



AZ4NORMML May 2009 ~ Meeting Minutes

We met in a larger meeting room over at Nina Trasoff's council office for the first time and it's nice to be able to have a bigger space to accommodate our growing membership. Some large tables were set up to showcase the nice spread of items that have been donated for the first ever AZ4NORMML raffle.

Treasurer's Report

After paying our expenses, our chapter has \$265.00 in our bank account. We are well stocked with merchandise for the next few months so hopefully our bank account will continue to grow.

Medical Marijuana Initiative

The Marijuana Policy Project (MPP) finally has finalized the language for the 2010 ballot initiative for medical marijuana in Arizona. Overall it's a very decent bill and the next year will be an all out-effort to secure enough signatures to have this on the November 2010 ballot. MPP is paying \$1.00 per signature collected and Andrew from MPP will be in Tucson on Thursday, November 21 at Bentley's to train people on how to collect signatures.

The proposed initiative is twelve pages long and a brief summary is attached which was compiled by Michelle the Chapter Secretary. A link to the Arizona Medical Marijuana Policy Project is at the end of these minutes in the web links section.

The goal of MPP is to collect well over the 153,365 valid signatures needed to get the initiative on the ballot.

We Put the Fun in Fundraising

A wide array of raffle items were on display at the meeting and folks still had an opportunity for to pay raffle tickets before the drawing which was held at the conclusion of Saturday's meeting. Besides buying raffle tickets members can support AZ4NORMML by buying chapter T-shirts for \$15.00 each.

Our merchandise sales at community events have been pretty successful with KFMA Day resulting in sales of over \$1,700. The funds raised are used to pay for entry into community events, insurance and merchandise. During April, the chapter was also

represented at the Tucson Folk Festival which had a very positive response from the attendees.

Cheba Hut donated \$100 to our chapter which represented a portion of the proceeds from their sales following the 4/20 March.

There was a discussion to approach Planet Jam a local rock group to perform a benefit concert for our chapter. Planet Jam has done benefit concerts in the past to help other groups and this seems like a good fit for AZ4NORML.

Future Events

Tucson Blues Festival – Sunday, October 18, 2009 at Reid Park.

Nam Jam – Saturday, November 7, 2009 at Kennedy Park.

4th Ave. Street Fair – December 11-13, 2009 (presently we're on the waiting list)

Volunteering to help work the AZ4NORML booth is way to help our chapter. If you do decide to sign up to work a booth please be responsible and show up and work the hours you have scheduled. If there's an emergency it is a courtesy to others to let the volunteer coordinator for the event know you won't make it.

Development and the Grants Game

Michelle B. Graye and Tom Mazza attended a grants workshop put on by the Pima County Public Library. As a result of attending this workshop, Michelle is putting together a committee to pursue applying for grants.

Michelle has a few ideas for projects and if anyone wants to join the committee and learn about the mysterious world of grants just let Michelle know and you're in! Contact Michelle by email at indexing@yahoo.com.

Changes we can make on the local level

Some members of the leadership team met recently with representatives from the Tucson Green Party. At the meeting it was determined to pursue a local initiative setting marijuana arrests as the lowest policy priority. You need approximately 9,500 valid signatures to have this up for vote by the public in a city election.. Jon Gettel our chapter president will write the wording for the proposed bill and we'll collect signatures to have this up for a vote for the 2010 city election.

With finite resources available in this current economy this seems to be an avenue that will be receptive to the public. Seattle has a policy in place that was voted on in 2003 that could serve as our model.

Our chapter could also explore a similar local initiative for Pima County.

Speaker's Bureau

There is a renewed interest in the media with the ballot initiative on medical marijuana and chapter might want to start bringing in speakers to discuss the various issues with the community. Some names suggested:

Bud Foster ~ reporter for local news station KOLD13.

Mark Victor ~ former judge and attorney in Phoenix who is an advocate for marijuana legalization.

Richard Mack ~ former sheriff and LEAP member who lives in Safford and is available to speak at public forums.

Andrew Weil ~ local author/physician who has written lots of articles about marijuana.

Hosting discussion forums at our monthly meeting space or one of the meeting rooms at the Pima County Public Library.

It's Raffle Time

The long awaited picking of the raffle winners was held and several people were present to pick up their swag. Some pretty impressive artwork and bling were in the raffle and next year's will be even bigger and better.

Mark Your Calendars for our June Meeting

The next meeting for AZ4NORML will be Saturday, June 20, 2009 at the council offices of Nina Trasoff. Free and open to the public.

Web Links

Arizona Medical Marijuana initiative:

<http://stoparrestingpatients.org/>

Nam Jam

http://www.tucsonnamvets.org/namjam_07.htm

Tucson Blues Festival

<http://www.azblues.org/Festival.html>

4th Avenue Street Fair

<http://www.fourthavenue.org/fairs/general-information/>