

# New Jersey Libertarian

## HILLSBOROUGH LIBERTARIANS SUE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Hillsborough Township (Somerset County) Libertarians, joined by many other local citizens, are following up on LP member Randy Enterline's court victory last year by suing the Hillsborough Board of Education to recover the cost of the biased "newsletters" they distributed last year.

It all began when the Board of Education spent about \$10,000 of taxpayer money to publish and distribute a newsletter designed to convince voters that they should authorize a \$53 million high school building project. State Education Commissioner Leo Klagholz responded to Enterline's appeal by ruling that the "newsletter" was an improper use of taxpayer money. Boards of Education, Klagholz said, are allowed to spend money to inform voters of the facts surrounding an election issue, but are not allowed to use taxpayer money to promote "yes" votes.

The administrative law judge who examined Enterline's complaint before the commissioner's ruling, Judge Solomon Metzger, found that the newsletter was "very much an advocacy piece", and that "it does not merely cross the line between education and advocacy, but actually distorts the facts". The \$53 million issue was defeated anyway, but the board is now trying to sell voters on a \$39 million high school.

The plaintiffs cite a little known statute that permits ten or more

*continued on Page 4*

## WHO ARE THE LIBERTARIANS?

*A front page story in the HILLSBOROUGH BEACON attempts to answer this question. Page 2*

## RUNNING SCARED?

*Robert Heitner had an intriguing conversation with a Sussex County Official. Page 3*

## NJLP PROGRAM

*The NJLP Platform committee is preparing a Program to propose Libertarian solutions to New Jersey's problems. Page 2*

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

*The Ocean County Libertarian Party will hold their fourth annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 7. All are welcome, but advance reservations are required. For more information see Page 3*

## ACTIVISTS' CORNER

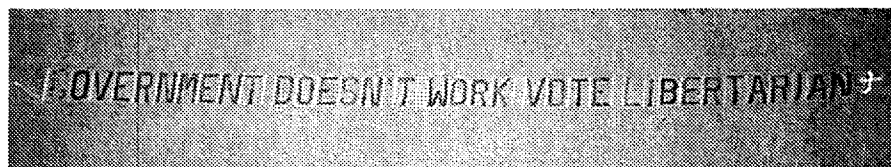
*Building the Libertarian Party in small steps. Page 11*

## NJLP WEB SITE!

*The New Jersey Libertarian Party's official World-Wide-Web Site is at:*

**<http://www.eclipse.net/~dimona>**

## LOOK, UP IN THE SKY! IT'S A WORD, IT'S A PLANE, IT'S...



*Seven shore area Libertarians hired a plane to tow a banner bearing the legend GOVERNMENT DOESN'T WORK; VOTE LIBERTARIAN along the shore from Cape May to Sandy Hook -and twice around Monmouth Park- on Labor Day weekend. Page 3*

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## FORFEITURE REPORT

*The State of New Jersey has released a report itemizing money and property seized and disposed of without trial. See Page 9*

## UPGRADE!

*NJLP "Budget" members are urged to upgrade to "regular" memberships so as to receive every month's NEW JERSEY LIBERTARIAN. Details on Page 7.*

## WHO ARE THE LIBERTARIANS?

The HILLSBOROUGH BEACON is the local newspaper in Hillsborough Township. The front page of the October 10 edition was dominated by coverage of the suit reported on page 1 and an accessory story introducing the Libertarian Party, which is reprinted here in its entirety.

### WHO ARE THE LIBERTARIANS?

By Al Wicklund, Staff Writer

The Libertarian Party of Somerset & Middlesex counties, a supporter of the suit against members of the 1994-95 school board, has had successes in the legal process recently.

The Party, which believes that what government should do exclusively is protect individual rights, has candidates for office from President and Congress to several Freeholder and local positions, but it has made its biggest splash in New Jersey in matters of law.

For example, Hillsborough resident and Party member Randy Enterline last year gained a favorable decision in his challenge of a Hillsborough Board of Education newsletter (now being followed up by seeking financial reimbursement from individual board members; see related story this page) from an administrative law judge and the state Commissioner of Education.

And, local party Vice Chairman John Paff of Somerville (sic) recently won an open records judgement in his case against the Manville Municipal Court.

The nationwide party was founded in 1971 and now has active groups in all fifty states.

Its basic philosophy is that each individual "has the absolute right to exercise sole dominion over his or her life, liberty and property so long as he or she also respects the equal right of all others to live their lives by the same principle".

From this precept springs such political positions as opposition to censorship, the military draft, victimless crime laws and government regulation of personal matters.

The Party supports property rights, free trade and eventual elimination of taxation.

## NJLP PROGRAM

The NJLP Platform Committee is preparing an NJLP Program. Just as the national LP offers both a Platform which states our party's principles and a Program which makes specific proposals for federal policies based on those principles, the NJLP will offer a comparable tandem document applicable to state policies.

Those who attended the NJLP Convention in March will recall the remarkable spectacle of a Libertarian convention unanimously approving the first NJLP Platform as drafted by this committee, after changing exactly one word. That was made possible by the Platform Committee's preparation and scheduling, which afforded all interested members an opportunity to:

- read a draft proposal of the platform,
- make specific suggestions, and
- present verbal arguments at a meeting scheduled exclusively for that purpose, all months before the convention which approved the finished document.

There is every reason to expect the same quality of research and reason, and the same good organization and preparation from the committee in this endeavor. Platform Committee Chair Elizabeth Macron hopes to present a draft Program to the NJLP Convention for approval next March. Macron says the Program will cover five topics:

- 1) Property Taxes
- 2) Education
- 3) Health Care
- 4) Business & Jobs
- 5) Crime

Platform Committee meetings are open to all interested members. The next one will begin at 10 AM on November 9, three hours before the start of the next NJLP General Meeting, in the same room.

### RUNNING SCARED?

A Sussex County Official, speaking on condition of anonymity, complained bitterly to Sussex County NJLP member Robert Heitner in September that Libertarians' efforts to thwart the growth of county government in Sussex have been successful.

Referring to the Libertarian efforts to stop creation of an Improvement Authority and monitor the operations of County College and Utilities Authority, the official told Heitner that "You Libertarians have officials so scared, they're afraid to do things". Sussex County Libertarians' anti-government growth efforts consist of letters to the editor, speaking at public hearings, and networking with several local taxpayer organizations.

The Freeholders voted 3-2 last year against creation of an Improvement Authority. County Improvement Authorities are autonomous political entities which can borrow huge sums to build hotels, airports, golf courses, or virtually any other project which can find a constituency. The third vote came from a freeholder who switched positions after considering the possibility of a primary challenge, thanks to the efforts of Sussex County Libertarians to inform constituents about the issue.

### LOOK, UP IN THE SKY!...from Page 1

NJLP Steering Committee member Jeff Pfeiffer lives in Ocean County, so he is aware of the popularity of such airborne banners facing New Jersey's beaches in summertime. They take advantage of a circumstance unique to the shore on fair days in summer: hundreds of thousands of people are virtually lined up from Cape May to Sandy Hook, and most of them are facing in the same direction. It is also one of the few forms of advertising that people consciously try to read and understand.

Jeff and six other NJLP members he recruited paid over \$1100 to have the banner flown over one of the most densely populated strips of shoreline in the world at the climax of "the season" as the coastal locals call it.

The salutary seven:

-Glenn Campbell,	Manahawkin
-Emerson Ellett,	Ocean Twp.
-Betty Florentine,	Brick Twp.
-Steve Nagle,	Belmar
-Jeff Pfeiffer,	Jackson Twp.
-Dick Siano,	Kingwood Township
-Don Siano,	Westfield

### CHRISTMAS PARTY ... from Page 1

The Ocean County Libertarians' Fourth Annual Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 7, at 7pm at the Olde Time Tavern on Route 37 in Tom's River. A formal dinner and open bar are included for \$40 per person. For more information, call Liz Macron at 908 458 5823.

Please make checks payable to Elizabeth Macron  
and mail before November 15 to:

**Christmas Party**  
c/o Elizabeth Macron  
39 Marbro Avenue  
Brick Twp, NJ 08724

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201-701-1200 office 201-889-5545 pager

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### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Question: What should I do if I find a rock in a bag of potatoes?

Answer: Simply return the rock to your grocer, who will give you the rock's weight in potatoes."

*- from a US Dep't of Agriculture booklet,*  
**HOW TO BUY POTATOES**

## NJLP PLATFORM

To obtain a copy of the NJLP Platform,  
send one dollar for each copy to:

**Dan Karlan**  
97-A Manhattan Avenue  
Waldwick, N J 07463-2228

## NJLP OFFICERS Steering Committee

Chair	Len Flynn	(908) 591-1328
Vice Chair	Ed Wiessmann	(201) 579-7941
Secretary	Emerson Ellett	(908) 774-3684
Treasurer	Lou Stefanelli	(201) 751-8675
By-Petition	Keith Quarles	(908) 280-9615
At-Large	Mike Buoncristiano	(201) 217-1060
	Jeff Pfeiffer	(908) 928-9093
	Howard Schoen	(908) 572-0207

## REVOLUTIONARIES AT WORK

The French Revolution did not result in a libertarian society, but the slogan of the party that dominated the nation's politics between 1792 and 1793 was "Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite". The infamous Jacobins in the ruling Committee of Public Safety were among the first to attempt to micromanage a great nation's economic life from a committee meeting room, and swiftly learned in practice some of the things their contemporary Adam Smith was developing in theory.

Two members of this committee, military specialists Lazare Carnot and Claude Prieur, sought to persuade others of the unwisdom of public management with this comment, circa 1792.

*"Public management in general does not suit the interests of the Republic because public administrators do not observe the same economy as owners, because experience demonstrates that technical improvements are introduced much later or not at all, and because such establishments in the hands of an ambitious man are a means of power which may be very dangerous to the liberty of the nation."*

Source: TWELVE WHO RULED by R R Palmer, Princeton U. Press, 1941, 1969

## HILLSBOROUGH LIBERTARIANS SUE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS ...from page 1

taxpayers to sue in the name of  
a municipality or school board to recover money that was illegally spent or diverted. As the "newsletter" was ruled illegal, the plaintiffs reason that the Board of Education is entitled to recover the cost of preparation and distribution from the Board members who authorized it.

The story was covered in the October 8 *STAR LEDGER*, where Board member Michael Nee was quoted thusly: "This is nothing more than a political lawsuit by negative people doing whatever they can to prevent the community from ... delivering education to the students". Nee was also quoted as calling the lawsuit "frivolous" and timed to "create a negative impression of the Board". He also threatened to countersue for the costs of the litigation.

The eleven plaintiffs are:

George Abramo

Anthony D'Amore

Lorraine D'Amore

Patricia Bartling\*

Richard Crowley

Sam Cipri\*

Gaylord Olson\*

Janine Shugan

Robert Shugan

John Zamkotowicz

Teri Zamkotowicz

\*Libertarian Party members



**JANICE PRESSER**  
LIBERTARIAN CANDIDATE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

village" point of view.

The Third Congressional District includes a few towns in northern Camden County, most of Presser's native Burlington County, and the southern two thirds of Ocean County.

1995 marked several "firsts" for the New Jersey Libertarian Party, the most conspicuous being that one of our candidates for state assembly was endorsed by a major newspaper. That candidate, Janice Presser, was lauded by the **COURIER POST** of Cherry Hill in an editorial endorsement which included this:

*"Presser impressed us with her vast knowledge of the issues and her willingness to consider alternatives to the usual stopgap measures."*

The editors of the **COURIER POST** - the biggest newspaper in South Jersey - aren't the only ones impressed. New Jersey's Libertarians are cheering her on too, along with her husband Barry Perlman and two children, all of whom are Libertarians also. Perlman is also the Chair of the Burlington County LP.

Presser, a Clinical Nurse Specialist and Forensic Consultant in private practice, holds a PhD in Family Therapy and Development from Union Institute Graduate School. She joins a growing number of professionals and technical specialists, responsible for making things work, who have recognized that ambitious government is one thing that doesn't.

One reason for the leviathan state's growth is the common sentiment that income transfer programs are "fair". This outlook is a topic of great professional interest to Presser, to whom these programs seem something other than "fair". She is especially interested in possible physiological causes for the attitude that underlies the "It takes a



**KEITH QUARLES**  
LIBERTARIAN CANDIDATE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
SIXTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

If the voters of the Sixth Congressional District, which includes a strip of municipalities in central Middlesex and northern Monmouth Counties ranging from Piscataway in the west to Atlantic Highlands in the east, aren't content with politics as usual and prefer a more scientific approach to public policy, the New Jersey Libertarian Party has the answer.

Keith Quarles of Wall Township is a management science consultant at AT&T Labs in Holmdel. His primary responsibility is to make various subsidiaries more effective and efficient. While that ability may disqualify him from Congress in the eyes of Washington, the voters might well see his skills in a different light.

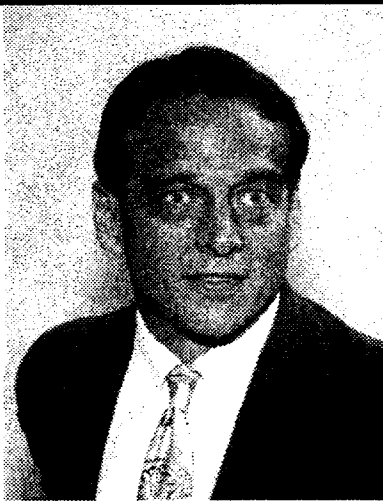
Quarles, 41, holds degrees in electrical engineering: a bachelor's degree from Georgia Tech, and a master's from Stanford. An MBA from Rutgers balances Keith's technical expertise with management skills, and eighteen years of experience at AT&T declare him a dependable voice of competence.

Keith and his wife Diane are the proud parents of six-year-old Erin and one-year-old Philip, and Keith cites them as two of his most important reasons for running for office this year and being a Libertarian generally. A firm believer in freedom, Keith holds out little hope that politicians from either of the old parties will ever reduce government's scope, and sees the Libertarian Party not as a preference but an absolute necessity.

The Quarles campaign can be reached at : phone (908) 280-9615, fax (908) 280-9620 or email [kquarles@att.com](mailto:kquarles@att.com) his website is at [http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/k\\_quarles/Congress.htm](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/k_quarles/Congress.htm)

## LENDING BOTH HANDS

If you enjoyed or profited from October's New Jersey Libertarian, Sussex County LP member **Don Imbriale** is one to thank, as our journal would never have reached you without Don's folding, addressing, stamping, and stapling at the end of September. Don has been helping the LP as a member since 1973.



### **AUSTIN LETT**

**LIBERTARIAN CANDIDATE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**

Few NJLP members are as well known in their communities as Austin Lett. As the running mate of Ray Connors in the 1995 Chatham Township Committee race, Austin led a campaign that attracted dozens of volunteers from Chatham and elsewhere to help in the massive task of ringing every doorbell in Chatham at least once.

Indeed, Austin's two campaigns for township committee, in 1994 and 1995, brought the Libertarian Party up to a level of brand-name recognition and public understanding in his town that we have seldom achieved elsewhere. One dramatic result from Austin's 1995 campaign was the outright defeat of candidates from BOTH of the old parties, when Austin received more votes than one Democrat and one Republican in a six-way race for two Committee seats. Another was the defeat of a "major party" candidate by BOTH Libertarian candidates, as Ray Connors also defeated a Democrat.

Yet another notable result was the "kill sheet" the Republican Party felt compelled to produce and distribute in an attempt to discredit Austin and Ray, which was a sure sign that their polling identified our two candidates as serious threats. They also found it necessary to run full-page ads in local papers consisting entirely of a written endorsement of the Republican candidates by popular Governor Whitman which included her photo, a ploy they have seldom resorted to in other local races.

Austin is now serving the LP as candidate for the House seat occupied by Republican dynast Rodney Frelinghuysen, whose district includes all of Morris County and portions of Somerset, Essex, Passaic, and Sussex Counties. Although his chances of winning and corresponding publicity are lessened, he still commands attention from the local press because he has built a local following.

Austin and his wife Lyla - both delegates to the LP national convention in July - have two children: Heather, a professional model, and Travis, a senior and football star at Chatham High. Lyla is a first grade teacher in the Chatham Public Schools. A venture capitalist and partner in the Bollinger/Wells firm, Lett holds a BS in Engineering from the US Naval Academy and an MBA in finance from the University of Michigan.

A favorite promotional tactic of Austin's is to convert all his pocket money into two dollar bills, which feature a portrait of libertarian Thomas Jefferson and the text of the Declaration of Independence, and to tell others that "When you spend a two dollar bill you are saying that you support Austin Lett, the Libertarian campaign for smaller government, Thomas Jefferson, his principles, and the Declaration of Independence".

## BOSTON TEA PARTY

On October 2, *The Aquarian Weekly* published an account of a marijuana legalization rally in Boston on September 21 which attracted a crowd of 200,000. The story mentioned that the Libertarian Party had a booth at the rally, which featured live bands. The story also singled out "Dem Prez Clinton" for criticism. The event was described as the "7th annual antiprohibition concert/rally" whose audience was present "to demand an end to marijuana prohibition and the release of those imprisoned for the possession or sale of cannabis".

*The Aquarian Weekly* is a weekly tabloid based in Montclair, NJ covering many topics but focusing primarily on the music industry. One of its regular features is called the "POT PAGE", where decriminalization efforts are reported. It is circulated along the East Coast of the US from Washington to Boston.

## Why so many Computer Programmers are Libertarians

Anyone who has tried to make a computer do exactly what they want, when it has no choice but to follow your instructions to the letter, quickly gives up all hope of trying this with human beings!

- Michael Pierone



## MIKE EDMONDSON

**LIBERTARIAN CANDIDATE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**

*"The triumph of persuasion over force is the sign of a civilized society...Taxation is the price we pay for failing to build a civilized society. The higher the tax, the greater the failure." -Mark Skousen*

A familiar motto informs us that those who ignore history are doomed to repeat it. If the voters in New Jersey's First Congressional District want to heed this wise advice and stop repeating the Republican mistakes of the past eighty-five years, the Libertarian Party offers them a solution; history teacher Mike Edmondson of Westmont.

Edmondson, 30, teaches at Bishop Eustace Preparatory School in Pennsauken, and also lectures at Cabrini College in Radnor, Pennsylvania. He is proud of the historical theory and argument lessons he imparts to honor students. He has also designed a course focusing on economic history, which is often neglected by historians distracted by sexier topics like dynastic succession, wars, etc. He has had work published in *MAGAZINE OF HISTORY*, and received the Herbert Hoover Library Research Fellowship in 1993.

Mike's received quite a lot of publicity for someone without a campaign staff or treasury; *THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER*, *THE COURIER POST* (which made history by endorsing Libertarian Janice Presser for Assembly last year), *THE RECORD BREEZE* of Camden County, and *THE GLOUCESTER COUNTY TIMES* have all covered Mike's campaign, and their broadcast brethren have picked up on their cue: Rowan College sponsored a debate which was aired live on radio, and Garden State Cable Television made Professor Edmondson the topic of a feature story.

It is perhaps unsurprising that Mike's incumbent opponent, Democrat Robert Andrews, refuses to debate Edmondson on the air; Andrews' record can ill afford the scrutiny of a PhD candidate with encyclopedic knowledge of the issues. Republican opponent Mel Suplee has displayed more spine by sharing Rowan College's stage to debate Mike.

The First Congressional District includes most of Camden County and western portions of Gloucester and Burlington Counties. If that's where you call home, you'll have a chance on election day to renounce some of the worst mistakes in history's catalogue by voting for Mike Edmondson.

## Origin of the word POLITICS

by Michael Pierone

We break it into its roots.  
**poli** from the latin for many,  
and **tics** - which as we all know  
are blood sucking parasites.

Hence, MANY blood sucking  
parasites...see illustration



## SUBSCRIBE!

The NEW JERSEY LIBERTARIAN offers subscriptions to non-members. To subscribe, send your name & mailing address along with a check for \$15 made payable to the New Jersey Libertarian Party to:

NJLP Newsletter  
c/o Lou Stefanelli  
49 Carmer Ave.  
Belleville, N J 07109

-Be sure to write NJ LIBERTARIAN SUBSCRIPTION on your check.

## UPGRADE!



Make Jefferson  
smile!

Libertarian Party "Budget" members in New Jersey pay for and receive twelve issues of the national LP newsletter and also receive four complimentary issues of the NEW JERSEY LIBERTARIAN each year. For an additional \$15, payable to the New Jersey LP, you may receive all twelve months' issues of the NEW JERSEY LIBERTARIAN, and become a "regular" member. The best is yet to come!

*paid advertisement*

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**201 586 8531**

**INVESTOR\$INTERNATIONAL**

**"Think what you always thought, do what you always did,  
and you'll get what you always got!"**

*paid advertisement*

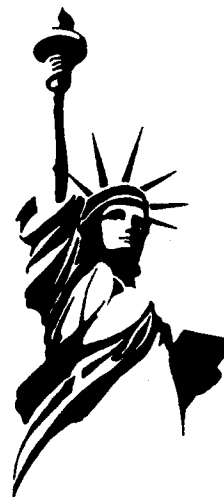
### **DIRECTIONS TO NJLP GENERAL MEETING Nov 9, 1pm**

*from South Jersey and Shore Area;*

Take Turnpike Exit 9 or Parkway Exit 104 to Route 18 North  
Rt 18 N to New Brunswick, exit onto Rt 27 South (Albany Street)  
Rt 27 S to third light (at train station), right onto Easton Avenue  
Easton Ave to second light, left onto Hamilton Street  
Hamilton St. becomes Amwell Road; follow for three miles total  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is #1640, on left

*from North/Western New Jersey;*

Route 287 to Exit 6; then south on Easton Ave.  
Easton Ave approx two miles; right onto DeMott Lane  
DeMott Ln app. two miles to end; left onto Amwell Road  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is #1640, on right





## ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page	\$60.00	Quarter Page	\$25.00
Half Page	\$40.00	Eighth Page	\$15.00
Inserts	\$60.00 plus postage		

### Discounts

12 issue contracts paid in advance:	10%
6 issue contracts paid in advance:	4%

*Copy should be camera ready.  
Additional fee may be required for typesetting.*

## RADIO LIBERTY PAC

Radio Liberty PAC is a political action committee which focuses exclusively on radio advertising for the Libertarian Party. As radio talk shows are one of the best values in political advertising, Radio Liberty PAC buys blocs of time in volume; the maximum \$5000 contribution buys a week of advertising in "dozens of markets".

To donate or get more information, contact them at:

**RADIO LIBERTY PAC**

**PO BOX 6621**

**West Palm Beach, Florida 33405**

**561 832 0016 Fax 832 0406**



## BILL OF RIGHTS T-SHIRTS

The Bill of Rights T-shirts conceived by Mike Buoncristiano and demanded by all are here! The attractive red-and-blue-on-white design tells everyone what you stand for (The Bill Of Rights) on the front and who stands with you (the New Jersey Libertarian Party) on the back.

For yours, send \$15 for each shirt plus \$3 s/h for the first shirt and \$1 s/h for each additional shirt to:

**NJLP Shirt**

**c/o Lou Stefanelli**

**49 Carmer Avenue**

**Belleville, NJ 07109**

Please specify size: **M L XL**



## STATE RELEASES FORFEITURE REPORT

The NJ Department of Law and Public Safety released a report summarizing the forfeitures to the state and the disposition of similar items from previous periods during the period 1/1/96 through 6/30/96. After specifying that only seizures and forfeitures related to N.J.S. 2C:35-1 et seq. and N.J.S. 2C:36-1 et seq. (the drug and paraphernalia laws) are included, it lists the following:

### What they took

-83 vehicles valued in the report at	\$ 955,527
-computers of an unspecified value	+
-jewelry of an unspecified value	+
-Certificates of Deposit valued at	\$ 1,175,500
-20 Gold Bonds valued at	\$ 70,000
-money orders totaling	\$ 50,000
-12 bank accounts, sum of	\$ 34,766
-interest on deposited funds	\$ 16,115
-interest on other deposited funds	\$ 62,880
-income from forfeited instruments	\$ 14,861
-cash totaling	\$ 8,460,105
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,839,754 +</b>

### Who got what

-Division of Criminal Justice	\$ 652,092
-State Police	\$ 40,000
-Dept. of Health ("5% set aside")	\$ 167,089
-Department of Veterans' Affairs	\$ 22,800
-general treasury	\$1,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,881,981</b>

No explanation about the \$8,957,773 difference between these two sums was given, other than mention that most of what was seized and forfeited in this period will be disposed of in a future period and most of the dispositions were made with seizures from previous periods. -EW

## OPINION SECTION



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor: Ed Wiessmann

Layout: Mike Pierone

The New Jersey Libertarian welcomes letters. Your letter will have the best chance of publication if you keep it under 200 words and focus on matters of special concern to Libertarian Party members. Please e-mail them to: **edgewest@aol.com**

or mail them to: **NJL Letters**

**281 House's Corner Road  
Lafayette, NJ 07848**

If you are contributing artwork or pictures for layout, Please email to: **mpierone@eclipse.net**  
or mail them to: **Mike Pierone**

**12 Winding Way  
Belvidere, NJ 07823**

### KNOCK DOWN THE WALL !

Editor: I almost didn't join the Party because of the "Oath".

I believed in limited government, and I'd voted Libertarian, so I called the Party to join up, and got back an application requiring the oath.

It reminded me of the loyalty oath I'd had to sign to teach in the government schools in New Hampshire. I hesitated before signing that, but for signing that oath I got paid for doing something I enjoyed. For signing the Libertarian Party's oath, I'd be allowed to give it money.

I wrote to Party headquarters to explain that I wouldn't sign the oath. They sent back a persuasive, handwritten letter explaining that the oath didn't mean what most reasonable readers would think it meant. I sent in my money, and kept sending dues for many years. Then, when my membership came up for renewal in July, I decided to keep my money. It seemed the only thing I could do which might get the Party's attention.

I suspect that a lot of people with libertarian beliefs, a willingness to join and qualities the Party needs never get past reading the oath. Some read the oath, are startled to find that Libertarians are apparently pacifists, and throw away their applications. Others resent being asked to sign anything they don't thoroughly understand and enthusiastically support.

I realize many can make persuasive defenses of the oath. You can explain that "initiation" is used in a sophisticated, non-intuitive way. That's nice, but you'll never get a chance to make that defense to people you've chased away.

In MENDING WALL, Robert Frost wrote about the importance of figuring out what any wall was blocking in or out, and "to whom it is like to give offense".

The oath is a wall the Party has needlessly, counterproductively erected. It reflects a smug attitude that will keep the Party tiny forever, losers in the battle for minds as well as political office. Knock it down!

**-Terry Dwyer, Morristown**

### EDITORIAL

*The last few months' mail at the NEW JERSEY LIBERTARIAN has brought a lot of valuable news, some gems of prose, many brief observations, a few constructive complaints, and one very harsh and destructive criticism of an NJLP member. It's dismaying how an attack assumes an importance and memorability far out of proportion to its sponsorship; that one slur absorbed as much attention as any ten other pieces of incoming information combined, even though it made no attempt to correct or even identify a specific problem.*

*While it's true that negative campaigns work with many voters, and fostering contempt for others is an oft used tactic in traditional politics, it is one of the greatest sources of pride in the Libertarian Party that such tactics are not our style. Libertarians have valuable, vital ideas that deserve better framing and context than the usual Republican assault words. Besides, vicious attacks backfire when presented to Libertarians, who are eager to be enlightened and care about logic and reason. The source of brutal invective is assumed to lack compelling ideas which can stand on their own merits.*

*The authors of vicious attacks against anyone -but especially Libertarians- damage their cause beyond repair in the minds of many Libertarian readers and listeners. We all feel rage and frustration at times, but public discourse is not the place to vent it. - EW*

## ACTIVISTS' CORNER

Libertarian activists have often faced a difficulty particularly common in politics: an inability to stay motivated in the face of electoral defeats. This problem has nipped many a local Libertarian organization in the bud, and prevented the 'snowballing' effect necessary to build a party large enough to restore freedom in America.

The lack of measurable results from many Libertarian campaigns has persuaded many dedicated libertarians to channel their efforts through one of the government parties, or more commonly to abandon political activity altogether. The burn-out pattern goes something like this:

- 1) libertarian discovers the LP and joins
- 2) new Libertarian runs or works on campaigns for Congress, or legislature
- 3) disappointing vote totals
- 4) new Libertarian decides the task is too large and therefore hopeless
- 5) new Libertarian joins one of the old parties, or becomes inactive

There is a way to break this cycle, and it can be summed up in two words: aim lower. A glance at the Libertarian Party's roster of public office holders reveals that the overwhelming majority hold minor offices; in New Jersey, for example, some hold seats on school and zoning boards, one is on an environmental commission, board of health, and planning board, another is on a county's solid waste council and a court dispute panel, one is on a rent control reform committee, and yet another sits on a zoning board of adjustment.

Most of the rapid growth of the LP's officeholders list over the last few years consists of Libertarians getting appointed to offices like these. These appointments may seem insignificant to some, but to voters, reporters, and other activists, these are badges of credibility, the most elusive of all the assets needed to build a large, powerful Libertarian Party.

There are other important benefits to these positions: they are the only venues in which Libertarians actually get a vote in shaping public policy, and learn the pitfalls and booby traps laced through negotiations with those who are building a bigger government. They are also the tokens of progress that keep other Libertarians motivated, keep a county or municipal chapter of the Party visible and growing, and give those unwilling to run for election a way to participate.

Appointments to minor offices are among the many achievements that are building the next major political party, a little bit at a time. -EW



**NEW JERSEY  
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☐ Enclosed is \$25. I will receive a full year's subscription to the national *LP News* and 4 issues of the state *New Jersey Libertarian*.

Make check payable to NJLP and mail to  
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### Donation

☐ Enclosed is my additional contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help the NJLP in its effort 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:

☐ Please remove my name if the NJLP's mailing list is rented.



# Calendar

(Entry deadline: 15th of each month)

## NJLP GENERAL MEETING

The New Jersey Libertarian Party will hold a general meeting at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 1640 Amwell Road in Somerset, at 1pm on Saturday, November 9. A Platform Committee meeting will start at 10 AM in the same room. All members are welcome at both meetings. For directions, see Page 8.

**Bergen/Hudson LP** meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Location varies. For current information, call Lee Maclin at 201 798 0867.

**Burlington/Camden County LP** For meeting information and directions call (609)-273-3253 or e-mail [presser@netaxs.com](mailto:presser@netaxs.com)

**Gloucester County LP** meets regularly on the fourth Tuesday of each

month at the Gloucester County Library in Mullica Hill. Guests are welcome. Call John Hill at (609) 468 - 9571

**Mercer County LP** meets on the second Sunday of each month at 2:30pm. Location will vary. Call Ben Grindlinger at (609) 585-4128 for information.

**Somerset/Middlesex LP** meets on the 4th Monday of every month at 7pm at Tumulty's Pub, 361 George St., New Brunswick.

**Monmouth County LP** meets the second Sunday of each month. Liberty Brunch at 11 am, meeting at noon. Call Keith Quarles (908) 280-9615 for

location and details.

**Morris/Essex LP** meets at 7pm on the last Tuesday of each month. Call Mike Lewin 201 884-0005 for information.

**Ocean County LP** meets the second Wednesday of each month at Betty Florentine's house. Call 908 477-8496 for information or contact Glenn Campbell at (609) 978-1361.

**Salem County LP** meets regularly on the last Saturday of each month at 2pm. For location call Robert Dyson at (609) 678-8034.

**Sussex County LP** Call Tony Federici at (201) 764-7289 for info.



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