
The Free Press

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of New York

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A totally unofficial newspaper of libertarian activities around New York State

Libertarians Running in Essex County

There will be two candidates in New York State running on the Libertarian line this year. Frederick Balzac and Kathleen Recchia, a husband-wife team, are running in the town of Jay in Essex County. Jay is located near North Pole and Santa's Workshop about half way between Lake Placid and the Vermont border. Fred is running for Town Supervisor and Kathy is running for Town Councilman. Fred will also be listed on the ballot as a Democrat. Kathy ran in the Republican primary but finished 3rd in a 3-way race. Both are seeking public office for the first time.

There are 4 seats on the Town

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State Committee Meets

■ Treasury Low; Membership Low

The State Committee of the Libertarian Party of New York held its quarterly meeting on Saturday, September 9th at the Sloatsburg service area on the New York State Thruway. The following 12 members were present at the meeting: Blay Tarnoff (Chair), Dottie-Lou Brokaw (Vice-Chair), Jim Harris (Vice-Chair), Lloyd Wright (Secretary), Audrey Capozzi-Pappaeliou (Treasurer), Robert Goodman (At Large), Eric Gruber (At Large), Dave Harnett (At Large), Alan Markopolis (New York), Vincent O'Neill (Nassau), James LaBarre (Westchester/Rockland) and Jeffrey Russell (Capital District).

Treasury Low

Audrey Capozzi-Pappaeliou reported that the treasury had a starting balance of \$6,496.82 and a closing balance of \$2,126.06 as of 8/28/95. The two biggest payments during the quarter were \$1846.47 to Jim Harris for the March/April issues of *Free New York* and \$1455.18 to Dottie-Lou Brokaw for campaign expenses.

Of the \$2,126.06 remaining in the treasury, \$500 is earmarked

for the development of county chapters; another \$340 is money from the New York City treasury that is being held in escrow for any new county chapters that may be formed in Richmond, Brooklyn or the Bronx. New York County has already been paid \$688.50 and Queens county has already been paid \$242.25. This leaves LPNY with working capital of less than \$1300.

Membership Low

Most state members have not renewed their membership for 1995 yet. Fewer than 100 state members have renewed so far this year. Because of the Howard Stern publicity, membership last year hit an all time high of 688. Prior to that, it had been around 400.

A fund-raising letter has been prepared and will be sent with the next issue of *Free New York*, which is scheduled to be mailed on September 30th. This mailing will go to LPNY's full mailing list of 3300 names. These names include LPNY members, national members and people who have called the 800 number asking for information. The fund-raising letter urges people to join both the state and national parties. LPNY gets \$5 for all national

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State Committee

members who join through the state.

National Membership Up

The number of New Yorkers who are members of the national party has gone up during 1995. At the start of 1995, there were 417 members of the national party in New York State. As of June 1995, there were 489 members of the national party in New York State. This makes New York the 6th largest state party behind California, Pennsylvania, Texas, Michigan and Florida. The number of national members in New York as of 12/31/95 will determine the number of representatives that LPNY will be entitled to at the 1996 national convention. The entire national party has grown during 1995. New York ranks 9th in percentage growth for the year.

By January 1996, national wants a list of people interested in working on the platform, bylaws and credentials committees at the 1996 national convention.

ED/AD

The 2nd Surrogate Court overturned a decision by federal Judge Con Cholakis which prohibited the state from requiring election districts and assembly districts for each voter who signs a petition. In overturning Cholakis' decision, the court reasoned that since the state was in the process of computerizing all of its election records, determining ED and AD

for each voter was not an undue burden. However, in last year's budget, the state legislature did not include money to continue computerizing the records.

Article 7

The State Committee passed a resolution to support Bob Schulz in his lawsuit to stop the state from amending article 7 of the state constitution. Article 7 strictly limits the state's ability to borrow money without voter approval. The proposed amendment greatly expands the state's ability to borrow without voter approval and sets no limits on how much can be borrowed.

Quorums

LPNY bylaws require that the State Committee have half of its members present to have a quorum. The last two meetings have just barely made it. The official size of the State Committee is currently 22 members. These are the 10 officers who are elected at the state convention, the past chair, and 1 representative from each of the 11 officially recognized local chapters.

Some of the local chapters are not active and have no representative to send. At what point should the State Committee consider them defunct?

Video Ordered

The State Committee voted to order a copy of the video "An Evening With the Presidents". The video is an interview with 5 of the 6 candidates who have received the LP presidential nomination. The video is broadcast quality and will be made available to local groups

that want to show it on public access channels. Regular VHS copies of the tape can be obtained from Project Flex, 18627 Brookhurst Street, #114, Fountain Valley, CA, 92708. The cost is \$24.95 plus \$3 s&h.

Upcoming Meetings

The next two meetings of the State Committee are scheduled for 11:00 AM on December 2nd and March 2nd at the Sloatsburg service area on the New York State Thruway. The meeting room is upstairs. Call Lloyd Wright at (914) 452-8633 for directions.

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Libertarians Running

Council altogether. They are 4 year terms and 2 of them are up for election this year. Town Supervisor is a 2 year term. Kathy will be in a 5-way race running against 2 Democrats and 2 Republicans. Fred will be in a 2-way race against the incumbent Town Supervisor. Jay has a voting population of about 1500 that is split about 7 to 5 in favor of the Republicans. The current Supervisor ran unopposed 2 years ago and got 900 votes.

Kathy and Fred moved to Jay in 1992 and run a bed and breakfast there called The Book and Blanket. The biggest local issue in Jay involves building a new bridge versus repairing the old one. "I think that if we can get the Libertarian message out to the voters of Jay, they'll be very receptive to it," Fred said.

Harry Browne in CityVote

■ Two New York cities among 20 that will participate

Harry Browne, one of the candidates who is seeking the LP nomination for president in 1996, will be included on the ballot in CityVote this November 7th.

CityVote is the brainchild of Larry Agran, former mayor of Irvine, California. Agran felt that presidential candidates were spending too much time addressing the rural problems of Iowa and New Hampshire and devised CityVote as a means of drawing attention to urban problems. It is a non-binding presidential preference vote that will be held in 20 cities across the United States. There are no convention delegates at stake.

2 NY Cities to Participate

Two cities in New York State will be participating in CityVote. Rochester and Greenburgh will be 2 of the 20. Some of the other cities are Baltimore, Boston, Boulder, Minneapolis, Newark and Pasadena. The 20 participating cities have a combined population of over 3.8 million.

Rochester has a population of over 230,000. It is the third largest city in New York and the 66th largest in the country. Greenburgh has a population of 83,000 and is located just northwest of White Plains.

Over 20 presidential

candidates will be included on the CityVote ballot. Some of the other candidates who will be on the ballot with Browne are: Lamar Alexander, Pat Buchanan, Bill Clinton, Bob Dole, Phil Gramm, Ross Perot and Colin Powell. The organizers of CityVote included all candidates who they felt were capable of organizing a nationally significant campaign for the presidency.

Debates Scheduled

In addition to being on the ballot, Browne will also be participating in 3 debates that are scheduled. The debates which will be nationally televised are scheduled for October 6th in Minneapolis, October 22nd in Pasadena and November 5th in Boston. All the candidates who are listed on the ballot have been invited to the debates. Walter Cronkite will act as Honorary Chair of the debates. This is the first time that a Libertarian candidate for president will participate in a debate with Democrats and Republicans.

Browne Targets 3 Cities

Browne has decided to concentrate his campaign efforts in 3 of the cities: Boulder, Colorado, Tucson, Arizona and Fayette, Missouri. The last two LP presidential candidates did well in Boulder and Tucson, and both cities have strong local organizations. Fayette, population 2,888, is the smallest of all the cities participating in

CityVote. Civic leaders in Fayette have been writing to all candidates asking them to campaign there. Browne feels that if he puts in enough time campaigning there, he can score an upset win, like Andre Marrou did in Dixville Notch, New Hampshire in 1992.

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Letter to the Editor

The 1994 annual convention of the Libertarian Party of New York (LPNY) was attended by hundreds of members. The 1995 annual convention was attended by dozens of members. The number of dozens was less than the number of hundreds. At the banquet at the 1995 annual convention, Rick Wolff proposed a toast that the 1995 convention be the smallest LPNY convention ever. That will be true if and only if the party dies without having another convention.

The LPNY's elder statesmen (an elder statesman is herein defined as a person of either gender who has been a member of LPNY longer than I have. I became a member when Northrup was running for Governor.) tell me that LPNY was strong and vibrant during the Clark-Koch and Northrup campaigns. I can testify that there was life during the Bergland-Lewis campaign. Since then, LPNY has been on the respirator.

The recommended therapy in 1994 was a sort of shock therapy. The patient hasn't returned to vibrance. It hasn't recovered from the shock. It may never.

The therapy, advocated by one of the elder statesmen, was delivered in the form of shock jock Howard Stern. The Party of Principle would temporarily be the party of populism, for the sake of gaining ballot status, until the vital signs would be restored to something better than the early 80's levels. It would then return to principles with a whole new

young cadre of supporters.

Without affixing blame, the therapy didn't work. Some people of principle were critical of the therapy and acted accordingly. Then, when Mr. Stern graciously bowed out, so did the new young cadre. They may have bowed out before, maybe not graciously. Even a stand-in as excellent as Robert Schulz could not bring LPNY the votes needed to achieve ballot status.

But something else also happened. Two new parties achieved ballot status--neither one of them with an ounce of principle. At the joint convention of the New York Chapter and Westchester-Rockland Chapter, the same elder statesman who advocated shock therapy, suggested that LPNY members and other libertarians join the Independence Party or the Tax Cut Now Party. Since these parties were now on the ballot and probably had low registrations, principled people could more easily access the ballot by running as candidates of these principle-less vehicles.

I have joined the Tax Cut Now Party and was briefly considered as a candidate of the Independence Party. An elder statesman is running as a candidate of both for Town Clerk. Others may be following this path.

If libertarians can find a home in either of these two parties, and if the parties can remain on the ballot, LPNY is superfluous and has no reason for living. May it rest in peace.

Bob Gustafson
Greenburgh

Queens County Meetings

The Libertarian Party of Queens County holds its meetings on the second Saturday of each month from 11 AM to 2 PM at Shaheen Restaurant, 72-09 Broadway, Jackson Heights (near the 74th St./Roosevelt Ave. subway stop). The topic for the October 14th meeting is "The Libertarian Guide to Balancing the Budget." The topic for the November 11th meeting is "The '94 Election Revisited---Reflections on Stern, Pataki & the GOP." Admission is free.

A sample newsletter will be sent upon request. They can be contacted by mail at LPQC, 161-09 29th Avenue, Flushing, NY 11358 or e-mail at LibertyNY@aol.com or phone (718) 670-3270.

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