

AZ4NORML March 21, 2009



MEETING MINUTES

SHOW ME THE MONEY

Mary our treasurer reported that our chapter has \$912 in the bank which is a good start on our fund-raising efforts. An anonymous donor has recently donated \$60 to the local radio station KXCI.

The members in attendance got a sneak peek at the T-shirt design and pre-orders were taken. Several people made generous donations to help with the initial run. Pre-orders are \$18.00 and once the shirts are printed the price will go up to \$20. We should have the shirts available at the next meeting for everyone that pre-ordered. A few of last year's shirts were available for purchase for \$10 and most of those were snapped right up.

KICK OUT THE JAMS

Our chapter is having lots of face time at functions around Tucson. Our group had a



successful outing at the Peace Fair which was held over at the Reid Park Band Shell area. Lots of folks stopped by the tent and looked over all the interesting items including books and other materials. The next big event is KMFA Day, a big ass music festival on April 25th. A sign-up sheet went around for volunteers to work at the booth.

The Tucson Folk Festival is being held at Presidio Park, Downtown Tucson the weekend of May 2-3 and it looks like our group will have a booth at the festival. If you are interested in volunteering to help work at the booth make sure you get your name on the sign-up sheet.

4:20 (WORLDWIDE MARIJUANA MARCH) IS ALMOST HERE

Michelle gave a brief update on the crafts session to make signs and buttons being held on Sunday, March 22 at the Himmel Branch Library. The library has a great space to use for meetings and they are open to music being played and crafts being made. In other news on the March to be held April 20th, a press release has gone out and several radio stations have shown interest in publicizing the event.

Cheba Hut is going to be book a band to play and an inside scoop you've heard it here is *Vineyard* is set to rock the house. Steve the owner of Cheba Hut has indicated he'll give 10% back to our chapter in proceeds in food sales when people mention AZ4NORML when they place their order.

The flyers and handbills for the March were shown off and they elicited quite a few oohs and aahs from the peanut gallery. The Phoenix chapter (Free420arizona) is holding their Worldwide Marijuana March on Saturday, May 2 and a sign-up sheet was passed around to gauge interest for a van pool to go up to Phoenix.

TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADERSHIP MEETING

Everyone is invited to attend leadership meetings, which are used to determine the direction of our chapter. The meetings are bi-monthly and are held Thursdays at 3:00 p.m. in the council office meeting room of Nina Trasoff. Let Jon know if you want to attend a meeting which are also open to the public.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The 2010 medical marijuana ballot initiative being shepherded by MPP (Marijuana Policy Project) is in final draft form and will be available soon

for everyone to read. A summary of the initiative will be put together and disseminated as soon as the final version is available. Folks interested in making extra money can sign up through MPP to gather signatures at \$1.00 per valid signature. A brief discussion was held on the history of medical marijuana initiatives in Arizona .

On the good news front, Eric Holder the current Attorney General has announced that the DEA will no longer raid medical marijuana dispensaries. Nothing has been put on paper to make this official policy but at least this is a change from the previous stance of the federal government to raid dispensaries with a gusto.

ADVOCACY EFFORTS

The local news media has been covering more stories involving cannabis and one of our members, Karl Borgwardt was interviewed for a short piece on the local TV station KOLD News - Channel 13. Karl overall thought it was a good piece even if the media tends to pick out sound bites and not cover the story in detail.

If we want to make changes to the system there are ways as individuals we can effectively make our case. Write letters to the editor, volunteer to work a booth, write to your Congressman and continue to raise awareness in the community.

UNITED WE STAND

Jon introduced John Pilka who is visiting from Washington, D.C. to talk about the community efforts to effect change. Upcoming in D.C. is the 40th annual Smoke-In where people will start off their event in front of the White House.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Doug Benson the filmmaker behind the stoner documentary *Super High Me* will be at the Rialto on April 25th. They'll be an opportunity to work a booth at this event.

NEXT MEETING

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 18th at 3:00 p.m. for our next meeting. This will be our last meeting before the Worldwide Marijuana March so try and make this one.

LINKS GLORIOUS LINKS

Arizona Medical Marijuana Policy Project (AMMPP)

<http://www.stoparrestingpatients.org/>

KMFA Day (April 25, 2009)

<http://www.kfma.com/KFMADAY.php>

KOLD News 13 Video

<http://www.kold.com/Global/story.asp?s=10033195>

Rialto Theatre

<http://www.rialtotheatre.com/>

Smoke-In

<http://www.smoke-in.org/drupal/>

Worldwide Marijuana March

http://cannabis.wikia.com/wiki/Global_Marijuana_March_2009

Submitted 4/01/09 mbg