



New Jersey Libertarian

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May 2007

Walk Across New Jersey

Dear Fellow Libertarians,

I am pleased to announce that our state meeting and our "Walk Across New Jersey" has been set for May 20th. Come and join us as we send a message that the time has come for open and honest government in Trenton and that the Libertarian Party plans to lead the way in the fight this coming November.

Our State Board meeting has been set for 10 AM, Sunday, May 20th, at **Captain Hooks** 1320 Boulevard in Seaside Heights, NJ (732) 830-0006. (In case of extreme weather it will be May 27th.) We will begin to plan our historic march that begins with crossing the Thomas J. Mathis Bridge over Barnegat Bay in the first leg of our trip to Trenton to deliver our candidates' petitions and ensure they are on the ballot this coming November. Once over the bridge we will be stopping for lunch at **The Pier One Restaurant**, 3430 Route 37 East in Toms River (732-270-0914). From there we will continue on to Trenton and plan on delivering our petitions on Tuesday afternoon to officials at the **N.J. Division of Elections** at 44 South Clinton Avenue, 7th Floor in Trenton.

Every geographical section of the state will be represented this coming November with Libertarian candidates, and we continue to add to our numbers weekly. Led by our State Senate candidate in the 10th district Jim Miller and the memorial wheelchair for his late wife Cheryl, we will be traveling the same path he has taken in the past in his efforts to get medical marijuana legislation passed. Our message will be "if the current legislators neither have the heart nor the courage to pass such legislation, we have the candidates who will." See his story on-line at <http://www.cherylheart.org>.

What better way to spend a Sunday than enjoying a (hopefully sunny) morning on the Seaside beach and boardwalk while supporting your Libertarian candidates. Bring your family and friends and make a day of it! If you are planning on attending please let me know so we can inform the restaurants and proper authorities as to the numbers expected.

Volunteers are also needed especially to make some signs, provide support vehicles, and join us on the full trek. We can also use someone to get the proper permits to assemble in Trenton. Feel free to contact me at 570-878-7532 or 973-752-9164 if you are available to help.

I look forward to meeting you all on Sunday, and you will be able to follow our progress at <http://www.njlp.org>.

In Liberty,
Lou Jasikoff
Chair



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Steering Committee Meeting

The NJLP Steering Committee held its first meeting since the annual convention at Tumulty's Pub in New Brunswick on April 22, 2007. The meeting report is not available at press time, but here are photos from the lively and productive meeting.



The meeting room was filled with NJLP activists.



At-Large Representative Jason Scheurer speaks to the issue.



Chair Lou Jasikoff and Treasurer Ken Chazotte



NJLP Secretary Sean Christopher Colón makes a point.



Jay Boucher (far right) presents his 6 page "Expense Analysis" and committee members (left to right) Kevin Ferizzi, Sean Colon, Joe Dunsay, and Lou Stefanelli listen.



Middlesex County Libertarians Brenda Bell and Frank Warren volunteered to monitor the candidate petition drives

The Politics of Victimization

Dear Editor,

There was once a time in my life where I believed in the "politics of victimization." That is, I believed that government owed me a great deal. That it owed me a living. That it owed me money. That it owed me everything.

It took many years to come to the realization that government didn't owe me a thing. That if anyone owed anyone anything, it was he or she himself or herself. I had to offer myself opportunities and a chance for economic and moral fulfillment.

While I am pleased that I got out of this mode of thinking, I look around today and there are many people that are engaging in this self-destructive mindset. They are engaging in the politics of victimization wholeheartedly, partly because they don't know any better and partly because it pays. This mindset leaves out personal responsibility and self-sufficiency out on a door step and follows with scapegoating, envy and the "poor me."

This is sad.

Here are some examples of the practice of victimization in American society today in 2007:

- There is a generation that says to the youth of America "You owe me a living through your taxes." That "You have to pay for the mistake I made because I didn't save enough money for retirement." Of course I talk about Social Security in its present form.
- There are a people that say to society and government "You have to have your taxes pay for my prescriptions, my health care. It is your duty and obligation. I am not smart enough to buy insurance for myself." I am talking about Medicare and Medicaid and the attempt to enact Universal Health Care in its present form.
- There are a people who say "You must through your taxes pay for my home, food, entertainment and much more, for I do not want to work and get these things myself." I am talking about welfare and the welfare state in total.
- There are people that say to government "You must regulate the free market because businesses cannot

compete in the open" I talk about business regulations and regulations in general.

- There are different people of different racial, religious and ethnic backgrounds whom say that "America owes us for past and present wrongs and that taxpayers should pay for what transpired in the past." I talk about the reparations movement.
- There are people who say "Certain words should not be uttered. Certain types of speech, conduct should be banned because they are too offensive and despicable." I talk about political correctness that has poisoned the public discourse.

The politics of victimization has infected this society not for decades but for over a century now. It has taught the courageous to be fearful, the poor to be dependent, people to be jealous of one another. If government owes its people anything, it owes them equality under law and free opportunity -- the freedom to achieve ones goals and dreams and to be responsible for his and her own care. This used to be the mindset of the American people. This used to be what America once believed in. It has been replaced by something worse and abhorrent.

I look forward to the day when America can go back to its roots and its people learn the value of self-sufficiency, responsibility and liberty. I also look forward to the day when the American people as a whole reject the politics of victimization and bid it a fond farewell tossing it into the sea.

What a day that will be.

Sincerely

Alex Pugliese

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Editor's note: Each week, *WorldNetDaily's* editorial staff considers the letters they receive for possible inclusion in their "Letter Of The Week" section. Alex's letter was chosen to receive such recognition. Letters are evaluated primarily on content, clarity, and conciseness. To view the entire article online, visit http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=54729.

Alex also had the following Letter to the Editor published on page A9 in the April 18, 2007 *Home News Tribune*. See next page.

Pols not above the law

I find it hypocritical and revolting whenever I hear of a public official or a politician exempting themselves for the laws they support, voted for or helped pass.

The recent tragedy concerning Gov. Jon S. Corzine is a great case in point. Corzine and his compatriots have been lecturing the people not to buy sport utility vehicles and have supported laws mandating that residents be forced to wear seat belts. The governor, when his motor vehicle accident occurred, was riding in an SUV and was not wearing a seat belt. He exercised his choice freely

while denying the same options for the people of New Jersey. If this is not outrageous or despicable, I do not know what is.

It is way past the time that these politicians and public officials stop acting as though they are above the law and above any other human being. Enough is enough.

May the governor get well and have a speedy recovery.

Alex Pugliese

Kenilworth

John Paff in the News – Praised and Criticized

Editorial Supports John Paff

The following is an editorial from the April 30, 2007 edition of the *Star Ledger*.

Send a message on openness

There is no denying that John Paff is a thorn in the side of municipal officials. The public records advocate and all-around gadfly pesters towns in Central Jersey with requests for council meeting minutes and other documents. He wants to see whether administrators and clerks are following the state law that says open records are supposed to be easily and promptly available.

This is not a bad thing. No one in state government or in county prosecutor's offices has the time or personnel to conduct oversight of the Open Public Records Act. Most citizens don't, either. And Paff's tortuous experience with South Bound Brook shows the ongoing need for vigilance.

Last May, Paff requested that the small Somerset County borough provide him with the minutes of three months' worth of its council's executive session meetings. The state records act not only gives the public the right to the minutes so long as the issues being discussed have been resolved; it also says a town has to produce them within seven days.

But South Bound Brook seems to have gotten caught in some quantum time warp. Paff didn't get the documents for nine months and then only after the Government Records Council, a state watchdog body, sent numerous orders to Donald Kazar, the municipal clerk-administrator, to cough up the minutes.

In fact, Kazar ignored the records council's missives so often that the council finally ordered him to Trenton to explain himself. And his explanation was a doozy. He was busy. So was his assistant.

The council is considering fining Kazar as much as \$1,000 for his stall tactics. It shouldn't hesitate to send out the bill. Flagrant flouting of the public's right to know deserves a strong slap.

Public knowledge of how government works -- or doesn't -- is a strong vaccine against official corruption, waste and abuse. A serious fine will remind officials in other towns that ignoring the Open Public Records Act is not just undemocratic but illegal.

Paff Hits Nerve

A column headed "Speaking Frankly" by Frank Hannan appeared in the *AIM - West Milford* on March 23, 2007. (Hannan's entire statement and John's replies can be read online at <http://www.cjnj.org/html/wme.pdf>). It criticizes John Paff, as well as the LP, for suing for access to public records, because the suits cost the taxpayers money. Below are excerpts from Hannan's critique and Paff's reply.

Individual rights vs. the public good is not a zero sum game

... Paff and his fellow Libertarians do not believe in government subsidies. Sounds reasonable until you discover that most of their open records campaigns are funded on the backs of the taxpayers through the government. Take for example OPRA (Open Public

Records Act) requests. According to the law, local towns are not allowed to charge for labor. The real cost associated with the request is not the copying itself but the labor it costs to procure the document. So it is a subsidy.

Why don't Libertarians donate the cost of the labor so they don't get a government subsidy? When it comes to lawsuits, OPRA says any violations held up in court and the government pays. It was designed so the little guy would not be put at a disadvantage. It was not designed to allow the same individuals and parties to sue town after town, county after county so they can collect trophies like safari hunters and then take the government subsidy and move on to the next hunt as their lawyer friends get rich. (Remember the \$394 an hour Paff's lawyer Mr. Gutman thinks he is worth.)

When Mr. Paff is sitting in his office hatching his next stick in the spoke scheme, if there is a fire in one of his rental buildings does he call his private fire brigade [*sic*]? If he doesn't, he is taking a government subsidy.

What about my individual rights as a taxpayer? Should I have to foot the bill for his beliefs? I believe in individual rights, but there are times when government must look beyond the individual and do things for the public good. I believe in smaller government so I want those times to be few and far between and I want just compensation. ... We need people to help keep the game honest but it was never meant to be an organized profitable bloodsport at taxpayer expense

John's response:

"This piece, like his previous one I responded to ("Attorney Accountability Ordinance: Should it Stay or Should It Go?", February 16, 2007) is replete with factual errors and distortions. (See New Jersey Citizens for Justice website <http://www.cjnj.org/html/wme.pdf> for the full discussion.) ...

Mr. Hannan characterizes my public advocacy work as "sitting in [my] office hatching [my] next stick in the spoke scheme" so that I can "collect trophies like safari hunters" and finance my "open records campaigns ... on the backs of the taxpayers."

I find it remarkable that Mr. Hannan, who admits that he has never met me, can draw such colorful conclusions regarding my character and motivations. While I am happy to win public access cases and disappointed when

I lose, I have never profited from my advocacy work nor do I take pleasure in knowing that taxpayers are being forced to pay for their government officials' violations of the law.

I have filed suit and lodged administrative complaints against dozens of local government agencies that have violated the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) and the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA). I do this because, unfortunately a) many town governments don't have much regard for the public's right to know and b) the public prosecutors typically don't enforce these laws thus leaving the job to private citizens. When these "sunshine laws" are ignored, a culture of secrecy develops that allows government corruption to flourish.

When I find a town in violation of these laws, I typically write to the mayor and council and ask that they correct their procedure. If that doesn't get results, or if the violations are egregious, I will sue in court, file an administrative complaint with the Government Records Council or report the violation to the county prosecutor. Any one of these actions—even my letter to the mayor and council—will usually get the municipal attorney involved, and that, unfortunately, costs the taxpayers money.

And there's the rub. When government officials violate the OPRA and OPMA, they are not held personally liable for the costs of those violations. Rather, the cost of my enforcement actions against town officials who illegally suppress public information are borne by the taxpayers who are unfortunate enough to live in that town. If I had my way (and perhaps Mr. Hannan would agree with me on this point), the officials who violate the law should have to personally pay all the legal costs flowing from those violations. But, unfortunately, the way the system should work isn't the way it does work.

Given these realities, I don't see how the OPMA and OPRA can be enforced, either by private citizens such as myself or by a state or county prosecutor, without costs being imposed upon the taxpayers in the offending towns. All I can suggest to Mr. Hannan and others is a) that they work to convince their elected officials to conduct town business as openly and transparently as possible in order to ward off expensive enforcement actions, and b) that we work together to change the laws so that government officials are required to bear the consequences of their own wrongdoing.

Future Meetings & Events

Sunday, May 20

10 am NJLP State Board meeting at **Captain Hooks** 1320 Boulevard in Seaside Heights, followed by "**Walk Across New Jersey**" (See article on page 1)

Sunday, June 3

2 PM NNJLP meeting at Fudrucker's Restaurant, Route 4 East in Paramus

Sunday, July 14

NJLP annual picnic and general membership meeting at 2:00 PM at Polanka Park in South River.

From the Past – March/April 1978 NJL “County News”

NJL Editor Bonnie Swirsky reported on activity for three county NJLP organizations. On February 26 Libertarians of Monmouth County held an “informal” meeting at Marj and Emerson Ellett’s home. A prime goal for the meeting was “filling slots for local candidates.” They chose two members to run for Freeholder in the fall election. The Third District Congressional candidate had already been approved at the NJLP Convention.

The Bergen County Chairperson reported that his county planned to field five candidates in the next election. The offices sought were Congress, 7th district, County Clerk, County Sheriff, and two Freeholders.

Ocean County Libertarians met at the home of Len & Ginny Flynn for a “triple feature.” First two films “The Hangman” and “The Incredible Bread Machine” were shown. Then Jack Conard (1975 LP candidate for Sheriff) gave an informative talk about the Federal Reserve System and inflation created by its “systematic depreciation of the currency.”

NNJLP Reelects Officers

At its May 6 meeting the Northern New Jersey Libertarian Party had its annual elections and all officers were reelected by the members present. The officers are Joseph Dunsay, Chair; Dan Karlan, Vice Chair; Jessica Burde, Secretary; and Alex Kachmar, Treasurer. Current County Reps are Alex Kachmar (Essex), Derek DeMarco (Passaic), Jeff Hetrick (Union), and Joseph Dunsay (Bergen).

On April 20 NNJLP held a meeting to watch the movie "Reefer Madness" and discuss drug prohibition.

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