



New Jersey Libertarian



From the Chair

By State Chair Emerson Ellett

The 2002 elections are history. On to 2003!

And in fact four people have already stepped up to the plate as candidates this year: John Taylor plans to run for borough council in Highlands (Monmouth County). Highlands has a population of 5100, so the office is definitely within reach. Assuming half the population is eligible to vote, half of those eligible are registered, and half of those registered actually vote John could win with 650 votes in a two way race. Two council seats are open in Highlands this year and undoubtedly there will be more than two candidates. Thus even fewer than 650 votes could win. In fact Taylor's race could be the most exciting local race since Dick Siano's win in Kingwood Township (population 3800 today; Hunterdon County), Austin Lett and Ray Connors' challenge in Chatham Twp. (pop. 9400; Morris County), Dino Toro's challenge in Commercial Twp. (pop. 5300, Cumberland County) and Ned Kelley's run last year in Califon Borough (pop. 1100, Hunterdon County). Most of those races drew activists from throughout the state, so if even if you live outside Monmouth County don't hesitate to pitch in. You can make a difference.

The other announced candidates are Bob Hull, who plans to run in the 11th District (Monmouth County); Dan Karlan, 39th District (Bergen County); and Len Flynn, Monmouth County Freeholder.

That leaves hundreds of other local and state offices without Libertarian challengers. Why not research the offices up for election by contacting your county clerk and passing the information on to your county chair (or myself -- pending the appointment of a Political Director -- if you live in an unorganized county). Many municipal seats have gone uncontested in the past. That is, in either Democrat or Republican dominated municipalities or districts one or the other party cannot find someone willing to run. That happened in the 1st Congressional District in 2002. Tim Haas, our Libertarian candidate, went one on one with the incumbent. Although almost totally ignored by the media Haas still picked up 7% of the vote. So consider trying to find the time to search out those previously uncontested offices and we'll try doubly hard to find candidates to contest them. This tactic would be particularly fruitful in state and local races where weekly newspaper coverage can be substantial.

If you are interested in running for State Assembly or Senate be sure to come to the Convention March 1. The Convention has the authority to nominate candidates whose district crosses county lines. County parties can nominate municipal and county candidates.

At least one of our freedom fighters is looking ahead to the 2004 elections. Vic Kaplan has tossed his hat in the ring for the Libertarian nomination in the 5th Congressional District (Warren and parts of Bergen, Passaic and Sussex Counties). Vic tells me he'll be putting up his campaign web site shortly. He is contributing to our 2003 campaigns by working on a position paper on education for our statewide candidates.

Our liaison to the gun rights community, Terry Wintroub, started the year off with a bang with a Jan. 3 letter to the *Trenton Times*, in which he points out some of the misinformation regarding the newly enacted "smart gun" law.

If anyone is interested in being NJLP liaison to another community let me know. For instance I recently put one of our outstanding MD members in touch with another physician. Hopefully one of them, or someone else with medical and health care expertise, will become our point person in that field. He or she could lead the effort to publicize our medical reform efforts in the N.J. Medical Society magazine. We desperately need a liaison to the small business community too.

Chris Wuestefeld, who was featured in the Jan. *NJ Libertarian*, is sharing some of what he's learned and developed with other members who will be fighting school boards too arrogant to provide any concrete evidence to back up their requests for more money. His committee, which defeated a purported improvement to the local high school, has built some expertise on education regulations, and has a web site (www.NecessaryPublicEducation.com) that could be adapted for other fights. Chris is an outstanding example of someone who is working for liberty with non-Libertarians.

The Convention is March 1 at the Trenton Marriott at Lafayette Yard. Robert Jacobs has put together a great program. Hope to see you there!

Please contact the Steering Committee or myself at chair@njlp.org or 732 774-3684 if you are able to assist the party in any way.

To the Editor:

The January 18th protests saw the largest anti-war demonstrations since the Vietnam War. Hundreds of thousands chanting, "No war for oil!" and other slogans filled the streets from Washington DC to San Francisco. As much as these protests were impressive in numbers, one could not get away from a feeling that if the antiwar movement is to reach the "mainstream" than perhaps different groups should reconsider pushing their own agenda, which has nothing to do with the prospect of war. From "ending the war against the poor" to "Mumia Abu-Jamal", it was difficult to see how these topics are relevant to the protestors' alleged purpose, nor how would people of other persuasions be impressed with these "signature issues". If the protestors want to reach "mainstream" America than the discussion of how the war would affect their wallets would be a good start. Of course, accusing the White House of being pro-Big Government would be highly uncharacteristic of such organizations as ANSWER, but such a tactic could peel off a good deal of Republican-leaning voters and would actually help grow an anti-war movement. Of course, the best thing that the speakers at these rallies could do to help the antiwar movement grow is to simply focus on the prospect of war, which I don't think is impossible to achieve. The White House should be concerned though, that with a 53% job approval rating for the President, that he could see more Persian Gulf veterans joining the antiwar movement. It is certainly an embarrassment for the White House.

The White House itself is trying to sell the idea that UN inspectors really do not matter, since if the UN inspectors find no evidence of chemical weapons, that would itself suggest that Saddam Hussein has not disarmed. Certainly some GOP "patriots" and "moderate" Democrats would find logic in these lines because "he is our President, we need to support him", but the rest of us would probably wonder what was the President's speech before the UN all about. We can only wonder why Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld says, "the smoking gun could arrive in a form of a mushroom cloud" when trying to justify an Iraqi invasion, while Iraq has no nuclear weapons. We can further only wonder, how afterwards, he can call for "diplomatic talks" with North Korea, which has nuclear weapons. Perhaps, it is because Iraq doesn't have nuclear weapons that the President is pushing for war. Good grief! Seems like the only way to escape the White House's wrath is to acquire nukes! If the White House pulls a war stunt with UN in opposition, one doesn't have to be a seer to predict that after watching dead babies on al-Jazeera network, the anger in the streets would be directed towards the US. One also doesn't have to be a seer to predict that the White House would repeatedly say that terrorism has nothing to do with war in Iraq, but everything to do with "their hatred for democracy". One would hope, that the American people would find enough sense to either pressure the White House to end this madness (at least in polls), or to vote the "compassionate conservatives" out of the White House. The latter scenario however, remains to be seen...

Vic Kaplan

Calendar

Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 11
Stefanelli-Macron residence, 7 PM

New Jersey Libertarian Party Annual Convention
Saturday March 1, 2003
9 am- Noon – Business Session
Marriott Trenton at Lafayette Yard
1 West Lafayette St.
Trenton

Members to Vote On Bylaws Change At 2003 Convention

At the 2003 Convention and General Meeting, NJLP Members will vote whether or not candidates must be registered Libertarians.

The exact wording of the bylaws change will be:

"All candidates must be NJLP members and registered Libertarians, and run under the designation of 'Libertarian Party' in partisan elections."

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The Strategic Plan and the New Jersey Libertarian Party

By Dan Karlan

In the last issue, I introduced Strategy 20, the last numerically of those drafted by the national Strategic Planning Team (SPT). Before I introduce the next strategy for New Jersey, I would like to follow up the presentation of strategy 20. Most of the strategies developed by the SPT dealt with actions people could take to advance the cause of liberty and the Libertarian Party. Several of the 20 strategies dealt instead with 'cultural' issues – how can we make activism in the LP more effective. Strategy 20 was one of those, as is Strategy 19, which I introduce in this issue. One of the points addressed in Strategy 20 was the reduction of infighting. Thankfully, owing to a long history of appropriate handling of disagreements, the NJLP has been remarkably free of the infighting that has plagued some other LP affiliates. But just avoiding infighting is not enough, as the presentation in the last NJL started to emphasize.

Now on to Strategy 19. This is what I like to call avoiding the "If Only" trap. It is very easy to believe that there's just one critical effort which, if successful, will achieve "Liberty In Our Time." The Strategic Planning Team developed a strong consensus that such an attitude is unrealistic – and because unrealistic assumptions going in frequently lead to extreme disappointment coming out, we wanted to emphasize that keeping our expectations realistic would make it easier to sustain our activism over the long term.

This is not to insist that if someone else voices such an unrealistic expectation he should be shouted down. Instead, it is enough if, believing that this person is unrealistic, you not interfere with his enthusiasm. He might not succeed, but in the process might learn something valuable. And if hard feelings are avoided going in, there will be more to salvage when the inevitable disappointment results. There is a synergy between good ideas and hard work. Both are essential.

Strategy 19: Develop an awareness that success requires adequate resources of all sorts

SPT recommends strong efforts by the LNC, state, and local LP organizations to develop an awareness among the LP's support base that success in politics requires adequate resources of all sorts. Such resources include, at a minimum, qualified and well-trained candidates, adequate funding, well-developed messages, and a sufficiently large and well-trained volunteer/activist base to run effective campaigns. Over the years, time and again, LP organizations and campaigns have been approached with "silver bullet" proposals from members, contributors, volunteers/activists, and outsiders. At times, some LP organizations and campaigns have also promoted such proposals to their supporters.

The common characteristics of these proposals is that they can be expressed in the form: "If you just do X, then you will succeed." Sometimes X is simply beyond the capabilities of what the campaign can reasonably be expected to do. Sometimes X is something that cannot reasonably be expected to produce an election victory even if the campaign has the resources available to do X. And sometimes even accomplishing X will not achieve any success in the wider political arena. Regrettably, there is no one X – no "silver bullet" – which can bring success in politics. If it were that easy, the Democrats and Republicans would just focus on X.

SPT believes that the LP support base needs to understand that there is no shortcut, no easy path, no "silver bullet" that will bring the LP political success. Political success will come only as a consequence of consistent efforts in many endeavors by a large and growing number of committed Libertarians. SPT believes that the LNC and state and local LP organizations need to make sure that the entire LP support base recognizes and accepts this as reality. SPT believes that all LP organizations should avoid setting expectations to the contrary.

SPT believes that changing the "culture" of the LP to better understand the prerequisites of success will create more realistic expectations among the LP support base. SPT believes that more realistic expectations will result in fewer disappointments, fewer unmet expectations, and a lower burnout rate across the LP's support base.

Possible Tactics:

Communicate how Libertarians and others won elections
Survey LP candidates – post election – to document basic postcampaign information
Incorporate information gained from Libertarian and other campaigns into campaign and candidate training
Emphasize "there is no silver bullet" in campaign and project related communications and use these communications to stress the components required for a successful campaign at each level
Stress that diverse skills, abilities, and personalities are a basic resource that must be utilized and respected

Convincing some within the LP's support base that there is "no silver bullet" – no quick and simple path to achieving the LP's mission – will require cooperative efforts by many levels of the LP. Affiliated state and local parties are urged to send and re-send the message that winning elections and changing our government will require a host of resources of all sorts. Affiliated state and local parties wishing to support this strategy should note that this is closely related to Strategy 11.



FREE STATE PROJECT

Liberty in Our Lifetime

*"A free state might show the rest of the world what can be done...Let's think seriously about this."
--Claire Wolfe*

As featured on Free-Market.Net, LewRockwell.com, "The Libertarian Enterprise," "The Sierra Times," Anti-State.Com, and Brian Wilson, KSFO Radio...

"The Free State Project is a plan in which 20,000 or more liberty-oriented people will move to a single state of the U.S. to secure a free society there. We will accomplish this by first reforming state law, opting out of federal mandates, and finally negotiating directly with the federal government for appropriate political autonomy. We will be a community of freedom-loving individuals and families, and create a shining example of liberty for the rest of the nation and the world." (from the Free State Project website, www.freestateproject.com)

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Minutes of the NJLP Steering Committee meeting of 10 December, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM. Present were Chair (Ellett), Secretary (Karlan), Treasurer (Stefanelli), At-Large 1 (Hull), and At-Large 4 (Macron). Vice-Chair (Flynn) arrived at 8:15. Absent were At-Large 2 (Kaplan) and At-Large-3 (Elwell).

The Agenda was adopted.

The Minutes of the November 10 General Meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer distributed his reports. There was discussion, extending to the implications of BCRA and the various ways of resolving the conflict. Hull moved that the NJLP NOT be a Federal Filing Committee. Macron seconded. This motion followed up the provision at the General Meeting that permitted the Steering Committee to cancel the action of making the NJLP a Federal Filing Committee. Discussion followed. Flynn arrived during this discussion. The motion passed on a voice vote, 4-1. Karlan will pursue the issue of becoming an FEC Filing Committee with National during the LNC meeting the following weekend.

There was nothing to report regarding CAPP.

Regarding the Newsletter, it was noted that the mail permit has been accepted; however, the Treasurer will investigate to identify what that permit costs and entails.

There was nothing to report regarding the Web site.

Regarding the Strategic Plan, a preliminary presentation was made by Karlan, with follow-up in a regular column in the Newsletter as a "Strategy of the Month."

The Convention plans have been firmed, with 4 speakers and a graded price increasing as the payment approaches the time of the Convention.

There was discussion of a pledge program, other county-based fundraising.

Karlan will talk to George Getz (of National) regarding training and support of Public Relations activities. It was also mentioned that Mike Buoncrisiano is a professional with expertise in that area, along with Sean Dougherty.

Regarding dues sharing with county affiliates: Monmouth acknowledged receipt of the payment to them. Hunterdon, Monmouth, Mercer, Middlesex, and Somerset are recognized county organizations for this purpose. There was some discussion of organizing other counties.

Future meetings:

- State Board, Sunday, January 19, Tumulty's Pub, New Brunswick, 1 PM
- Steering Committee, Tuesday, February 11, Stefanelli-Macron residence (Tinton Falls), 7 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25.



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