
The Free Press

December 1995

of New York

Page 1

A totally unofficial newspaper of libertarian activities around New York State

Forbes, Buchanan Blast Ballot Laws

Pat Buchanan and Steve Forbes made campaign swings through New York State during November and both took swipes at the state's strict ballot access laws while they were here. The two men, who are seeking the Republican nomination for president echoed complaints that Libertarians have been making for years.

"It is reminiscent not of a great, progressive state but of some backward, reactionary Marxist regime of Eastern Europe in the 1950's," Buchanan told reporters during a stop in Albany. He went on to call it "a very corrupt system" and "a pristine example of Tammany

(continued on page 2)

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)

State Committee Meets

The State Committee of the Libertarian Party of New York held its quarterly meeting on Saturday, December 2 at the Sloatsburg service area on the New York State Thruway. The following committee members were present: Blay Tarnoff (chair), Dottie-Lou Brokaw (vice-chair), Jim Harris (vice-chair), Audrey Capozzi-Pappaeliou (treasurer), Lloyd Wright (secretary), Chris Garvey (at-large), Eric Gruber (at-large), Alan Markopoulos (New York), Vincent O'Neill (Nassau), Jeffrey Russell (Capital District), Will Kone (Southern Tier), Bradford Arter (Queens), Harry McArdle (Suffolk) and Ene Susi (Hudson Valley).

Treasurer Audrey Capozzi-Pappaeliou reported that the treasury had a starting balance of \$2,126.06 on 8/28/95 and a closing balance of \$3,682.32. Of that amount, \$500 has been earmarked for development of local chapters and \$344.25 is money that was left over in the NYC treasury when they broke up. That money is being held in escrow for any new local chapters that may form in Bronx, Kings or Richmond. Manhattan and Queens have already formed new chapters and received their

share of the money.

Expenses for the quarter came to \$716.20. Most of that was payments to national for members who renewed their national membership through the state. Total income for the quarter was \$2,272.50 mainly from dues. Almost 100 members renewed their state membership during the quarter. Total paid membership in LPNY is now 181. However, Jim Harris reported that 465 paid members from 1994 still have not been mailed a renewal notice for 1995. A mailing for these people will be prepared immediately.

Eric Gruber reported that the next issue of *Free New York* should be ready to go to the printer in 2 weeks. Anyone with information to go in *Free New York* should call him at (212) 787-8165 or send a fax to (212) 787-6511.

Because it is one of the 10 largest states in total national membership, New York is entitled to representatives on the bylaws, credentials and platform committees at the national convention. The bylaws and credentials representative will be elected at the next state

(continued on page 2)

continued from page 1

State Committee Meets

convention in April, however, national LP needs to know the name of the platform representative by January. The State Committee elected Lloyd Wright to act as platform representative.

New York had 497 national members as of August 31st. This makes New York the 6th largest state in national membership. A more realistic measure of Libertarian strength in New York is the number of members per one million of the population. By this standard, New York ranks very poorly with only 27.3 members per million, making it 45th in the country. By contrast,

the number one state, New Hampshire, has 194.7 members per million. Other states with over 100 members per million are Nevada (111.7) and Colorado (111.4). Washington, DC has 115.9 members per million. North Dakota ranks last with only 14.2 members per million.

The next annual convention of LPNY is scheduled for April 27th and 28th. No local chapters have expressed interest in hosting the convention. Jim Harris was elected to select a site for the convention and start working out the details.

Chairman Blay Tarnoff set a goal for LPNY to hold 50

Operation Politically Homeless booths in 1996. He hopes that this will expand our prospect list from 3,500 to 7,000. The State Committee is looking for volunteers to work at a booth at the state fair next summer and to find locations for other booths around the state.

Lloyd Wright is preparing a letter to national to see if they will be able to contribute \$30,000 towards next year's presidential petition drive.

The next State Committee meeting will also be held at the Sloatsburg service area. It will be held at 11 AM on March 2nd.

continued from page 1

Forbes, Buchanan Blast Ballot Laws

Hall politics."

Forbes said, "New York State is the most difficult state in the union to get on the ballot. The rules are written with a Soviet-minded mentality to make sure there is only one annointed candidate on the ballot. Commisar D'Amato and his fellow flunkies are going to learn a lesson in democracy."

Their criticisms were prompted by the actions of Senator Al D'Amato, Governor George Pataki and other of the state's Republican leaders who support Senator Robert Dole. These leaders are trying to prevent all other candidates from getting on the ballot in the Republican primary and are

planning on using any technicality they can to accomplish this goal.

New York State has the strictest, most complicated ballot access laws in the country. Libertarian candidate for Governor, Bob Schulz, was thrown off the ballot last year after failing to collect enough valid signatures. Schulz sued the state and was eventually put back on the ballot when Federal Judge Con Cholakis declared part of the law unconstitutional. After the election, a higher court overturned Cholakis' decision and reinstated the law.

The effort of all Republican candidates to get on the ballot was made a little easier on November 27th, when a federal court changed

the number of signatures required to get on the primary ballot. Current New York State law does not provide any way for a candidate to get on the ballot statewide. Candidates must qualify in each congressional district. Thus, it is possible for a candidate to be on the primary ballot in some congressional districts but not on the ballot in others.

The current law says that to get on the ballot in a congressional district, a candidate must collect 1,250 signatures or 5% of the registered Republicans in that district, whichever is less. In most districts this means that the

(continued on page 3)

continued from page 2

Ballot Laws

candidate must collect 1,250 signatures, however in some districts in New York City the number of registered Republicans is extremely low, so candidates must fulfill the 5% requirement.

The federal court ruled that the current law was invalid because the signature of a voter who lives in a district with few Republicans carries greater weight than the signature of a voter who lives in a district with many Republicans. The court lowered the requirement from 5% to 1.41% because that is the average percentage required in districts with a lot of Republicans. It is unclear what effect, if any, this decision will have on the efforts of Libertarians to get on the ballot next year.

Buchanan almost got the opportunity to confront D'Amato over the state's restrictive laws. While in Albany, Buchanan was a guest on Paul Vandenburg's talk show on WQBK radio (1300 AM). After Buchanan had spent half an hour of air time criticizing the state's access laws, a call came in on Vandenburg's private phone line. The call was from D'Amato who was calling to criticize President Clinton for the budget impasse that caused the recent "shutdown" of the federal government. D'Amato had no idea that Buchanan was in the studio with Vandenburg.

"It's Senator D'Amato," Vandenburg told Buchanan.

"Oh, please let me talk to him," pleaded Buchanan.

When informed that Buchanan

was in the studio and wanted to talk to him about the state's ballot laws, D'Amato refused to go on the air. In 1988, D'Amato supported Dole when the party leadership supported Bush. At that time he called the state's laws "onerous" and "a stain on the party." D'Amato now says that "any candidate who has grass-roots support can get on the ballot."

Browne's Book on Sale

Harry Browne's new book, Why Government Doesn't Work, went on sale in bookstores on November 27th. The book is published by St. Martin's Press and the first printing was 40,000 hardcover copies. Browne is hoping that the book will make the *New York Times* best-seller list helping to publicize his campaign. To make the list a book has to sell approximately 5,000 copies per week. Four of Browne's previous eight books have been best-sellers. In all, his books have sold more than 2 million copies.

Browne's campaign director, Sharon Ayres, said, "We urge every LP member to buy one or more copies during December to help put it on the best-seller list."

One of the keys to getting the book on the best-seller list is for Browne to do as many radio talk shows as possible over the next few months. Libertarians who know of possible shows are asked to send the host's name, the station call letters and frequency, the phone number and address to radio-schedule@HarryBrowne96.org.

Corrections Admits Errors

■ Residents say it's not enough

The New York State Department of Corrections has admit making mistakes during its sweep of Albany's Arbor Hill section in October. Four officials have been removed from active duty and a nine-man absconder squad has been disbanded, but local residents are not satisfied.

Corrections Officers are accused of kicking in doors unannounced, entering apartments with guns drawn, handcuffing innocent occupants and conducting searches without warrants.

Over 100 citizens attended a meeting on November 21st at the Arbor Hill Community Center to voice their complaints to Albany mayor Jerry Jennings and state Senator Michael Hoblock.

"This is more than just an error; 28 cops with guns with scopes were in my front yard," looking to search the house. "Then they ask my permission to go in first," said Wendy Pogorzelski of First Street.

The sweep was prompted by the escape of Andre "Dre" Decker last October 21st. Decker was deliberately set free by Corrections Officers hoping to lure Eugene "Plug" Bell out of hiding. Bell had escaped from a work-release program in Rochester in September. When

(continued on page 4)

continued from page 3

Corrections' Errors

Decker himself fled, officials set up a door-to-door search of every house in the area from Ten Broeck Place to Swan Street between First and Second Streets.

A 31 page report from the Corrections Department concluded that officers kept their firearms holstered during the search. This particularly irked many residents, and they have called the report a whitewash.

"They all had their guns drawn, every last one of them. They were breaking constitutional rights, right and left, and all you're doing is saying you're sorry," said John Warren, of First Street.

"We had storm troopers, that's what they were. We had police-state terror in this town," said Larry Lane of Hudson Avenue.

The Civil Rights Bureau of the US Justice Department has begun an inquiry into the incident and Jennings, Hoblock and Assemblyman Jack McEneny have urged residents to file a class action lawsuit against the Department of Corrections.

"Believe me, it's not going to happen again," Jennings told the crowd.

The sweep has further strained relations between the police and Arbor Hill residents, coming on the heels of another controversial incident in September.

On Sunday, September 10th, 2 uniformed Albany police officers entered the Baptist Church on North Pearl Street to arrest 18 year old Jhamel Clark who was playing

the drums in the choir band. Clark had been found guilty of possession of a small amount of crack, a misdemeanor. He was originally sentenced to probation, but when he failed to report to his probation officer as scheduled, he was ordered to appear for sentencing on August 29th. At that time he was to be sentenced to one year of jail time. When he failed to appear for sentencing, a bench warrant was issued for his arrest.

Rev. W. J. Stovall, pastor at the church, said he spotted Officer Isaacson walking toward the choir during the 11 AM service. Stovall stopped Isaacson and motioned to Clark to come down.

"As soon as he came down the stairs they grabbed him and handcuffed him," Stovall said. "Then they took him outside and threw him to the ground face down."

Parishioners felt that there was no need for police to have made the arrest in such a humiliating manner and felt that it showed disrespect for the black community.

Sarah Curry-Cobb, 4th Ward Alderwoman said, "We had children in there. It shows that the police don't even respect our community to understand that we have children in the churches seeing this happen, and what kind of image does that paint for those kids."

Mayor Jennings met with Rev. Stovall over the matter and said he told him that this type of thing "is not going to happen again."

Letter to the Editor

■ Welcome to LPNY Letters Explained

I hope to clear up some confusion about membership in the Libertarian Party of New York.

I have received many calls about "Welcome to LPNY" letters members have been getting from me.

As the state membership contact for new members, I receive two lists from National, one is "name changes" which includes any change in address, renewal of membership, pledges, or buys of material from National. The other list is "new names".

The New Names list is created by National from the 1-800-# calls, contact via Email or World Wide Web, and from National's pamphlets.

The result is if you call the 1-800-# or send in your dues through the pamphlets, you are listed as a new contact.

I take the list and send out the welcome letters within a week of getting the list.

I try to weed out the names of long term members, but I can't know everyone.

So don't panic if you get a welcome letter from me, just think of it as an excuse to donate more money.

William Kone
Ithaca

wk17@cornell.edu

or

Liberty4u@aol.com