

The Free Press

February 1996

of New York

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A totally unofficial newspaper of libertarian activities around New York State

OPH Booths In Suffolk and NYC

LPNY members in Suffolk and NYC have held a total of six Operation Politically Homeless booths in the last two months. Four have been held at the Long Island Gun and Knife Show in Brentwood, one was held at Grand Central Terminal and one was held at LaGuardia Airport. A seventh booth is scheduled for February 24. It will also be held at Grand Central Terminal.

Jim Harris, Audrey Capozzi-Pappaeliou, Gail Bova, Jack Bova, Barry Loberfield, Vinny O'Brien, Blay Tarnoff, John Clifton, Robert Goodman, Jim Strawhorne, Brad Arter and Dan Medbury passed out copies of the World's Smallest Political Quiz to

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To Contact

The Free Press

US Mail: Jeffrey Russell
55 Via Da Vinci
Clifton Park, NY 12065

Phone: (518) 373-8002 Box 776

E-Mail: JRuss1776@aol.com

Fax: (518) 371-3364 (but call first, normally it's not turned on)

Tuniewicz Seeks Region 6 Seat

■ Plans to focus on local campaigns

The following is a press release received from the Tuniewicz for LNC Committee.

Libertarian Party activist Mark A. Tuniewicz announced he will seek the Region 6 Representative's seat on the Libertarian National Committee, representing New York and New England. Tuniewicz, former Director of Communications for the LP of Connecticut, first registered Libertarian as a Boston College student in 1979. In September of 1995, he moderated the only debate ever held between Harry Browne, Irwin Schiff and Rick Tompkins, the Party's three presidential hopefuls.

Said Tuniewicz: "Now more than ever, our state parties need the support of an active LNC member, one who can facilitate teamwork. If elected, I will focus my efforts on state party building and local campaigning--increasing our political base as the real alternative in American politics. At the same time, I will continue to work to build a broader consensus, fostering an inclusive and educational approach to

national Libertarian politics."

A lifelong resident of the northeast, Tuniewicz served as campaign consultant to 25 Connecticut candidates in the last elections, with record-setting results. "This past year in Connecticut we fielded the largest number of candidates of any state, and finally have an elected Libertarian!" said Tuniewicz. "I have a vision that by sharing strategies and targeting our efforts at the state and local level, in a short time we can elect more Libertarians in every state in the region."

Reaction to the announced candidacy was swift and positive. "Without Mark, we wouldn't have stood a chance," noted Stanley Viens, top of the ticket of an 18-person Libertarian slate of candidates in Windham, Connecticut. "He spent many long hours with us. His coaching style kept us together and focused, but his political expertise got us energized and ultimately got results!"

LP of Connecticut Chair Carl Vassar was quick in his endorsement. "No offense to the incumbent, but Mark is the best possible choice for the LNC."

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Tuniewicz

Anyone who attended the 1995 LPCT convention which he organized (with attendees from 10 states and front-page press coverage) knows that Mark does a first-rate job. He wrote our newsletter and press releases, did door-to-door interviews--basically, all of the 'retail politics' things he espouses. Mark has done it all, and I endorse his National Committee candidacy unreservedly."

Tuniewicz plans a busy spring of campaigning. "I will meet each and every delegate from every state in the region--your input is the key to our success!" Campaign appearances are scheduled for all the state conventions in the region including the LPNY convention to be held April 27 and 28.

Recently relocated to New Hampshire, Tuniewicz has hit the ground running, writing page one stories for the influential LP New Hampshire newsletter, Libertarian Lines, and being appointed campaign coordinator for LP candidates in his area. "I'm not one of those 'armchair libertarians' who sit around debating why we still have an oppressive government," he said. "I'm helping to elect Libertarians to office--the only way we will ever achieve our goals."

For more information, write: Tuniewicz For LNC Committee, 443 Amherst St. #104, Nashua, NH 03063 or e-mail NHLiberty@aol.com

CDLP Still Pursuing Office

The Capital District Libertarian Party is continuing its efforts to obtain office space on Central Avenue in Albany. The effort is being spearheaded by CDLP member Tim Boomhower and has raised over \$100 in monthly pledges. The current goal is to obtain \$350 in monthly pledges.

Even if this goal is reached it will still be necessary to share the space with other organization(s). ACTA and Common Cause are being considered as possible partners in the venture. The NRA was being considered as a potential partner, however they have stated that it is against their policy to become directly involved with any political party.

The office is located on the second floor of 16 Central Avenue, less than one-half mile from the Capitol Building. It measures 27 feet across the front and is 40 feet deep and has a large picture window overlooking the street below.

State Committee to Meet

The State Committee of LPNY will hold its next quarterly meeting on Saturday, March 2 at 11:00 AM at the Sloatsburg service area on the NYS Thruway. The meeting room is on the second floor. All LPNY members are invited to attend. Call Lloyd Wright at (914) 339-2613 for more information.

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OPH Booths

over 400 participants. Over 100 of the quiz-takers scored in the libertarian corner of the chart. Over 80 of them left their name and address to get more information. Only six of the quiz-takers scored in the authoritarian section of the chart.

OPH Booths are available to other local chapters that want to borrow one. All you need is a card table, a place to set it up and some volunteers to staff it. Everything else is supplied. To borrow a booth, contact Blay Tarnoff at (914) 949-1945, Jim Harris at (516) 764-0973 or Jeff Russell at (518) 371-3641.

Browne on Phil Donahue Show

On January 25, Harry Browne was interviewed about his Libertarian presidential campaign on the Phil Donahue TV show. The show featured dark horse presidential candidates. The show will be aired sometime in the first half of February. The exact date is not yet known. Check your local listings for details. The Phil Donahue show has an audience of over two million viewers.

When the broadcast date does become known it will be posted at:

<http://www.HarryBrowne96.org/>

Visit the LPNY Web page at:

<http://www.gfr.com/~lpny>

Letter to the Editor

Unfortunately for LPNY, neither joining (membership is more or less static at an abysmally low level) nor voting Libertarian [voting for...exactly how many candidates did LPNY actually field in the last (or for that matter any) election?] seems to be effective. Why? Because the voting public doesn't know the LP exists let alone know what the LP stands for and how it benefits them both short and long term. And why doesn't the voting public know what the LP philosophy is? Because WE, collectively the LPNY, haven't told them!

From my observations and conversations, the LPNY, both local and state are very interested in fielding candidates and having the voting public give us their vote. Yet, as an organization, LPNY overlooks giving the voting public a reason to think and understand what the LP philosophy actually is and earn their vote. And until the voting public is exposed to the alternatives that the LP philosophy can bring and has time to mull over and digest the alternative ideas, and understands these ideas and ideals, they will not be convinced, and the result will be no votes for Libertarian candidates--few that they are--on a sustainable level. Sure an individual LP candidate in an individual election can win, but the question is did the candidate win because of some unique

aspect of the candidate her/himself or that particular election, or because of the public support of the LP, public support in the form of any kind of media coverage? My conclusions are that any LP candidates that do win, win in spite of the LP, not because of the LP. Furthermore, can that win be at all sustained? I think not.

Think for a minute. Somehow Libertarian candidate Bob Schulz gets elected Governor of NY. The State Legislature is composed of the current mix of Dems and Repubs. Is the legislature going to go along with the Governor because he's a nice guy? I don't think so. Schulz would have been in solitary isolation, if it's possible to be doubly alone. Where is the Governor's support organization? More importantly, where is the grass roots philosophical support among the voting citizens, so the Governor can take his case to the people? There is none to be reckoned with, not to mention trying to buck the financed Dems and Repubs campaigns to bring their individual point of view to the people. To believe otherwise is to be delusional.

There is no organized grass roots support among the voting citizens (at least not a difference that makes any difference) because traditionally the LPNY chooses to bypass, or believes it can circumvent or ignore this extremely essential foundation work and go straight for the gold ring prize--the election box. The LPNY apparently has done this

on a fairly regular basis since its inception. The results of this flawed logic are self-evident with the historical results achieved so far in membership over the years and also in the number, breadth and sustainability of candidates fielded and/or elected.

Mind you, I'm talking about LP candidates that are actually placed on the voting ballot on any and all levels of election, not simply nominated at LP "conventions" from local district up through county and into state level and then basically "left out to dry" on their own. As I personally saw occur at a recent Suffolk Chapter "convention" where a relatively full slate of town and county candidates were "nominated" as if candy were being disseminated among the crowd, and all were duly "seconded", and to the best of my knowledge not a single nominated candidate received any support whatsoever and none ever made it to the ballot posting. So much about the shortcomings of the Repubs and Dems, and then all these candidates left out to dry. Keep in mind that there was zero political experience total among the nominated candidates, no financial support--which is just as well because there was no support of any kind anyway. If ever there was an exercise in how not to do something or to learn how to fail at the political system try-outs, and as a result support the opposition, this was it!

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Letter to the Editor

If the LPNY is to achieve legitimate status as a true political party, it must change the existing methodology. It must tell and explain to the voting public--Joe and Johanna average public person--what the Libertarian philosophy is and the solutions that this philosophy can bring and how they will benefit, both short and long term and allow them time to mull over and digest these ideas and ideals until they understand and are convinced. The speed of the entire process is dependent on how well the LPNY gets its message out.

The methodology is much the same as marketing any new product in the marketplace. In simple terms, big companies allocate huge sums of money for saturation advertising, until consumer demand becomes self-sustaining. Lacking huge sums for a sustained advertising campaign, the next best alternative is to take advantage of inexpensive, constant and consistent exposure, of which cable public access TV is one. There are other methods of exposure also. All are cheap, some are free. Until the average person understands the new product (Libertarianism), sales are going to be few and far between. The results will continue to be as they have been...at best.

Bart Galioto
Shirley

Vermont LP Qualifies For 1996 Ballot

■ LP is well ahead of other minor parties in ballot access race

Vermont has become the 29th state to qualify for Libertarian ballot status in 1996. In mid-January the Vermont Secretary of State sent the Vermont LP a letter informing them that they had qualified for minor party status. This will enable them to run a full slate of candidates in the upcoming elections.

The LP is far ahead of all other minor parties in gaining ballot access. Of the other minor parties, the U.S. Taxpayer's Party is doing the best and they are on the ballot in only six states so far. The Natural Law Party is on the ballot in five states. Ross Perot's Reform Party is on the ballot in only two states, but there are 11 other states in dispute.

"For Americans who want to vote for someone other than a Republican or Democrat in 1996, the Libertarian Party is shaping up as their best bet," said LP National Director Perry Willis.

To qualify, the Vermont LP had to hold organizational meetings in at least 10 towns. By

contrast, to qualify as a political party in New York, a party's candidate for Governor must get at least 50,000 votes. The closest that any LPNY Gubernatorial candidate has come to achieving this goal was Gary Johnson in 1990 who garnered almost 25,000 votes. In 1980, Ed Clark, the LP candidate for president, received over 52,000 votes in New York. In 1992, Norma Segal, the LP candidate for U.S. Senator received over 108,000 votes. However, vote totals for president and U.S. Senator don't qualify a party for ballot status.

The other states in which the LP has already

qualified for ballot status in 1996 are: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Four other states are very near completion: Colorado, Nebraska, Oklahoma and West Virginia.

"For Americans who want to vote for someone other than a Republican or Democrat in 1996, the Libertarian Party is shaping up as their best bet"

Perry Willis,
LP National
Director