



Free New York

LARRY SHARPE, RICH PURTELL CHOSEN AS STAND-IN CANDIDATES FOR 2024 STATEWIDE PETITIONING DRIVE



Rich Purtell and Larry Sharpe, stand-in candidates for Vice President and President

by Andrew Kolstee
LPNY Chair

On March 16-17, 2024, the Libertarian Party of New York held its nominating convention at the Harbor Hotel in Watkins Glen, New York. The event was a huge success and special thanks to Michael Rebmann for organizing the event as Chair of the organizing committee. Catrina Rocco and Craig Colwell were also on the organizing committee.

On Saturday, March 16, the convention kicked off with the first speaker, LNC Chair Angela McArdle, tuning in remotely via Zoom. The business meeting was formally called to order and three vacancies were filled on the State Committee: James Fitch and Amber Nunes in

Judicial District 5 and Vince O’Neill in Judicial District 10.

Nominations were called for the position of stand-in for President. Since the Libertarian National Convention will be held in late May 2024, which is at the end of the 2024 petitioning period, a stand-in candidate is needed to get on the ballot in order for the Libertarian Party’s Presidential nominee to be on the ballot in New York. After petitions are turned in, the stand-in candidates can withdraw, and the Committee on Vacancies can replace the stand-in candidate with the candidate nominated at the National Convention.

There were two nominees for

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the stand-in for President: Larry Sharpe, the LPNY’s candidate for Governor of New York in 2018 and 2022; and Rich Purtell, 2nd Vice-Chair of the LPNY, who has also run as a Libertarian Party candidate for office several times.

Larry Sharpe received 18 votes , Rich Purtell recieved 8 votes, None of the Above (NOTA) recieved 4 votes. There was an additional 2 write-in votes and one abstention. Sharpe became the LPNY’s stand-in candidate for President.

There were three nominees for the stand-in for Vice President: Rich Purtell, as mentioned earlier, along with Spike Cohen, the Libertarian Party’s candidate for Vice President in 2020, who declined the nomination, as well as Christopher Olenski, Member of the State Committee from Judicial District 6.

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LNC Chair Angela McArdle addressing the convention via Zoom as the opening speaker.



Larry Sharpe addressing the convention during his nomination speech



Rich Purtell addressing the convention during his nomination speech



Libertarian Party Presidential Debate held at Watkins Glen, New York on March 17, 2024

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Rich Purtell received 19 votes and Christopher Olenski received 14 votes. There was an additional write-in vote and an abstention. Purtell became the LPNY's stand-in for Vice President.

The LPNY declined to nominate a candidate for U.S. Senate in order to partner with Diane Sare, Independent candidate for U.S. Senate, in the petitioning drive. Petitioning begins April 16, 2024 and the filing dates are May 21-28, 2024. During that time, the Libertarian Party of New York needs over 45,000 signatures, likely in the range of 60,000 to 70,000, in order to get the stand-in candidates on the ballot and withstand any challenges to the petitions.

The afternoon speaker was LPNY 1st Vice-Chair Duane Whitmer, before the business meeting adjourned for the day.

On Saturday evening, a Presidential reception was held, in which several prizes were auctioned off to raise money for the party. Special thanks to Catrina Rocco for gathering prizes and for Larry Sharpe for serving as our auctioneer.

On Sunday, March 17, Diane Sare, independent candidate for U.S. Senate, was our breakfast speaker.

Following this was our Presidential debate, with Larry Sharpe as moderator. 7 Presidential candidates participated: Charles Ballay, Joseph Collins, Jr., Jacob Hornberger, Lars Mapstead, Chase Oliver, Michael Rectenwald, and Mike ter Maat. The debate was recorded and can be found on the LPNY's YouTube channel.

Following the debate, LNC Region 8 Representative Pat Ford was our lunch speaker, giving a presentation on earned media. Continuation of business was supposed to occur after lunch, but the State Committee failed to reach quorum.

NATIONAL CONVENTION: NEW YORK'S DELEGATION UPDATED

by **Andrew Kolstee**
LPNY Chair

The Libertarian Party of New York's Delegation to the Libertarian National Committee has undergone changes, which are slated to be rati-

fied at the April 3, 2024 State Committee meeting. Some Delegates and Alternate Delegates have withdrawn, and so some Alternate Delegates are expected to be promoted to Delegate.

The updated list is as follows. New Alternate Delegates are also expected to be added to this list at the April 3 meeting.

DELEGATES

1. **Andrew Kolstee**
2. *Duane Whitmer**
3. **William Schmidt**
4. **Justin Carman**
5. *Keith Redhead**
6. **Michael Rebmann**
7. **Chance Haywood**
8. **Paul Grindle**
9. **Daniel Castello**
10. **Blay Tarnoff**
11. **Steven Becker**
12. **Leonard Morlock**
13. **Craig Colwell**
14. **Juan Ayala**
15. **Christopher Olenski**
16. *Adam Magoon**
17. **Justin Pelletier**
18. **Mark Axinn**
19. **Susan Overeem-Cummings**
20. **Catrina Rocco**
21. **Nicole Colwell**
22. **Irwin Mark Weinblatt**
23. **James Fitch**
24. **Daniel Donnelly**
25. **Randyn Tarnoff**
26. **Pietro Geraci**
27. **Wendi Szabo**
28. **Joanna Rocco-Bodach**
29. **Jack Terran**
30. *Richard Cooper**

31. **Thomas Quiter**
32. **Christian Padgett**
33. **Gary Triestman**
34. **Larry Sharpe**
35. *Craig Shute**
36. **Millie Dordal-Gale**
37. **Debra Altman**
38. **Charles Senrick**
39. *Roger Cooper**
40. **Caryn Tarnoff**
41. **Michael Houze**
42. **Anna Donnelly****
43. **Shaun Cahill****
44. **Joseph Terwilliger****

ALTERNATES

45. **James Melloan*****
46. *Russell Nelson**
47. *Alexander Tollner**
48. *Sarah Shuster**
49. *Brandon Larsen**
50. **Paul Schaffenberger*****
51. **Chuck Dorgan*****
52. **Liam Callahan**
53. **Evan Lebrecht**

KEY

**Withdrew as a Delegate or Alternate Delegate*

***Delegate promoted from Alternate Delegate*

****Eligible to be promoted to Delegate*

IMAGINE BEING TRAPPED IN YOUR OWN HOME; ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS TO SOCIALIZED HEALTHCARE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

by Thomas Quiter
Chenango County Liaison

My name is Thomas Quiter, I am the President and Founder of The Mobility Independence Foundation, a non-profit mobility technology foundation.

I have required the assistance of a wheelchair for my entire life.

I founded the MIF in 2022 after being trapped in my own home for over 5 years from 2014-2019.

I did not have access to the mobility equipment I needed to live my life and access the world outside my tiny, cluttered, dirty little apartment. Without the use of mobility equipment, I was unable to move from my bedroom to the kitchen, or to the bathroom, I could not run my own errands. I was reliant upon my family and medical aids for everything.

When I could not get maintenance completed on schedule for my Omegatrak Powerchair, the equipment inevitably broke down. I then had to fight with my insurance company for years just to get approved to look for a suitable replacement because there was nothing available on the market that could sustain me and suit my needs.

After several years without any mobility equipment and no available solution offered by any insurance company, the solution came from the generous crowdfunding of

friends, neighbors, and Libertarian supporters who helped me to purchase a nearly 20-year old Omegatrak which the insurance company would not cover.

Imagine: being trapped in your own home.

One of the people I've been introduced to through this important work is my friend John Trivelpiece.

John has dealt with a malfunctioning wheelchair for 5 years, he described trying to operate the controls as the wheelchair having "a mind of its own."

Imagine relying on a machine to carry you around that does not obey the user's commands.

John is finally eligible to receive a replacement, which will be the exact same malfunctioning model, and warranty or lemon laws were no help to him.

Another friend named Stephen was denied a wheelchair by the same insurance company that covered the surgery to remove his legs. He was then unable to leave his own bed to get to the kitchen to feed himself. I'm not sure what became of him, I've been unable to contact him ever since. I can only imagine he is in a very dark place because he is unable to care for himself, which is one of the most basic components of self-esteem.

Studies are showing that 50% of all wheelchairs in operation break down during any 6 month period, 88 of them for veterans. I've experienced this for myself and others.

Repair wait times can be months or even years, if these were working legs that you were promised, how would you feel? Have you ever had a promise that was made to you broken?

The social contract is a broken promise. So, too, is the perception that today's mobility equipment is adequate and reliable.

I know what it feels like to wait 12 hours for a glass of water. I know what it's like to wait 6 months for a replacement battery to power a wheelchair which I'm not allowed to purchase and replace on my own. I know what it feels like to wait years for a new wheelchair and to be disappointed with the features and reliability of the device.

I love to be outside.

I love to work in the garden. I love to climb the trails on the hill behind my home. I like to feel the sun upon my face just like everyone else and yet, because I lacked the equipment to move around, I was trapped in my own home, in the dark, and unable to care for myself without the generosity of others.

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I have also suffered a catastrophic failure with my mobility equipment, and while waiting months to make a repair or have a suitable replacement, I was once trapped in my own home for 5 years. My only visitors were family and caretakers.

I have experienced wheels falling off due to poor design, faulty electronics causing uncontrolled motion that broke my legs, I suffered over one hundred fractures in an instant because of malfunctioning equipment.

No longer able to do our own repairs, the wait times brought life to a halt.

I know what it's like to lose your autonomy and independence because the equipment you rely on has broken down and there are no options for repair or replacement other than to go through medicare, medicaid, health care providers or insurance.

It's a game of keep away that keeps persons with disabilities away from their loved ones and their right to live a free, happy, and productive life.

The socialized medical system in this country is broken and failing.

There is a better way to serve the needs of those who desperately need a way to move forward.

My advocacy on behalf of other persons with disabilities led me to found the Mobility Independence Foundation, and serve as its Chief Crash Test Dummy!

I have 35 years of personal experience with subpar wheelchairs and many broken bones from when the equipment has failed, and in my 25 years as a disabilities advocate, I have connected with thousands of people who have had similar experiences. My unique perspective on mobility technology provides me with valuable insight into the need for equipment that is both affordable and reliable.

Insurance companies and medical equipment providers only have the incentive to meet the bare minimum when providing mobility equipment to their consumers. They assume the user of the equipment needs to be able to move around their own home, get to the grocery store and their medical appointments.

There is so much more to life.

Everybody knows someone who was born with a mobility issue or develops one as a result of injury or advanced age.

How would you feel if it was your grandmother that was trapped in her own home, for five years, and if you weren't there to visit her and help her with grocery shopping, she would actually die without support. It's humiliating and demoralizing, especially in the senior years, to have to rely on others so heavily for our basic needs.

Without proper mobility equipment our loved ones will lose:

- Life
- Health
- Liberty
- Happiness

- Community access
- Visibility
- Careers
- Income
- Independence

This directly affects a person's self reliance, self esteem and self worth. The obstacles and red tape that prevents people from getting the equipment they need can be deadly.

Everyone deserves the basic dignity to maintain a certain amount of mobility so they can get from the bedroom to the bathroom and the kitchen, to be able to go outside and make it to their jobs and appointments, but also to experience life and the natural beauties of the world while we have such a short time to live on this planet.

Mobility is the most basic need that enables us the access to live a full, productive, and happy life, and you can't do that if you're trapped in your own home.

Persons with disabilities need to be able to hold a job, parent our children, to travel and enjoy all the gifts this world has to offer. Yet, we are told that the ability to escape your own home in the event of fire is not a consideration for insurance covering mobility equipment.

Mobility equipment users want a chair that they can take off-road, off-sidewalk, and still maneuver effectively through their home. There is no power wheelchair currently on the market that meets these needs to enable persons with disabilities to live their full and best lives.

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The Mobility Independence Foundation develops designs that allow people to live life.

The goal of Mobility Independence Foundation is to provide accessibility designs and completed equipment to the world in an open-source, easy-to-license format. This will allow people with disabilities to access equipment better suited to their needs, because we listen to their needs.

Our open-source designs will be available for individuals to use, improve or customize for their own accessibility needs. Revenue from licensing and grants will allow us to publish the designs and provide equipment at no cost to individuals

with disabilities.

The MIF will perform its work in four steps:

1. Create an open-source modular design for a mobility wheelchair that can be built using parts from local hardware stores, bicycle shops, off the rack parts.
2. Provide the open-source designs to the community, so that providers worldwide can utilize the designs.
3. Provide mobility equipment and components directly to those who need it most.
4. Through outreach to disabled communities, get real feedback about the features that are needed for mobility equipment, design modular upgrades, technological components, or custom parts that

will meet the needs of individuals with unique needs.

Thank you for your interest in the Mobility Independence Foundation and for your consideration of support for our mission. This work is deeply personal to me and you have my deepest gratitude.

For more information, please visit our website at themif.org and follow us on all social media platforms as @TheMIFinc or by searching for Mobility Independence Foundation.

I hope together we can create a lasting impact on the way that persons with disabilities are treated by our society and provide them with the independence and access to all the wonderful gifts that life has to offer.

MIKE TER MAAT TOWN HALL

by Wendi Szabo

New York Libertarians, please join us for a virtual town hall meeting with presidential candidate Mike ter Maat on April 4th at 7:00pm. This is our opportunity to ask Mike anything!

Bring your questions about him or his campaign, public policy, and what it will take to successfully disrupt American politics. Feel free to reach out to Wendi@MiketerMaat.com with questions.

MIKE TER MAAT
VIRTUAL TOWNHALL
APRIL 4TH NEW YORK 7PM EST

YOU ARE INVITED TO A TWO PART LIBERTARIAN EVENT, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10!

Part one: A live debate streamed from Dartmouth College. Spike Cohen, founder of YouAreThe Power, debating David Hogg, Parkland High School shooting survivor and gun control advocate.

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.



Part two: Preliminary meeting to form the Niagara County affiliate of the Libertarian Party of New York. Learn more and meet other liberty advocates like yourself.

7:30 pm to 9 pm.

This is a free event.

Please support The Ship Bar & Grill.

5612 Tonawanda Creek Road



COUNTY AFFILIATE NEWS

ALBANY

CONTACT:

Justin Carman, County Liasion
jcarman@lpny.org

ALLEGANY

CONTACT:

Jame VanDewalker,
**Acting County Chair/
County Liasion**
jvandewalker@lpny.org

LEARN MORE:

fb.com/AlleganyCountyLP

CHAUTAUQUA

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Apr. 4, 2024 @ 7:00 PM
Lakeview Hotel & Resturant
Mayville, NY and Zoom
(1st Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Len Morlock, Chair
lmorlock@lpny.org
Andrew Kolstee, Secretary
akolstee@lpny.org

LEARN MORE:

www.chautauquaLP.org
fb.com/chautauquaLP

CHEMUNG

NEXT MEETING:

TBD
at Ill Eagle Taphouse

CONTACT:

Craig Colwell, Chair
ccolwell78@gmail.com

LEARN MORE:

lpchemung.org

CHENANGO

CONTACT:

Tom Quiter, County Liasion
tquiter@lpny.org

COLUMBIA

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., Apr. 17, 2024 @ 7 PM
Google Meet
(third Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

Scott Hoskins, Chair
scottdhoskins@gmail.com

CLINTON

CONTACT:

Zachary Remian,
County Liaison
zremian@lpny.org
(518) 310-6664

DUTCHESS

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., Apr. 20, 2024 @ 6 PM
Time/Location Varies
(3rd Saturdays)

CONTACT:

Catrina Rocco, Chair
DCLPChair@outlook.com

LEARN MORE:

dutchesscountylp.org

ERIE

NEXT MEETING:

Held Monthly via Zoom

CONTACT:

Duane Whitmer, Chair
chairman@eriecountylp.org

KINGS (BROOKLYN)

NEXT MEETING:

Tues., Apr. 16, 2024 at 3 PM
@ Fourth Avenue Pub
76 4th Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11217
(3rd Tuesdays)

CONTACT:

Matthew Morgan, Chair
matthewisaiahmorgan@gmail.com

MADISON

NEXT MEETING:

TBD
Hamilton Public Library

CONTACT:

Mark Braiman, Chair
mbraiman@lpny.org

MONROE

Contact the Monroe County Libertarian Party for meeting link. We also have monthly social meetings that you don't want to miss. There is also Google Group for announcements.

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Apr. 4, 2024 @ 7 PM
(first Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Steve Becker, Chair
drsbecker@aol.com

LEARN MORE:

monroecounty.lp.org

NASSAU

NEXT MEETING:

Tues., Apr. 11, 2024 at 7 PM
@ Landmark Diner
(2nd Thursdays)

CONTACT:

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

NEW YORK (MANHATTAN)

CONTACT:

Chance Haywood, Chair
chaywood@lpny.org

ONEIDA

NEXT MEETING:

Mon., Apr. 15, 2024 @ 6 PM
via Video Conference
(3rd Mondays)
Contact Keith for link

CONTACT:

Keith Redhead, Chair
kredhead@lpny.org

ONONDAGA

NEXT MEETING:

TBD

CONTACT:

Rachel Becker, Chair
reb4128@rit.edu

ORANGE

CONTACT:

Juan Ayala, Chair
livefree@juanrayala.com

PUTNAM

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Apr. 11, 2024 at 7 PM
at McCarthy's
374 Route 52, Carmel, NY 10512
(2nd Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Bill O'Donnell, Chair
billod10704@gmail.com

QUEENS

CONTACT:

John Clifton, Chair
mrjclifton@yahoo.com

RENSSELAER

Since October 2022, the Rensselaer County Libertarian Party has been collecting food items and monetary donations to give monthly to StreetSoldiers Rensselaer.

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., Apr. 3, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Alexis Diner, North Greenbush
(first Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

Jennifer O'Connor,
Acting County Chair
joconnor@lpny.org

RICHMOND (STATEN ISLAND)

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Apr. 18, 2024 @ 7 PM
@ Coffee and Collectibles
(3rd Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Susan Overeem Cummings,
Chair
susanovereem@gmail.com

SARATOGA

CONTACT:

Naz Garabedian, Chair
nazareth.garabedian
@lawsonproducts.com

SCHOHARIE

CONTACT:

Lora Newell, Chair
lnewell@lpny.org

SUFFOLK

CONTACT:

George Ostrowski, Chair
gtostrowskijr@msn.com

TIOGA

CONTACT:

Sara Price, Chair
sprice@lpny.org
Rich Purtell, Vice-Chair
rpurtell@lpny.org

ULSTER

NEXT MEETING:

Mon., Apr. 8, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Hickory BBQ, Kingston, NY
(second Mondays)

CONTACT:

Sam Kniffen, Acting Chair
samkniffeno1@gmail.com

LEARN MORE:

www.UlsterLP.org

WASHINGTON

Note: Brian Wells is stepping down from the position of Acting County Chair at the end of March.

CONTACT:

Brian Wells,
**Acting County Chair/
County Liaison**
blwells45@gmail.com

WAYNE

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., Apr. 27, 2024 at 10 AM
Yellow Mills Diner
2534 NY-31
Palmyra, NY 14522
(last Saturdays)

CONTACT:

Jim Dayton, Chair
jdayton@lpny.org

LEARN MORE:

lpwaynecounty.org

WESTCHESTER

CONTACT:

Rajib Maitra
**Acting County Chair/
County Liaison**
rajib.maitra1@gmail.com

YATES

CONTACT:

Jeff Bradley, Chair
jbradley@lpny.org

Don't see your county listed?

**We are looking for Libertarians
to organize new County Affiliates!**

Contact us for more details!

affiliates@lpny.org

**BECOME
UNGOVERNABLE**

The 2024

**LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL
CONVENTION**

May 23 - May 27, 2024

LEARN MORE:

LNC2024.COM

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info@lpny.org	www.LPNY.org	866-336-3120