



Free New York

Vol. 52, No. 1

The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of New York

January 2023

FREE NEW YORK REBORN

by Andrew Kolstee
LPNY Chair

After over a decade since the last Free New York newsletter was released, the LPNY’s official newsletter is back! The only difference, at least for now, is that the newsletter will be release online only and sent via the LPNY’s email list.

This revival of the LPNY newsletter will provide readers an inside look at Libertarian Party activism in New York State with a focus, beyond the clutter of Facebook, Twitter, and occasional emails.

In addition to news on party business, we will have sections for Libertarian Party leaders and activists across the state to report on their activities in order to encourage everyone how you can make a difference too in your community. I am asking all County Affiliates to give a

report as to their county’s happenings, whether an organized County Affiliate or an unorganized county group. I would also like to promote local meetings and events, in order to help spread the word of local Libertarian Party activities.

In future issues, I would like to spotlight different Libertarian Party leaders and activists, to talk about how they became a Libertarian and their involvement in the movement and party.

We will also feature articles on candidates and campaigns, and any news from our elected Libertarians across the state.

We also welcome editorials and commentary on the issues from a Libertarian perspective. If you have anything you would like to submit to the newsletter, send it to info@lpny.org

Some of you may be asking—why is this issue listed as volume 52? This involves an understanding of the history of the LPNY newsletter. If you do the math, that would make volume 1 occur in 1972. The first LPNY newsletter was known as “FLP News” in July 1972, and then “Free Libertarian Party News” in August 1972. From October 1972 to March 1980, it was known as “Free Libertarian,” but it was in 1978, known as volume 7, was the last numbering by volume from the early period. The newsletter was simply called “Newsletter” in 1980, and then went to a large format and called “The New York Libertarian” in 1981, listed as volume 1. In 1982 and early 1983, the newsletter was called “FLP Insider” and listed as volume 1 and 2 for each year. In 1983, the newsletter once again called “FLP News” and was numbered by issue and not volume from #1 in June 1983 to #16 in October 1985.

In December 1986, the earliest instance of the name “Free New York” was used with the subtitle “The Libertarian Alternative.” The subtitle was dropped with the November 1989 revival of the newsletter. In 1991, “Free New York” was renu-

(continued on page 8)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-------|
| Free New York Reborn | 1, 8 |
| 2022 Election Write-In Results Gradually Arrive | 2 |
| Steve Felano Appointed Outreach Director | 3 |
| County Affiliate News | 4-7 |
| LPNY Seeks Political and Finance Directors | 7 |
| Mark Glogowski Appointed Platform Committee Chair | 8 |
| Cazenovia College Closing: Unintended Consequences of Govt. | 10-11 |
| Libertarian Party of New York Directory | 12 |

2022 ELECTION WRITE-IN RESULTS GRADUALLY ARRIVE

by Andrew Kolstee
LPNY Chair

The 2022 election results for our statewide candidates has been gradually arriving—simply because we had to run a write-in campaign. Our candidates, Larry Sharpe for Governor, Andrew Hollister for Lt. Governor, William Schmidt for Comptroller, Sean Hayes for Attorney General, and Thomas Quiter for U.S. Senator, did not appear on the ballot as a result of the duopoly’s continued battle to destroy third parties.

A FOIL request had to be sent to each County Board of Elections, and each county had a different way of presenting the results. Some counties posted the write-in results online, while others provided the results via email. Some counties had a breakdown of write-ins by the district while others had a simple summary. Some counties provided information on all write-ins, while some only provided information on only some write-in candidates.

The conclusion to this is clear—to the Board of Elections, your write-in vote doesn’t matter—your protest to the two major parties doesn’t matter. The official election results on the New York State Board of Elections website lists all write-ins as “scattering”—which means, for example, Larry Sharpe, who so far has 1,774 votes, is combined as scattering with every other write-in vote. While over 4,000 of these votes remain unknown, Larry, as well as most of our candidates, received more write-in votes than any other candidate.

In write-ins from what we have gathered, Larry Sharpe (1,774) is ahead of Howie Hawkins (514), Andrew Cuomo (410), Jumaane Williams (118), Michael Bloomberg (104), Harry Wilson (65), Kim Davis (60), Thomas Suozzi (45), George Pataki (30), and Letitia James (29).

To the state, all that matters is how many votes Kathy Hochul received and how many votes Lee Zeldin received. Here you will find a table of the election results—which have been received so far from 50 out of 62 counties—but the complete breakdown of those tallies is not yet complete.

| Office | Governor | Lt. Gov. | Comptroller | Attny. Gen. | U.S. Senator |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Candidate/ County | Larry Sharpe | Andrew Hollister | William K. Schmidt | Sean C. Hayes | Thomas D. Quiter |
| TOTAL | 1,774 | 199 | 346 | 315 | 350 |
| Albany | 96 | 19 | 18 | 15 | 20 |
| Allegany | 31 | - | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| Bronx | 21 | - | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Broome | | | | | |
| Cattaraugus | 17 | - | - | - | - |
| Cayuga | 17 | - | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Chautauqua | 37 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 7 |
| Chemung | 25 | - | - | - | - |
| Chenango | 15 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 11 |
| Clinton | 11 | - | - | - | - |
| Columbia | | | | | |
| Cortland | 18 | - | - | - | - |
| Delaware | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Dutchess | | | | | |
| Erie | | | | | |
| Essex | 6 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Franklin | 3 | - | - | - | - |
| Fulton | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| Genesee | 20 | 2 | - | - | - |
| Greene | 9 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Hamilton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Herkimer | 9 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Jefferson | 17 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Kings | 69 | 11 | 31 | 31 | 24 |
| Lewis | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Livingston | 28 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Madison | 64 | 11 | 7 | 8 | 10 |
| Monroe | 264 | - | 67 | 61 | 65 |
| Montgomery | - | - | 3 | - | 4 |
| Nassau | | | | | |
| New York | 68 | 23 | 25 | 21 | 30 |
| Niagara | 56 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 7 |
| Oneida | 112 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 12 |
| Onondaga | 131 | 31 | 27 | 26 | 26 |
| Ontario | 39 | - | 7 | 8 | 8 |
| Orange | | | | | |
| Orleans | 15 | - | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Oswego | 11 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Otsego | 35 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| Putnam | 18 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Queens | 65 | 8 | 31 | 25 | 26 |
| Rensselaer | | | | | |
| Richmond | 28 | - | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Rockland | 19 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 5 |
| St. Lawrence | 17 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Saratoga | 67 | - | 9 | 9 | 7 |
| Schenectady | | | | | |
| Schoharie | 13 | - | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Schuyler | 18 | - | - | - | - |
| Seneca | 13 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Steuben | 31 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| Suffolk | | | | | |
| Sullivan | 6 | - | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Tioga | 18 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 7 |
| Tompkins | 28 | - | 9 | 10 | 9 |
| Ulster | 37 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 4 |
| Warren | 23 | - | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Washington | 14 | - | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| Wayne | 30 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| Westchester | 60 | - | - | - | - |
| Wyoming | | | | | |
| Yates | 17 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 5 |

STEVE FELANO APPOINTED OUTREACH DIRECTOR

by Duane Whitmer
LPNY 1st Vice-Chair

Steve Felano has joined the Libertarian Party of New York as the Director of the Outreach Division, having been appointed to the position by the Executive Committee at the December 2022 meeting. In that capacity, Felano will assist with event planning and development and distribution of new media content focusing on issue coalitions and initiatives that build liberty culture. Much of Felano's efforts will be geared towards shifting the Overton Window of what the general public should expect from a political party.

He will work to demonstrate that

political parties can and should focus on unconventional, non-electoral initiatives that kneecap the projection of centralized government authority. Felano will guide a more muscular, aggressive form of libertarian communication that calls out the failings of both parties and encourages all New Yorkers to leave the electoral duopoly behind."

Steve Felano is Second Amendment Advisor to the Erie County Libertarian Party and partner in Whitmer Tax Defense, a new firm focused on protecting all individual and business taxpayers from the abuses of the newly expanded, unaccountable rogue agency that is the IRS. He is a competitive shoot-



er and firearms instructor with 15 years of experience focused on the GLOCK pistol and AR15 fighting rifle. Felano has five years of experience working full-time on Second Amendment-focused litigation, media relations, and direct-action projects. He holds a master's degree in Marketing and Business Management from the College of Saint Rose in Albany, New York.

Erie County Libertarian Party Annual Gala

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH, 2023
ILIO DIPAOLLO'S BANQUET FACILITY
3785 SOUTH PARK AVENUE
BLASDELL, NY 14219



COUNTY AFFILIATE NEWS

ALBANY

CONTACT:

Jay Carr, Chair

carrsgarage@protonmail.com

Justin Carman, Vice-Chair

jcarman@lpny.org

ALLEGANY

The next meeting is set for January 22, 2023 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Visit the Facebook page at fb.com/AlleganyCountyLP for more information.

CONTACT:

Jame VanDewalker,

County Contact

jvandewalker@lpny.org

CHAUTAUQUA

The Chautauqua County Libertarian Party held their 7th convention on October 6, 2022 at the See-Zurh House in Bemus Point. Len Morlock, who served as Vice-Chair since 2017, was elected the new Chair. Bob Peterson was elected the new Vice-Chair and former CCLP Chair Andrew Kolstee was elected Secretary, succeeding Gerrit Cain, who has moved to Michigan. Andrew Kolstee was also re-elected Treasurer.

After meeting at the See-Zurh House for seven years, the restaurant is now under new ownership and so the Chautauqua LP will meet via Zoom at least until the spring.

Meetings of the Chautauqua LP are held on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom, with the next one to be held January 12, 2023. Learn more at www.ChautauquaLP.org

CONTACT:

Len Morlock, Chair

lmorlock@lpny.org

Andrew Kolstee, Secretary

akolstee@lpny.org

CHEMUNG

The next monthly Executive Committee business meeting is Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 6 p.m. at the Ill Eagle Taphouse-Libertarians are welcome to attend and hang out after 6 p.m. A social gathering/trivia is set for January 25, 2023 at WMC North.

CONTACT:

Craig Colwell, Chair

ccolwell78@gmail.com

CHENANGO

CONTACT:

Tom Quitter, Chair

tquiter@lpny.org

COLUMBIA

The Columbia County Libertarian Party gathered for its county convention on September 21, 2022 at the Claverack Free Library and held the elections of its officers, adopted proposed rule changes, and conducted other business as necessary.

Scott Hoskins (Chair), Ripley Hathaway (Vice Chair), Mario Verna (Treasurer), and Matthew Bathrick (Secretary) were all re-elected to continue serving in their respective positions. David DeSanto was newly-elected to serve as an at-large member. The organizational meeting is held biennially. The affiliate holds meetings open to the public at 7 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the Claverack Free Library and virtually via Google Meet. All are welcome to attend. The next meeting is set for Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 7 p.m.

CONTACT:

Scott Hoskins, Chair

scottdhoskins@gmail.com

CLINTON

Zachary Remian reports: "We have added new energy to the local party and are working on resuming our mission of meetings and organizing. This energy comes from a small group of people that were instrumental in the Larry Sharpe Campaign as well as the write-in campaign I launched two weeks before the Election. My hope is that by February to have our first 2023 meeting scheduled. In October 2022, I decided to launch a write-in Campaign for Plattsburgh City Common Council Ward 1. The seat was up for election with no incumbent and only one person on the ballot. Patty and John Blanchard were

a significant force in campaigning. While I was not elected it was not for a lack of exposure or effort. This year the positions up for election are County Coroner, County Clerk, Area 9 legislator, City Mayor, Wards 2 and 5 Common Council. Feel free to contact me with questions, comments or concerns.”

CONTACT:
Zachary Remian,
County Contact
zremian@lpny.org
(518) 310-6664

DUTCHESS

On December 3, 2022, the Dutchess County Libertarian Party hosted comedian/author Lou Perez at the Hyatt House in Fishkill NY to discuss his book “That Joke Isn’t Funny Anymore.”

On March 30, 2023 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. the DCLP, with support of neighboring affiliates is hosting our first annual awards banquet and fundraising gala at Revel 32 in Poughkeepsie. Please join us as we honor Larry Sharpe (influencer/political impact), Dr. Aaron Lewis, Gubernatorial Candidate in Connecticut (Leadership), and award recipients for Affiliate Support, The Larry Sharpe Award, Also known as the “thorn in the side of the state award,” and Libertarian of the Year.

Mike ter Maat, libertarian presidential candidate, will discuss his campaign, the “Gold New Deal” and present the influencer/political impact ward.”

CONTACT:
Catrina Rocco, Chair
DCLPChair@outlook.com

ERIE

The Erie County Libertarian Party is proud to announce that Charles Roggen is our libertarian candidate for Village Trustee in the Village of Akron, NY. With the new focus on local candidates, this is the type of race we need to run for future statewide and federal election successes.

The ECLP is holding its 3rd Annual Gala/fundraiser from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on February 18, 2023. Tickets are live for our 3rd Annual Gala this February! Prices include dinner, open bar, DJ, photo booth, and more! Please contact Maura Botsford at secretary@eriecountylp.org if you are interested in becoming a sponsor. Buy your tickets here: <https://secure.anedot.com/erie-county.../gala2023>

The next meeting of the ECLP is Wednesday, January 18, 2023.

CONTACT:
Duane Whitmer, Chair
chairman@eriecountylp.org

FULTON

The Fulton County Libertarian Party will hold a meet and greet at the Johnstown Public Library on January 21, 2022.

CONTACT:
Michael Long,
Acting Chair/Secretary
mlong@lpny.org

KINGS (BROOKLYN)

The next meeting of the Brooklyn Libertarian Party will be held Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at the Fourth Avenue Pub at 76 4th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11217. Discussion will be on future events for the new year.

CONTACT:
Matthew Morgan
matthewisaiahmorgan@gmail.com

LEWIS

CONTACT:
Christopher Lyndaker,
County Contact
lyndaker2020@gmail.com

MADISON

CONTACT:
Mark Braiman, Chair
mbraiman@lpny.org

MONROE

Meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. online. Contact us for the link. We also have a Google Group for announcements. We also have monthly social meetings that you don’t want to miss. Those are announced on the Google Group. Visited our website at monroecountylp.com

CONTACT:
Steve Becker, Chair
drsbecker@aol.com

MONTGOMERY

CONTACT:

Barbara Neznek, Chair
belle51062@msn.com

NASSAU

CONTACT:

Jon Gunther,
Executive Committee Chair
jonguntherlibertarian@gmail.com
Blay Tarnoff,
County Committee Chair
LPNY@eblay.com

NEW YORK (MANHATTAN)

The next Manhattan Libertarian Party Happy Hour is Tuesday, January 24, 2023 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Fitzpatrick Manhattan Hotel at 687 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10022. Learn more at meetup.com/ny-libertarians/events/bdjxvsyfcbgc

CONTACT:

Rebecca Lau, Chair
laurebeccas@gmail.com

ONEIDA

The Oneida County Libertarian Party is not yet organized. Keith Redhead, County Contact, is planning to start up regular meetings in February.

CONTACT:

Keith Redhead,
County Contact
kredhead@lpny.org

ONONDAGA

The next meeting of the Onondaga County Libertarian Party

is Wednesday, January 18, 2023 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Rail Line located at 530 S. Clinton Street in Syracuse.

CONTACT:

Shawn Hannon, Chair
hannon.shawn@gmail.com

ORANGE

CONTACT:

Juan Ayala, Chair
livefree@juanrayala.com

ORLEANS

CONTACT:

Ajay Butcher, Chair
ajaybutcher76@gmail.com

OTSEGO

CONTACT:

Tim O'Connor, Chair
tmoconstructionllc@gmail.com

PUTNAM

CONTACT:

Bill O'Donnell, Chair
billod10704@gmail.com

QUEENS

CONTACT:

Mark Weinblatt,
Acting Chair/Treasurer
mark.weinblattfsa@gmail.com

RENSSELAER

The Rensselaer County Libertarian Party meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm at Alexis Diner in North Greenbush. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb-

ruary 1.

Starting this past October, we've been working to gather food items and monetary donations monthly for 'StreetSoldiers Rensselaer'. This group sets up on the third Saturday of each month in Rensselaer and provides basic necessities to those who stop by, no questions asked.

CONTACT:

Jennifer O'Connor,
County Contact
joconnor@lpny.org

RICHMOND

CONTACT:

Susan Overeem Cummings,
Chair
susanovereem@gmail.com

SARATOGA

CONTACT:

Karyn Thompson,
Acting Chair/Treasurer
rarrigo@lpny.org

SCHOHARIE

CONTACT:

Lora Newell, Chair
lnewell@lpny.org

SUFFOLK

CONTACT:

Artie Sintef, Chair
asintef@lpny.org

TIOGA

CONTACT:

Mel Foster, Chair
candorite@gmail.com

ULSTER

The next general business meeting is set for February 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Hickory BBQ in Kingston, New York. The topic is “Calling all Candidates! We want to hear from you.” The County Affiliate is planning to participate in the upcoming Regional Council of Libertarian Chairs Gala. Contact the Dutchess County Chair for more details.

CONTACT:

Cipriana Costello, Chair
ciprianacostello@gmail.com

WARREN

CONTACT:

Steve Greene, County Contact
sgreene@lpny.org

WASHINGTON

The Washington County Libertarian Party is not yet organized, but County Contact Brian Wells is working on setting up our meeting schedule for 2023.

CONTACT:

Brian Wells, County Contact
blwells45@gmail.com

WAYNE

The Wayne County Libertarian Party’s next social meeting is Saturday, January 28, 2022 at 11 a.m. at the Yellow Mills Diner in Palmyra. Meetings are held the fourth Saturday of each month. The Wayne LP is looking for independent candidates interested in running at local levels and working on compiling a list of

open races this year in Wayne County.

CONTACT:

Jim Dayton, Chair
jdayton@lpny.org

WESTCHESTER

Rajib Maitra is working on planning a meeting in the future on behalf of Chair Bill Schmidt. He can be contacted at rajib.maitra1@gmail.com

CONTACT:

Bill Schmidt, Chair
wschmidt@lpny.org

YATES

CONTACT:

Jeff Bradley, Chair
jbradley@lpny.org

LPNY SEEKS POLITICAL AND FINANCE DIRECTORS

by **Andrew Kolstee**
LPNY Chair

The Libertarian Party of New York is seeking applications for the positions of Political Director and Finance Director. Please see the descriptions here and apply on the LPNY website. All candidates are invited to attend the January 15, 2023 Executive Committee meeting where the candidates will present their plans and the Executive Committee will vote on them.

The **Political Director** is responsible for overseeing the Political Division. The Division shall be responsible for candidate acquisition, candidate support, and elected Libertarian Support. The Division shall consist of three committees: Candidate Acquisition Committee, Candidate Support Committee, and Elected Libertarian Support Committee.

The **Finance Director** is responsible for overseeing the Finance Division. The Division

shall be responsible for obtaining and managing finances, including donor relationships, sponsorships, vendor relationships, merchandising, and financial management. The Division shall consist of two committees: Fundraising Committee and Treasury Committee. The Treasury Committee shall be chaired by the Treasurer, who shall appoint members to the committee as needed to assist the Treasurer in carrying out the duties of the office.

MARK GLOGOWSKI APPOINTED PLATFORM COMMITTEE CHAIR

by Mark Glogowski
Platform Committee Chair

Dear Libertarian,

Our party's platform is supposed to be one of the greatest assets the party has. It is reportedly the document people are sent to when they ask, "What is the party all about?" Unfortunately, other than that, it is not being used to any extent. It is almost never cited. It doesn't make for stimulating reading. I have never seen a Libertarian candidate reference the platform or hand out copies to prospective voters. How many times have you quoted one of the one and two sentence paragraphs of the platform? Do you even remember one without looking?

I volunteered to be the Platform Chairman because I believe, as good as those statements are, they can

be stated in a way that will be more memorable when heard or read. I believe they can be written in a way that people will want to quote the platform when it comes to defining what we stand for rather than just reference it.

This will not be an easy task, but if you are up to the challenge of a lifetime, consider joining the LPNY Platform Committee. For example: We have no platform addressing abortion. The best we have is:

"The right to self-ownership and personal autonomy – individuals have the right to do with their own bodies whatever they please."

So, does that condone abortion – the pre-meditated elimination of a human life? I would prefer a right to Life platform that says "Libertarians are pro-life, pro-choice, and an-

ti-abortion (because abortion is the pre-meditated elimination of a human life)." This statement as a platform will immediately draw both the pro-life and pro-abortion people into the discussion beginning with: "What do you mean – Pro-Life and pro-Choice"? How can you be both? I will be glad to continue if you want to actually discuss this position, but...

Like I said. This is going to be a challenge. Barring a blackout or conflict in scheduling, I plan to hold Platform Committee meetings every other week, on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Send me an email if you are interested and I will send you a link to the meeting. Mglogowski08@gmail.com.

Mark Glogowski, PhD.
Platform Committee Chairman

FREE NEW YORK REBORN

(continued from page 1)

bered by volume once again for 1991-1992 (volume 1), 1992 (volume 2), 1993 (volume 4), and early 1994 (volume 4). In 1995, "Free New York" was listed as volume 24 with 1996 listed as volume 25, which corresponds to 1972 being volume 1. Another revival of the LPNY newsletter occurred in 2003, and by 2006, "Free New York" was listed as volume 4 of the series that began in 2003. The most recent revival took place in 2007-2009, all listed as volume 1.

With this brief history on the numbering of the LPNY newsletter, this revival is now referred to as volume 52 for 2023, to correspond with the idea from the mid-1990s as aforementioned.

Pictured to the right is the earliest known issue of the party's newsletter as "Free New York."

FREE NEW YORK

The Libertarian Alternative

December 1986

THE BATTLE OF THE WORDS DEPARTMENT

I still hear knowledgeable and thoughtful libertarians referring to "Public Schools" or maybe they mean "Public Schools" but I want to spread the use of more direct and straightforward terms for which I nominate "Government Schools". It is amazing the double takes that application causes, but no arguments. This particular adjective has greater power for us in our every day use. But any other I can think of off-hand. Government planning boards, government roads, government protected banks, government controlled insurance companies, etc. Unfortunately this list is long, but I don't see it will get shorter unless we attack with de-emphasizers.

THE SEAT BELT LAW REVISED

The Libertarian Party is often looked at from the OHTSDI as the party of regulation repeal (no seat belt law, end the income tax, stop the draft, end regulation, eliminate the FDA, etc. This is an image of denial, of negation, of the status quo. It is not, rather, the status of choice. The libertarian movement must convey this spirit if we are to attract more people with our message.

Self-government advocate Marshall Pitts has been doing a good job on this front. If I may paraphrase from memory, "We need ID FDA's all competing, all private to provide us

HUH? SAY THAT AGAIN?

Overheard recently "There is a tradition in the New England area of very healthy distrust of government." This same person who was so actively expressing something we libertarians hope to see later revealed that he was "of course a Democrat." I find that a screaming contradiction but apparently he didn't.

WHO KILLED CHRISTIA MCAULIFFE?

By Howard Kirk

The following article is printed because it is thought provoking, well researched and well written. It is also rather shocking in its attack, but the concepts raised must be addressed. I have always had a soft spot for the space program, in so far as it had always been my personal agenda. It was the last area to which I applied (but I did apply) the libertarian principle of expansion of sane and enterprise. The events of the Challenger disaster vividly point out this principle must be adhered to, or a

It is simply one of the many libertarian arguments against a government sponsored space program that political pressure will interfere with the legitimate goals of space exploration. On the morning of January 28, 1986, that really caught up with the American welfare state. Just as the fictional welfare state in ATLAS SHRUGGED made a major error in drumming up a giant audience which was then prosecuted by John Galt, the real welfare state has made a corresponding error by attracting a great deal of attention to one of its historic failures. The difference, however, is that the space shuttle disaster does not carry with it the knowledge of what caused the failure. That is the purpose of this article.

Examination of the photographs of the launch led the commission investigating the disaster to zero in on the O ring seals in the booster engines (made by Morton Thiokol) on the theory these seals became brittle in cold weather and would not function properly. For example, Allen J. McDonald, an engineer at Thiokol, told the commission that, on Jan. 27:

"I took that this [Thursday's weather report] and called back to the plant and said to Bob Dilling and relayed that I thought it was very serious. I called Cecil Hoover... and told him about our concerns with the low temperatures and the potential problems with the O ring seals. At that point in time, one vice president, Bob Land, presented those charts. And he presented the charts on the conclusions and recommendations and the bottom line was that the engineering people would not recommend a launch below 53 degrees Fahrenheit." (1)

McDonald said all of the other Thiokol

VOTE
Charles
Roggen
For Village Trustee

Committed to driving the community forward

*Charles Roggen, as a
life-long resident of
Akron, understands what
makes Akron special and
he wants to keep it that
way for you, with your
help.*

*Having a new set of eyes
looking after our village
helps to ensure your
needs and wants are being
met.*



Election Day Tuesday, March 21
Village of Akron, 21 Main Street

CAZENOVIA COLLEGE'S SUDDEN CLOSING THIS YEAR: UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF GOVERNMENT ACTIONS PULLED THE RUG OUT AFTER NEARLY TWO CENTURIES

by **Mark Braiman**
LPNY Secretary
Madison County Chair

Madison County headlines have been dominated for 2 months by the planned closure of nearly-200-year-old Cazenovia College at the end of the 2023 spring semester. This has upended the lives of its 700 remaining students, its 200 employees, its neighbors, and local government, in trying to plan for what will happen to the College's \$23 million bond default, which is secured by its substantial tax-free real estate holdings. The Madison County Libertarian Organization has no immediate role to play, but since there seems to be little else being offered for this first weekly newsletter, I thought it might be interesting to bring up some of the issues that should be offering concern to Libertarians throughout New York.

1. Has the Excelsior College Scholarship program financially crippled NY's private higher-education institutions? Gov. Cuomo created tuition-free higher education for SUNY students in 2017, without providing any comparable tuition subsidy for NY students attending private NY colleges. Since then, not only Cazenovia College but also dozens of other small private colleges in New York have been placed under severe financial stress. Like many of these colleges, Cazenovia College suffered significant enrollment declines over 5 years, down to 700 in fall 2022, from its peak of a bit over 1000



Coleman Hall at Cazenovia College was originally built in 1810 as the first county courthouse (county seat) of Madison County, and was transferred to the college at its founding in 1824.

five years ago. It took out large loans during the pandemic, in expectation that the enrollment would bounce back, but this did not materialize. With annual tuition payments of \$35,000 per student, a loss of 300 enrolled students represents a loss of over \$10 million in annual income.

When the 2022 bond payment of \$23 million came due in September, it became clear that there was no path forward besides cutting faculty and selling off buildings, to an extent that would jeopardize the school's ability to offer degree programs.

This was clearly unsustainable.

Libertarians need to ask the hard question: Is the Excelsior Scholarship program a surefire route to a near-monopoly for SUNY schools? Is that a good idea, considering the inefficiency that has developed over 100 years of near-monopoly for public primary and secondary schooling?

2. What is to become of the College's real estate, and who gets to decide? The rapidity of the closure took everyone by surprise, meaning that there will soon be a conflict between the bondholders and the Village and Town of Cazenovia, over what can be done with the College's property.

One of the buildings that has been used for nearly 2 centuries by the College was actually Madison County's first courthouse, i.e. its first county seat. The College's parcel is zoned for educational use only, and historical preservation restrictions seem to make it impossible to redevelop the oldest of the College's several dozen classroom and dormitory buildings for commercial use.

It has been suggested to use the dormitories and the cafeteria and library and recreational facilities for senior housing, and for senior center(s). However, the 2-3 story buildings are old enough that they would have to be very expensively retrofitted with elevators, according to current codes and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

There is no immediately identified nearby investor who could cough up \$23 million at once. The town and village annual

budgets are each on the order of \$2 million. The narrative that is taking hold now is that the bondholders will not tolerate the transaction costs of delaying or subdividing the holdings, instead aiming to sell the whole thing quickly in a fire sale to a rich foreign real-estate investor.

But those deep-pocketed individuals or corporations would want most of the campus, a mere 1/2 mile from Cazenovia Lake and 3 blocks from Main Street (Route US 20), for commercial and residential real-estate. Then they would spend a few million more to pressure the Town and Village to change the zoning.

Some questions for Libertarians to ponder: Is restrictive zoning of this sort good for our community? In deciding whether to remove such zoning, is this kind of deep-pocketed foreign political influence good or bad?

3. Did the 2021 decisions by the Town and the Village of Cazenovia to opt-out of cannabis sales deal the ultimate death blow to student interest in Cazenovia College? The most important competitor for Cazenovia College's world-famous equestrian degree programs was always SUNY Morrisville. On top of the availability of much lower (free) tuition at the latter (see item #1 above), I think Cazenovia's local governments may have dealt a death blow to the competitiveness of Cazenovia relative to Morrisville, by opting out of licensed cannabis retail in fall 2021.

Both the Village and the Town of Cazenovia opted out, while both

the village of Morrisville and its surrounding town (Eaton) opted in. Hamilton Township and Village, where Colgate College is located, also opted in. This leaves Cazenovia as the only jurisdiction in Madison County that has a 4-year college but is not slated to have legal cannabis sales. Hmmmm.... Make that "...had a 4-year college."

As a resident of the Town of Cazenovia, I passed petitions for an override of the Town Board's decision, reaching about 1/3 of the required signatures almost single-handedly. But a bad cold that hit me in the last 2 weeks of the petition period in November 2021 laid me low, and that was that. The Town Supervisor has promised that the Board would reconsider once licenses started actually to be handed out. But will this be like trying to open the barn door, after the horses have already chosen a different barn?

Pandemic-weary applicants to SUNY Morrisville during fall 2021 knew that by the time they turned 21 in 2023 or 2024, they would likely be able to walk a half-mile from their dorm to a nearby cannabis dealer for an easy supply. From a Cazenovia dorm room, they would need a car or Uber to make the 10-mile drive to the nearest cannabis shop in Eaton or Morrisville. Piled on top of the tuition difference, is it any surprise that the potential horse-husbandry majors might have just tossed their Cazenovia College applications into the trash bin in December 2021 and said "Mom and Dad, I'm happy to save you money at Morrisville!?"

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