

LPNY 2005 State Convention

The annual convention was called to order by chair John Clifton at 10:45am on April 23, 2005. There was no objection to the proposed agenda of

- Approve Agenda
- Reports from Officers
- Election of Officers
- Resolutions

We then continued with some reports from party officers and directors.

Gary Donoyan, LPNY Political Director, said that just as we can use the courts to get government to follow the rules, we can test the major parties' compliance in the political arena as well. We need to create an effective organization to do that, and his task is to develop strategy, issues, and communication. His report focuses only on the first of those.

We face four challenges:

1. the duopoly of the Democrats and Republicans
- 2 the fusion parties--the Conservative and Working Families, which are mainly just 'second lines'
3. the IP's Golisano, who will eventually retire or die
4. the Greens, who have the benefit of four years as a recognized "Party" up to 2002

He suggests 5 projects:

1. Project 62 monthly meetings: we have 8 chapters now, and 6 Temporary County Chairs
2. Project 63 in 2005: at least one electoral race in each county, plus NYC Mayor
3. Project State Plus 29 in 2006 -- having statewide candidates plus 29 Congressional candidates, many of which are Cross-County races
4. Project 4-3-2-1:
 - In turn, in the Governor's race, to beat the...
 - Greens in 2006, to come in fourth
 - Independence Party in 2010, to come in third
 - Democrats in 2014, to come in second
 - Republicans in 2018, to win the Governors seat
5. Project Village, Town and City: to identify winnable local races

Werner Hetzner then gave the Treasurers report.

Most of our income comes from UMP payments, that is, shared dues revenue from the national LP. Last year's convention was about \$5,000, most of it recouped through receipts and donations. The newsletter cost about \$1500 per issue, or about \$6,000 for the year. Petitioning to get on the ballot cost about \$10,000 of

our money and \$32,000 of money donated by the National party (and George Phillies's PAC). Administrative costs were mainly for one prospecting letter. At the end of March, we had about \$14,500 in the bank, compared to about \$24,000 at the end of 2003 (before our petitioning drive). Our financial information is filed with the NYS Board of Elections.

To see it:

<http://www.elections.state.ny.us/finance/recipientstext.htm>

Look for: Libertarian Party

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Our new Legislative Director, Jeff Shapiro, spoke about some plans for the coming year.

1. He'd like us to support a tax-limiting initiative (TABOR). Colorado, which has one, has reduced taxes more than any other state, and had the best income growth among states.

2. He informed us about the New York Freedom of Information Act changes coming up (The Faster FOI Act) that set a timeframe for the government to respond to requests for information--there's previously been no deadlines.

3. He talked about the possibilities for a Constitutional Amendment and about a bill sponsored by Assemblyman Hooker.

LPNY College Outreach Coordinator Dr. Tom Stevens spoke next. He emphasized that 2006 is an important year for us. He congratulated Don Stillwagon's efforts, which have resulted in a 10-member group at SUNY Buffalo, and we applauded Don, who was present. The NY College Libertarian contact list is kept at

<http://www.libertarianfreedomcouncil.org/nyfacstud.htm>

In the interest of time, reports from other appointed directors weren't continued at this time, and we moved on the nomination and election of officers.

Nominations for chair:

Gary Donoyan nominated John Clifton for chair.

Bonnie Scott declined a nomination. John won against NOTA by a vote of 19 to zero.

Nominations for vice chair:

Bonnie Scott was nominated.

Thomas Ruks was nominated.

Blay Tarnoff was nominated but declined.

Two vice chairs were elected by writing two names on a ballot.

Bonnie Scott received 17 votes.

Thomas Ruks received 15 votes.

NOTA received 2 votes.

Bonnie Scott and Thomas Ruks were elected.

Nominations for Treasurer:

Werner Hetzner was nominated by Thomas Ruks.
Bill McMillen was nominated by Gary Donoyan, but Bill declined. Werner won against NOTA by a vote of 17 to 3.

Nominations for Secretary:

Audrey Capozzi was nominated but declined.
Andrew Gardner was nominated but declined.
Blay Tarnoff was nominated and reluctantly accepted.
Tom Stevens was nominated but declined.
Brian Sullivan was nominated but declined.

Blay won against NOTA by a vote of 21 (23?) to zero.

Nomations for At-Large:

Don Stillwagon was nominated by Tom Stevens.
Tom Stevens was nominated by Thomas Ruks.
Andrew Gardner nominated himself.
Audrey Capozzi was nominated.
M Carling was nominated by Bonnie Scott.
Gary Triestman was nominated.
Gary Donoyan was nominated.

Thomas Ruks made a motion to suspend the rules to allow short speeches from the candidates. Gary Donoyan seconded. The convention voted in favor of the motion.

Five At-Large members were elected by writing five names on a ballot. Twenty-four ballots were cast. Ballot counters found two spoiled ballots, and the chair and the convention accepted their recommendation to follow the apparent intent of the voters. In one case, NOTA was dropped from position 2 in favor of counting the other four candidates placed on the ballot. In the other case, the first 5 candidate votes were counted (they differed in order from the list as nominated), dropping the last two names on the list.

The At-Large results were:

* Don Stillwagon	20
* Andrew Gardner	20
* Audrey Capozzi	19
* M Carling	17
* Gary Donoyan	16
Gary Triestman	11
Thomas Stevens	8

A majority was required for election, and the top five candidates (denoted above with an *) were elected during the first round.

Bill Mc Millen moved--pursuant to at-ease discussions --to have the incoming state committee investigate the

recent dues increase, secret ballot and lack of UMP increase for the state. The motion passed unanimously.

The convention moved to adjourn at 12:30.

During the various ballot-counting sessions (all votes require a ballot), the convention stood at ease and had discussion about issues facing the party.

Summaries:

1 - upcoming conventions: Albany next year. Ithaca in 2009? (Ithaca would be happy to do it sooner.) We shall plan on the last Saturday of April for the foreseeable future, to avoid Passover, Easter and other holidays.

2 - Possible resolution on the dues increase from national, given that:

- it was done in a secret ballot
- it doubled the fees for renewals
- it didn't increase UMP payments to the state

3 - supporting the Real Reform organization, which seeks to reform NY's drug laws

4 - Bonnie Scott, the state party's webmaster, reported on the web progress over the year, especially in the area of regional blogging and regional templates for new chapters. The full report plus the 'local affiliate template' were handed out and are available here:

<http://ny.lp.org/official/reports/2004-2005-web.htm>