

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021 ON THE ZOOM MEETING APP**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

William Cody Anderson, Chair  
Anthony D’Orazio, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair  
Duane J. Whitmer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair (arrived 9:02 p.m.)  
Andrew M. Kolstee, Secretary  
Lora L. Newell, Treasurer  
Robert M. Arrigo, Member-At-Large  
Gabrielle S. Cordova, Member-At-Large  
Pietro S. Geraci, Member-At-Large  
Paul M. Grindle, Member-At-Large (arrived 9:04 p.m.)  
Richard F. Purtell, Member At-Large

**OBSERVERS**

Jay A. Carr, Judicial District 3  
Milva E. Dordal, Judicial District 5  
Mark S. Braiman, Judicial District 6  
Christopher M. Olenski, Judicial District 6  
James M. Dayton, Judicial District 7  
William C. VanHelmond, Judicial District 10  
Richard Bell, Judicial District 13

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 p.m. by William Cody Anderson, Chair. Secretary Andrew Kolstee determined that a quorum was present.

Motion by Anthony D’Orazio to **adopt the agenda (Exhibit 1)** was seconded by Pietro Geraci, passed by voice vote no debate

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **waive reading and approve the minutes of the April 13, 2021 Meeting of the Executive Committee and the April 18, 2021 Meeting of the Executive Committee** was seconded by Lora Newell and passed by voice vote without debate.

Lora Newell issued a Treasurer’s Report in writing (**Exhibit 2**). The report was accepted without objection.

Platform Committee Chair Mark Braiman issued a report in writing (**Exhibit 3**). The report was accepted without objection.

Fundraising Committee Co-Chair Gabrielle Cordova issued a report. The fundraising campaign in response to the result of the preliminary injunction ruling raised \$1,710 and two new pledgers. A second fundraising email is planned that will mirror the next step in the ballot access lawsuit. They are also looking into a fundraising campaign with the fundraiser used in 2018. A fundraising social event will be planned the Saturday evening prior to the next in-person State Committee meeting. Additionally, an LPNY merchandise store has been created and is almost ready for launch.

Motion by Gabrielle Cordova to **allocate up to \$14.99 for the purchase the domain “www.lpnystore.com”** was debated. Motion by Anthony D’Orazio to **amend the motion to strike “\$14.99” and insert “\$25.00”** was seconded by Rich Purtell and debated and passed by voice vote. The original motion to **allocate up to \$25.00 for the purchase the domain “www.lpnystore.com”** passed by voice vote as amended.

Special Committee on the Judicial Committee Chair Milva Dordal issued a report in writing **(Exhibit 4)**.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **direct the Special Committee on the Judicial Committee to create a resolution to present to the Rules Committee describing the purposes and procedures of the Judicial Committee by June 1, 2021** was seconded by Paul Grindle, debated, and passed by voice vote.

IT Committee report Andrew Kolstee issued a report in writing **(Exhibit 5)**. The report was accepted without objection.

Legislative Affairs Committee Chair Richard Purtell issued a report. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 26 regarding A2681 bill with two guest attorneys. The Legislative Affairs Committee report was accepted without objection.

Public Engagement Committee Chair Anthony D’Orazio issued a report. The results of the social media survey showed that most of our audience is on Facebook, with some on Twitter and Instagram. The most engagement is on Instagram posts cross-posted to Facebook. One suggestion to expand on social media was join Clubhouse and he will be working on setting one up. Consorte Marking has so far distributed three press releases, which are being published. The Public Engagement Committee report was accepted without objection.

Rules Committee Chair Paul Grindle issued a report in writing **(Exhibit 6)**. The report was accepted without objection.

Motion by Pietro Geraci to **amend the agenda and extend the time of adjournment to 10:50 p.m.** was seconded by Anthony D’Orazio and passed with objection.

The meeting stood at ease from 10:26 p.m. to 10:32 p.m.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **appoint Stephanie Appiah as County Contact of Bronx County** was seconded by Pietro Geraci, debated, and passed by voice vote.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **hold an in-person meeting of the State Committee on Sunday, July 18, 2021 in the Albany, New York area** was seconded by Pietro Geraci and passed by voice vote.

Motion by Pietro Geraci to **amend the agenda and extend the time of adjournment to 11:00 p.m.** was seconded by Paul Grindle and passed by voice vote.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to hold to **hold an in-person meeting of the State Committee on the weekend of November 5-7, 2021** was seconded by Lora Newell and passed by voice vote.

Motion by Richard Purtell to **constitute a special November 2021 In-Person Meeting Planning Committee for the purpose of organizing the November 2021 in-person meeting with Gabrielle Cordova and Lora Newell as co-chairs** was second by Robert Arrigo and passed by voice vote without debate.

Motion by Anthony D’Orazio to **adjourn** was seconded by Paul Grindle and passed without debate.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

Andrew Martin Kolstee,  
Secretary

## Exhibit 1

**AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK  
HELD ON SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2021 ON THE ZOOM MEETING APP**

8:30 P.M. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum.

8:35 P.M. Secretary's Report (Andrew Kolstee)

- Reading and approval of minutes of prior meetings. See the resources page for the draft minutes. (PW: "libertyinny")

8:40 P.M. Treasurer's report

8:50 P.M. Committee reports

- Platform Committee (Mark Braiman)
- Special Committee on the Judicial Committee (Millie Dordal)
- Fundraising Committee (Gabrielle Cordova and Lora Newell)
- IT Committee (Andrew Kolstee)
- Legislative Affairs Committee (Rich Purtell)
- Local Affiliate Development Committee (Rob Arrigo)
- Public Engagement Committee (Tony D'Orazio)
- Rules Committee (Paul Grindle)

9:30 P.M. Old business

10:00 P.M. New business

- Appointment of County Contacts
- State Committee Meeting

10:30 P.M. Adjourn

## Exhibit 2

### LPNY Treasurer's Report May 19, 2021

#### LPNY KEY BANK

Housekeeping Committee account balance as of 5.19.21: \$4,669.11

CC General account balance as of 5.19.21: \$20,747.19

Total cash on hand as of 5.19.21: \$25,416.30

#### Regular Expenses for April:

Constant Contact: \$200.07

Grasshopper: \$33.51

Pre-approved expenses for April: \$3,502.59

Total Expenses for April: \$3736.17

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Fundraising results for April: \$1,996.12

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Respectfully submitted,

Lora Newell  
Treasurer

## Exhibit 3 (page 1 of 2)

### REPORT OF THE PLATFORM COMMITTEE OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY 19, 2021

1. Membership: As of Feb. 16 2021: Mark Braiman (Platform Committee Chair), Cody Anderson (member ex officio), David Fite, Pietro Geraci, Robert Griebsland, Paul Grindle, Andrew Kolstee, Chris Olenski, Anthony Pellegrino, and Karyn Thompson

Addition of new members who requested to join the Committee:

On 2/17/2021 Alycya Lee Miller was added

On 3/16/2021 Chris Olenski and Mark Glogowski were added.

As of 5/19/2021, there are 13 members. Presuming Robert's Rules, quorum would be 7 members. We have never had a meeting with a quorum present.

2. Dates of meetings. Meetings were held 2/23/2021, 3/16/2021 and 5/11/2021. Maximum attendance was six members.

Additional meetings were called on 4/13/2021 and 4/27/2021, but no one showed up except for the Platform Committee chair.

Concern: There is no procedure in LPNY rules for subcommittee members to be dropped due to lack of attendance or at the discretion of the Chair, only by action of the Full State Committee. This will make official actions of the Platform Subcommittee difficult to document and track officially.

HOWEVER, the Platform Committee Chair does not recommend culling members from the Platform Committee. This would not likely improve chances of finding wording for platform planks that would be agreeable to 2/3 of the Full State Committee. It would more likely produce the opposite effect. It is recommended, rather, that partial sub-quorum meetings continue to try to perfect the language of popular plank items, which would be submitted for adoption by an email or Facebook-group roll-call vote in mid-June. However, the Chair intends not to submit to the Full State Committee any platform plank that fails to reach near-unanimity among the 13 members of Platform Committee.

### Exhibit 3 (page 2 of 2)

3. Plank proposals. The main discussions in committee have so far focused on splitting and then refining plank proposals A1 and A2 below. Additional time was spent on refining Plank Proposal C. A1 and A2 were obtained by splitting Plank Proposal A that was moved and failed by just a few votes to obtain 2/3 approval at the February 16 meeting of the full State Committee.

A1. Maintain the greatest possible degree of local autonomy during emergencies. [Government responses to extended emergencies, including pandemics, should be as localized as possible. One-size-fits-all solutions have little benefit for sparsely-populated regions in much of the state.] Recommendation adopted 5-0 on 5/11/2021

A2. Maintain due process during extended emergencies. [Any action at the state level must be enacted by the Legislature following extensive committee hearings, not by Executive Orders, and should expire when the emergency declaration expires. The State should held liable for damages to persons or businesses, that are caused by emergency rules that have not been subject to a deliberative legislative process.] Recommendation adopted 5-0 on 5/11/2021.

C. Legalize cannabis for adults, without taxation or regulation. [We support the full legalization of cannabis and hemp products, including cultivation, processing, distribution, sales, possession, and transportation, without introducing any new taxes or licensing requirements.]

Recognizing a difficulty in getting 2/3 approval for any Platform Proposal, we think it is best to give the State Committee a small number of planks at any meeting; to choose only the planks that we believe will be most popular; and to allow time in the State Committee meeting for tinkering with the language, as needed to reach the required 2/3 level of support.

## Exhibit 4 (page 1 of 3)

### **Proposal for the Judicial Committee:**

The committee consists of nine members, and three alternates in case of conflicts of interest, elected by the SC in their first meeting following an election. The chairman will be chosen by a majority vote of the nine elected members of the committee. The JC will have two main functions:

- I. Recommending Disciplinary Measures:
  - A. Complaints can be filed against LPNY Members, County Affiliates, SC Committee Members, candidates running under the Libertarian Party line or the Executive Committee. Complaints must include a claim that the person/entity violated state law, electoral law, Rules of the LPNY or County Affiliate Rules, and that said action causes harm to the party, its members or its governing structures.
  - B. Procedure:
    - 1 JC receives complaints from any source within the LPNY.
    - 2 JC notifies all parties involved via certified mail or other reasonable and effective method of communication.
    - 3 JC or a panel of three members assigned by the chairman conducts an investigation and collects relevant evidence and testimony. Investigation should be done in a 30 day period, but time frame may be extended if the JC/panel deems it necessary to thoroughly complete its investigation.
    - 4 JC/panel prepares a report of its findings of fact and conclusions, which must be approved by the majority of the quorum of JC.
    - 5 The approved report will be presented in the form of a recommendation to the State Committee at their next meeting.
    - 6 The State Committee will vote to decide if they accept the recommendations made in the report, to impose disciplinary action or not. A majority of SC quorum is required for imposition of disciplinary action.



## Exhibit 4 (page 2 of 3)

- 7 If the SC feels that further information or investigation is needed for them to make their decision, they can refer it back to the JC with specific directives of what they feel is needed to adequately evaluate the case.
  - 8 All parties involved will be notified within 10 days of the SC decision.
- C. Parties unsatisfied with the outcome of the vote may file for reconsideration within 10 days of notification of the decision. If the reconsideration is accepted by a majority of quorum of the JC, a new report will be issued within 20 days, and once again submitted to the SC for a vote. The JC will not intervene with the SC decision and will dismiss the reconsideration unless a party can prove:
1. There was important and relevant information missing in the investigation that could have potentially changed the outcome of that vote, and that said information was not readily available with due diligence to be presented during the investigation period before the JC recommendation report was completed.
  2. There was clear evidence of undue influence or bias amongst the members of the SC, and that such undue influence or bias would have affected the outcome of the vote.
  3. That the party/parties were not properly and diligently informed of the investigation. If diligent efforts were made to notify the party, and the party simply did not accept or answer certified mail letters, emails or phone calls, then lack of notification cannot be claimed for reconsideration.
- II. Providing Conflict Resolution and Mediation:
- A. Any LPNY member, County Affiliate, SC group, candidate running on the Libertarian Party line, for the Executive Committee can submit a request for conflict resolution or mediation to request clarification of applicable

## Exhibit 4 (page 3 of 3)

electoral law, county rules, LPNY rules or other internal regulations within our organization, or conflict resolution and mediation between parties.

- B. The conflict resolution or mediation process will be conducted by a panel of three JC members assigned by the chairman, and they will inform the outcome of the process to the remaining members of the JC.
- C. If the interpretation of said law or regulation directly affects another party, then they will receive notice of the proceeding, and have the opportunity to participate in the process.
- D. The issue brought to the attention of the JC will be addressed within 30 days. This will be an informal process. If in the course of this process it is found that any member or entity violated laws or internal rules that warrant disciplinary measures, the process will be converted into a disciplinary procedure and follow the steps mentioned in part I.

## Exhibit 5 (page 1 of 2)

### REPORT OF THE IT COMMITTEE OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 19, 2021

#### WEBSITE

**PAGE UPDATES.** The following pages have been updated since the last report: Clinton County and Leadership. Candidates are also continuously added as soon as I receive their full information.

**E-MAILS LISTED.** Several State Committee members and County leaders still only have a personal e-mail address listed on the website, although it is recommended that we do not place personal emails on the website for security purposes. It is highly recommended that all state and county leaders get an LPNY email address.

**PARTY RESOURCES PORTAL.** This page is updated at least weekly on Tuesdays.

#### CONSTANT CONTACT

**IMPORTS.** On April 20, 2021, 9,024 contacts were imported from the CiviCRM database (2 new, 9,022 updated). On April 27, 2021, 9,038 contacts were imported from the CiviCRM database (14 new, 9,024 updated). On May 18, 2021, 9,055 contacts were imported from the CiviCRM database (42 new, 9,013 updated).

#### LPNY E-MAILS

It is recommended that all LPNY officials use an LPNY.org e-mail address. All 10 members of the Executive Committee have an LPNY e-mail address, while 36 out of 59 (61%) of all State Committee members have an LPNY e-mail address. Contact me if you want/need an LPNY.org e-mail address.

#### GRASSHOPPER

When calling the LPNY, the script is as follows: *“Thank you for calling Libertarian Party of New York. If you know your party’s extension, please enter it now or press 8 for the name directory. For Fundraising, press 1. For Elections and Campaigns, press 2. For Communication and Media Relations, press 3. For Chapter Development, press 4. For all other inquiries, press 0 and the next available representative will assist you.”* This should probably be updated at some point since affiliates are not called chapters anymore and perhaps individual titles should be in the recording.

#### GOOGLE WORKSPACE ACCOUNT

I am continuously adding LPNY documents to this Google Drive account. Access to certain folders is dependent on members’ committee positions and assignments.

#### VOTERVOICE

Rich Purtell and I had a demo of the VoterVoice software on May 4, 2021. We have access to a demo website and other resources. I forwarded these resources to the Executive Committee on May 5, 2021. The cost is \$5,500 per year (\$458.33 per month) and would allow us to easily get the word out on legislative action (such as providing an easy way for people to email their elected representatives, signing petitions, donations, etc.) The software also keeps track of analytics on each of the campaigns. It also comes with a texting campaign of up to 25,000 text messages (in which more can be added later). Reminders, thank-you messages, and follow-ups can also be sent. This software is part of Fiscal Note, which is a software that tracks legislation and is another software we may want to look into; it would allow a team to log in and keep track of legislation changes.

## Exhibit 5 (page 2 of 2)

### PLATFORM FOR COMMUNICATION

Ever since the end of the LPNY Yahoo Groups, we have not had a consistent platform for communication between LPNY state and county leaders. We have a Slack Account, Discord Server, and a series of Facebook Messenger chats. The IT Committee is looking for a better alternative to these to better streamline communication among LPNY state and county leaders across the state. Recently, I have tested platforms such as ConneCTeam, Microsoft Teams, and Rocket.Chat. After looking at the survey results, I have made the following conclusion:

- **We would benefit from two platforms.** 1) an email or email list group for official communications and discussions and 2) a chat platform for unofficial communications, something with which to engage more people outside of the county and state leaders (such as volunteers and supporters) to build our volunteer and donor base.
- **Official communications need to be interactive.** We need a platform for official communication besides Constant Contact sending 1-way announcements without people being able to interact with each other, only the administrators. 61.3% of survey respondents prefer email and we can also use an email list group. 77.4% of survey respondents are willing to get an LPNY email address to use the email list feature. An email list such as Groups.io or Google Groups would be useful to allow people to opt out of emails or change their settings to get emails less frequently, so they are not bombarded.
- **Unofficial communication needs to be better organized.** Chat platforms such as Facebook Messenger are inefficient for separating conversations. 45.16% of survey respondents are not on Facebook Messenger or dislike using it for communication. 70.97% of survey respondents prefer or are willing to use Slack. 74.19% of survey respondents prefer or are willing to use Discord.
- **Expensive platforms such as Slack are not worth it for informal communication.**
- **People are willing to work together and make an effort to streamline communication. Any platform we choose, we can have a training/tutorial to show people how to use it.**

My recommendation:

- Google Groups (to go along with Google Docs) or Groups.io for official communication.
- Discord for unofficial communication (it's not like Facebook or any other messaging app, it doesn't cost money like Slack, and gives us the ability to separate conversations in channels, and the ability to set roles such as EC, SC, committees, county leaders, etc.)

Andrew Martin Kolstee  
Chair, IT Committee, Libertarian Party of New York  
May 19, 2021

## Exhibit 6

### REPORT OF THE RULES COMMITTEE OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK

May 19, 2021

#### Previous Work

We had adopted 8 rules amendment proposals as of our last report to the State Committee, leaving 11 left.

#### Current Work

With several additions, modifications, and combinations of proposals passed most of the remaining rules proposals at our few, leaving 4 proposals remaining. Progress on the previously mentioned 11 proposals and subsequent modifications has been significantly slower due to the controversial nature of some proposals, including proposals modifying cross endorsement procedures, delegates to the Libertarian National Convention, and facilitation of rules mailings for individual rules submissions by the Rules Subcommittee of the Convention Committee.

We also intend to more properly structure the rules proposals for eventual distribution, as their collective size has unfortunately become quite large.

We have not received a formal proposal from either the Special Committee on Creation of the Judicial Committee or the State Committee, but when we receive one we will review it. Timeline of rules creation from proposal will be determined by the date of submission.

#### Anticipated Schedule

Anticipating a tentative mid-July date for an in-person State Committee meeting, the Rules Committee intends to hold 1-2 more meetings to go over rules proposals. Approximately 1 week after penultimate meeting, we will be holding a public hearing via Zoom for review of and comment on the proposals. We will hold another meeting afterwards to address and integrate the feedback from the hearing into our proposals, and then mail approximately 50% of the proposals out after this meeting. My intention is a 1-month lead on the proposals before the in-person state committee meeting, although the exact timing on this will be determined when the in-person meeting date is set.

#### Amendment Suggestions

Please send any and all rules questions, suggestions, ideas, or full proposals to either me or our heroic Secretary Kolstee, or to any of the committee's members. We would love to incorporate your proposals into our report so you don't have to arrange for the mailing and discussion on your own, unless of course you wish to. If you have any hot takes on our party's rules and wish to be added to the Rules Committee, please message me so I can propose your addition to the committee.