

Chautauqua County Libertarian Party Chair's Report – January 7, 2021 – Page 1

STATE COMMITTEE REPORT

1. **LAWSUIT.** The preliminary injunction has been filed in Federal court and we are waiting for a ruling before the petitioning period begins. The granting of the preliminary injunction would allow us to remain recognized as a political party while the lawsuit is ongoing. The New York State Board of Elections is supposed to respond by January 29, 2021 and we must respond to their response by February 12, 2021.

2. **LOCAL AFFILIATE DEVELOPMENT.** A monthly meeting will be held for County Affiliate leaders, starting on Tuesday, January 12, 2020. The first one will focus on the nature of politics as well as the election calendar and preparing for getting candidates on the ballot. Another meeting will be held in late January on petitioning, which will bring us into the petitioning period. A meeting was held on January 5, 2021 for County Contacts of unorganized counties. County Contacts in Dutchess, Putnam, and Washington counties were present. A potential County Contact in Cayuga County was present.

3. **STATE COMMITTEE MEETING/VACANCIES.** The next meeting of the full State Committee is scheduled for Saturday, January 23, 2021 at 1 p.m. There are five vacancies on the State Committee (1 in JD1, 2 in JD5, 1 in JD6, and 1 in JD8). Judicial District 8, which is our Judicial District, has a vacancy due to the resignation of Nick Phelps, who also resigned as Chair of the Niagara County Libertarian Party. There is also an opening on the Executive Committee, as Maria Borell resigned. Furthermore, there will be an election of the Judicial Committee, which consists of 9 members.

COUNTY RULES

1. **AMENDMENT OF CCLP RULES.** Per Article XI of our County Rules, Section C requires notifying "supporting members" 10 days in advance. This includes all members who are 1) enrolled Libertarians and 2) paid \$20 dues and are current for the year 2020, which is a total of 7 members. This was completed and the proposed amendments to the County Rules have been distributed. This is based on the County Rules Template recommended by the Executive Committee as voted on at the meeting of December 22, 2020. I would entertain a motion to amend the County Rules and replace them with the County Rules Template, which has not been altered except for the inclusion of Chautauqua County in the blanks.

2. **CERTIFICATION.** We are required to meet certain requirements per the state rules, and this new template would put us in compliance, and we would also have to be certified by the Executive Committee by March 1, 2021. The new County Rules and minutes from the meeting of adoption and minutes in which the meeting in which officers were elected must be submitted to the Secretary of the State Committee and voted on by the Executive Committee to certify our affiliation.

3. **ELECTION DISTRICT DELEGATES.** If the proposed rules are adopted, we will need to appoint election district delegates to help us prepare for a fully elected County Committee in 2022. We can use the enrolled voter list to determine election districts. We should continuously look for people to fill these positions. Only those appointed as election district delegates will be voting members of the County Committee. They are also required to be enrolled members of the Libertarian Party.

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BACKLOGGED MEETING MINUTES

I have finished going through backlogged minutes, some taken by our first Secretary, Sean Connolly, and other meetings that I took minutes when I served as Secretary pro temp.

I have distributed the minutes and I would like to entertain the following motion:

Motion to accept the minutes of the July 7, 2015, August 4, 2015, September 1, 2015, March 1, 2016, April 5, 2016, May 7, 2016, June 7, 2016, June 19, 2016, July 5, 2016, August 2, 2016, September 6, 2016, October 4, 2016, October 29, 2016, November 1, 2016, December 6, 2016, January 5, 2017, February 2, 2017, March 2, 2017, April 6, 2017, May 4, 2017, May 20, 2017, July 6, 2017, August 3, 2017, September 7, 2017, October 5, 2017, November 2, 2017, December 7, 2017, January 4, 2018, February 1, 2018, April 5, 2018, May 3, 2018, June 2, 2018, July 12, 2018, August 2, 2018, September 12, 2018, October 2, 2018, November 6, 2018, August 15, 2019, September 5, 2019, November 14, 2019, March 18, 2020, April 2, 2020, June 4, 2020, and August 6, 2020 meetings.

2021 OPERATIONS

1. **STRATEGIC PLAN.** On Thursday, December 17, 2020, we had a strategic planning meeting to discuss our plans for 2021. I will report on the status of the plan in this section of the Chair report.
2. **LEGISLATIVE AGENDA.** In a follow-up to our December 3, 2020 meeting, we held an online meeting via Zoom on Thursday, December 10, 2020, in which we further ironed out our legislative goals and agenda. This is incomplete, and we need to continue to refine the document.
3. **CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE.** We have a candidate questionnaire from 2019 that we should update, along with our vetting procedures. This was on the agenda for the meeting scheduled for January 4, 2021, but no one came to the meeting. We can discuss editing the 2019 questionnaire for the 2021 elections.
4. **ANNUAL LETTER.** We typically send an annual fundraising letter every year. Last year was focused on petitioning rather than fundraising and included no forms for renewal of memberships. As a result, we did not get any new donations. I am working on reformatting the letter into an 11" x 17" tri-folded annual newsletter in order to include more information, but also work to gain more interest and provide a membership form or pledge club form for fundraising, depending on how we handle dues based on whether or not we adopt the proposed county rules.

Andrew Martin Kolstee
Chair, Chautauqua County Libertarian Party