

My Hat is in the Ring

**Compassion & Conscientious
Elect a Registered Nurse
& Legal Nurse Consultant**



Lanny Swerdlow



**San Gorgonio Memorial
Health Care District**

Vote for the RN/LNC on your November ballot of lannyrn@mail.com

I couldn't think of a better place to make my formal announcement of my run for public office than in the pages of MAPP's MarijuanaNews.org newsletter – so here it is.



I am running for a position on the Board of Director's of the San Gorgonio Memorial Health Care District which oversees the operation of the San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital and associated facilities in Banning, Beaumont, Cabazon, Cherry Valley and Whitewater. I am doing so at the urging of a significant number of local community residents, Pass Democratic Club members and quite a few folks who have been urging me to run for some kind of public office for years.

I have chosen to run for the Board of Director's of the San Gorgonio Memorial Health Care District because:

- A. I live in Whitewater which is in the San Gorgonio Health Care District
- B. I am concerned about the quality of health care in my community
- C. As a registered nurse and a legal nurse consultant, I am professionally qualified for this position.

Let me be very clear, marijuana has nothing to do with my running for this position. Although I may be one of the most active and I hope articulate advocates for marijuana law reform in the IE, those who know me recognize that I have a wide range of interests and perspectives on a cornucopia of issues from the economy to the environment to equality.

As a nurse, one of those issues has always been health care. Like no one in this country should starve to death for lack of food, no one should die because of the unavailability of health care. I fully believe that competent health care is a right and should not be denied based on whether a person has the money to pay for it.

"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."

- Martin Luther King Jr.

That's a tall order and although I am not likely to have much effect on the issue of quality affordable healthcare on the national level, I can on the local level. I can do this by using my professional health care knowledge coupled with the political acumen I have acquired over the years to help the San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital, the only local hospital in my community, provide competent, quality and affordable health care that is second to none.

Let me make it very clear a second time - no way will I be trying to get marijuana into our local hospital. The San Geronio Memorial Hospital receives millions of dollars of federal money ever year from Medicare to outright grants. Due to the continuance of reefer-madness ideology and the power of federal police agencies, this money would be at risk. This is an intolerable and untenable position and I would never want the hospital in that position.

That doesn't mean marijuana doesn't have a role here – it does but not directly. With national opinion polls showing upwards of 89% of Americans supporting the use of marijuana medically and California and eight other states legalizing marijuana both medically and for adult-use, it is now a subject that dares to speak its name.



It is a subject that comes up for discussion often and in a variety of ways. One of the most important ways is in the field of health and being a member of the Board of Director's of the San Geronio Memorial Health Care District would put me into contact with people who need to learn of those benefits.

One of the most important benefits of marijuana that is seldom discussed is its use in the hospital setting. No better example can be found then in a hospital's cardiac unit, where I worked as a nurse. Having problems with their hearts, patients are anxious and stressed which is the last thing heart patients should be experiencing. Unfortunately the treatment for anxiety and stress is often anti-anxiety, anti-psychotic and anti-insomnia meds.



Much better would be for them to have a vaporizer at their bed side. Whenever they felt anxious or stressed, they could safely inhale cannabis vapor and calm down, relax and sleep peacefully. Not only would the use of marijuana relieve them of the anxiety that comes from having serious heart problems without the use of prescription pharmaceuticals, it would at the same time help them feel better as feeling better is the major side effect of marijuana use.

This would also apply to patients in the hospital suffering from chronic pain and nausea. With the many bills in Congress seeking to allow states to pursue marijuana legalization free of federal interference and even remove marijuana from the Schedule of Controlled Substances, it is time that this discussion on the local level begins so that when these bills pass, the compassionate and essential use of marijuana in the hospital setting can begin as quickly as possible.

OK – if you agree with the above and think that I might indeed be the perfect fit for this position, then you can help make it happen.

I really don't need much money. I am not filing for a FPPC number which means I cannot spend more than \$2000 on the campaign. I can use some donations, but I will not be dialing-for-dollars, but if you would like to help fund me a bit, that would be great. Make your checks out to Lanny Swerdlow and send them to PO Box 918, Cabazon CA 92230.



More importantly I need your time to help get the word out about my candidacy. If you can contribute a couple hours a week or a couple hours a day or whatever, I would be sincerely appreciative. There are several ways you can help:



Phone banking – this is done from the comfort of your home. I will provide you with a script to phone people about my candidacy. This phone list is comprised of high propensity voters who are selected as being likely to be supportive of my candidacy so you really are not calling to convince but calling to let them know about me. This is truly a *come-as-you-are* volunteer opportunity and one of the most important ways to secure my election.

Distributing flyers and cards – This consists of going to stores and public places mainly in the cities of Banning and Beaumont and posting signs and handing out cards about my candidacy.

Sign waving – This consists of standing at busy intersections in Banning and Beaumont with signs about my candidacy. Waving signs while horns are honking can be a lot of fun.

This is about as basic a grass-roots local political action as you can experience. Marijuana consumers need to be involved in their communities if we are going to truly and irrevocably secure our rights to the safe, reliable, local and affordable access to marijuana. This is one way you can effectively achieve this goal on the local level. Please consider helping me by sending an email to lannyswerdlown@yahoo.com or calling me at 760-799-2055. Thanks!!!

