



New Jersey Libertarian

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New NJLP Officers

The March 23-24 NJLP Convention was a busy event with the NJLP delegates selecting new officers to lead the party in 2007. Here are the new leaders and something about them:

State Chair – Lou Jasikoff



“The NJLP is presented this year with an unprecedented opportunity to get the Libertarian message out. I am extremely pleased with the quality and number of candidates we will have on the ballot so far this November to carry that message. Candidates are only the beginning

though—we must be able to support our candidates and in order to support our candidates we must have a functioning and efficient organization. This will take everyone’s help. My goal this coming year is to help build that organization. I look forward to working with the new State Board to accomplish these goals, build membership, and inspire the base. 2007 should be a great year for the NJLP.”

Vice Chair – Lou Stefanelli



“As Vice-Chair and former Treasurer, my goals are to provide for a smooth transition of accounting and compliance functions and to improve internal party operations.”

Lou has been an NJLP member since 1989 and has served as the NJLP Treasurer for much of that time. In 1997 Lou served as

the treasurer of the Sabrin for Governor campaign which qualified for matching funds and put the NJLP candidate in the debates. Almost a million dollars was spent in that campaign,

and Lou assured every dollar was raised and spent in compliance with state regulations, so that no legal/regulatory problems were added by the campaign itself (state regulators created plenty of problems). Now Lou wants to assist this year’s candidates as NJLP Vice Chair just as he helped the party and its candidates for the past 18 years.

Secretary – Sean Christopher Colón



“As Secretary I am working hard to bring our party into the spotlight.”

Sean is 23 years old, a graduate in International Relations from Tufts University, and also graduated from US Army Airborne School. He brings his considerable talent and enthusiasm to the NJLP to

serve as our party Secretary. Sean is socially liberal and fiscally conservative, so his personal and political beliefs are closely aligned with the Libertarian Party. As an NJLP candidate for N.J. Assembly in District 22, voters will not have to choose between the Democratic and the Republican “lesser of two evils.” And as NJLP Secretary he can work directly to help the NJLP challenge the old parties.

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Treasurer – Ken Chazotte



“I’m pleased to serve as Treasurer to help strengthen our party.”

Retiring NJLP State Chair Ken Chazotte has accepted another position on the NJLP Steering Committee as Treasurer replacing long time stalwart Lou Stefanelli. Ken’s skilled leadership helped rescue the NJLP during the crisis year of 2005, and his insights and

energy will continue to benefit the party as he takes on this challenging, important office.

At Large Representatives



Jason Scheurer and Ken Kaplan

No photos were available at press time for Kevin Ferizzi or Bob Hull.

Annual Convention Business Meeting

NJLP Chair Ken Chazotte opened the convention at 9:19 a.m. at the Bayside Resorts Quality Hotel outside Atlantic City on Saturday, March 24, 2007. The agenda was accepted as presented, then two separate motions were passed suspending Convention Rule #1 (designation of who can be a delegate) in order to recognize Keith Quarles and Tom Wright as delegates. The members noted Quarles’ membership renewal not having been recorded due to a computer glitch.



Ken calls the meeting to order.

Officers’ reports. Ken noted that he has served for a year and a half, and is pleased at the number of people who have contacted the party. Treasurer Lou Stefanelli presented the 2007 budget, and it was accepted. Secretary Emerson Ellett presented the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting of February 24 and they were approved.

NJLP Platform. Platform Committee Chair Ray Babecki presented the platform in its new Issue, Principle, Solution, Transition format. A motion that the platform be accepted or rejected with one change (deleting the word “immediate” from the Family Life, Solutions paragraph) carried. A motion to adopt the platform as amended, without further amendment carried. Babecki noted that the committee is on-going and will continue to accept proposed changes.

Bylaws. Once the NJLP Platform was adopted, Bylaws changes to accommodate the new format for the platform had to be considered. The convention delegates really got busy with the draft proposals. A motion to accept Bylaws Amendment #2 (see last page of the platform insert in the Jan-Feb NJL for #2) failed after delegate Howard Schoen argued that “reaffirm” had no meaning.

Congratulations!

Lou Jasikoff

**Best Wishes
to our new Chair**

Jay Boucher



Howard Schoen challenges 'reaffirm'

County Caucus Reports

Mercer County elected Ken Bireta, Chair; Jason Scheurer, Vice Chair; David Trend, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer; and Margaret Hunsicker, Recording Secretary. Mercer's representative to the State Board is Ray Cragle.

The LP of Central New Jersey (Middlesex & Somerset Counties) chose Frank Warren, Vice Chair; Howard Schoen Treasurer; and John Paff, Secretary, subject to his acceptance. Frank Warren is Somerset County's representative to the State Board.

Monmouth County chose Jay Edgar, Chair; Emerson Ellett, Secretary; and Ginny Flynn, Treasurer. Monmouth's State Board representative is Bill Howcott.

The North New Jersey LP will choose new officers next month. The current officers are Joseph Dunsay, Chair; Dan Karlan, Vice Chair; Jessica Burde, Secretary; and Alex Kachmar, Treasurer. Current County Reps are Alex Kachmar (Essex), Derek DeMarco (Passaic), Jeff Hetrick (Union), and Joseph Dunsay (Bergen).

Candidates

The convention approved a slate of nineteen Assembly and Senate candidates:

- 5th District: Kevin Ferrizzi and Bob Rayner, Assembly
- 11th: Emerson Ellett and John Taylor, Assembly
- 14th: Jason Scheurer, Senate; Ray Cragle, Assembly
- 15th: Peg Hunsicker, Assembly
- 21st: Darren Young, Senate; Jeff Hetrick, and Dolores Makrogriannis, Assembly
- 22nd: Glen Davis, Senate; Sean Colon, Assembly
- 26th: Ken Kaplan, Assembly
- 27th: Dick Roth, Senate; Alex Kachmar, Assembly
- 39th: Dan Karlan, Senate
- 40th: Thomas Wright, Senate; Derek Demarco and Paul Tahan, Assembly

Ken Bireta announced his intention to run for Mercer County Freeholder and Ewing Township School Board, if appropriate.

Candidate recognition. A motion to thank our 2006 candidates carried.

Future meeting Steering Committee, Sunday April 15, 1 p.m., location to be announced. (Later set at Tumulty's Pub in New Brunswick.)

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m. Notes were taken by Emerson Ellett.

Bylaws Amendment #1 proposed that Article 3 (b) of the NJLP Bylaws be replaced by new sections 3 (b), (c), and (d). First, the words "Reaffirming and" were eliminated from paragraph d. of proposed amendment # 1 for the same reason that the terminology was defeated in Amendment #2. Then a further motion by delegate Ray Cragle to delete (d) in its entirety carried. Next Jay Edgar made a motion to change c.3 from a simple majority for "Deletion of any plank in its entirety" to a two-thirds majority and to add a new paragraph d. "Discarding the platform shall require a seven-eighths majority" (originally proposed by Jay at 2/3 but "friendly amended" by Tom Wright to 7/8). Jay's motion carried. Clearly, the delegates gave no support to eliminating either a platform plank nor the entire platform by a simple majority! ("Transition" items remain subject to majority votes, because they are interim measures subject to more rapid changes.)

Lou Stefanelli made a motion to add the words "the Preamble" to para. b. and para. c.1. It carried. A motion to change the phrase "appropriate additional material" to "section introduction" failed. Finally, a motion to accept Bylaws Amendment #1 as amended carried.

Elections

Officers. Lou Jasikoff was nominated for chair. A motion to suspend the rule requiring a written ballot carried. Lou was elected. Lou Stefanelli was nominated for Vice Chair; Sean Colon was nominated as Secretary; and Ken Chazotte was nominated as Treasurer. All were elected in separate voice votes after separate motions to dispense with a written ballot carried.

Members-at-Large. The top three vote-getters among seven candidates were elected: Kevin Ferrizzi, Jason Scheurer and Ken Kaplan. Len Flynn has resigned as a Member-at-Large by Petition. The validity of Robert Hull's position as Member-at-Large by Petition is subject to a signature check against the current membership list.

Convention Speakers

by NJL Reporter Ginny Flynn



Ken Wolski

The afternoon session of the NJLP convention began with a well-informed presentation by **Ken Wolski**. Ken said the federal government's campaign against medical marijuana is "an affront to science and patients everywhere." He mentioned polls showing that 80 percent of New Jersey citizens support the use of medical marijuana when recommended by a physician. (An AARP poll showed 79 percent support and an Eagleton Institute survey gave over 80 percent.)

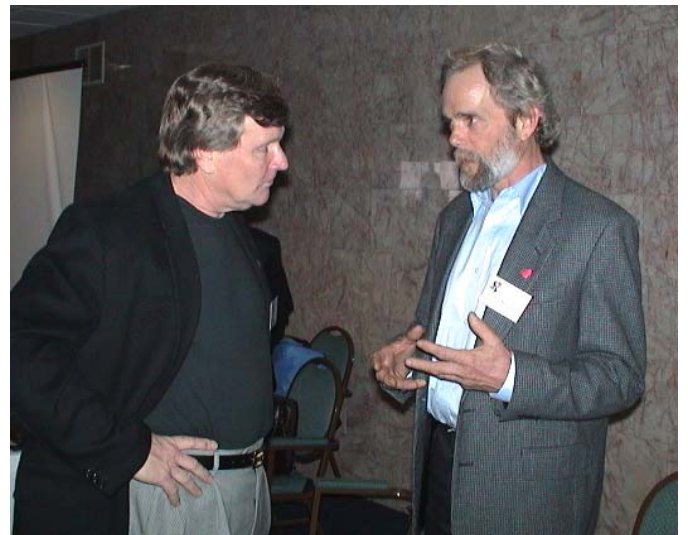
Despite this overwhelming support there are no active clinical trials on medical marijuana anywhere but in California. Eleven states have passed medical marijuana laws and New Jersey has the "New Jersey Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act" introduced, but it has not moved in our legislature. Wolski and his associate Jim Miller have formed the Coalition for Medical Marijuana – New Jersey (CMM – NJ) to support the legalization of marijuana use by patients under a doctor's supervision.

Ken said his activism began after meeting an American, James Burton in Amsterdam in 1990. Burton had glaucoma and had other close family members who had become blind from this affliction. Marijuana helped control his glaucoma and his vision improved. He was a farmer in Kentucky who grew and used the substance, but he was arrested by the government and sent to prison for one year despite his doctor's testimony. In fact, he spent part of the year in a federal maximum-security facility and, just before getting out of prison, the government seized his farm and his money. After release he left the US for Amsterdam. In the United States he was a felon, but he found freedom in Europe, where he is now a respected government employee – a farmer who grows marijuana for the government of the Netherlands!



Jim Miller

The next speaker was **Jim Miller** who told the moving story of his late wife Cheryl. She suffered from multiple sclerosis and benefited from medical marijuana to alleviate her symptoms. However, she was never allowed to obtain marijuana legally despite her and her husband's best efforts to enact legal reforms. Miller showed a 2002 commercial made by National LP activist Ron Crickenberger that helped defeat medical marijuana opponent Congressman Bob Barr for re-election in Georgia. (Barr has since seen the error of his ways and is now a fervent supporter of and advisor to the National Libertarian Party.) Miller requested our candidates to ask their opponents if they support medical marijuana during their campaigns.



NJLP Chair Lou Jasikoff and Jim Miller

(Editor's note: A most exciting development came after Miller's talk when NJLP Chair Lou Jasikoff asked Jim if he would run as an NJLP candidate. Jim said he would!)



Jim Lesczynski and his new book

At this point the convention had a surprise speaker from the New York City LP: **Jim Lesczynski**. Jim promoted his new book *The Walton Street Tycoons*, a libertarian novel for kids. On the book's cover noted libertarian author L. Neal Smith called it "the best libertarian novel to come along in a quarter-century or so." Smith likened the book to some of those by science fiction writer Robert A. Heinlein.



Steve Lonagan

The next speaker was **Steve Lonagan** the mayor of Bogota, NJ. Steve is the executive director of Americans for Prosperity – NJ (AMP-NJ). AMP is committed to educating citizens about economic policy and mobilizing them as advocates in the public policy process. AMP advocates limited government and free markets on the local, state, and federal levels. Lonagan spoke against eminent domain and said he believes conservatives and libertarians should come together for their common goals.



Rev. Kevin Brown

Reverend Kevin Brown spoke next. He said that Trenton is addicted to power and he cited eminent domain abuse as one example. Rev. Brown is an ordained Baptist minister who advocates on behalf of people troubled by excessive government. He is an undeclared independent candidate and he believes that if all independents come together for this one election they can oust the incumbent Democrats and Republicans.



Fred Martens

The last speaker in the afternoon was **Fred Martens**, who was speaking on behalf of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP). Fred believes one should do the least amount harm through the legal system. He thinks decriminalization probably would not eliminate the black market nor would it necessarily eliminate the cost to society from drug abuse, but there would be a shift to more humane programs. He no longer supports criminalizing drugs despite his long career in law enforcement. He said we are treating a medical problem with a criminal sanction. Criminalizing drugs has obviously not kept them out of the hands of children. Prohibition has made cops and politicians rich—people who would otherwise not be so wealthy. Prohibition has also made the government more corruptible.

A big problem is that the drug war has disproportionately imprisoned people without resources. Civil rights violations are common. The poor and the powerless are paying the price of the drug war, not the rich and the white. Blacks and Hispanics go to jail and yet 72 percent of all drug cases involve whites. Martens cited a study that showed a white person with a felony conviction can more easily get a job than a black person with a clean record. Anyone with a drug conviction can't vote, can't get a job, can't live in public housing, and can't get an educational grant. The drug war has destroyed Latino families. The black community is very conservative, and Fred believes that is why they are not up in arms. They embrace basic family values. To Martens the bottom line is to decriminalize drugs so that the drug abuse problems can actually be solved.



Melissa and Jay Edgar sign in convention attendees.



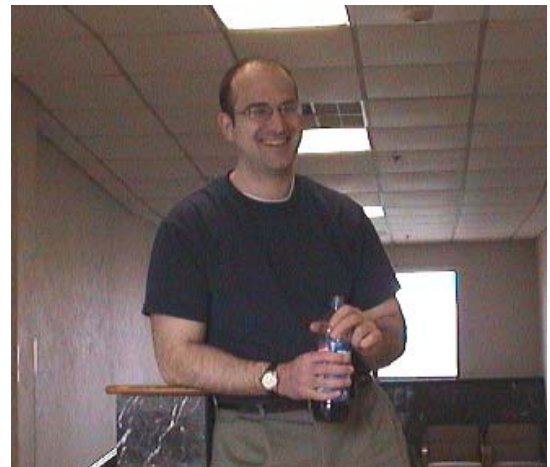
Members fill the meeting room to hear speakers.



Judy and Susan Schubert chat with Jason Scheurer.



Ginny Flynn, Elizabeth Macron & Betty Florentine discuss convention business.



NNJLP Chair Joe Dunsay joyfully registers for the convention.



Lou Stefanelli presents the NJLP Budget.

Future Meetings & Events

Sunday, April 15

NJLP Steering Committee 1:00 PM at Tumulty's Pub in New Brunswick

Monday, April 16

Tax Protest Day – leafletting at Post Offices statewide

Friday, April 20

NNJLP special gathering at 6 PM to discuss “Taxes and Hemp” at Jeff Hetrick’s house, 1089 Summit Lane in Mountainside (908-228-2529)

Sunday, May 6

NNJLP meeting & elections 2:00 PM at Fuddruckers Restaurant, 282 West State Road 4 in Paramus

NJLP State Board (April 1, 2007)

Steering Committee

State Chair	Lou Jasikoff	973-752-9164	chair@njlp.org
Vice Chair	Lou Stefanelli	732-450-0270	vicechair@njlp.org
Secretary	Sean Colon	973-980-9894	secretary@njlp.org
Treasurer	Ken Chazotte	732-713-4366	treasurer@njlp.org
Member-at-Large	Ken Kaplan	973-978-9722	atlarge1@njlp.org
Member-at-Large	Kevin Ferrizzi		atlarge2@njlp.org
Member-at-Large	Jason Scheurer	609-937-8064	atlarge3@njlp.org
Member-at-Large by Petition	Robert Hull	603 523 9866	atlarge5@njlp.org

County Representatives:

Middlesex	Frank Warren	908-756-1681	kb4cyc@webwarren.com
Mercer	Peggy Hunsicker	609-883-5893	fuzzyfactor@yahoo.com
Monmouth	Bill Howcott	732-462-8873	Whowcott@optonline.net
Essex	Alex Kachmar	973-979-1329	alexkachmar@hotmail.com
Passaic	Derek DeMarco		mopman312@cs.com
Union	Jeff Hetrick	973-239-6633	jkh1602@yahoo.com
Bergen	Joseph Dunsay	201-261-8374	cjdunsay@yahoo.com

Special thanks to Jeff Hetrick and Ray Babecki for their excellent photography of the convention

Paff wins in Lawnside and challenges Seaside Park

CAMDEN - In a hearing held on March 30, 2007, Camden County Assignment Judge Francis J. Orlando ruled that the Lawnside Borough Council violated the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) in two ways and ordered them to comply with the Act in the future. He also ordered the Borough to provide him with unredacted (i.e., without any text deleted) versions of some of its 2006 nonpublic meeting minutes for his private (known as an "in camera") review, and asked John Paff, the Plaintiff, and Matthew Wieliczko, the lawyer who represented the Borough, to try to work out an agreement as to how much detail nonpublic meeting minutes must contain.

On the OPMA violations, the Court found that:

1) The Borough violated N.J.S.A. 10:4-13 by failing to pass written resolutions prior to going into nonpublic (i.e., closed or executive) session informing the public of a) the general nature of the topics to be privately discussed and b) when, if ever, that the privately discussed matters can be disclosed to the public. The court ruled that the motions that the Borough passed before excluding the public from its meetings were not compliant with the OPMA. The Court ordered the Borough, going forward, to pass written resolutions that comply with both N.J.S.A. 10:4-13 and 40:49-1 before excluding the public from any of its meetings.

2) The Borough violated N.J.S.A. 10:4-14 by not making its nonpublic meeting minutes, with necessary redactions, promptly available to the public. The Court, noting that it took over six months for Paff to receive the nonpublic minutes he requested, ordered the Borough, going forward, to make properly redacted versions of its nonpublic meeting minutes publicly available no later than sixty days after the closed meeting. When Paff expressed concern that sixty days was too long for the public to wait, the Court assured him that the sixty-day period was intended as a maximum time, for extraordinary circumstances, and that in most cases the Council should disclose the minutes well within that time frame.

Judge Orlando also expressed concern that the closed session minutes that were eventually released to Paff were too heavily redacted and whether some of the topics privately discussed ought to have been discussed in public. The Court ordered an in camera inspection of the minutes and directed the attorney to justify each redaction in writing.

The Court also noted that Paff, who has not seen the text redacted from the nonpublic minutes, cannot be expected to argue whether or not the text was properly redacted or whether it related to topics that ought not to have been discussed in private. The court asked the parties to submit their ideas for how Paff's ability to argue his case can be

balanced against the Borough's need for confidentiality. Finally, the Court recognized that some of the minutes of previously held nonpublic meetings may, on their face, not comply with the OPMA's requirement that minutes be "reasonably comprehensible." Judge Orlando asked the parties to work together and draft a consent order that would provide for future meeting minutes to meet this standard.

Loitering ordinance called into question

SEASIDE PARK - The legitimacy of a loitering ordinance currently published in the Seaside Park Borough Code has been brought into question. In a letter to the Seaside Park mayor and borough council dated March 26, John Paff, spokesman for the New Jersey Libertarian Party, challenged the validity of the Seaside Park ordinance 53-38: "No person shall, within the limits of the said borough, loiter or sleep on any street, road, avenue, boardwalk, beach, park or other public place; and no person shall, on any street, road, avenue, boardwalk, beach, park or other public place within the limits of the said borough, utter loud and offensive or indecent language or make offensive remarks to or upon any person or persons passing along or being upon any such, street, road, avenue, boardwalk, beach, park or other public place, or obstruct or interfere with any person or persons lawfully being upon any of the same."

Citing a decision handed down by the State Appellate Division on July 27—State v. Gunderson—Paff contends the borough council did not repeal the ordinance, but rather, simply renamed it in the form of another ordinance, numbered 1394. In his letter to the borough, Paff said the new wording of the ordinance did not alter its content, making it unenforceable under New Jersey Criminal Code.

"The amendment, however, merely changed the title but not the substance of the ordinance," he wrote in his letter to the mayor and council. "Accordingly, it appears that this ordinance is still on the books and presumably still being enforced by the police even though a Superior Court judge has invalidated it."

The danger, Paff said, lies in the interpretation of the ordinance, and whether its wording may allow Seaside Park police liberal discretion in their determination of unlawful behavior. "The police and town should be upholding the laws," Paff said, "and not use [sic] as an excuse to enforce street conduct. It strikes me as being disingenuous, especially since Seaside Park must have been aware of the illegality of the ordinance when it was rewritten."

Seaside Park recently awarded a \$600,000 settlement to three individuals who sued the borough over allegations of excessive force by police officers.

Article from a posting by the *Ocean County Observer* on 03/29/07 by Carolynne Van Houten, Staff Writer

From the past – 1979 “Free by the Sea” Convention Success

By Ginny Flynn

The December 1978 edition of the *New Jersey Libertarian* announced the upcoming state convention which was to be held on February 17, 1979 at the Beacon Manor in Point Pleasant. The special guest speaker at the convention was John Holt, an advocate of alternative schools and teaching your children at home. The January 1979 newsletter contained a January 26 press release announcing the convention and Holt’s appearance. It also mentioned two more speakers: tax rebel and financial adviser Irwin A. Shiff and New York attorney and LP gubernatorial candidate Gary Greenberg, who would conduct a workshop on “avoiding arrest for victimless crimes.”

The cost for the convention was \$33 which included a Friday night cocktail party plus the whole day Saturday program including breakfast, lunch, and dinner plus workshops. A room at the Beacon Manor was only \$18.90! Newsletter Editor Dan Hurley pointed out that this room rate was very reasonable, because it was a per night rate not per person. He said, “If you and 18 of your friends get a room, that’s less than a buck apiece!”

One piece of new business described for the state convention was to revise the NJLP Bylaws to permit the 1980 and subsequent state conventions to be held in February or March. (Back then the party risked being snowed out in February!)

The February newsletter also mentioned that the NJLP State Committee voted at its January 27th meeting to “oppose any increase in the New Jersey drinking age and to support repeal of all price controls on alcoholic beverages.” At the time the New Jersey drinking age had been dropped to 18. People 18-20 years of age had freedom of choice to consume alcohol before

the drinking age was raised back up to 21 and imposed nationwide in the 1980s.

The March 1979 *New Jersey Libertarian* described a very successful NJLP state convention. State Convention Chair Bill George thanked everyone through the newsletter for assisting with the event. This was a uniquely successful convention because so many non-LP members showed up to see John Holt, who was well known and revered by homeschoolers and educational reformers. It was the Holt workshop that made the convention show a profit. There were 133 people who attended our convention, and there were 112 attendees at John Holt’s workshop. The convention took in \$2,545.50 in receipts and spent \$2,413.08 in expenses for a net profit of \$135.42. The greatest success of the 1979 convention was its ability to draw in outsiders and its ability to turn a profit despite no organized fundraising.

The 1979 convention approved five candidates to run for New Jersey Assembly in the November election. Familiar names from the 1979 convention were Len Flynn reelected as “Chairperson,” Ken Kaplan was Executive Secretary, Jeanne Macron was on the State Board, Ginny Flynn was approved as legislative district 9 candidate for Assembly, and Dick Roth was selected for the 26th legislative district Assembly race.

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