

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE COMMITTEE
OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024
ON THE ZOOM MEETING APP AND PORCUPINE APP**

MEMBERS PRESENT (32)

Richard F. Purtell^{1,E}
Mark N. Axinn (JD1)¹
William Cody Anderson (JD3)¹
Justin N. Carman (JD3)¹
Lora Newell (JD3)¹
Jennifer L. O'Connor (JD3)¹
Daniel J. Castello (JD5)¹
Erinn Rose Leatherman (JD5)¹
Mark S. Braiman (JD6)¹
Craig L. Colwell (JD6)¹
Christopher M. Olenski (JD6)¹
David S. Penner (JD6)¹
Steven G. Becker (JD7)¹
Justin Pelletier (JD7)¹
Sean C. Phelan (JD7)¹
James M. Ziobro (JD7)¹
Erin M. Becker (JD8)
Maura E. Botsford (JD8)¹
Andrew M. Kolstee (JD8)¹
Frances Law (JD8)¹
Leonard E. Morlock (JD8)¹
Michael R. Rebmann (JD8)¹
Charles R. Roggen (JD8)¹
Jame J. VanDewalker (JD8)¹
Duane Whitmer (JD8)¹
Juan R. Ayala (JD9)¹
Daniel P. Donnelly (JD9)¹
Jeffrey J. Denecke (JD10)¹
Jonathan H. Gunther (JD10)¹
Robert E. Schuon (JD10)¹
Blay Tarnoff (JD10)¹
Irwin Mark Weinblatt (JD11)¹

MEMBERS ABSENT (29)

Morry C. Davis (JD1)
David B. "Chance" Haywood (JD1)

Paul M. Grindle (JD2)
Matthew I. Morgan (JD2)
Gary S. Popkin (JD2)
Amanda H. Ellithorpe (JD4)
Stephen C. Healey (JD4)
Karen A. Keniry-Thompson (JD4)
John A. Janes (JD4)
Zachary D. Remian (JD4)
Shawn C. DeGrand (JD5)
James Fitch (JD5)
Matthew K. Guilianelli (JD5)
Amber Nunes (JD5)
Keith C. Redhead (JD5)
Michael Gately (JD6)
Samuel Hordeski (JD6)
Jeffrey C. Bradley (JD7)
Marc A. Smith (JD7)
Robert J. Cocomello (JD9)
Robert J. Greibesland (JD9)
William K. Schmidt (JD9)
Christian J. Vondras (JD9)
Christian Padgett (JD10)
Randyn Tarnoff (JD10)
Vincent O'Neil (JD10)¹
George T. Ostrowski (JD10)
John Clifton (JD11)
Francisco Olvera (JD11)

OBSERVERS (3)

Timothy "TJ" Ferrera, Porcupine Administrator
Numerous other observers

KEY

(1) Present at first roll call at 1:30 p.m. on 3/16
(E) 2nd Vice-Chair and ex-officio voting member

The meeting was called to order at 6:43 p.m. by Andrew Kolstee, Chair. Secretary Mark Braiman conducted a roll call and determined that a quorum was present.

The Credentials and Nominations Report (**Exhibit 1**) indicated that there were thirty-two (32) of sixty-three (63) voting members of the State Committee present at the time of roll call. The Secretary determined that a quorum was present at all times during the meeting.

Motion by Justin Carman to adopt the **Agenda (Exhibit 2)** was **seconded by Michael Rembmann** and passed without objection.

Chair Andrew Kolstee called for the filling of two (2) State Committee vacancies from Judicial District 5. Secretary Mark Braiman reported that no one had been nominated in advance. Chair Andrew Kolstee, hearing no nominations from the floor, postponed filling these vacancies until the next meeting of the State Committee.

Chair Andrew Kolstee called for the filling of three (3) State Committee vacancies from Judicial District 7. Secretary Mark Braiman reported that no one had been nominated in advance. Chair Andrew Kolstee, hearing no nominations from the floor, postponed filling these vacancies until the next meeting of the State Committee.

Chair Andrew Kolstee called for the filling of two (2) State Committee vacancies from Judicial District 12. Secretary Mark Braiman reported that no one had been nominated in advance. Chair Andrew Kolstee, hearing no nominations from the floor, postponed filling these vacancies until the next meeting of the State Committee.

Chair Andrew Kolstee called for the filling of two (2) State Committee vacancies from Judicial District 13. Secretary Mark Braiman reported that no one had been nominated in advance. Chair Andrew Kolstee, hearing no nominations from the floor, postponed filling these vacancies until the next meeting of the State Committee.

Chair Andrew Kolstee called for the filling of five (5) vacancies on the Elections Oversight Committee from Judicial Districts 3, 5, 8, 12, and 13. Secretary Mark Braiman reported that no one had been nominated in advance. Chair Andrew Kolstee, hearing no nominations from the floor, postponed filling these vacancies until the next meeting of the State Committee.

Treasurer William Cody Anderson issued a Treasurer's Report (**Exhibit 3**) and the report was accepted without objection.

Motion by Mark Axinn **to reimburse Michael Rebmann \$164.15 for costs associated with travel to the venue in Watkins Glen leading up to the convention** was seconded by Justin Carman and debated, and passed by voice vote.

Motion by Justin Carman **to reimburse Andrew Kolstee \$164.15 for costs associated with the convention in Watkins Glen** was seconded by Len Morlock and passed by voice vote. (**Exhibit 4**). The Convention generated net proceeds of \$3,975.89 for the LPNY.

Chair Andrew Kolstee issued a report. He announced that the organizing meeting will be September 21-22.

Petitioning Committee Chair Andrew Kolstee issued a report. The Petitioning Portal is now open. There will be a training meeting on April 10 at 6:30. A Petitioning pledge form was distributed by email. We currently have 4335 signatures pledged.

Chair Andrew Kolstee announced changes in the National Delegation, according to Exhibit 5.

Tom Quiter declined to be reappointed as Liaison for Chenango County
Adam Magoon has declined to be reappointed for Niagara County.
Brian Wells has declined to be reappointed for Washington County.

Motion to **retroactively renew the appointment of Jame VanDeWalker as county Liaison of Allegany County on March 31, 2024, which will expire on June 30, 2024** was accepted without objection

Motion to **retroactively renew the appointment of Zachary Remain as County Liaison of Clinton County on March 31, 2024, which will expire on June 30, 2024** was accepted without objection

Motion to **retroactively renew the appointment of Jennifer O'Connor as County Liaison of Rensselaer County on March 31, 2024, which will expire on June 30, 2024** was accepted without objection

Motion to **retroactively renew the appointment of Justin Carman as County Liaison of Clinton County on March 31, 2024, which will expire on June 30, 2024** was accepted without objection

Motion to **retroactively renew the appointment of as County Liaison of Westchester County on March 31, 2024, which will expire on June 30, 2024** was accepted without objection

Rules Committee Chair offered a report (**Exhibit 4**). Motion by Michael Rebmann on behalf of the Rules Committee to **adopt Proposal 1** passed by a voice vote.

Motion by Christopher Olenski on behalf of the Rules Committee to **adopt Proposal 2** was debated. Motion by Christopher Olenski to refer the motion back to the Rules Committee was seconded by Daniel Castello and passed by a voice vote.

Motion by Mark Braiman on behalf of the Rules committee to **adopt Proposal 3** was debated. Motion by Robert Schuon to **refer back to the Rules Committee** was seconded by William Cody Anderson and debated.

Christopher Olenski offered a point of order **objecting to consideration of the motion on the grounds that it was offered in the Rules Committee without a proper second**. Andrew Kolstee overruled the point of order on the grounds that motions in small committees do not require seconding. Motion by Christopher Olenski to **overrule the Chair** was seconded by . The Chair's ruling was sustained by voice vote.

Motion by Jeff Denecke to call the question was seconded by . The motion to call the question was adopted by voice vote. The original motion failed by a Porcupine vote of 10-18-0. This total includes a no vote by James Ziobro, who was unable to vote by Zoom and asked to have his No vote recorded by the Secretary

Motion by Mark Axinn to **adopt the Kolstee Amendment** was seconded by Daniel Castello and there was discussion.

Motion by Mark Braiman to **refer back to the Rules Committee** was seconded by Daniel Castello. and failed 11-15-3 by voice vote.

Motion by Robert Schuon to **postpone the Kolstee Amendment to the next meeting of the State Committee** was seconded by Christopher Olenski and passed by voice vote.

A point of order was made by Michael Rebmann Call to **call for a quorum**. The Secretary determined that thirty-one (31) members were present as of the vote to postpone, which is (just barely) a majority of the 61 currently seated members of the State Committee.

The committee to select a Communications Director chair, Justin Pelletier, gave a report, stating that the Committee is prepared to make a recommendation and to have that individual interviewed by the State Committee.

Motion by Christopher Olenki to restore to the Agenda the hearings on revocation of affiliations of Schoharie and Richmond County failed due to lack of a second.

Motion Michael Rebmann to **adjourn** was seconded by Mark Axinn passed without objection.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm

Mark Stephen Braiman,
Secretary.

EXHIBIT 1

CREDENTIALS REPORT

ROLL CALLS. Column #1 taken at 1:01 p.m. on March 16, 2024; Column #2 shows times of late arrivals. P=Present.

JD	State Committee Member	1	2
EO	Richard F. Purtell	P	
1	Mark N. Axinn	P	
1	Morry C. Davis		
1	David B. "Chance" Haywood		
2	Paul M. Grindle		
2	Matthew I. Morgan		
2	Gary S. Popkin		
3	William Cody Anderson	P	
3	Justin N. Carman	P	
3	Lora Newell	P	
3	Jennifer L. O'Connor	P	
4	Amanda H. Ellithorpe		
4	Stephen C. Healey		
4	John A. Janes		
4	Karyn A. Keniry-Thompson		
4	Zachary D. Remian		
4	Daniel J. Castello	P	
5	Shawn C. DeGrand		
5	James Fitch		
5	Matthew K. Guilianelli		
5	Erinn Rose Leatherman	P	
5	Amber Nunes		
5	Keith C.Redhead		
5	VACANT		

JD	State Committee Member	1	2
5	VACANT		
6	Mark S. Braiman	P	
6	Craig Colwell	P	
6	Samuel J. Hordeski		
6	Christopher M. Olenski	P	
6	David S. Penner	P	
6	Michael Gately		
7	Steven G. Becker	P	
7	Jeffrey C. Bradley		
7	Justin Pelletier	P	
7	Sean C. Phelan	P	
7	Marc A. Smith		
7	James M. Ziobro	P	
7	VACANT		
7	VACANT		
7	VACANT		
8	Erin M. Becker	P	
8	Maura E. Botsford	P	
8	Andrew M. Kolstee	P	
8	Francis Law	P	
8	Leonard E. Morlock	P	
8	Michael R. Rebmann	P	
8	Charles R. Roggen	P	
8	Jame J. VanDewalker	P	

JD	State Committee Member	1	2
8	Duane J. Whitmer	P	
9	Juan R. Ayala	P	
9	Robert J. Cocomello		
9	Daniel P. Donnelly	P	
9	Robert J. Greibesland		
9	William K. Schmidt		
9	Christian J. Vondras		
10	Jeffrey J. Denecke	P	
10	Jonathan H. Gunther	P	
10	George T. Ostrowski		
10	Robert E. Schuon	P	
10	Blay Tarnoff	P	
10	Randyn Tarnoff		
10	Christian Padgett		
10	Vincent O'Neil		
11	John Clifton		
11	Francisco Olvera		
11	Irwin Mark Weinblatt	P	
12	VACANT		
12	VACANT		
13	VACANT		
13	VACANT		
	# Present at roll call.	32	
	(out of 61 members initial and after vacancies filled)		

EXHIBIT 2 (PAGE 1 OF 3)

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK AGENDA OF THE STATE COMMITTEE OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024

6:30 P.M. Call to Order (Andrew Kolstee, Chair)

6:40 P.M. Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum (Mark Braiman, Secretary)

Note: Adam Magoon and Brian Wells have resigned from the State Committee since the last meeting. Quorum is down to 31.

6:45 P.M. Adoption of Agenda

6:50 P.M. Filling of Vacancies on the State Committee

Judicial District 7 (3 vacancies)
Judicial District 12 (2 vacancies)
Judicial District 13 (2 vacancies)

7:00 P.M. Filling of Vacancies on the Elections Oversight Committee (1 in each district)

Judicial District 3
Judicial District 5
Judicial District 8
Judicial District 12
Judicial District 13

7:10 P.M. Treasurer's Report (Cody Anderson)

7:15 P.M. Reimbursements

Consideration of reimbursement of Michael Rebmann \$164.15 for costs associated with mileage to check the venue in Watkins Glen ahead of the nominating convention.

Consideration of reimbursement of Andrew Kolstee \$167.12 for costs associated with balloting at State Committee meetings and the nominating convention in Watkins Glen.

7:20 P.M. Nominating Convention Report (Michael Rebmann)

7:30 P.M. Chair's Report (Andrew Kolstee)

7:40 P.M. Petitioning Committee Report (Andrew Kolstee)

EXHIBIT 2 (PAGE 2 OF 3)

7:50 P.M. National Delegation Changes

Demote as a Delegate:

Roger Cooper (resigned as a Delegate on March 20, 2024)
Richard Cooper (resigned as a Delegate on March 21, 2024)
Adam Magoon (resigned as a Delegate on March 26, 2024)

Promote as a Delegate:

James Melloen (1st Alternate)
Paul Schaffenberger (6th Alternate)
Chuck Dorgan (7th Alternate)

Demote as an Alternate:

Russell Nelson (resigned as an Alternate Delegate on March 22, 2024)
Alexander Tollner (resigned as an Alternate Delegate on February 16, 2024)
Sarah Shuster (resigned as an Alternate Delegate on February 16, 2024)
Brandon Larsen (resigned as an Alternate Delegate on February 16, 2024)

Appoint as Alternate Delegates:

1. Erinn Rose Leatherman (#3 National Platform Committee Representative)
2. Jeffrey Monheit (#25 Former member of the State Committee, 2006-10)
3. Vladimir Vizner (#28 Former Brooklyn Secretary)
4. Dennis Consorte (#33 National member beginning May 14, 2018)

8:00 P.M. Appointment of Acting County Chairs/County Liaisons

Thomas Quiter has declined to be reappointed for Chenango County.

Adam Magoon has declined to be reappointed for Niagara County.

Brian Wells has declined to be reappointed for Washington County.

Consideration to **retroactively renew the appointment of Jame VanDewalker as County Liaison of Allegany County on March 31, 2024, which will expire on June 30, 2024.**

Consideration to **retroactively renew the appointment of Zachary Remian as Acting County Chair and County Liaison of Clinton County on March 31, 2024, which will expire on June 30, 2024.**

Consideration to **retroactively renew the appointment of Jennifer O'Connor as Acting County Chair and County Liaison of Rensselaer County on March 31, 2024, which will expire on June 30, 2024.**

EXHIBIT 2 (PAGE 3 OF 3)

Consideration to **retroactively renew the appointment of Justin Carman as County Liaison of Albany County on March 31, 2024, which will expire on June 30, 2024.**

Consideration to **retroactively renew the appointment of Rajib Maitra as Acting County Chair and County Liaison of Westchester County on March 31, 2024, which will expire on June 30, 2024.**

Consideration to **appoint Wendi Szabo as Acting County Chair and County Liaison of Niagara County.**

Consideration to **appoint Jason Muckey as Acting County Chair and County Liaison of Steuben County.**

8:20 P.M. Rules Committee Report

See [here](#) for the report.

9:00 P.M. Old business

9:15 P.M. New business

9:30 P.M. Adjournment

EXHIBIT 3

Treasurer's Report

EXHIBIT 4 (PAGE 1 OF 2)

REPORT OF THE RULES COMMITTEE FOR THE STATE COMMITTEE MEETING OF APRIL 3, 2024

Proposal 1 (C). Cleanup provisions in agenda for organization meetings.

8.5.2. **AGENDA.** The order of business shall be as follows:

- (a) The current Chair shall call the meeting to order.
- (b) ~~The Chair shall call the roll~~ Roll call to identify the elected State Committee members present.
- (c) The Chair shall serve as the Presiding Officer and Secretary shall serve as the Recording Secretary, respectively, of the Organization Meeting, unless they decline or are unable to serve, at which point a Temporary Chair and/or Temporary Secretary shall be elected for the duration of the meeting.
- ~~(d) Report of Rules Committee and adoption of the Special Rules of Order of the Organization Meeting.~~
- ~~(d)~~ (d) Filling of vacancies on the State Committee.
- ~~(e)~~ (e) Supplemental credentials report.
- ~~(f)~~ (f) Report of Rules Subcommittee Committee and adoption of the Rules of the Libertarian Party.
- ~~(g)~~ (g) Election of the officers and five Members-At-Large of the Executive Committee.
- ~~(h)~~ (h) Discussion and consideration of Platform amendments.
- (i) Treasurer's report
- (j) Other reports
- ~~(j) Report of Resolutions Subcommittee.~~
- (k) Adjournment.

Proposal 2 (D). Avoid using ballots for uncontested elections to speed up the process.

9.5. **UNCONTESTED ELECTIONS.** If any election is uncontested, normal voting procedures in accordance with these Rules may be suspended by a majority vote in which the vote may then be conducted by a voice vote between the uncontested candidate(s) and "None of the Above" (NOTA).

Proposal 3 (A). Add a financial obligation for all State Committee members during in-person meetings regardless of in-person or remote attendance.

8.3.1. **FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS OF STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.** All members of the State Committee, whether attending in-person or remotely, shall pay a minimum registration fee of \$20. Purchasing a meeting package fulfills this requirement. No person shall be provided with the means to speak or vote in the meeting until their individual registration fee is paid.

EXHIBIT 4 (PAGE 2 OF 2)

KOLSTEE AMENDMENT 1. Give the Executive Committee flexibility to choose a smaller committee on vacancies to prevent the need to mail the documents to change candidates to 10 different people.

14.2. STATEWIDE CANDIDATES.

14.2.1. **GENERAL.** Candidates for statewide office shall be nominated at a special open meeting of the State Committee in accordance with these Rules and Election Law. The nomination process shall be conducted in the same manner as the election of party offices as provided in Article 9. ~~The Executive Committee of the State Committee shall constitute the committee to fill any vacancy in such designations that may occur after the State Committee has adjourned.~~

14.2.2. **ELIGIBILITY.** To be a candidate for nomination for any of the following offices to be filled by the voters of the entire state, one must be an LPNY Member: Governor/Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, United States Senator, Presidential/Vice Presidential Elector. However, in the event that nominations have already closed for a particular statewide office, a motion may be made to reopen nominations exclusively to allow the nomination of a specific non-LPNY Member for that position. Such a motion requires a three-quarters (3/4) vote and is non-debatable. If the motion is passed, the candidate will be entered into nomination.

14.2.3. **COMMITTEE TO FILL VACANCIES.** The Executive Committee of the State Committee shall constitute the committee to fill any vacancy in such designations that may occur after the State Committee has adjourned. [moved from 14.2.1] **The Executive Committee may, by majority vote, appoint a subset of the Executive Committee to serve as the committee to fill vacancies.**

14.2.3. **STAND-IN CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.** The State Committee may nominate a stand-in candidate for President and Vice President of the United States for the purposes of selecting names for an official Libertarian Party independent nominating petition if the Libertarian National Convention in which such candidates are to be nominated, is scheduled to begin after the start of the petitioning period. ~~The Executive Committee shall be named on the petition as the committee to fill vacancies.~~

14.2.3.1. **OPTION TO RETAIN STAND-IN CANDIDATE(S) IN THE GENERAL ELECTION.**

After the Libertarian National Convention and prior to the declination deadline of independent candidates as determined by the New York State Board of Elections, the State Committee may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, officially request that one or both stand-in candidate(s) remain as the candidate(s) through the general election.

14.2.3.2. **PROCEDURES TO FILL VACANCIES.** If a vacancy occurs in the independent nomination for President and/or Vice President, ~~the Executive Committee, acting as~~ the committee to fill vacancies, shall name the candidate(s) chosen at the Libertarian National Convention as substitute(s). In the event that the Libertarian National Convention fails to nominate a candidate for President or Vice President of the United States, or nominates None of the Above (NOTA), the Executive Committee, acting as the committee to fill vacancies, shall choose the nominee(s) according to their own discretion.