

FLP NEWS

No. 1 // June 1983

FRANCIS ELECTED CHAIR

GREENBERG ERA ENDS



LETTER TO MEMBERS

New York libertarians elected John Francis FLP State Chair at the 1983 statewide convention held in Albany April 8th through 10th. Francis, a Brooklyn high school teacher, replaces Gary Greenberg, who had been FLP Chair since 1978. Both Greenberg and Jim McKeown of Binghamton withdrew from the chairmanship race prior to Francis' election.

The convention was both exciting and well-attended. About 100 libertarians from around the state attended guest lectures, banquetted and participated in business sessions over the three day weekend. Convention speakers included 1982 FLP Gubernatorial Candidate John Northrup, psychologist Peter Breggin and Doug Badow and Chris Hocker of Inquiry magazine.

During the first business session, convention attendees elected delegates and alternates to the Libertarian Party's Presidential Nominating Convention to be held in New York City from August 29th to September 5th. A list

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As a result of this year's statewide convention I have been elected your state chair to replace Gary Greenberg who stepped down for a well deserved rest after four years as state chairman. In fact, there were many additional changes in your state committee (see accompanying article).

In light of these changes I am looking forward to progress on several fronts: increased local responsibility, decentralization of functions, economizing in some areas and expansion of funding in others, convention program revision, increased membership by 25% (keep your fingers crossed), etc. As you can see, our "theme" this year is to set in place a solid, smooth-running and effective organization.

In order to set these changes in motion, I called a state committee meeting on May 14th (and another is set for June 26th--ed.). Hopefully, you will begin seeing changes in the immediate future.

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from the editor

Welcome to the first issue of the FLP News, the new membership newsletter of the Free Libertarian Party. My goal in publishing FLP News is to provide New York libertarians with an honest and reliable source of party news free of gossip and innuendo. So that the newsletter may be a useful resource for local activists, I will endeavor to maintain a dependable publication schedule. New issues of the FLP News should arrive at your home in the first week of August, October, December, February, April and June.

News, letters and announcements of libertarian activities are welcome, and, when possible I will try to publish your submissions as written. Deadlines are the fifteenth of the month prior to each publication date. Thus, material for the August issue should reach me by July 15. Please send all submissions to: Marc D. Joffe, 353 East 17th Street Apt. 3A, New York, NY 10003. Since I no longer reside at this address, I cannot take your submissions by phone. Your comments and criticisms (and even your praise) are welcome. Please address them to me at the above address.

- Marc D. Joffe

Prescon update

As most of you know, the FLP is hosting the Libertarian Party Presidential Nominating Convention late this summer. The convention is one of the most important libertarian events of the next four years. Over 1000 libertarians from across the country will gather to nominate a candidate for president, fine tune our platform, debate the most important libertarian issues of the day and plan strategy.

More than eighty libertarian scholars and activists will speak at about seventy educational events scheduled during the eight days of the convention. Additionally, a number of special events are planned. Almost every major libertarian celebrity is due to appear at the convention and most of them will be attending the grand banquet.

The convention will be held from August 29th to September 5th at New York City's Sheraton Center Hotel. A mailing with all the convention details should arrive at your house shortly. Send all convention correspondence to Prescon, Box 429, Canal Street Station, New York, NY 10012.

- Gary Greenberg

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from the regions

The Southern Tier Chapter of the FLP will hold a statewide picnic in Owego on June 26th. For the \$7.50 admission price, attendees will receive a chicken dinner along with generous quantities of beer, wine, soda and salad and access to a private swimming pool. Gene Burns, a candidate for the LP's presidential nomination will also be there. Watch your mail for details... The Southern Tier Chapter released a platform, dealing exclusively with local Binghamton issues, at a press conference on May 23rd... John Fields, Linda Jowett and Dean Grimes will be running for Binghamton city council this fall. The local party hopes to recruit at least two more council candidates and plans to introduce its entire slate at a second press conference on June 13th.

The Central New York Chapter has also been active. The group's April 15th "Lady Godiva" ride garnered coverage from three area newspapers (including a front page story in the Cortland Standard), six radio stations, three television stations, the Cable News Network and the Associated Press... The chapter also has four announced candidates: Thomas Hazard (for Cortland mayor), Tony Schifilliti (for Solon town judge) and Colin Cummins and Bob Clark (for Solon town council)... Four county chairmen have recently been selected by the Central Chapter. They are: Thomas Hazard (Cortland), Tim Delay (Cayuga), Chris Hamkins (Seneca) and Evan Webster (Cayuga)... Finally, the chapter will be losing the services of John Northrup who is moving to California to become the Chief Financial Officer at the Reason Foundation.

In Queens, Amy Del Nagro and Phillippe Gerdes both ran in community school board elections held in May. Del Nagro placed twelfth in a field of sixteen candidates for nine offices... On March 6th, Ed Schafenberger spoke at a meeting of the Queens Libertarian Association on "Property Rights in a Libertarian Society."

At New York University, Marc Joffe has stepped down after two years as Libertarian Student Association coordinator. LSA founder Chris Sciabarra will return to the helm with George Selgin taking over as editor of Libertarian Broadside, the group's magazine. On April 26th, Joffe addressed a meeting of the North American Man/Boy Love Association. Two NAMBLA representatives spoke to 120 people at a March 17th LSA forum.

The Capital District Chapter recently heard talks from Dottie Lou Brokaw and former Rensselaer mayor Tom Henry. Don Davis has been re-elected as the chapter's chair. Currently, plans are under way to have a libertarian float in a capital district Independence Day parade... A new FLP chapter is forming in Plattsburg. Its first meeting is scheduled for June 18th. Call Dale Tierney at (518) 493-2712 for details... So far, twenty local FLP candidates are running around the state. Not bad for an off year!

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Letter cont'd

As an indication of what's coming, office expenditures have been cut \$191 per month effective May 1st, an editorial reply coordinator has been appointed, access to a word processor has been obtained (for free) and a regular newsletter has been started.

On behalf of the entire state committee, I would like to thank all those whose hard work has left an organization in place so that we, the newcomers, can build upon it.

I would like to express our special thanks for the opportunity of continuing Gary Greenberg's policies of growth, experimentation and dedication.

About a week after the convention Gary, while helping in the transition, commented "I wish you the best. I know I worked with as free a group of dedicated libertarians as possible. I hope you have the same good fortune."

Presently, through hard work and effort, our state organization is number two in the country. But wouldn't it be nicer if we were #1? To quote Rocky, "Let's go for it."

- John Francis

Convention cont'd

of those who were elected will appear in the August issue of FLP News.

On Sunday, business resumed with platform debate. The convention approved the proposals of an ad hoc platform committee chaired by Steve Schneider with relatively few revisions. By approving the committee's report, the FLP joined a small, but growing number of state Libertarian Parties that have adopted a platform.

The platform discussion was followed by elections, beginning with those for national convention committee representatives. The members elected Alan Burris to the national LP Platform Committee and Charles Kiessling to the Credentials Committee.

Next, the convention chose state party officers. After a series of motions and counter-motions, John Francis was unanimously elected Chair. Do lie Lou Brokaw and Reed Halstead were elected Vice Chairs. Charles Kiessling and Bill Stocker took the offices of Secretary and Treasurer respectively, without opposition.

Eight candidates ran for the five At-Large State Committee positions available. The members elected Bill McMillen, David Greene, Chuck Steber, Dick Savadel and Amy Del Nagro.

Query-----

David Greene, At-Large State Committee member, wants to hear your ideas for state projects. Call him at (212) 633-5909, any day from 7 AM to 12 Midnight. Or write to 148 East 8th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11218.