

New Jersey Libertarian

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Emerson Ellett Voted State Chair at 2001 Convention

In an uncontested election, NJLP members chose Emerson Ellett as State Chair at the March 24th convention.

In a business session that addressed several issues, members chose state officers and voted to modify a newly enacted, revised dues sharing procedure between the state party and county organizations. Qualified counties will receive \$5 a year for every state member residing in the county with a couple of restrictions. The expectation is that this will encourage the formation and growth of county organizations while simultaneously encouraging membership in the state party.

The election of officers resulted in continued service from Lou Stefanelli as Treasurer. Ned Kelley was voted Vice Chair, with Len Flynn taking the Secretary's position vacated by Emerson Ellett's election as chair. Elizabeth Macron was voted by petition to be a fourth At Large representative to the Steering Committee, serving with Henry Cheney, Lou Elwell and Robert Hull.

County caucuses resulted in the inactive status of the Essex county organization, and the formation of the new "Southern Counties" group, to consist of Atlantic, Burlington, Cumberland, Camden, Cape May, Gloucester, and Salem counties. Steve Lang and Henry Cheney suggested the formation of the group to other southern county residents, and Steve Lang accepted the position of Chair, with Deb Sackett agreeing to represent the group to the Steering Committee.

Lou Elwell presented awards on behalf of the NJLP to the following individuals:

Lifetime Service Award: Len Flynn

Volunteer of the Year: Pat Bontempo

Exemplary Service Awards for all around service:

Robert Hull

Mike Panella

Chris Weimann

Shad Woolley

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Former State Chair Ed Weissmann with new Chair Emerson Ellett and Vice Chair Len Flynn.

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Libertarian Lou is on vacation.

Convention Speakers Address the Future

NJLP members who attended the March 24th convention enjoyed a delicious lunch even more, thanks to enjoyable presentations by speakers Jim Bovard, James Lark, Sharon Harris and Doug Friedline.

Jim Bovard, author of “Feeling Your Pain” and “Lost Rights”, got chuckles from the audience with his darkly humorous look at the intrusion of government.

Jim Lark spoke of his optimism about the future of the Libertarian Party, while Doug Friedline shared his insider’s viewpoint of Jesse Ventura’s successful gubernatorial campaign. \$2,500 was raised for the Edgerton campaign from the audience during Doug’s speech, in which he encouraged members with a comparison of the Ventura campaign’s progress at the same point in the campaign season, compared to the energetic Edgerton campaign.

Sharon Harris shared Mr. Lark’s optimism about the future, and offered members a twist on the old “Libertarian Definition”:

“The standard answer, when people ask what a Libertarian is, is that we’re conservative, economically, and liberal, socially,” she said. “Try this instead: when you’re asked what a Libertarian is, say “well, Conservatives are Libertarian on economic issues, and Liberals are Libertarian on social issues.”

Robert Jacobs is to be commended for his work in choosing an excellent line up of speakers, and in coordinating a convention that was greatly enjoyed by those who attended.



Newest At Large Member Elizabeth Macron

The Tao of Liberty

Eastern philosophy and western politics met on Wednesday, March 14 in the presentation “The Tao of Liberty” sponsored by Libertarians of Monmouth County.

The free talk, which was open to the public, was held at the Main Branch of the Monmouth County Public Library. Ned Kelley, founder and head instructor of the Califon Karate Academy in Califon, discussed the similarities between Eastern concepts of self-defense and the non-initiation of force and the political philosophy of libertarianism. Ned, who has been studying Martial Arts and Asian philosophy for 15 years, noted that his training has been strongly rooted in the principle of using force only in self-defense. He is an At-Large member of the NJLP State Steering Committee.



The New Jersey Libertarian

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**Contributors: Lou Elwell,
Pat Bontempo,
John Paff**

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Commentary and advertising may be submitted to the editor by the 20th of every month. Contact us at:

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69 Malaga Lake Boulevard
Malaga, NJ 08328
Editor@njlp.org
856 694 3419**

Multi-County Organization Formed for Southern Libertarians

Libertarians in the Southern end of the state have cause for celebration. Henry Cheney and Steve Lang prompted the formation of a multi-county organization for the geographically large but relatively sparsely populated lower portion of the state.



The group, to include Burlington, Camden, Atlantic, Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland and Cape May counties, will hold its first meeting on April 7th at 1 pm, in the home of Deb Sackett. Pat Bontempo, chair of the active Libertarians of Monmouth County, has agreed to attend in an advisory role.

Steve Lang will act as chair for at least the present, with Deb accepting the position of Steering Committee representative. The April 7th meeting will be an organizational one, addressing structure and goals.

Any Libertarians residing in one of the counties included are encouraged to get in touch with Deb (DebSackett@aol.com, 856 694 3419) for information about the new organization.



Lou Elwell presenting awards to NJLP members for exceptional volunteer efforts.

Volunteers Recognized at Convention

Continued from Page 1

Certificate of Appreciation for running for office:

**Tom Abrams
Emerson Ellett
Len Flynn
Worth Winslow
Darren Young**

For Ballot Petitioning:

**Ray Cragle
Richard Doyle
Emerson Ellett
Marj Ellett
Robert Jacobs
Tracey Lockwood
Ed Weissmann**

For Newsletter work:

**Pat Bontempo
David Duchai
John Paff
Chris Toto
Jack Toussaint
Deb Sackett
Chris Weimann**



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Also, for campaign contributions, we are required by law to ask for the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Employer's Address: _____

Silent Agitators

By Pat Bontempo

On the Left there once was the concept of the "silent agitator". Sounds mysterious and ominous, doesn't it? Actually it simply referred to such things as a slogan painted on the side of a mill or a sticker affixed to a factory washroom wall.

It's an effective tactic. Best of all, it's low-cost when it costs anything at all. I don't think libertarians should damage property, but we should take advantage of opportunities for silent agitation, opportunities such as the one you're now holding.

What do you do with your *NJL* after reading it? Throw it out? Toss it on a pile of old magazines in the den? Try this: On your next visit to the doctor take it with you -- and leave it in the waiting room. Leave it on the train after your morning commute, in the break room at work, in the laundry room at your apartment complex, virtually anywhere.

Do the same with the *LP News*. Do you subscribe to *Reason*, *Liberty*, *Freedom Daily* or another libertarian magazine? Do you receive similar publications from groups such as the Cato Institute?

Keep those you want then remove the mailing labels and pass the others on. If they're not LP publications take a second on two to scrawl 1-800-ELECT-US on it or the website.

Do you drive a car? Put an LP bumper sticker on it. For a \$1 investment thousands of motorists could see it in one year alone. National will sell you 10 for \$7.50, and if you live in Monmouth County you can have one for free from LMC. (See below). Do you pay bills? Cable? Phone? Electric? How about property tax? For the grand sum of \$1 you can get 100 "World's Smallest Political Quiz" cards from National. A wide variety of items suitable for such use are available; see the full page ad in every *LP News*. Insert one with each bill payment.

The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), arguably the largest militant labor union in American history, stressed the use of silent agitators, which they also dubbed silent organizers. And this was a group whose success rested mainly on its eagerness to kick the crap out of its opponents. They realized how few people are able to address a crowd from a soapbox, especially in defense of an unpopular idea. But they never missed a chance to scrawl on a factory wall their confident, indeed boastful, assertion of what the initials IWW meant to them: I Will Win.

If you live in Monmouth County and would like a free Vote Libertarian bumper sticker, write to LMC, PO Box 121, Tennent NJ 07763 or send an E-mail to PDB10752@aol.com.

New Jersey Libertarian Party

P.O. Box 56

Tennent, NJ 07763

1-800-201-NJLP

Steering Committee

Chair Emerson Ellett chair@njlp.org

732 774 3684

Vice Chair Ned Kelley vicechair@njlp.org

908 534 5562

Secretary Len Flynn secretary@njlp.org

732 591 1328

Treasurer Lou Stefanelli treasurer@njlp.org

732 450 0270

At Large Member Lou Elwell

atlarge1@njlp.org

At Large Member Henry Cheney

atlarge2@njlp.org

At Large Member Robert Hull

atlarge3@njlp.org

At Large Member Elizabeth Macron

atlarge4@njlp.org

Vic Kaplan's Class Act makes front page in Piscataway Review

Vic Kaplan, one of the NJLP's youngest members, made the front page of the *Piscataway Review* with his championing of the Halper family against the attempted condemnation of their dairy farm. While the behavior of the Township Council's president drew the *Review* reporter's attention, it is the time, attention and energy that this Libertarian is devoting to a government-oppressed family that should make all members of the NJLP proud. To follow up on the reporting of the incident, Vic wrote a letter to the editor reiterating his Libertarian principles (see page 7). Both article and letter should spur other members to the kind of personal activism Vic is doing, and the press coverage should encourage us all to find our own local issues.

Piscataway Review, February 23rd, 2001, Page 1

"Council President vs Russian Student"

James Stewart has heated exchange with resident over Halper farm

By Cheryl Orson, Staff Writer

While the time may be running short before time limits are to be imposed during the next public meeting in Piscataway, tempers are also running short.

This was most evident during the Township Council's public meeting Monday, when a Rutgers University Russian foreign exchange student, Viktor Kaplan, spoke before the governing body in heavily Slavonic-accented English, clearly expressing his views on the controversial happenings concerning the Cornell Dairy Farm owned by the Halper family.

Council President James Stewart, conversely, minced no words with a loud, haranguing response providing sharp contrast between scholarly debate and outright and what members of the public said they considered uncouth political back-room brawling.

"In the Soviet Union in the 1930's, the farmers were complaining as the government was taking away their farms," Kaplan said. "They were also led to believe that Communist (Party Leader Joseph) Stalin didn't know, but I think you (the Council) do. I know I'm making an analogy here and I know it may sound painful and it hurts, but I don't think it hurts as much as having the Halper family suffer under your condemnation. I don't know if you guys have read the Bible, but I believe it says 'do unto others'. I think you know the rest. So you (the Council) can show how consistent you are, I'm asking you to join me in supporting the condemning of *your* property."

"You're saying this is painful for us to hear; frankly, it's ridiculous for us to hear - to compare us to Stalin," said Stewart, going on to state that land can't be taken without due process, currently underway, adding if the land were to be condemned, the property owners would be entitled to "every penny of fair market value."

"I think for you to say that we are like Stalinist Russia where we just go in and drive the peasants off the farms and if they complain we hang them is absolutely ridiculous. You should be embarrassed for standing up there!" Stewart said, slumping into what other members of the public said they considered to be a belittling, demeaning tirade.

"You should be embarrassed for standing up there like that in front of the public! To compare us to the Stalinist regime of your great, great grandfather is absolutely ludicrous! You should be embarrassed. I don't know where you get the chutzpah to stand there and say that to us! You should be embarrassed!"

Kaplan, however, despite what appeared to be an overwhelming barrage emanating from a man twice his size and voice, stoically stood his ground. "It really doesn't matter, the family still wants to keep their farm," said Kaplan determinedly. "It's really not a question of whether or not they are getting fair market value for their property. The farm is theirs. I don't see how you're (Stewart) saying it's all that much different (compared with Stalinist Russia). Just saying that there's a legal process behind this, but the fact of the matter is that I believe it's their property and they should keep it."

Councilman Mark Hardenberg, in contrast to Stewart's exaggerated, and at times almost hysterical, response, tried to lower the tension in the still echoing tile-floored council Chambers. "I would just like to say, people come up and speak at the microphone - we don't always agree, but I'd like to thank you Mr. Kaplan, for your comments," said Hardenberg, in his best conciliatory and apologetic efforts.

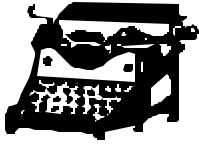
Stewart's reaction was not lost on the public, either. Long time resident Don Brown, a former supporter of former Mayor Helen Merolla in her failed independent mayoral bid, told Stewart exactly what he thought of his behavior. "I'm afraid I must say that the performance of the Council President tonight has been below par," said Brown disgustedly. "In the past we have had professionalism - polite disagreement. Tonight we seem to be back into the attack dog status that occurred during the campaign."

Stewart then interrupted and asked Brown if someone called him a fascist and compared him to Stalin would he, Brown, then say "Yes, sir, thank you for your comments." Brown calmly replied, "I think the presenter's input spoke for itself... I think it did not require a raising of the voice and embarrassing a person from the township. I would like to see professionalism return, and let's treat the town's taxpayers with a little dignity."

Whether imposing a 5 minute time limit on public speakers at the next open meeting on March 6 will restore professionalism and dignity to these tense meetings remains to be seen.

Members of the public were also concerned as to whether students like Kaplan, who have expressed an interest in becoming a part of their newly-adopted township, will return after receiving this unlikely and extremely unwelcome treatment.

Libertarians In Print



Piscataway Review

Political back scratching over farm

To the Editor:

The issue of the Halper Farm has been covered regularly in *The Piscataway Review*. For someone who comes from the former Soviet Union, the idea that the government can seize one's land with or without compensation does bring back Stalin's totalitarian measures in the U.S.S.R. This comparison may seem for some a stretch, but consider what would happen to the Halpers if they refuse to follow what (Township Council President James) Stewart so eloquently put as "the rule of law". Though the Halpers would not be executed by a firing squad, they could certainly be looking at a prison sentence. The scope of punishment does not change the government's intentions – the taking of a farm without the consent of an owner. Though some people may be shocked at the Stalin comparison, to me what is shocking is that the process of "taking" is happening here in the United States.

I would say that it is hypocritical for this government to claim property rights protection for some, but not all. At least with Stalin, you knew that you could have no private property, period. In this country, the Libertarian Party has made the defense of owner's property rights its priority. Libertarians believe that any Joe, Mary or Paula can run their lives better than politicians can for them, as long as their actions are peaceful. The current government has not lived by this tenet, and the Halpers are just the latest victims in the government's game of political back scratching.

Victor Kaplan
Piscataway

Victor Kaplan is a student at Rutgers', and founder of the University's Libertarian Club.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

On March 24, 2001, at the NJLP's Annual Convention, the membership voted to amend the NJLP's dues sharing policy with county organizations to the following:

"That the NJLP allocate \$5 per member per year to active county organizations that have a treasurer and bank account, membership figures to be based on those members who paid state dues of at least \$15 to the NJLP during the year ended on the first day of the month preceding the month when the convention is held; that \$5 to be paid before the end of the month following the convention".

Though this resolution was passed by the majority of the members present (19 in favor, 11 opposed), it is not the will of all members. I do not approve of this policy. When I pay dues to the NJLP, I expect that this money will be used by the NJLP for the NJLP, not allocated to support other organizations. If I am going to contribute money to a county organization, I want to do so of my own free will, not by a mandate issued by the state party. Each county organization should be self-supporting. However, in order to make this policy more acceptable to all members, it should be further amended to include the language "as directed by each member" after "and bank account."

By amending this policy as I've suggested, each member would retain the right to decide whether a portion of his or her dues should be given to his or her county organization. This could be accomplished by revising the current membership and renewal forms to include a check-off box that asks if the member would like \$5 directed to his or her county organization.

The members who voted for the above resolution have forgotten that, as libertarians, we believe that each person should have the right to live in whatever manner he or she deems appropriate as long as this does not violate the rights of others. This includes the right to allocate one's own funds. This new dues sharing policy is anti-individual and replaces the right of county organizations to charge dues with a state party imposed, coercive allocation of members' funds.

We should amend the current dues sharing policy to include the above-mentioned language. If other members agree, please contact the steering committee to tell your representatives to restore our freedom to choose.

Sincerely,

Tracey Lockwood
NJLP Member

NJLP Members In Public Office

Elected Officials:

William Krouse, Franklin Township (Warren County)
Board of Education

Christian Joest, Blairstown Township (Warren County)
Board of Education

Appointed Officials:

Paul Anderson, Vice Chairman, Chester Borough
Zoning Board of Adjustment, Chester Borough
Planning Board, and Historic Preservation Committee

Tony Federici, Community Dispute Resolution
Committee, Vernon Township

Ken Hetrick, Administrator, Chatham Township

Joseph Higgins, Woodcliff Lake Borough Emergency
Management Coordinator

Paul Horuzy, Commissioner, Sussex County
Municipal Utilities Authority

Ned Kelley, Hunterdon County Local Advisory
Committee on Alcoholism and
Drug Abuse

Tracey Lockwood, Secretary, City of Clifton Advisory
Committee for Individuals with Disabilities; Chair,
Cable TV Committee, City of Clifton

John Paff, Member, Franklin Township (Somerset
County) Attorney Ethics Committee

Hal Shute, West Amwell Township Open Space
Committee and West Amwell Zoning Board of
Adjustment

Bill Thawley, Cape May Mayor's Advisory Council
and Transportation Committee

Ed Wiessmann, Chairman, Sparta Township
Community Dispute Resolution Committee; Member,
Vernon Township Community Dispute Resolution
Committee

Ronald Wishart, Member, Manalapan Township
Planning Board

Thanks, folks!

County Organizations

The NJLP has affiliated county organizations for advocacy, activism and discussion at the county level. Feel free to contact these organizations through any of the individuals listed. If you do not see your county listed, please contact Chair Ed Wiessmann for information on activism in your area.

Bergen	Contact Tom Wright timetrial@worldnet.att.net
Hudson	Chair Erik Perasson Rep Dan Mikulsky
Hunterdon	Chair and Rep Ned Kelley, 908 534-5562 kelleyned@yahoo.com
Mercer	Chair Chris Toto, 609 883 0697 ChrisToto@aol.com Rep Worthington Winslow
Middlesex	Chair Barry Allen, 732 463 5405
Monmouth	Chair Pat Bontempo, 732 775 7263 PDB10752@aol.com Rep Mike Panella, 732 442 8711 102531.3477@compuserve.com
Ocean	Rep Chris Weimann, 732 240 6132 cweimann@wallnet.com
Somerset/Middlesex	Chair John Paff, 732 873 1251 Paff@pobox.com Rep Darryl Gibson, 732 748 9546 N2diy@postoffice.worldnet.att.net
Southern Counties	Chair Steve Lang Stephen-George.Lang@usa.dupont.com Rep Deb Sackett, 856 694 3419 DebSackett@aol.com
Sussex	Chair Tony Federici, 973 764 7289
Union	Contact Joe Saturnia, 908 771 9550 jsaturnia@audioweb.com

Calendar of County Meetings

The public is invited and guests are very welcome.

Burlington/Camden County (BCLP) meeting. Call 609 273 3253

Hunterdon County, first Monday of each month at Busher's Restaurant, Rt. 22W, Whitehouse Station. Call Ned Kelley at 908 534 5562 for info.

Mercer County: Call David Trend at 609 466 2469

Middlesex/Somerset Counties: fourth Monday of each month, 7:30 PM. For meeting location call Howard Schoen at 732 572 0207.

Monmouth County, second Sunday of each month, Liberty Brunch at 11:30 AM, meeting at Noon. Call Keith Quarles at 732 280 9615 for location and details.

Sussex County, call Tony Federici at 973 764 7289.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Fri, Mar 30-Sun, Apr 1
LP of PA
2001 Convention
 Radisson Hotel Bethlehem
 Bethlehem, Pa 18018

Sun, April 22nd, 1 PM
Steering Committee
 Ellett Residence

Saturday, April 28, 2001
2001 Libertarian Party of
New York Convention
 Holiday Inn-Midtown
 440 West 57th St. New York, NY
 10019-3051

Sun, May 20th, 1 PM
State Board
 Tumulty's Pub
 361 George Street
 New Brunswick

Sun, June 17th, 1 PM
Steering Committee
 Location TBD


Sat, July 14th, 1:30 PM
General Meeting and
NJLP Annual Picnic
 Flynn Residence
 Morganville

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www.MonmouthLP.org

Announcements

NJ Second Amendment Sisters proudly announce the *Second Amendment Rally 2001* at Jockey Hollow Park, Morristown, on Sunday, May 13th (Mother's Day), from 12:30-2:30. You're invited to treat your favorite women to a celebration of our Constitutional right to self-defense. For information, contact Marilyn Lapidus at 908-879-9089. If possible, please RSVP.



NEW JERSEY

LIBERTARIAN PARTY

P.O. Box 56
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CALL TOLL FREE

1 800 201-NJLP

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone () _____

Occupation & Employer (optional) _____

X _____
(Signature required for membership only)

Enclosed is \$40. Sign me up as a full member of both the National LP and the New Jersey LP for one year.

Enclosed is \$25. Sign me up as a full member of the National LP for one year.

Enclosed is \$15. Sign me up as a full member of the New Jersey LP for one year.
Newsletter subscription(s) are included with your membership(s).

Donation

Enclosed is my additional contribution of \$_____ to help the NJLP in its efforts to expand individual liberty.

Send to a Friend

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

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

Make check payable to NJLP and mail to: NJLP, c/o Jack Toussaint, 66 Cortlandt St., Belleville, NJ 07109

Libertarian Links and Lists

Latest addition:

DEATHTAX.COM <http://www.deathtax.com>

From *free-market.net*: Repealing the inheritance--or "death"--tax is one of those lunatic right-wing fringe ideas which, if enacted, will cause all kinds of pain and awfulness like more jobs, more capital formation, more production, and general betterment of society. No wonder Democrats hate the idea. DeathTax.com has been formed to educate the public, and the politicians, about this crazy idea whose time has come.

According to a study by The Center for the Study of Taxation, if death taxes had been repealed in 1971, by 1991 there would have been approximately 262,000 more jobs, \$46.3 billion more in GDP and \$398.6 billion more in capital. And those damning statistics are apart from the fact that it's just wrong to forcefully prevent people from giving gifts to their children. DeathTax.com features articles covering both of these arguments and much more.

For a quick history of death taxes and their percentages, check the Death Tax FAQ. For more in-depth research, you can choose from a comprehensive list of articles and a very moving page of personal testimonies. (If you have a story of your own, you can contribute it here, too.) And, like all the best issue-oriented political sites, DeathTax.com makes it very easy for you to take action today: Write a letter, make a phone call, run an ad.

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www.njlp.org The homepage of the NJLP
www.lp.org Homepage of the National Libertarian Party.
www.lppa.org Homepage of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania
www.monmouthlp.org Homepage of Libertarians of Monmouth County.
www.cjnj.org Citizens for Justice in NJ's homepage, including John Paff's Bartender List.
www.lp2000.com Libertarian Strategy Caucus
www.politicsnj.com The New Jersey Political scene. Great site!
www.freemarket.net The starting point for libertarianism on the web.
www.cato.org The premier libertarian think tank.
www.reason.com Homepage of the Reason Foundation and Reason magazine.
http://www.njlp.org/html/bartender_list.html John Paff's Bartender list. If you're thinking of a hiring a lawyer in NJ, you might want to check him out here.
www.lp.org Homepage of the National Libertarian Party.
www.self-gov.org Homepage of Advocates for Self Government.
www.lp2000.com Liberty Strategy Caucus
www.laissezfaire.org Homepage of Laissez-Faire books.
www.ij.org Libertarian organization committed to achieving justice through action in the courts.
www.drncnet.org The central homepage dedicated to the reform of American drug laws.
www.guntruths.com Defending second amendment rights through common sense and truth.
www.friedmanfoundation.org Nobel Laureate Milton Friedman's foundation to free children from the government monopoly on schools.
www.atr.org The homepage of Americans for tax reform.
www.fff.org The homepage of the Future of Freedom Foundation.

Sign up! Many of the sites above provide free email updates. Also, Wallnet offers superb services like *Announce* and *LibertyTalk* mailing lists. Sign up at www.njlp.org.