



New Jersey Libertarian

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5/20/07, Group photo taken in Seaside Heights just before the start of the march. (RB)

An Alternative to Pain

Marchers want to legalize medical marijuana

By Sarah Webster

May 21, 2007 *Ocean County Observer*

SEASIDE HEIGHTS — If someone would get better by eating rocks, Jason Scheurer said he would give out rocks. Instead, Scheurer, a Libertarian candidate for the Legislature in the 14th District, was marching yesterday in support of the use of medical marijuana. Yesterday, the Libertarian Party and the Coalition of Medical Marijuana embarked on their planned march across the Route 37 bridge to Trenton. Their cause, Walk Across New Jersey, is to deliver petitions and ensure Libertarian candidates are on the ballot this coming November elections.

"It is about time that we send a message to Trenton that the Libertarian Party can make a difference," said Lou Jasikoff, chair for the Libertarian Party. "As we add to our candidates, we'll bring national attention to what the Libertarian Party is and what we have to offer."

"Our message is that the time has come for open and honest government in Trenton," said Jasikoff. "If the current legislators neither have the heart nor the courage to pass legislation to legalize the medical use of marijuana, we have the candidates that will. It's the right thing to do. We believe that people shouldn't have to go to jail to get medicine. We are not trying to reinvent the wheel here; we're just looking for the same government our forefathers wanted."

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Jason Scheurer, Ken Wolski, and Ken Chazotte (LF)

Jim Miller woke up this morning and prepared the wheelchair for the walk. His wife Cheryl suffered from multiple sclerosis until her death in June 2003. This will be Miller's third walk to Trenton for medical marijuana. He said the bill, which he said had 86 percent public support, was currently stalled in the Senate Health Committee. "We want people to see us walk today and know that we are trying to get something done," Miller said.



Mike Kessler and Carol Mewherter at Seaside Hts. (LF)

Mike Kessler from Toms River is a burn victim from a motorcycle accident in 1986. He is going to walk as far as he can. He believes marijuana would be a safer alternative to pain treatment than the current opiates prescribed.

Carol Mewherter of Brick suffers from multiple sclerosis and reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome. She has also been in two major car accidents. She heard about the walk in the newspaper and came out to show support

"This would help everyone who has medical conditions, to legalize marijuana would benefit us all," said Mewherter. "Maybe I wouldn't have to take eight medications a day and get shots if it were legal. I heard that marijuana is a better alternative to taking current medications."

Miller said every step is important. "It's a long walk to Trenton and if somewhere along the way we get another multiple sclerosis sufferer, such as Carol Mewherter, to come out and join us, it's worth the walk. "We're walking over the Seaside Heights bridge grid and I have a feeling Carol will not be able to

walk that far and she may need to sit in Cheryl's wheelchair," Miller said. "I will be proud to have her sit in it, and I will push her rest of the way."

Ray Babecki from Fords has a mother who suffers from glaucoma. His mother, who never smoked or drank, has had operations and laser surgery. "The last thing I would want to see is my mother smoke dope on the couch," Babecki said. "But I have asked doctors about medical marijuana. They told me that they knew smoking marijuana would reduce eye pressure, but they could not prescribe it. It shouldn't be up to the Legislature to decide what is best for my mother. The choice for prescribing marijuana should be a medical decision, not a political one."

The March in Photos



5/20 NJLP Chair Lou Jasikoff leads marchers from Seaside Heights to Toms River over the Thomas Mathis Bridge across Barnegat Bay. (LF)

The Media Waits in Toms River



5/20, Chris Goldstein of public radio (LF)

Chris Goldstein produces a half-hour daily radio show for NJ NORML (the N.J. affiliate of the National Organization to Reform the Marijuana Laws) called "NORML Podcast" and it is broadcast on public radio stations.

"We got ourselves a Convoy" - Jim Miller



5/20 Rt. 37 Toms River: for Jim Miller and Lou Jasikoff, at first it's a lonely road. (RB)



5/21 Rt. 33W, Hightstown, strangers off street join us (RB)

March Continues on Monday

Last Day Kicks Off



5/21, Rt. 9N, Howell: NJLP members join Jim. (RB)



5/22, Rt. 33, Hamilton: Jim answers questions from the public after breakfast at McDonald's (RB)



5/21, Rt. 33W, Freehold: NJLP members push wheelchair to give Jim a break. (RB)



Ray Babecki's Safety/Support Vehicle (LF)



5/22, Passerby challenges Jim on the street at Trenton (RB)

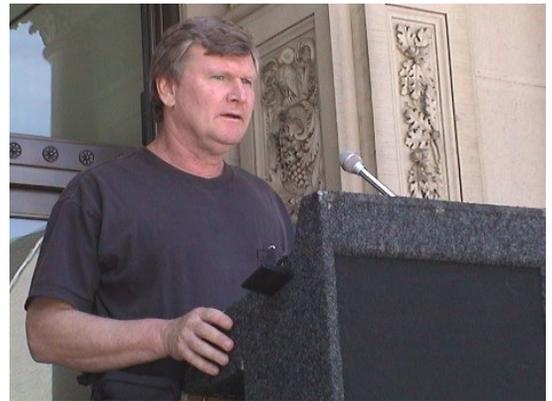


5/22, Jim on the State House steps (RB)

At the State House



5/22, Ken Wolski signs in at the N.J. State Police office in the State House. (RB)



5/22, NJLP Chair Lou Jasikoff speaks at Trenton

One Last Protest



5/22, Ken Wolski gives speech at State House. (RB)



5/22, Jim Miller dogs NJ Governor Corzine at Drumthwacket, the N.J. Governor's mansion. (RB)

Photos by Ray Babecki (RB) and Len Flynn (LF)

Future Meetings & Events

Sunday, June 17 - Steering Committee Mtg: Captain Hook's Restaurant, Seaside Heights at 1:00 PM

Saturday, July 14 - NJLP Annual Picnic and General Membership Meeting: 2:00 PM at Polanka Park, South River (see enclosed flyer for details).

Walk's Aim Is to Legalize Use of Medical Marijuana

By Nirmal Mitra

May 20, 2007, *Asbury Park Press*

SEASIDE HEIGHTS — A group of Libertarian Party members plans to set out today on a "Walk Across New Jersey" with a message for lawmakers: Legalize medical marijuana. Leading the walk will be 55-year-old Jim Miller of Toms River, the party's candidate for state Senate from the 10th District. His wife Cheryl, a medical marijuana advocate, died June 7, 2003, after spending the last decade of her life telling people how marijuana relieved her multiple sclerosis spasticity and pain. Miller will be pushing his wife's wheelchair...

Although there is no organized campaign to make marijuana legal, there is public support for it, Miller said. A poll by the

Drug Policy Alliance showed 86 percent of people surveyed supported legalizing marijuana for medical use and 11 percent opposed legalizing it, he said. Miller said he decided to run for state Senate after the party agreed to join the push to legalize marijuana.

According to Lou Jasikoff, chairman of the party, Libertarian Party candidates are "well-educated, intelligent and young and will bring a fresh face to New Jersey," Jasikoff said. "We're very mainstream," he said. Democratic and Republican lawmakers "represent their parties and not the people," he said. "They have sold their souls to special interest groups." Libertarians, on the other hand, are "regular working guys" who don't take money from such groups, he said. "We work 40-50 hours a week, and we're trying to find the energy and resources to make a difference."

NJLP Chair Comments on Publicly Funded Election

According to an April 19, 2007 article by Chris Gaetano, Staff Writer in the North Brunswick *Sentinel*, Assembly District 14 has been chosen for a test for a "publicly" (taxpayer) funded election because the area "was viewed as a split district where either party can win."

"They want us to get onboard the bus with them, as long as we sit in the back,"

— Lou Jasikoff

"The real purpose is to take special interest money out of politics and have elections be publicly funded, instead of special interests," according to Linda Greenstein Democratic incumbent in District 14. "The public will have less of a perception that special interest money is controlling Trenton. They'll feel they're [the ones] controlling Trenton."

New Jersey's 14th Legislative District has been chosen to take part in a program that seeks to test the viability of public funding for political campaigns. In this second run of the Fair and Clean Elections (FACE) Pilot Project, a bipartisan state committee chose a Republican stronghold, a Democratic stronghold and a tossup district for participation. District 14, which includes areas of Middlesex and Mercer counties, was chosen this week to serve as the test case for split districts where neither Republicans nor Democrats dominate. The heavily Republican District 24 (Sussex/Hunterdon/Morris) and Democratic District 37 (Bergen) had previously been chosen to participate. However, Gaetano asks:

Are Third parties short-changed?

Public funding for political campaigns is available to anyone in District 14 who wants to run for the Legislature this year and can meet the aforementioned donation requirements. However, if a candidate is not running with either of the two major parties, they can access only about half the public funds the Democrats or Republicans can. This means that if an independent candidate and a major party candidate both got 800 donations, the independent would get \$50,000 and the major party candidate would get \$100,000. This news was not received well by some third party officials, who felt that the legislation squeezed them out.

"It's one more instance of those in power seeking power," said Jane Hunter, chair of the communications committee with the New Jersey Green Party. "It's business as usual." Hunter also said that the number of donations required is far too high to allow viable third party representation in the program. She said other states that publicly fund elections, such as Maine, do not have contribution standards nearly as high as this pilot.

Greenstein said that reduced funding for third party or petition candidates was decided upon after lengthy bipartisan talks. She said that it was her hope that reduced access to public funding would discourage people who weren't "serious candidates" from throwing off what is, essentially, a political experiment. "We wanted to make it such to give new people the chance to participate, but you always have to balance that against candidates who were not serious candidates, and that's where the delicate balance lies. There was support for them getting money, but the debate was [whether] they get half. It was decided for the experimental purposes of this election to give them half and then maybe go further with full funding. Right now we're trying to control some variables. It's still an experiment," said Greenstein.

This does not satisfy Libertarian Party Chairman Lou Jasikoff. He expressed skepticism of the major parties' ability to differentiate between candidates who are and are not serious, asking rhetorically whether they just mean who has the most money. He said that the law is essentially unfair to third party candidates. "It seems the purpose is to open the door to qualified candidates and yet it provides only 50 percent of the financing to minority and independent candidates as it provides to the Republican and Democratic candidates. They want us to get onboard the bus with them, as long as we sit in the back," said Jasikoff.

Operation Politically Homeless Is Ready

Tony Federici wants NJLP members to know that he is available to aid libertarian activists with materials and help organizing an Operation Politically Homeless (OPH) booth for your local event. An OPH booth can help educate voters and promote candidates. It has plenty of literature and a graphic "quiz" to challenge people. Contact Tony by phone at 973-764-7289 or e-mail at azvernon@warwick.net.



Tony Federici (center) at Seaside Heights with NJLP Chair Lou Jasikoff and Christine Jones

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Borough Clerk fined \$1,000 for denying Libertarian's request

S. Bound Brook clerk fined \$1K

by Ralph R. Ortega

Star Ledger

May 30, 2007

An official in South Bound Brook was fined an unprecedented \$1,000 by the state Government Records Council this morning after it took him months to satisfy a request made under New Jersey's Open Public Records Act, a public records advocate said.

The GRC found that Donald E. Kazar, the administrator and clerk in the small Somerset County borough, "knowingly and willfully" held back on the request, said John Paff, a Libertarian Party member who routinely tests OPRA compliance.

Kazar said this afternoon he had not yet learned about the fine.

A spokesman for the state Department of Community Affairs, which oversees the GRC, was not immediately available to confirm the penalty.

Paff, who said he attended a GRC hearing in Trenton this morning where the decision was made, initially complained to the state panel after Kazar failed to deliver on his request for three months of borough council meeting notes on May 16, 2006. Paff said he finally received the documents in January of this year, but only after GRC officials intervened.

Kazar admitted to the state panel last month that he was negligent for not satisfying the request sooner. Kazar, a part-time borough employee, has said that he is usually stretched to the limit in his duties, and that he had overlooked the Paff request.

NJL Advertising Rates

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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 _____

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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 mailing list is rented.

Make check payable to NJLP and mail to: NJLP, P.O. Box 56, Tennent, NJ 07763

Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax deductible.



New Jersey Libertarian Party
PO Box 56
Tennent, New Jersey 07763
800-201-NJLP www.njlp.org



NJLP Annual Picnic & General Meeting

Saturday July 14th, 2:00 PM

The NJLP Annual Picnic adds fun and socializing to a **brief** membership meeting.

Come and enjoy our summer picnic!

There is no admission charge: the facility, the charcoal pit, and the soda are all complementary. Bring your own side dishes, and perhaps add enough extra to share with your fellow Libertarians. Alcoholic beverages are not provided, but are welcome. There is a playground for the children and horseshoe pits for the adults.

Polanka Park is a beautiful wooded picnic area complete with full kitchen, refrigeration, charcoal grills, gazebo, covered dance area, clean restrooms, and much more.

Bring a friend! See directions and map on the reverse side of this page.

If you have any questions, please contact Lou Jasikoff at (973) 752-9164.

Directions Polanka Park, South River

The Polish War Veterans Picnic Grounds is located less than a mile off Route 18 in South River, NJ (near East Brunswick).

From the Garden State Parkway – Southbound

1 a. Take Exit 124 - Toward Sayreville/South River *0.1 miles*

Northbound

1 a. Take Exit 125 - Toward Route 35/Sayreville/South Amboy *0.2 miles*

b. Turn Left to take the Chevalier Avenue ramp *0.1 miles*

c. Turn Left onto Main Street extension. *1.3 miles*

2. Turn slight Right onto CR-670/ West Main Street *2.7 miles*

3. Turn Right onto McArthur Avenue *1.0 miles*

4. Turn Right onto CR-535/Veterans Memorial Bridge *0.7 miles*

5. Turn Right onto CR-677/ Reid Street *0.3 miles*

6. Turn Right onto William Street *0.4 miles*

From the Turnpike

1. Take Exit 9, Route 18 /US-1/New Brunswick/Shore Resorts. *0.6 miles*

2. Take the Rt. 18 South ramp toward South River/East Brunswick. *0.2 miles*

3. Merge onto NJ-18 South. *0.9 miles*

4. Continue with directions below.

From Route 18

1. Take the Edgeboro Road ramp toward Old Bridge Turnpike *0.1 miles*

2. Turn left onto Edgeboro Road *0.2 miles*

3. Turn Right onto Brick Plant Road *0.5 miles*

4. Turn Right onto William Street *0.2 miles*

