party had come to power in 1945 which expanded the English welfare state instead of dismantling some it, slowing the British economy and leading to it being quickly surpassed by both more war damaged France and Germany in the coming years. In the 1890s it was the more Progressive elements in the spirit of paternalism pushed for government expansion not only into industry, but into other nations which was most harshly criticized by conservative capitalists like

Carnegie and Grover Cleveland. While Progressives often laud LBJ's Great Society they seem to forget that it was him who deceived America into Vietnam, and that it was Republican Richard Nixon who pulled us out.

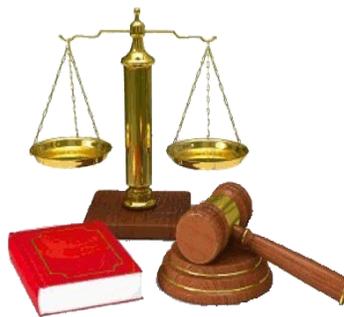
Progressives, in cherry picking the past, always ignore that that it was they who pushed for eugenics at the turn of the century because inferior races, in the words of Progressive Justice Brandeis, were to "sap the strength of the State." as people exist for the state's sake. Progressive ideology is the belief that a just and orderly society is incapable of evolving on its own or as last week's column correctly surmised it "needs someone at the helm guiding it". Who can that person be? Only someone arrogant enough to believe their commands are not only better than the average person's choices, but one narcissistic enough to impose it by law backed by the threat of force. The Progressive obsession with leaders has lead to the erosion of freedom and democracy in America because it extirpates the idea that the common people should be in control of both the state and their lives. The obsession with political power has pushed the most gifted people away from industry to Washington, creating a society of lawyers and lobbyists who regulate instead of innovate. The progressives in their zeal for undermining the capitalist class have created a political caste, and with it the increase in disparity. Capitalists have to answer to customers in the market, how rare is it that an incumbent has to answer to anyone in an election besides their biggest contributors?

Conservatism is not the answer either, as its vision is a stagnate one where tomorrow's goal is a shinier yesterday. I am not a conservative however, I am a libertarian. Libertarianism means I think that everyone should be allowed to pursue their own interests so long as they do not inflict direct harm on others, it is the realization that as children we were always happier at recess than at gym, and it means that I want people to pursue their own interests, while I pursue my own. No, this is not self-absorption, its tolerance. Progressives like the slogan "Power to the People" but their formula for bringing this about is the rule of an enlightened oligarchy who, despite all historical contrary evidence, will serve the interests of the masses rather than their own. The only way to give power to the people is to hand control of their lives over to them.

*Neil McGettigan is a Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences Junior who is majoring in History and Philosophy.*

## New Jersey Jury Power: 20 Years Ago

by John Paff



In wrapping up the year, I looked over some of my old files and found some news articles from April of 1991 about a New Jersey Superior Court judge who successfully stepped on a juror's right to judge for herself whether New Jersey's

drug laws were fair and proportionate. I thought this 20-year old bit of history would be interesting, so I put these articles online at [www.njlp.org/uploads/WrightFiles.pdf](http://www.njlp.org/uploads/WrightFiles.pdf).

I remember this case well, as I visited the juror several times and recall hand-typing her May 17, 1991 letter into a text file - in the days before scanners and OCR - so that I could distribute it more easily (the text file is also at the above link). I also remember the case well because I traveled more than once to the New Jersey State Prison in Trenton to visit the man who was sentenced to life imprisonment because of the juror's forced verdict. Anyway, here's the story.

Isaac Wright, Jr., was on trial in Somerville, New Jersey and faced life imprisonment for being a drug "kingpin." On the third day of the trial - April 25, 1991 - Juror No. 11, Deborah Isler, caused a note to be sent from the jury to the judge expressing her belief that the state's drug laws were "unfair" and "unjust." Judge Michael Imbriani (who was known by the locals as "Iron Mike") publicly chastised the jury and told them that Isler's excuse was "unacceptable."

"You took an oath to apply the law. I do not make the law, and you do not make the law. The law is made by the governor and the Legislature," Imbriani intoned. "You must accept the law as I charge it to you."

Of course, anyone familiar with jury nullification (see [www.fija.org](http://www.fija.org)) knows that the judge was dead wrong on the law. But, Imbriani's blustering carried the day. At about 12:45 p.m. on April 26, 1991, the jury came in with a guilty verdict. When Imbriani polled the jurors individually, Isler shrugged and said "I disagree." Imbriani, who was formerly the Somerset County Prosecutor, was evidently perturbed by Isler's insolence and ordered the jury to continue their deliberations.

According to a Courier News article, "shortly thereafter, jurors could be heard in another room yelling at each other." At about 2:30, the jury came in with another guilty verdict. This time, when Isler was individually polled, she said "I agree." Wright was thereafter sentenced to a mandatory life term, with a parole-ineligibility provision of twenty-five years.

After the verdict was announced, Somerset County Prosecutor Nicholas Bissell gloated over his win. "This law (drug kingpin) was enacted for precisely this kind of defendant. They wanted this kind of person off the street and we intend to see him serve every day of that time."

In a subsequent interview, he shrugged off suggestions that jurors are empowered to follow her conscience in arriving at her decision. He said that said state law clearly shows that "jurors are required to follow the law as instructed by the court. There's no such thing as juror nullification in New Jersey."

Fast forward twenty years. Here's what happened to the players in this travesty:

Judge Imbriani: Resigned in 1994 amid a state investigation into his business affairs. Pleaded guilty to a charge of embezzling \$173,000 from a Community Medical Arts Building partnership he was involved in. He received probation, and later served two months at a prison camp after pleading guilty to tax evasion. He was disbarred in 1997. Died of a brain tumor on November 30, 2002 at the age of 73.

Prosecutor Bissell: Convicted May 30, 1996 of a 30-count federal indictment for fraud, tax evasion, obstruction of justice, abuse of power and perjury. On November 18, 1996, while under house arrest, he snipped off his ankle bracelet and fled. He committed suicide on November 26, 1996, while on the lam, at the Colorado Belle Hotel and Casino in Laughlin, Nevada.

Isaac Wright, Jr.: Imprisoned since his arrest in 1989, he was released on bail on December 17, 1996 after convincing New Jersey Superior Court Judge Leonard Arnold that his his 1991 conviction was based in part on an illegal seizure of cocaine by Bissell's detective squad and on perjured testimony by three co-defendants who had been offered leniency by Mr. Bissell. Judge Arnold publicly denounced the case against Wright saying that it offended "the rudimentary demands of justice." His convictions were officially vacated in December 2007 after the court found that Bissell knew about, but concealed, the terms of a favorable plea agreement with one of the co-defendants who was a State's witness at Wright's trial. After filing civil rights suit, he accepted a \$487,500 settlement.

## **Audits Need A Close Look**

Written by John Paff

Local government agencies and authorities are required to audit their books annually, and one might think that these audits are sufficient to ensure that everything is on the up and up. But the audits merely point out financial reporting deficiencies - sometimes the same deficiencies year after year--and the agency or authority that paid for the audit may elect to take no corrective action.

A case in point is the Borough of Dunellen's (Middlesex County) Parking Authority. While reviewing the auditor's

[August 30, 2010 cover letter](#) that accompanied the Authority's 2008 and 2009 audits, I was struck by the following sentence: "Because of the inadequacy of accounting system and records for the year ended December 31, 2008, we are unable to form an opinion regarding the amounts at which accounts receivable, accounts payable and deferred parking permit revenues are recorded/not recorded on the balance sheet or accompanying financial statements. The respective amounts are unknown." I felt that this sentence was significant because it said, in essence, that the Parking Authority, which reported \$631,305 in net assets and had \$124,798 in cash and equivalents on hand as of December 31, 2009, didn't properly record and account for its income during 2008.

I reported my concerns to the Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) within the Department of Community Affairs. The DLGS, after reviewing its records, learned that the Authority's record keeping deficiencies were not restricted to 2008 but spanned several years. In a [November 29, 2011](#) letter, the DLGS noted that the Authority, for several years, had insufficient controls "surrounding the monitoring of parking permit fees and parking meter collections and proof of collections." Also, the DLGS noted that the Authority had ignored its auditors warnings that "the same person may collect, record, deposit, disburse, analyze and/or reconcile cash and investment activity within the Finance Office and Authority operations."

In sum, it appears that the Parking Authority, which takes in a significant amount of cash from parking meters and through parking permit sales, established an environment where officials could have pilfered that cash without it being known that any cash was missing. Of course, I do not know that any actual theft took place, but the conditions were such that money could have been stolen without detection.

After having allowed these deficiencies to exist, I believe that, at the very least, the Parking Commissioners who were at the helm during this period should not be rewarded with reappointment. Accordingly, I have written to the Mayor and Council recommending that different individuals be appointed to those seats. That letter is on-line at <http://ogtf.lpcnj.org/2011360ug//DMC.pdf> It will be interesting to see whether the Borough Council heeds my recommendation.

In conclusion, don't assume that an annual audit safeguards the public against fiscal malfeasance. Rather, take the time to read the audits carefully to determine whether public money is being properly maintained.

## NOTICE

The party's Federal Fund is extremely low! In order for the party to directly support our federal candidates by law we can only use funds from our federal fund. Consider giving a donation at <http://njlp.org/donate/federalfund>

## Nullify Now Philadelphia Update

by John Michaels, Event Coordinator

[Nullify Now! Philly](#) is getting close! The event is planned for March 31<sup>st</sup>. Our national offices on the West Coast, as well as our local teams in NJ and PA - all really excited about the opportunity for education AND activism that this event will bring to Philly - like we've done in over a dozen cities with these Nullify Now! Events already.

We're excited to announce two confirmed keynote speakers Historian Tom Woods will speaking on How to Resist Federal Tyranny in the 21st Century! Sheriff Mack, 2 term Sheriff from Arizona who sued Bill Clinton over the Brady Bill will also be speaking.

Joining Woods and Mack as speakers will be James Babb of [We Won't Fly](#), Michael Boldin of the [Tenth Amendment Center](#) and a morning keynote speech by Robert Scott Bell.

Please join us in Philadelphia on March 31, 2012 – and show the establishment that we don't need them to tell us how to live. We can be free whether they want us to or not!

We are proud to be involved with - and supporting this important educational event! See <http://www.nullifynow.com/philadelphia/> for more information on this event.

## The New Jersey Libertarian

January -- February 2011 Volume XXXVI, Issue 1  
©2011 The New Jersey Libertarian Party  
ISSN 1093-801X  
Editor, VACANT

### NJL Advertising Rates

|                             |      |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Full page                   | \$60 |
| Half Page                   | \$30 |
| Quarter page                | \$20 |
| Eighth page (business card) | \$10 |

The *New Jersey Libertarian* is the official semi-monthly publication of the New Jersey Libertarian Party. Opinions, articles and advertisements published herein do not necessarily represent official NJLP positions unless so indicated. Material appearing in the *NJL* may be reproduced, as long as credit is given the author, the *New Jersey Libertarian*. Contact us at: *New Jersey Libertarian* c/o Len Flynn, Editor, P.O. Box 56, Tennent, NJ 07763 or [.editor@njlp.org](mailto:editor@njlp.org)

## Ken Del Vecchio for U.S. Senate

by Jay Edgar

The New Jersey Libertarian Party is likely to have a very exciting candidate for U.S. Senate this year. Kenneth Del Vecchio - a critically acclaimed filmmaker/best-selling author/film festival chairman/newspaper publisher/former judge - strongly believes in our principles of personal freedoms, strict adherence to the constitution, limited federal government, dismantling of the the IRS and the Federal Reserve, and massive cutting of spending. Mr. Del Vecchio has a long history of memorializing his views in his movies, books, law career and newspaper (he is the Publisher of Garden State Journal).

We have a rarity here, where a DAILY newspaper is routinely publishing Libertarian views. See columns by Garden State Journal's editorial page editor, Mario Cash, as well as Andrew Napolitano, John Stossel, Jacob Sullum and many others.

Mr. Del Vecchio has the ability to provide something that has never been seen by Libertarian or even GOP candidates (other than Ronald Reagen or Arnold Schwarzenegger). He has his own media empire in place through his newspaper, film festival (where the NY Post, FOX and 101.9 RXP are media partners), movies and books. He already has a senate TV commercial spot produced with endorsements from multiple Academy Award and Emmy winners and nominees.

We must wait for our convention on March 24th to determine if Mr. Del Vecchio gets our nomination. In the meantime you can support our federal candidates by making a campaign donation to [our federal fund](#). Donations to our federal fund are used to support all of our federal level candidates. Directions on donating directly to the Del Vecchio campaign will be announced soon.

With Mr. Del Vecchio's candidacy and the exciting presidential race, 2012 is looking to be the year of the Libertarian. Learn more at <http://kenforsenate.com>.

# 2012 NJ Libertarian Party Convention

The NJLP Convention to be held at Tavern on the Lake in Hightstown, New Jersey.

The Convention will be held on March 24th. The Party's Business Meeting will be held from 9:00 AM until Noon and will be open to all. Registration will be required for the afternoon events which will include lunch and guest speakers, Our convention package will also include coffee and refreshments that will be available all day.

Registration for the Convention will be \$35 until March 17, 2012. After March 17th (including at the convention), registration will be \$40.

## Tentative Agenda:

**8:30 – 9:00** Gather for Continental Breakfast

**9:00 – Noon** NJLP Business Meeting (all our welcome, only NJLP members may vote, join before March 1<sup>st</sup> to vote)

- nomination of 2012 U.S. Senate, U.S. Congress, and other Candidates
- election of NJLP officers
- Discussion of NJLP Business

**Noon – 1:00** Luncheon

**1:00 – 1:45** Seth Grossman, “Repudiating Unconstitutional Debt”

**1:50 – 2:35** Dr Arthur Paulos, SciCore Academy

**2:40 – 3:25** Dr. Alieta Eck, “Why Government is Wrong for America”

**3:30 – 4:10** Neil Schloss, “Campaign Strategy and Tactics”

**4:15 – 5:00** Kenneth Del Vecchio, Filmmaker, author, former judge

**Note that the business meeting on Sunday is free. You do not need to register for Sunday's meeting.**

When March 24th, 2012 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Location: Tavern on the Lake (upstairs)  
Hightstown, NJ

Contact Email: [convention@njlp.org](mailto:convention@njlp.org)

Register online at <http://njlp.org/convention>.

---

**NJLP Convention Form:** Check here to use address from mailing label

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Convention Package (\$40; \$35 if paid prior to March 17th) \_\_\_\_\_

Reserve your place by sending payment to: NJLP Convention, P.O. Box 56, Tennent, NJ 07763



# New Jersey Libertarian Party - - - - -

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

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

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

Check here to use address from mailing label

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\$500 Life Membership

\$100 Patron Membership

\$50 Sustaining Membership

\$35 Supporting Membership

\$15 Regular Membership

Newsletter subscription is included with membership.  Check here to only receive the newsletter on line.

**Make checks payable to NJLP and send to NJLP, PO Box 56, Tennent, NJ 07763**

**You can also renew on-line at <http://njlp.org/joinus>**



New Jersey Libertarian Party

P.O. Box 56

Tennent, New Jersey 07763

[www.njlp.org](http://www.njlp.org)