

**New York Libertarian Party State Committee Minutes:  
November 20, 1999  
Sloatsburg, NY**

Present: Dave Harnett, Brad Arter, Blay Tarnoff, Caryn Cohen, John Ayling, Audrey Capozzi, Bonnie Scott, Lloyd Wright (and son, Eric Wright), Jeff Russell, John Reed, Jim Harris, Bridget Ruty (representing Central NY), Jim Strawhorn (representing Queens), Bill McMillen (representing Albany), Jeff Doty (non-voting)

**Secretary's Report:**

The Secretary's report was deferred until the next meeting due to temporary misplacement of handwritten notes. [Ed. The Secretary moved recently.]

**Treasurer's Report:**

We had \$5,853 in our account at the end of October. We will end November with approximately the same balance, given some expenses we must pay and the incoming monthly UMP money.

**New Business:**

**New Chapters**

The State Committee unanimously voted to accept Central New York County as a new chapter, with Bridget Ruty and Steve Gordon as officers. Bonnie moved to accept Kings County as a new chapter; Lloyd amended this motion to read: "contingent upon their submitting their bylaws." This motion passed with one nay vote.

**National Convention Delegates**

Jeff Doty will publicize the upcoming National Convention in the newsletter, and will ask for volunteers to be New York State Delegates. The National Convention has 1,400 total delegates; 1,000 are based on membership and 400 are based on the votes in the last presidential election. New York is eligible for 42 delegates (30 + 12)

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**Free Web Site**

There have been two offers made for free web sites. Bonnie suggests that we accept the offer from the individual who has an ISP, as compared with the individual with a web server. The State Committee will save \$360 per year by switching. Apparently the GOP offers its members web access at market prices; there was discussion regarding whether the LPNY could do the same. Blay moved to delegate to Bonnie the decision regarding free web sites. The motion passed unanimously.

**Essay Contest Proposal**

Rich Cooper proposed that the LPNY sponsor an essay contest with prizes. He outlined this proposal in more detail via e-mail. The State Committee expressed interest. There was some discussion regarding possible prizes and costs. Bill moved to authorize \$500 for an entire pilot project for one contest at Rich Cooper's discretion. The motion passed with one nay vote.

### National's "Key Issue" Question

Dave Harnett discussed a question sent to state chairs by National: "What is the single key issue for your state?" There was some discussion of this question; Bonnie proposed first amendment issues and police brutality. Dave wondered about the interest among blue collar workers in upstate New York.

### Newsletter (Old Business):

Dave Harnett brought up possibility of going back to six issues per year, which would cost \$4,200, much less than it did before recent cost-cutting measures.

He also discussed sending it to lapsed members (1,400) and prospects (5,500).

Dave explained that new prospects currently get one mailing from National. We can encourage them to sign a "non-initiation of force" statement and become instant members with National.

Bill McMillen and Bridget Ruttly requested the names from their respective districts. Jim Strawhorn also suggested that we send the newsletter to contacts from other organizations. Dave stated that the current difference in price between four and six issues is \$2,800 versus \$4,200.

Caryn Cohen suggested giving free issues to people who sign up at OPH booths.

Jeff Doty pointed out that, financially, it is better to mail the newsletter in large numbers to people in a particular section. Bonnie suggested assigning one person in each area to coordinate this effort. Jim Strawhorn moved to change the newsletter to a bi-monthly mailing; this motion passed unanimously.

Dave asked what to do about the 800 to 1,000 people who signed up as prospects last year. Caryn suggested that a first issue to new prospects be an "Introduction to the New York Libertarian Party" Newsletter. Then, prospects could receive two "regular" issues. Dave pointed out that if the new initial newsletter goes out right away, we will need to send it first class. However, he reminded us that we will need to develop the content of this issue first; in the meantime, we will send three regular issues to new inquirers. Bonnie volunteered to help Jeff develop the content of this issue. Caryn moved that we send new inquirers three issues of the newsletter at no charge. This motion passed unanimously.

Later in the meeting, Dave indicated that we can get a non-profit bulk mail rate, but sometimes this mail takes much longer. Our printer has a business rate permit. The rate for non-profit is a \$100 application fee and a \$100 yearly fee. Blay moved to change to a non-profit rate; the motion passed unanimously.

### More New Business:

#### Tim Slagle Videos

Dave discussed possibility of buying ten Tim Slagle videos for \$12 each. Brad moved to purchase; the motion failed with one supporting vote.

#### New York State Convention:

Dave indicated that Jim put down a deposit on the Treetop Holiday Inn near Yonkers, which has a capacity of 80 people. The train is ten minutes away by cab on the Hudson River Line. The deposit is refundable up to one month prior to the event. We are still waiting for confirmation of the date by Harry Browne. Jim has an alternative site: the Royal Regency Hotel. We need to guarantee a minimum of fifty. An event planner costs \$800. Our cost would be around \$76 per person (for fifty people), not including room cost of \$89.

Some possible speakers are: Harry Browne, someone from a gun organization, Peter Christ, Mary Ruwart, Robert Leiderman, and John Fund. Jim Strawhorn suggested contacting Carla Howell and Michael Cloud regarding ideas for publicity.

Dave asked for a volunteer to chair a promotion subcommittee. Jim S. volunteered to contact Carla. Jim Harris is now handling the entire convention. We will need to set a date and location for the next convention. Bonnie suggested offering a discount for people coming from out of state, similar to what was done in Massachusetts.

Later in the meeting, Blay asked whether we can get credit card capability for the State Convention. Jim Strawhorn will ask Carla about this.

#### More New Business:

##### Request for Funding Motion

Blay Tarnoff made a motion in three parts:

- 1.) The State Committee will issue official guidelines for requests for funding, to include the amount requested and a proposal. The proposal should include the following: what you intend to do with the money (purpose), how you intend to spend the money (steps), and what you intend to accomplish (results).
- 2.) The State Committee authorizes the release of up to \$1,000 with an online vote if the majority of the State Committee members vote yes. (Thus, nine members are needed as there are now a total of 17 voting members.)
- 3.) All members of the State Committee need to be notified of an upcoming vote, if done between meetings. The Secretary and Treasurer will keep track of the vote totals.

There was some discussion of the above proposal. Dave reminded the Committee that we are still waiting for a representative from Kings County. The Treasurer would be expected to inform the Committee regarding our current financial status before a vote is taken. Brad suggested that any proposal should go through Dave first, who would review it and pass it on to the Secretary, who would post it to e-mail.

The proposal (as stated in 1,2, and 3 above) passed with one nay vote.

#### Mayoral Race:

There was some discussion regarding Roy Innis' possible race for mayor. He is looking for the endorsement of a major party, but is also a Libertarian and has mentioned the possibility of running on the LP line. He does not always mention the Libertarian Party in his speeches, depending on his audience.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, February 19, 2000, 10:00, at the Sloatsburg Rest Area.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 PM.

(Please submit agenda items for the next meeting, preferably via e-mail. Thank you.)

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As requested, here are a list of commitments made at this meeting:

Kings County:

Will submit bylaws to LPNY Secretary via snail mail or e-mail with no attachment. Will elect a representative to the State Committee and inform the secretary of this person's name

Bonnie Scott:

Will look into new free web site

Will work on initial newsletter issue with Jeff D.

Jeff Doty:

Will publicize National Convention in newsletter and request volunteers for delegates (can send names to Caryn via e-mail, if preferred)

Will publish newsletter six times per year

Will work on initial newsletter issue with Bonnie

Will send three free issues of newsletter to new prospects

Will switch to non-profit bulk mail rate

Richard Cooper:

Will coordinate pilot essay contest

Dave Harnett:

Will send new prospect names from their districts to Bill M. and Bridget R.

Will send names of new prospects to Jeff D. so he could send free issues

Will continue to try to confirm date of State Convention with Harry Browne

Jim Harris:

Will switch deposit to Royal Regency for Convention

Jim Strawhorn:

Will contact Carla Howell now to obtain convention suggestions and information.

re. credit card capability and will post these to e-mail list.

Caryn Cohen:

Will distribute State Committee Minutes soon after meetings

Will keep track of online voting for funding proposals

John Clifton:

Will inform committee via e-mail regarding current finances when there is a new online funding proposal