
The Free Press

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A totally unofficial newspaper of libertarian activities around New York State

CDLP Convention Coming Up, Too

■ Meetings move to Wednesday nights

The Capital District Libertarian Party will hold its annual convention at the Branch Restaurant at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, April 9. The Branch is located on Maiden Lane in Albany. The chapter will elect officers for the next year and endorse candidates for public office.

This will be the last meeting that CDLP will have on Tuesdays. Starting in May the meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of each month. The meeting in May will be on May 8.

For questions call Jeff Russell at (518) 371-3641.

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LPNY Convention Shaping Up

The Libertarian Party of New York will hold its 1996 annual convention at the White Plains Hotel in White Plains, New York. The convention will be held on Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28. Among those scheduled to appear at the convention are presidential candidate Irwin Schiff and Bill Winter, LP Director of Communications.

All members of LPNY are eligible to attend the business meetings of the convention and vote on any issues that may come up. The convention will elect next year's state committee, consider changes to LPNY bylaws and elect delegates to the national convention to be held in Washington, DC in July.

Registration will be at 9:00

AM on Saturday. The business meeting will begin at 9:30.

Rooms for the convention are available at the Carlton Holiday Inn at Crown Plaza. This is about two blocks from the White Plains Hotel. For room reservations call (914) 682-0050.

The cost of the convention is \$60 in advance, \$70 at the door. Make checks payable to LPNY and mail them to Jim Harris at PO Box 1036, Rockville Centre, NY 11571 by April 15. The bylaws state that to vote at the convention your dues must be in 15 days prior to the convention. This rule has normally been waived in the past, but just to be safe make sure your dues have been paid or else include a check for your dues along with your check for the convention.

Brooklyn Chapter Formed, Or Was It?

A new local chapter of LPNY has been formed in Brooklyn, but its future is already in doubt, and a second group under new leadership may be formed to replace it. The chapter was formed under the leadership of Andre Soleil and held its first organizational meeting on February 2. Officers were elected

and bylaws were adopted at this meeting. Soleil was elected chair, Walter Mosely was elected vice-chair, Juliet Sears was elected secretary, Robert Weintraub was elected treasurer and Maurice Phillips was elected as representative to the state

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Project Better Schools by Robert Goodman

The 1995 Libertarian Party of New York state convention authorized a committee which I conceived. Dubbed by member Audrey C. Pappaeliou the "Project for Better Schools" (PBS), it's an attempt to influence school board elections around the state in a libertarian direction in 1996 and possibly beyond. We were to develop a questionnaire allowing us to find candidates for election to boards who wished to make education more libertarian. This is similar to the m.o. of the Christian Coalition.

First we researched the practical powers of elected school boards in New York. The education law theoretically makes boards of education plenipotent over public (government-run) schools, and elected school boards have the power of an enormous aggregate purse. However, impositions by appointed state and city boards of education, other state and federal edicts, and collective bargaining agreements considerably hem in elected boards. Therefore we decided radical changes were beyond PBS's mission, and concentrated on reforms. Still, we considered the possibility that boards of education and their members could act in an advisory capacity, with more influence than the average person, in persuading higher levels of government to adopt or authorize

changes.

Unlike the Christian Coalition's our questionnaire was to be designed to allow clear-cut choices for endorsements. We'd generate no more than 3 questions with simple binary choices, such that a candidate who gave the "correct" answer to all should receive our endorsement. We would design our questionnaire to be difficult for someone to guess all the "correct" answers; that's also the reason we adopted the

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inoffensive name, Project for Better Schools--we didn't want to attract false friends. Our carefully worded questions were to be applicable throughout the state, regardless of local circumstances, although we considered the possibility of one or more separate questions for New York City.

Here's the questionnaire Jim Harris, Audrey and I devised:

"Agree or disagree?:"

"1. It is impossible to have tolerance for various races, beliefs, and lifestyles, unless acceptance of those races, beliefs and lifestyles is taught.

"2. The local school district should make available to all who inquire the brochures from all public, private, and parochial

schools, and describing home schooling options.

"3. The Board of Regents should allow us to privatize some educational functions."

The answers we seek are disagree, agree and agree, respectively. Space does not allow discussion here of all we went through before deciding on these questions.

Elections are in the spring, as early as March or as late as June, determined locally. We urge you, in your local LP chapter, to send

this questionnaire to candidates for your school boards. Get the candidates' names and addresses from your board of elections or board of education. While you may publicize the answers each respondent gives

(as does the Christian Coalition), we also urge your local LP to officially endorse and work for the election of candidates who answer correctly. Remember, unlike many of the races we run in, school board elections are winnable.

The convention directly authorized the Project for Better Schools to give LP's endorsements to candidates selected by this process in places where the LP doesn't have a local chapter. I will be doing so in the Bronx; New York City's community school boards hold elections only once in 3 years.

We should soon have good news: election of LPNY endorsees to school boards.

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committee.

The organization presented LPNY with checks for 27 state memberships, and at the last state committee meeting on March 2, they asked to be officially recognized as a local chapter.

The problems began shortly thereafter. Two of the checks, totalling over \$100, bounced. Four other checks had stop payments issued against them. According to Phillips, the individuals who stopped payment on their checks did so because they were not happy with the way the February 2 meeting was conducted. The crux of the problem involves 8 members who were not present at that meeting but who were allowed to vote by proxy.

Soleil said that at the February meeting he asked if there were any objections to the proxies and there were none. He added that any objection to the proxies should have been voiced at the meeting. He also said that the Brooklyn chapter will make good on all charges incurred by LPNY for the bad checks, but according to LPNY treasurer Audrey Capozzi-Pappaoliou, he had not done so as of March 31.

The opposition to Soleil is being led by Phillips who has resigned his position as state committee representative. Phillips said four more people wanted to stop payment but couldn't because they had paid their dues with money orders.

Several members of the state

LPNY Convention Schedule

Saturday April 27

- 9 AM Registration
- 9:30 Opening Agenda
 - Chair reports on 98 Counts
 - Vote on 98 Counts
- 10:30 By-laws
- 12:00 Lunch (with speaker Bill Winters)
- 1:30 Nomination of party officers
- 2:00 Election of party officers
- 3:00 Organizational Planning for '96 - '97

Sunday April 28

- 9:30 Greetings
 - Introduction to national
 - Nomination of delegates to national
- 10:30 Brunch
- 1:00 Continuation of selecting national delegates
- 1:30 Election of state officers
- 2:30 National delegates elect a chair and secretary
- 3:00 New state committee meets

committee have stated that recognition of the Brooklyn chapter should be revoked since many of the individuals who participated at the meeting were not dues paying members of LPNY.

Phillips indicated that he and 11 of the others who were at the first meeting are interested in forming a new group if the first group is dissolved.

Soleil and Phillips are also officers in the Kings County African-American Alliance, and are currently engaged in a lawsuit against each other over their involvement in that organization.

Browne Speaks In Buffalo

Harry Browne visited Buffalo on March 28 and spoke to a group of about 35 libertarians at the Holiday Inn in Amherst. Browne spoke for about an hour, then answered questions for another half hour. Browne said that philosophically, there is no difference between him and the other candidates who seek the Libertarian nomination. He believes that he should get the nomination because he can get the most votes in November.

LI Convention

by Audrey Capozzi-Pappaeliou

The Jolly Swagman Inn was the setting for the first joint convention of the Long Island LP chapters on Saturday, March 30. About 40 activists, including guests, enjoyed the luncheon meeting at 100 W. Nicholai Street--a short walk from the LIRR station and convenient to the LIE, Northern and Southern State Parkways.

Jo Jorgensen spoke to the assemblage after being interviewed, along with Bob Schulz, for a weekly hour long local cable TV show, *Democracy in Crisis*. Jo gave a rousing speech and fielded questions

professionally.

Bob Schulz, ACTA head and the LP gubernatorial candidate, spoke at length and in detail about revising the New York State Constitution and litigation regarding ballot access laws. One of his best lines was would you prefer "the calm seas of despotism to the boisterous seas of liberty?"

Raymond Keating, author, economist, and small business promoter, spoke on such issues as the flat tax, downsizing government, abolishing the SBA, corporate welfare, free trade, term limits and immigration.

Mike Strong, Independent candidate for NY's first congressional district, spoke about his run for office.

Blay Tarnoff, LPNY Chair, spoke of

the accomplishments and organizational improvements, OPH booths, the upcoming elections and asked for continued support.

Mark Tuniewicz, LP NatCom candidate, sent his literature for distribution since he had a conflict in his schedule. He promised to be at the LPNY state convention.

Gail and Jack Bova both spoke on local organizational issues and I spoke about the *Project for Better Schools*. (Please call Robert Goodman or me for more information on the important, topical project and get involved for a short time. School board elections are coming up soon and will be over by May.)

Doonesbury A Libertarian

Mike Doonesbury, the lead character in the popular comic strip "Doonesbury", has proclaimed himself a libertarian. Doonesbury is a 1960's hippie who's reached middle age. He'd always supported liberal Democrats until 1994 when he admitted voting Republican. "I'm a Rockefeller Republican," he told his shocked friends.

This time around, he's been supporting Steve Forbes, and in the strip that ran on March 12, he tells his girlfriend that Forbes is "one of us. He's a core libertarian geek." While members of the LP may argue about whether Forbes and Doonesbury are really libertarians, the fact that he even used the word is a major breakthrough. Doonesbury is read daily by millions of people.

The strip is drawn by Garry Trudeau.

