

MILEGALIZE/CRMCA

⊛ Polo Fields - First Speech of First Big MILEgalize Fundraiser - Where Kevin stood up with \$100K ball (MILEgalize) was born (1)

Hi, my name is Chuck Ream, and I am so happy, and joyful to be here with you tonight, to be with my brothers and sisters in our fight for freedom. Against this brutal system all of you have somehow survived, and even succeeded, and now you will put up your very hard earned dollars to fight for the full acceptance of our miracle plant, and for the full access to its benefits for all. I am deeply honored to be in your presence.

With this dinner we have already made history! We now have the resources to kick off our petition campaign, which is going to go viral, and create the first grassroots statewide victory ever seen in the Cannabis movement. We have the best and most complete statewide cannabis initiative ever, all aspects of cannabis law will be vastly improved, 1) medical, 2) legalization with regulation, and legal hemp farming.

We began work February 3rd, now we have an extraordinary board, which was elected in March by a democratic voting at a large meeting of Michigan cannabis activists. These are smart, dedicated people, giving up a big chunk of their lives. We already have around 700 volunteer petitioners. Our professional campaign manager works full time now, and already has the new website up.

We must never forget that prohibition and drug war are the human rights struggle of our time, the defining struggle about whether people in the future will be free, since we know that the basis of all freedom is to be in control of your own body and mind, and certainly Americans have an obvious constitutional right to use any natural plant. Thomas Jefferson said "If people let the government decide what foods they eat and what medicines they take, their bodies will soon be in as sorry a shape as are the souls of those who live under tyranny." There used to be great social evils like slavery, child labor, and the ownership of women. Great activists like us ended these evils, and now they are remembered with shame. The end of the great evil of cannabis prohibition begins in Michigan tonight, and it will be remembered as a horrible home grown American human rights disaster...20 million of our people have been arrested since I was in college.

Tonight we are creating the beginning of real political power for the independent cannabis movement in Michigan. With the news of this initial bankroll more people, including really big donors, will give. We absolutely can win this.

It is true that no independent statewide cannabis movement has ever succeeded; but it is even more powerfully true that we have a huge base of patients and caregivers and cannabis businesses already present in Michigan, and if we will hold our head high and fight back with competence and righteousness, the average Michigan voter will vote with MILEgalize. They will see right through the "Responsibility" ruse of both groups of Oakland county Republican financiers. We will see to it that all of our efforts, and the 63% yes vote for medical in 2008, are NOT usurped by money managers who know nearly nothing about cannabis. I can't guarantee we will win, but I guarantee this to you tonight: if we continue to show political power, if we have enthusiastic people willing to get signatures free or for a dollar, and we can continue to get money to pay them, then we will not lose. And, if we do get on the ballot in this David and Goliath struggle, which really is about American values, we will win. Voters are sick of being lied to, they don't trust either monopoly capitalists or the state legislature, they will vote

for the small business, local control model, which is MIlegalize. We can keep making things fall our way, if we really try. This is the first step, and it is an epic leap forward. I hope you

I need to introduce the great board of MIlegalize, who work so hard every day for you and for all of Michigan's people. Our thirteen member board has 5 attorneys, and we don't hold that against them at all – we are so fortunate that they are with us.

We are led by Jeff Hank, our marvelous Executive Director. He is extraordinarily talented, and has given up much of his life for this effort. Then, alphabetically, we are

Matt Abel, activist attorney and head of Michigan NORML

Josh Covert, a brilliant activist attorney, and

Tom Lavigne, another brilliant activist attorney

Jamie Lowell, started Michigan's first dispensary, head of Michigan chapter of Americans for Safe Access

Jim Powers, a champion of the use of cannabis medicine for children, Head of _____

Chuck Ream, Executive Director, Safer Michigan Coalition

David Rudoi, another brilliant activist attorney

Josie Scoggin, head of Sons and Daughters United, and a full time campaign worker

Steve Sharpe, MINORML board, and effective Hemp lobbyist in the legislature

Rick Thompson, our veteran media relations guru

Debra Young, great organizer and petitioner. Just Debra and Andrew Cissell, (is Andrew here?), *got all the signatures and won 5 Oakland county cities* for legalization last year!, and

Nick Zettell, our guitar soloist, former head of the University of Michigan Students for Sensible Drug Policy, director of the Hash Bash.

We will continue to work very hard, and we will need your continued support!

Thanks so very much for coming, now it is time to begin our excellent program for this evening.

Rep. Irwin..Around these parts we are so proud of him - he is astoundingly talented and charismatic, and he does EXACTLY what his constituents want him to do. He is truly a great man, and when he runs for governor we will be there for him. Please let me introduce the magnificent Jeff Irwin!

& board.

How far we have come in Michigan in a dozen years, and

Human rights struggle of our time, there was Slavery, and subjugation of women, and child labor – each was ended by a long and righteous moral and political struggle.

Now we are nearing victory, but anyone who takes for granted that things will turn out well is a babe in the woods. State by state political power will determine what happens with cannabis.

People who don't want to do the hard work or contribute tell me, "It is impossible, It can't be done", and I try not to get mad, and I ask them " So is it a strategy to give up before the whole process starts? In this hard knocks world, where do you think that strategy will take us. I'll tell you where, it would leave common people and patients screwed, and the superrich with more money. Already our strength have caused both the MRC and MCC to change their petition language.

Recognize board

Encourage networking Please introduce yourself to someone you don't know, or form an interest group or committee that can meet after the meeting

Collect complete contact information