



New Jersey Libertarian

Volume XXXIII, Issue 7

November - December 2008

Campaign Update

By NJLP Chair Lou Jasikoff

One of the privileges of being Chair for the NJLP over the past year has been the opportunity to meet and become friends with some very interesting individuals. Not only was I in the middle of New Jersey Libertarian politics with the Jason Scheurer for U.S. Senate campaign, but I also became very involved at the national level with the Bob Barr and Wayne Allyn Root campaign. I wish to share one message I received from Wayne (see excerpts in the article on page 3), because it mirrors my view on the 2008 election.

As most of you know I prefer to look at the glass half full as opposed to half empty. I see nothing but opportunities as we move forward in New Jersey. As Wayne describes in his article, the phone calls we received after the election have come from media, businessmen, and "first time Libertarian voters" who all encouraged us to build on what has been started. Both Jason and I have been asked to speak before a number of groups since, and we plan to continue spreading the message.

2009 is perhaps the most important election cycle in years for the NJLP. It is imperative we start early, and only run those individuals who can well represent the NJLP. (Please read closely Wayne's take on "the messenger.")

I want to thank everyone who helped this year, and I give special thanks to the NJLP Steering Committee, whose members, for the most part, have been overwhelming supportive and gave of their time, money and energy. I thank you John Taylor for your overwhelming support in getting our office in Atlantic City off the ground. Manned or not manned, everyone walking up and down that boardwalk saw "Libertarian Party," and it would never have happened without your support. I could name so many others, but will end by thanking NJLP Congressional candidate (8th District) Derek DeMarco and U.S. Senate candidate Jason Scheurer for representing the NJLP with class. The respect you have earned will go a long way in future elections.

Consistent with the increase in registration and interest in the Libertarian Party, much greater activity is taking place on college campuses. On November 12, 2008 Jason and I

Continued on page 2

NJLP Membership Meets in Westville

The NJLP membership met on November 15, 2008 at Grabbe's Seafood Restaurant in Westville, NJ. Because several NJLP members present recognized that an opportunity to have a face to face discussion had come, the afternoon activities began with a Bylaws Committee discussion led by Bylaws Chair Kevin Ferrizzi. The committee members were pleased with the initial progress that arose from the relatively brief discussion because important general points of agreement were recognized. NJLP Chair Lou Jasikoff then called the General Meeting to order and turned the floor over to Kevin to present the NJLP Treasurer's report.

Kevin presented a comprehensive financial review for the members. Since the NJLP is now recognized as an official state political party, the NJLP Treasurer had to submit new formal reports in multiple copies to state officials. To limit the reporting burden he will consolidate several of the party's checking accounts.

Lou Jasikoff reported that the LP kiosk on the boardwalk in Atlantic City was likely to continue, because its contributors were interested in keeping it open. The kiosk cost \$25K of which \$9K was the NJLP commitment and \$5K is necessary to continue use of the kiosk into 2009. Lou said he, Jason Scheurer, and Sean Colon had personally committed to financing this amount, if necessary. Lou said he was negotiating privately for 2009 funding.

Lou said the 2009 NJLP Convention is being planned for North Jersey in early February rather than March as has been

Continued on page 2

In This Issue

Wayne Allyn Root, The Road Ahead ...	3
Letters to the <i>NJL</i> Editor.....	4
Ken Pickets His Synagogue.....	5
NJLP and John Paff are Busy..	6
Members Write to Newspapers	8

Campaign Update

Continued from page 1

spent almost two hours with the Rutgers Libertarian Group. We followed up previous visits by Sean Colon, and we fielded questions on policy, how to get people involved, and how to build not only their group but the NJLP as well. A group of four students attended last year, but that night had about 25 in attendance. I want to thank Josh Hagewood, president of the Rutgers Libertarian Party for his hospitality and the great job he is doing to promote liberty.

This is an area we must continue to support and do anything we can as a state group to help it grow. This was a topic for discussion at our state meeting on November 15, 2008, and the members approved my request to commit financially on behalf of the NJLP to help Rutgers and other college groups expand. If you feel this is an area you want to nourish, please go to our website and make a donation today or mail in a check with a notation of "campus libertarians" and we will make sure your donations go directly into helping college groups grow.

Seeds of growth have been planted over the last two election cycles, and Rutgers is not the only college group to increase their membership. Sean Colon once again spent time with the Seton Hall Libertarians and they too are growing. I recently received a heartfelt thank you from their president Christian Gomez and a copy of the Liberty Bell, a Libertarian publication that was the first paper to hit the Seton Hall campus this year. It included two great in-person interviews, one with Jason Scheurer and the other with Bob Barr.

Even when we don't think we made an impact nor see some immediate results, we are making a difference. This is one of the reasons over the past two years we have made a point of going to as many high school and college events as possible. Those seeds are being planted, and we plan to continue going forward. Here is an excerpt from a recent email from a college student:

"Thank you so much for your enthusiasm and support in helping me to form a branch here at Fordham. I have started the (long and extensive) process of filing for probationary club status. I will let you know as soon as this process is over.

Once I get things rolling I would love to have either Mr. Jasikoff or Mr. Scheurer come and speak. I actually was turned onto the party by Mr. Scheurer, when I saw him debate Linda Greenstein (with whom I interned from Aug. 07-June '08), Wayne DeAngelo, and two Republican candidates at my high school, Monroe Township High. "

This coming election cycle will be a huge opportunity for the NJLP. We are one of only two states with statewide elections. We have the ability to draw on experienced candidates from around the country and from the national party to help our cause. If you want to see us succeed, then the time to start is now. If you have the ability to make a donation, I urge you to

do it now. If you cannot contribute, then I urge you to commit to spending some time. We all have it within ourselves to make a difference and collectively we could make some really good things happen this coming year.

NJLP Membership Meets in Westville

Continued from page 1

typical in recent years. The change arises because the 2009 elections in New Jersey are particularly important and the additional month would help. Only Virginia has state elections in 2009, so we have a potential National LP contributor base to solicit. Preferred weekends for the convention are: (1) February 20-22, (2) Feb. 6-8, and (3) March 6-8.

Walter Luers and Sean Colon have stepped up to volunteer as Convention Committee Coordinators. Other members jumped in to help and offered their own particular talents: Dan Karlan (print ballots), Jay Edgar (speakers), Kevin Ferrizzi (collect checks), Tony Federici (run 50/50), Derek DeMarco, and Ken Kaplan. If you wish to join the committee and help, please call Walter at 908-453-2147 or send an e-mail to wluers@luerslaw.com.

Dan Karlan asked about meetings or reports for past NJLP State Board or Steering Committee meetings for the past few months, and he was advised that there were no such meetings. Dan asked for a certification of Bylaws changes from prior Secretary Sean Colon so that he can print updated copies of the NJLP Bylaws.

Lou appointed an Ad Hoc Newsletter Options Committee consisting of Kevin Ferrizzi, Len Flynn, and Jay Edgar to investigate and prepare options for the newsletter. The committee should seek input from NJLP members as to how the N.J. Libertarian might better be published or at less expense.

The members approved without objection a motion to send \$150 to the Rutgers Libertarians for them to purchase T-shirts. Tony Federici personally donated \$25 toward this project.

Jay Edgar reported that current paid NJLP membership was 145. Jay noted that about 40% of the membership does not list e-mail contact information.

Len Flynn called for recognition for three members present who had gathered 100 or more signatures each to put Bob Barr and Wayne Allyn Root on the NJ ballot. The members applauded Kevin Ferrizzi, Tim O'Brian, and Lou Jasikoff for their considerable efforts.

Lou Jasikoff reported that Bob Hull was involved in a recount in his election battle for the New Hampshire Assembly. About 200 votes separated three candidates for the seat.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.

The Road Ahead

By Wayne Allyn Root

2008 Libertarian Vice Presidential Nominee

It has been an honor and privilege to serve all of my many friends, fans, voters, contributors and most importantly, the Libertarian Party as the nominee for Vice President of the United States in 2008. Thanks to all of you for your support and contributions to my campaign.

As a complete newcomer and outsider to Libertarian politics and the actual LP, many of you in the party welcomed me immediately and made me feel at home. Some of you recognized the potential I had to offer this movement and took the time to educate me in areas where I needed it (and I'm sure, still do). My knowledge grew tremendously and in many cases, my views changed dramatically. Many of you told me that I won you over as a result. I really appreciate the honest hearing you gave me and your willingness to bring me into the Libertarian fold. I'm in this for the long haul and it is my hope that I will eventually win over the few skeptics that remain.

The results of this election were both positive and negative. The Barr/Root Presidential ticket received about 500,000 votes. That is the 2nd highest vote total in LP history (37 years). And we achieved that success under perhaps the most difficult circumstances ever -- a media PERFECT STORM of interest, hype and adulation for Obama. And on the other side...a record level of hype, fear and panic by Republicans and conservatives towards Obama. Third party candidates were literally shut out of this election. Yet within that 2-party tsunami, Barr/Root still scored the 2nd highest vote total ever.

Perhaps most significantly, Libertarian Party membership levels are up dramatically across the country. LP membership grew by 30% to 50% in many states during this election. That is no surprise considering the record level of mainstream media coverage generated by the Libertarian Presidential ticket. I'm proud to report that Bob Barr and Wayne Allyn Root have built a foundation of credibility for the Libertarian Party.

On the other hand, despite that success, I was personally disappointed. I set my goals high -- as I have always done as a businessman, CEO and entrepreneur. I was aiming for the one million vote threshold. Back in August when Barr/Root had 6% in the national polls it looked like it was possible to attract millions of votes. That 6% was the same number Ross Perot polled back in 1992, when he was invited to participate in the Presidential debates. That exposure to millions of voters allowed Perot to finish with 19 million votes and just under 20% of the vote for President of the United States.

Bob and I were not invited to the national debates, damaging our chances of becoming a credible third party threat to the GOP and Democrats. I can only imagine the results had I been able to stand on a national stage with Sarah Palin and Joe Biden and call them both sell-outs for supporting the

bailout--the greatest taxpayer rip-off in American history. I can only imagine the final vote tally if I'd been able to show American voters how it was the federal government that caused our current economic crisis...how big government doesn't have the solution--they are in fact the problem. If I'd had the opportunity to stand on that national stage and point out factual examples of the damage done in the past by big government, and proven that both major parties support ever bigger government. If I could have been allowed on the national stage to call the GOP and Democrats "big and bigger, dumb and dumber," I believe Barr/Root would have surpassed Perot's modern-day third party record of 19 million votes. But alas, it wasn't to be.

So, what did we learn? As I see it, there are two important lessons we can take from this campaign. The first is that ideas alone are not sufficient. Yes, good ideas are critically important to us libertarians, but good presentation skills trump all when it comes to the voters' decisions. Obama's election proves a good communicator can change everything. Barry Goldwater had great ideas, yet still lost in a landslide. Reagan took many of the same ideas and won in two landslides. The only difference was his ability to communicate, educate and motivate voters.

The same storyline holds true from the left. George McGovern lost in a dramatic landslide. Yet Obama, who is to the left of McGovern, won with his McGovern-like socialist ideas. Why? Because of his ability to communicate, educate and motivate. Obama is the Reagan of the left. The message did not win this election--the messenger did. Obama excited and motivated voters--and then built one heck of an organization to get them to the polls. By the way, exit polls prove that a majority of Americans saw Obama as the tax cutter of this election. This election was NOT a repudiation of conservative or libertarian free-market fiscal policy. To the contrary, the candidate who made the case that he'd cut the tax burden of the American middle class won. That was Obama.

America may not realize it, but they just voted for four years of socialism...or at best, Europe's version of big government "social capitalism." But here's the good news: Even after a "perfect storm" of media hype, adulation and bias towards Obama, 55 million Americans still voted against Obama. That's a heck of a base to build from. After four years of dramatic tax raises for the people creating the jobs and risking their money on businesses and investments...while redistributing their earnings to people looking for handouts... I believe America will be looking for a 21st century Barry Goldwater by 2012. That base of 55 million will grow by millions when they see the damage Obama's brand of Big Brother socialism will do to the American economy.

But being a good communicator is only half the battle for our party. To succeed we must (while being friendly, respectful and professional) be loud-mouthed, aggressive, opinionated and colorful -- literally oozing ENERGY to catch the media's attention -- to rise above the millions of voices out there.

The Road Ahead

Continued from page 3

I did that as our Vice Presidential nominee and I intend to continue doing that for our party in the future.

I'm proud to report that I attracted national media that no LP Vice Presidential candidate ever has before -- FOX News Channel (numerous times), FOX Business Network (numerous times), The Mancow Show (numerous times), TIME magazine, Newsweek, the NY Times, Wall Street Journal, CNN/Money, The Financial Times, Comedy Central, Slate, Reason, American Spectator, New Republic, Columbia magazine, dozens of poker and gaming publications, and hundreds of radio shows across the USA. I was even interviewed on numerous occasions by the biggest national radio shows of England and Canada to explain the U.S. elections and the role of the LP. I made numerous appearances on the BBC -- broadcast worldwide. Those appearances were all as a third party V.P. candidate. Usually a third party V.P. is as lonely as a Maytag repairman. I dramatically changed the role, exposure and media credibility of the V.P. Can you imagine the publicity I can generate in four years at the top of the ticket?

The second lesson is that it is critical we start earlier during the election cycle. We do not have the luxury of starting with a recognized brand name that people will choose at the ballot box at the last minute, without having to weigh the alternatives. As a candidate, I wish I had started four years ago. With that in mind, I'm busy writing my Libertarian book: *The Conscience of a Libertarian: Empowering the Citizen Revolution with God, Gambling, Guns & Tax Cuts*. My book will be released in May 2009 by one of the world's biggest publishers -- accompanied by a major media campaign. And I now have serious interest for my own nationally syndicated political radio show called ROOT FOR AMERICA.

With your support I will continue to work hard for our party and our principles. I plan to hit the ground running with four years of nonstop media appearances...four years of serious fundraising...four years of contrasting our ideas for smaller government with those of our new President Barack Obama, my college classmate. With your support I will present the perfect polar opposite to the new President that will be running the country for the next four years. We will put forward a high-profile vision in contrast to Obama's big government agenda. We will offer all of America the libertarian alternative of the low taxes, economic freedom and personal freedom offered in my adopted home state of Nevada; and contrast that with Obama's attempts to impose upon us the big government, high taxes and "Nanny State" philosophy of his hometown of Chicago, Illinois.

This is just a small beginning. I am excited, PASSIONATE, and ready to get to work today toward 2012 and beyond. I hope to have each of you by my side. As Yogi Berra would say, "The future ain't what it used to be." This isn't your father's LP. The future is bright. I can hardly wait!

Letters to the NJL Editor

Ponzi Schemes

Editor:

Bernard Madoff, the head of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities, was recently arrested for perpetrating a fraud. His company was not at all an investment firm but was very much a Ponzi scheme. His actions hurt many including investors, institutions and other people. A Ponzi scheme is paying more than normal high rates of returns to investors out of the money paid for by other investors rather than from a profit made by businesses. It is very ingenious and it can land an individual in jail for quite a long time.

When an individual engages in such an action, it is called "a Ponzi scheme" or "corporate fraud." When the government engages in such actions, it is called Social Security -- the biggest Ponzi scheme ever devised.

For seventy plus years, Social Security has been presented to the American People as old age insurance. It really isn't. The way the program works is that present workers would pay Social Security taxes from their pay and elsewhere and the tax monies derived would go into the treasury where it commingles with other revenue and then that money is sent to retirees. This program has been this way since its inception. With a few cosmetic changes, it has remained the same. No one has ever reformed the program, whatsoever. It is not only because of fear; it is also because Washington politicians and journalists have dubbed the program "The Third Rail of American Politics." Journalists are keeping the public in the dark that this is really a Ponzi scheme and Washington politicians are getting money from the Social Security taxes in order to pay for their pet projects as well as claim benefits for themselves. It is Amazing.

Three years ago, President George W. Bush advocated partial privatization of Social Security. Many in the Republican Party, his party, as well as in the Democratic Party scoffed at the idea. They ridiculed it and ridiculed the President as well.

While I welcomed the discussion, I did not embrace President Bush's solution. I did not want partial privatization. I wanted total. Total would have benefitted younger and older workers and would have prevented the program from facing deficits and possible bankruptcy in the long term.

The scheme would have ended. Even Franklin D. Roosevelt, as early as 1936 even said that the program the way it was

constructed could not go on forever and he even recommend that forty to fifty years from his time, the program be privatized.

While it is good that Bernard Madoff will be facing charges for his Ponzi scheme, the government Ponzi-scheme continues unabated. It continues not only hurt the young and the old but all. How much longer can the Ponzi scheme called Social Security go on?

Alex Pugliese, Kenilworth

Catholic Bishops and Abortion

Editor:

The current teaching of the Catholic bishops on abortion is to me a classic example of those who would strain out a gnat and swallow a camel: Seventy three years ago I was at my father's marriage to my step-mother; one year later in the same rented vehicle, I followed her coffin to the grave. In between those dates my step-mother became pregnant; five months into the pregnancy it was determined by members of the medical profession that without an abortion my step-mother would die and the fetus with her—

Recently with the aid of modern science, a five month old fetus did survive which had it been back then would have given an opening to the hair-splitting theologians to allow the fetus to be taken and my step-mother's life spared. But seventy two years ago there had been no instance of such. The Church ordered that my step-mother was to be let die; to save her life by removing the fetus was considered murder; to purposely abstain, do nothing, although assuring the deaths of both mother and fetus, no one would be guilty of murder! For the Utilitarian and for me the Church was guilty of murder. For many years I have accused that the murder was perpetrated under the watch of Pope Pius XI.

That my step-mother left a grieving husband, seven step-children; an aging father, an invalid sister; other sorrowing siblings and friends had no relevance to the absolute never regretted fetus!

I have not learned of a single person being reprimanded for dropping bombs from the air: The Catholic bishops in conference approved the first war in Iraq in which 200,000 plus 50,000 children were slain. I know those lives lost hardly affect the issue, but consider those in the womb! And how many deaths of the unborn resulted from the atomic bomb a Catholic dropped! Was he excommunicated? The hair-splitters would argue that those womb deaths were unintentional. If they could have killed the mothers and spared the fruit of their wombs they would most certainly have done so.

Reflect: Isn't there a remote possibility that right-to-lifer pilot McCain took life in the womb?

Sean P. Twomey, Lafayette

Ken Pickets His Synagogue

Ken Kaplan picketed a pre-election debate between surrogates representing John McCain and Barack Obama. The debate was held at Temple Beth Shalom, Livingston, on Sunday, November 5th. Said Kaplan, "We may not yet be able to gain inclusion in the nationally televised debates, but we should strive for inclusion in any events held in our own backyards."

Kaplan, who is a member of the temple he picketed, believes that such actions cannot be ignored and will result in inclusion in future events. He lobbied with the synagogue president and the event chairman extensively, urging them to invite 3rd party representatives, but when they refused, he resorted to picketing. "Far more people arriving at the event said I made a good point, than disparaged my being there." Kaplan asks others to take a stand whenever a local school or community group they are involved in schedules a political event which excludes all but Democrats and Republicans.



Ken Kaplan outside Temple Beth Shalom protesting exclusion of a surrogate for Bob Barr in a debate held at the temple. The sign reads: Unfair to Barr '08. We are all Jews, not all Dems. and Reps. T.B.S. [Temple Beth Shalom] debates should include all candidates.

Future Meetings & Events

Wednesday, January 14— Sean Colon's NJ Libertarian meetup group, 7:00 PM at Molly Maguire's in Clark NJ. For more information see his meetup page at <http://libertarian.meetup.com/392/> .

Saturday, January 3—South Jersey Libertarians meet on the first Saturday of every month at Grabbe's Restaurant in Westville at 1:00 PM. Contact: Kevin Ferrizzi (609-980-8903) at kevinferrizzi@yahoo.com or Bobb Rayner at philadelphiaman@cs.com

NJLP and John Paff are Busy

John Paff, Chair of the New Jersey Libertarian Party's Open Government Advocacy Project, does more than lead and coordinate Open Public Records Act (OPRA) lawsuits. He defends the OPRA project when challenged and adeptly presents needed information when such issues arise. Here is one example when the November 2008 issue of *New Jersey Municipalities* magazine (published by the New Jersey State League of Municipalities) contained an article by the Interlaken Borough Administrator Aime Antonides that gives her perspective on two recent court rulings requiring more prompt disclosure of executive session meeting minutes. John's letter to the magazine's editor refuted the author's position, as follows.

To the editor:

Aime Antonides, in her November 2008 article on closed session minutes, states that municipal clerks are limited to two choices: a) recording "extremely vague" closed session minutes that will be useless when future officials look back to those minutes for reference, and b) to record comprehensive closed session minutes and then publicly release them regardless of any legitimate confidentiality concerns.

There is a third alternative, however, that Antonides glosses over near the end of her article. That alternative, which is the proper one, is for clerks to record reasonably comprehensible closed session minutes but, before publicly releasing them, to redact only the specific information that if disclosed would compromise the municipality's bargaining or litigation position or betray a legitimate privacy interest.

When she considers this third alternative--one that properly balances the government's need for confidentiality against the public's right to know--Antonides simply warns readers "to take a look at all the Superior Court decisions [where judges] are ruling that municipalities were wrong to redact certain information from their closed session minutes."

She then concludes that "given the court's position, 'why bother ever having a closed session meeting?'"

I am aware of no cases--and Antonides cites none--where a court or the Government Records Council has forced a municipality to disclose matter within its closed session minutes that would compromise a legitimately confidential interest. The Supreme Court has made it very clear that public bodies have a right and duty to redact their closed minutes "when full disclosure would subvert the purpose of the particular [Open Public Meetings Act] exception." *Payton v. New Jersey Turnpike Authority*, 148 N.J. 524, 556-57 (1997).

Municipal clerks do not face the dilemma that Antonides describes. N.J.S.A. 10:4-14 requires them to record comprehensible closed session minutes and the same statute, as construed by Payton, requires them to narrowly redact those minutes to protect any legitimate confidentiality concerns before releasing them to the public. Nothing in Judge Lawson's or Judge Grasso's recent decisions disturbs this balance.

John Paff, Chair,
N.J. Libertarian Party's Open Government Advocacy Project

(Disclosure: the author was the plaintiff in the case against Toms River that Antonides cites in her article.)

Key Disclosure Case Won in West Deptford

By John Paff

On November 18, 2008 Assignment Judge Georgia M. Curio ordered West Deptford Township to provide me with its police Internal Affairs Summary Report Forms. The Township claimed that these forms--declared by the Attorney General's office to be public records--could not be released due to a discovery confidentiality order that was entered in an unrelated police brutality civil suit previously brought against the Township.

The lawsuit arose out of my OPRA request to West Deptford Township for its police department's "Internal Affairs Summary Report Forms" from 2003 through 2007 which provide statistical information regarding disciplinary cases filed against Township police officers. (Readers who wish to learn more about "Internal Affairs Summary Report Forms" should go to <http://www.njpolicewatch.com/> for an explanation)

I became interested in the discipline of West Deptford Police this summer after learning that the Township paid \$600,000 to a woman who sued police officers for breaking her leg. Even though "Internal Affairs Summary Report Forms" are public records, West Deptford denied my request for them.

The Township claims that the report forms are exempt under OPRA because they were covered by a civil discovery order that was entered in the federal court case that resulted in the \$600,000 settlement. With lawyer Richard Gutman of Montclair representing me, I sued.

The case frames the interesting question of whether a civil discovery order, which is intended to prevent parties to litigation from disseminating documents that they received during discovery in that litigation, also excuses a public body from disclosing an otherwise public record in response to an OPRA request. If West Deptford's argument were held correct, then ANY record--even quintessentially public records like public meeting minutes--could be exempt from access if the Township and a private litigant so agreed and made their agreement part of a court order.

Judge Curio ruled that the requested Summary Report Forms were public records "independent of the discovery process" and that they were "beyond the scope and intent of the discovery order." She said that she would not allow the discovery order to "forever prevent disclosure" of these records "particularly [in light of] the public policy at the heart of the OPRA statute."

Judge Curio also dismissed the Township's counterclaim that sought attorney fees and sanctions against me for filing an allegedly "frivolous lawsuit." A news story on the settlement is at <http://www.lpcnj.org/OGTF/wd.pdf>

Editorial: *Daily Journal* (Vineland, New Jersey)
<http://www.thedailyjournal.com/>
December 10, 2008

Transparency makes for good government Democracy works best when the public is informed and has access to government information.

An open government is transparent, which allows citizens access to public meetings and public records to find out how elected and appointed officials conduct business and spend taxpayers' money.

An agreement amicably reached between the Buena Vista Township Committee and the New Jersey Libertarian Party will help make the actions of the elected officials more transparent and will help the public hold them accountable.

John Paff, a Libertarian party official and chairman of the party's Open Government Advocacy project, made it clear the township wasn't doing anything deliberately wrong. The committee's former practice of just listing on the agenda that it was going into executive session and nothing else is a common practice in governments around the state.

It was good to hear Mayor Chuck Chiarello say that changing that practice wasn't a problem. For the past few meetings, the

agenda has included more information on the items in closed-door meetings called to discuss personnel, litigation or contracts. For example, if litigation were being discussed, information on whether a suit has been filed would now be included as public information.

Paff said other towns are fighting his group's efforts to make government more open and transparent and to make sure they are following the Open Public Records and Open Public Meetings acts.

Buena Vista Township isn't one of them. And because the municipality is conscientious about fulfilling its responsibilities concerning public records and meetings, citizens will be better informed and more light will be shined on how the municipality conducts the people's business.

Other governments should take a look at how they are handling such agendas. Buena Vista's example would be a good one to follow. After all, it is the law.

2 of 17 Atlantic towns settle public records suits

By Edward van Embden, Staff Writer
Published on December 18, 2008 in *Press of Atlantic City*

A civil suit brought against 17 Atlantic County municipalities for alleged violations of the Open Public Records Act has resulted in two towns changing the way they conduct business. Both Buena Vista Township and Folsom reached a settlement with John Paff, of the New Jersey Libertarian Party's Open Government Advocacy Project, earlier this month to provide the public with more details of their executive sessions. Litigation against the other towns is ongoing.

Paff said he chose litigation against the municipalities after OPRA requests revealed violations regarding either the lack of details of matters discussed prior to closed sessions or withholding of minutes from those closed session meetings.

"A lot of towns just aren't in compliance," said Paff, a Somerset resident. "I think once they saw what I was really looking for, they didn't have a problem. They know it's in the best interest for the public."

The civil complaint filed against the 17 towns came on Oct. 3. Paff said he's been in discussion with several municipalities since then, some of which are looking to resolve the matter and others that are choosing to fight it.

He said he plans on making the same OPRA requests of towns in other counties as well, saying he only started with Atlantic County because it began with the letter A. "I'm not looking for them to give up secret information, I'm only trying to make sure that at least the stuff the public is allowed to know about, they do," Paff said. "Not to have these sterile meetings where

they give a firefighter a plaque and then go behind closed doors to discuss all the good stuff. “

"Hopefully this will have a statewide impact. And I think it will, it's getting their attention," he said. His efforts have not been entirely well-received by all municipalities, he said, though he's been surprised at some of the responses. Port Republic has been combative, he said, and its lawyer, Salvatore Perillo, has called the lawsuit frivolous. Perillo is also the mayor of Ocean City, though Paff's search hasn't taken him to Cape May County, yet.

Absecon has withheld minutes, Paff said, and Atlantic City has provided him with all of his requests for closed-session minutes. However, they often contain pages and pages of blacked out, or redacted, information, which he feels is too much. Generally, he said, the towns seem willing to address his concerns.

"I got very detailed in these settlement agreements," he said. "I approached all the towns to see if they would sign off on this and the response has been pretty good. I think I've worked up a lot of these towns. They've just been doing the things they've always been doing and no one has really noticed."

Buena Vista Township Solicitor Mark Stein said the settlement was particularly easy for the township because it

only required a minor change. Fighting it, he said, would have been unnecessary and only cost the taxpayers money. The cost to settle the matter, he said, was about \$40. "He had some technical questions with what our resolutions said when we went to closed session, so we resolved it," Stein said. "While I don't necessarily agree or disagree with it, changing it was no hardship to us and it ended the litigation."

Chiarello said the township provided Paff with all the information he requested in his initial issue, and when he found fault with it, the two parties sought to fix it. "The whole concept - the word now is transparency - is open government," Chiarello said. "There's a reason why the Sunshine law and the Open Public Meeting Act were put together." "We operate like a business and we're responsible to the public."

Seventeen Atlantic County towns are named in the October 3, 2008 lawsuit: Absecon, Atlantic City, Buena Vista Township, Corbin City, Egg Harbor City, Egg Harbor Township, Folsom, Galloway Township, Hamilton Township, Hammonton, Linwood, Longport, Margate, Mullica Township, Northfield, Port Republic, Somers Point.

Source:

<http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/182/story/349458.html>

Members Write to Newspapers

Let failing businesses sink or swim

There have been many companies that have been asking the government for tax monies so they could meet their obligations during the recession. Companies like General Electric, AIG, Countrywide, General Motors, Chrysler and Ford, have literally been going on their knees begging Congress to give them funds. It looks very much that these companies may get what they desire. I, for one, think that this is wrong.

Companies should be on sound financial footing to meet any kind of economic emergencies. These companies that I described were having difficulties even before the recession hit. The blame lies mostly with bad management and bad decision making. If things are as bad as they seem for these entities, they should do the following:

- Fire the bad management. If it means firing CEOs and others, so be it;
- Cut costs wherever possible;
- Take out loans from private sector banks and other lending institutions and pay the money back at a reasonable interest rate;
- Redraw contracts not only for management, but for others.

Now some may say that what I propose is harsh. What I am proposing is personal responsibility, and that is something that is sorely lacking not only in the corporate world, but all around. By giving these companies tax monies, it would be rewarding incompetence on a massive scale. That should never be done.

The Keynesian proposal of spending tax monies to boost the economy has failed time and time again and will continue to do so. Without knowing, what John Maynard Keynes proposed was nothing more than corporate welfare. This cannot go on.

Therefore, no more bailouts, no more tax monies to businesses, no more nothing. The taxpayers have suffered enough.

ALEX PUGLIESE, Kenilworth

Printed November 17, 2008 in the *Courier News*, a paper from Bridgewater.

Lobbyists influence, corrupt news

In many state capitols and in Washington, D.C., you can see a great deal of politicians in the hallowed halls. The members who occupy these halls make decisions concerning the citizens of their respected states and the country as a whole. Near these hallowed halls, or within the vicinity, you will also find the offices of many lobbying firms.

Politics is not the only profession plagued by lobbyists. There is another profession where lobbyists run wild but are not in plain view. That profession is called the news business. There are many organizations and individuals that lobby editors, news producers and journalists when it comes to the presentation of their stories. Lobbyists, with the consent, of all three, can affect how the story is reported. Newsroom lobbyists, as well as professional lobbyists who lobby politicians, have a demoralizing effect on government and a once noble profession. It is worse, though, with the journalistic profession. This policy, if you can call it that, has caused the journalistic profession to be corrupted. It has allowed news consumers to go elsewhere to get the news whether that be on the Internet, talk radio or cable.

ALEX PUGLIESE

From DailyRecord.com on December 4, 2008

Hypocrisy at its worst

The fact that President-elect Barack Obama has decided to send his children to a private school in Washington, D.C., once again brings up the issue of those who preach one thing and do another.

Mr. Obama ran as the candidate of the National Education Association and the candidate of the American Federation of Teachers, two groups that oppose vouchers so children can go

to private and parochial schools. It seems to me that this is the height of hypocrisy, but at the same time it comes as no surprise. Liberals such as Mr. Obama practice the fine art of do-as-I- say-and-not-as-I-do. It is disgusting, yet he is not the only one.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson preached against school choice, yet sent his children to private schools. The same with members of the Congressional Black Caucus, who preached that vouchers were not the answer, yet they send their children to private schools. Publishers and editors of newspapers such as The New York Times that editorialize against school choice and others who are opposed to school choice send their children to the finest private schools money can buy in New York City and elsewhere. Filmmaker Michael Moore, the Kennedy family and others do the same thing.

I do not deny that these people want the best for their own children, but to deny others that same option is revolting. I can only surmise that they, aside from being elitist or the so-called "chosen class," do not want their precious children to mingle with the middle class or poor children or, for that matter, the children of the working class. I am outraged.

All children deserve the best education available. School choice provides that to all. To deny them that option while giving that option to one's own children is prejudicial and, if I may say so, racist. In the United States, there are no chosen classes, high classes or aristocratic classes, contrary to the belief of liberals, "moderates" and the press. We are all Americans and we all, including children, deserve the opportunity to be the best we can be.

ALEX PUGLIESE, Kenilworth

From *The Times of Trenton* on Saturday, December 27, 2008 and the *Herald News* on Monday, December 29, 2008

The New Jersey Libertarian

November -- December 2008 Volume XXXIII, Issue 7
©2008 The New Jersey Libertarian Party
ISSN 1093-801X
Editor, Len Flynn

NJL Advertising Rates

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

The *New Jersey Libertarian* is the official 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*, and tear sheets/e-mail notice are furnished to the address below.

Commentary and advertising should be submitted to the editor by the 25th of every month. Contact us at: *New Jersey Libertarian* c/o Len Flynn, Editor, P.O. Box 448, Morganville, NJ 07751 or editor@njlp.org.



NEW JERSEY LIBERTARIAN PARTY

P.O. BOX 56
TENNENT • NJ • 07763

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 social or political goals. (Signature required for membership only) X _____

Check here to use address from mailing label

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone () _____ E-mail _____

Occupation & Employer _____

\$500 Life Membership

\$100 Patron Membership

\$50 Sustaining Membership

\$35 Supporting Membership

\$15 Regular Membership

Newsletter subscription is included with your membership.

Make check payable to NJLP and mail to: NJLP c/o R. Edgar, 8 Arneytown-Hornerstown Rd, Cream Ridge NJ 08514

You can also join the NJLP on-line at <http://njlp.org/joinus>

Donation

Enclosed in 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:

Don't send the newsletter, I'll read it on line.



New Jersey Libertarian Party

P.O. Box 56

Tennent, New Jersey 07763

www.njlp.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED