



## **AZ4NORML MEETING MINUTES**

August 15, 2009

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Our monthly meeting started right on time with 25 members in attendance.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Our Treasurer Mary MacKenzie was unable to attend the meeting because Alice her goddess cat was having a health crisis. Jon reported we currently have approximately \$150.00 in the bank. With all of our upcoming activities and a need to keep merchandise in stock our funds are pretty depleted.

### **STEP RIGHT UP AND VOLUNTEER**

Our group has lots of volunteer opportunities and SIGN-UP sheets are available at the monthly meetings for members to make a commitment of their time. Volunteering is one of the most basic and important functions for our organization and it allows for outreach to the community.

### **ELECTIONS COMING AND LOTS OF POSITIONS OPEN (except Miss Congeniality)**

Positions open at this time

- o President (currently held by Jon Gettel)
  - o Vice-President (currently held by Roz)
  - o Treasurer (currently held by Mary)
  - o Secretary (currently held by Michelle)
  - o Development (new position that will be devoted to fundraising and grants)
  - o Webmaster/Membership (currently done by Chris, Jon and others)
  - o Press Secretary (currently done by Matt and Beth)
- The elections will be held at our October meeting (Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>)

If you are interested in running for any office let Jon know by the September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting where nominations will be entered.

### **COMMITTEES**

We're looking to form a couple of new committees.

- o Lowest Police Priority. This committee will work on submitting to the City Council a declaration similar to what Seattle has in place (making the enforcement of marijuana laws pertaining to adult personal use the lowest enforcement priority for the Seattle Police Department and the Seattle City Attorney). The timing for our lowest police priority initiative will be after the local election is held in November. Santa Monica, California is working also on a lowest police priority initiative so this might be spreading across the country as things continue to move in a positive direction for reforming marijuana laws.

The police are still raiding medical marijuana dispensaries and two dispensaries in California were recently raided and further tragedy when a golden retriever was shot by the police.

- o Hemp Committee. As part of our mission of AZ4NORML we want to promote the use of hemp, a wonderful natural resource that can help our planet in so many ways. We'll be setting up at table at Nina Trasoff's GO GREEN event on September 24. If you are interested in working on the hemp committee just let Michelle (indexing@yahoo.com) know and she'll get you set up to be part of her Merry Hempsters.

### **MEMBERSHIP DOES HAVE ITS ADVANTAGES**

A lively discussion by members about having yearly chapter dues. A suggestion of \$50 a year with house membership of \$75.00 a year. An optional \$5.00 per month for dues was also included. For those that are currently having financial hardship a sliding scale will be put in place. A vote on membership dues will be held at our September meeting.

## **CELEBRITY SUPPORTERS**

Actor Patrick Swayze who is battling pancreatic cancer is a medical marijuana user now. Brad Pitt who has been the object of interest by a grassroots moment in New Orleans to be mayor quipped he wouldn't stand a chance because he would be running "on the 'gay marriage, no religion, legalization and taxation of marijuana' platform."

## **A HIGH CLASS READ**

A new book is out by multiple authors including Paul Armentano called: Marijuana is Safer: So Why are we Driving People to Drink? You can buy the book for ten bucks and change at Amazon.com.



## **EVENTS COMING UP**

Hey we almost need a social secretary there are so many events coming up that the list keeps on growing. Jon has done an outstanding job putting together merchandise and information packets to stock the booths to be eye catching as well as informative. With the petition drive to get medical marijuana on the ballot going full steam, having a presence at community events raises our profile. The feedback from the public has been overwhelmingly positive and we're being invited back to events by the promoters. A list of all the upcoming events will be available as an email attachment.

## **FREE MARC EMERY**

Marc Emery, a Canadian citizen, self-proclaimed 'Prince of Pot' is going to be sentenced on September 21, 2009 by the federal government for basically selling seeds over the internet. Nationwide protests will be held on Saturday, September 19 with Tucson's

protest tentatively scheduled for 2:00 p.m. in front of the University of Arizona Law Center.

### **OTHER NEWS**

Carl who has an Access Tucson television program called ExistKind, is going to have marijuana lawyer Mark Victor on his program tentatively for September 4. Mark Victor a former judge has been an outspoken advocate for reforming marijuana laws and this program should be very interesting.

### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

We got through our packed agenda in about an hour leaving time to socialize and meet with our members. Remember to mark your calendars for our next meeting which is Saturday, September 19 at 3:00 p.m.

mbg 8/16/09