Vol. 53, No. 9

The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of New York

September 2024

2024-2026 STATE COMMITTEE ELECTED WILL CONVENE IN ALBANY TO ELECT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



by Andrew Kolstee LPNY Chair

On August 19, 2024, the Elections Oversight Committee certified the final results of the 2024 State Committee elections ahead of the August 30, 2024 deadline. A total of 30 of the 37 seats on the State Committee were filled. However, due to the unexpected passing of Len Morlock, 29 seats were filled. See the full list of State Committee members at the top of page 2. The 2024 LPNY State Convention will be held on Saturday, September 21, 2024 at the Marriott Courtyard Albany Thruway Hotel in Albany, New York. The newly elected State Committee will be seated to elect a new Executive Committee.

The convention will begin at 11 a.m. with a buffet lunch. There will be a panel of speakers during lunch: Pat Ford, Region 6 Representative to

TABLE OF CONTENTS

State Committee Elected	1-2
LPNY Adopts New Platform	2
Platform of the LPNY	3-4
LPNY Opposes ERA Amendment .	4-5
Help Get A3312 Passed	6
In Memoriam: Len Morlock	7
County Affiliate News	8-10
Chase Oliver for President	11
LPNY Directory	12

the Libertarian National Committee and Duane Whitmer, LPNY 1st Vice-Chair. Following this, Chase Oliver, the Libertarian Party's Presidential candidate, will speak at noon via Zoom. The business will begin at 12:30 p.m. and will likely adjourn around 5 p.m.

To register, go to the website at lpny.org/convention to register. The full schedule is on the convention portal, and is subject to change as the convention approaches.

See page 2 for full list of State Committee members!

State Committee Members-Elect, 2024-2026 Term

Judicial District 1 (2 seats)

Mark Axinn **Morry Davis**

Judicial District 2 (2 seats)

Paul Grindle **Gary Popkin**

Judicial District 3 (2 seats)

Justin Carman Vacant

Judicial District 4

(3 seats) Vacant

> Vacant Vacant

Judicial District 5 (3 seats)

Daniel Castello James Fitch Erinn Rose Leatherman

Judicial District 6 (3 seats)

Mark Braiman Samuel Hordeski Vacant

Judicial District 7 (4 seats)

Steven Becker **Justin Pelletier** Sean Phelan James Ziobro

Judicial District 8 (5 seats)

Maura Botsford Andrew Kolstee Wendi Szabo **Duane Whitmer** Vacant*

Judicial District 9 (3 seats)

Pietro Geraci Catrina Rocco William Schmidt

Judicial District 10 (6 seats)

Jeffrey Denecke Jonathan Gunther Vincent O'Neill **Christian Padgett**

Judicial District 10 (continued)

Robert Schuon **Blay Tarnoff**

Judicial District 11

(2 seats)

Francisco Olvera Mark Weinblatt

Judicial District 12 (1 seat)

Vacant

Judicial District 13

(1 seat)

Vacant

*Leonard Morlock passed away on August 26, 2024, creating a vacancy in JD8.

LPNY ADOPTS NEW PLATFORM

by Daniel Castello **State Committee Member (JD5) LPNY Platform Committee Chair**

I am delighted to announce that the Libertarian Party of New York has reached a significant milestone with the State Committee's approval of a new platform. As Chair of the Platform Committee, I am proud to commend the dedication and hard work of each member (list on right).

The collaborative spirit and mutual respect throughout this process were truly inspiring. Despite navigating complex and sometimes contentious issues, the committee members worked together smoothly and effectively. We hope that our focus on broad principles rather than specific policies will help the Party communicate Libertarian values to the general public while also setting the stage for future discussions on particular issues.

I thank everyone on the Platform for your commitment and perseverance and hope to work with you again!

See pages 3-4 for the text of the new LPNY platform!

Current Platform Committee Members

Daniel Castello (Chair) Andrew Kolstee (Secretary) Paul Grindle Christopher Olenski Richard Purtell Charles Roggen Robert Schuon Blay Tarnoff Karyn Thompson

Former Platform Committee Members

Justin Carman Jennifer O'Connor Keith Redhead Michael Rebmann

PLATFORM OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK

A just and prosperous society is rooted in the recognition of the inherent, unalienable rights of individuals to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness. Governments are instituted to safeguard these rights, deriving their legitimacy solely from the explicit consent of the governed. However, we acknowledge that in practice, governments often evolve into the primary threat to these fundamental rights. To ensure a government that remains true to its purpose, we steadfastly uphold the following principles to keep it accountable.

- 1. **Individual Sovereignty.** Human beings have rights by virtue of their capacity to understand and respect the rights of others. As such, each individual possesses the unalienable right of self-ownership, and thus autonomy over their life, liberty, and property. Specifically:
- 1.1. **Autonomy of the Mind and Body.** Each individual has exclusive authority over their own mind and body.
- 1.2. **Freedom of Conscience.** Individuals are free to hold beliefs according to their own moral and ethical convictions, without persecution.
- 1.3. **Self-Determination.** Individuals have the authority to decide matters including, but not limited to, their health, education, financial

well-being, and self-defense.

- 1.4. **Personal Property.** Individuals have the right to acquire, own, utilize, and dispose of assets, as these are the outcomes of human dedication through the investment of time and effort.
- 1.5. **Open Expression.** Ideas, though they may challenge or offend, are distinct from acts of violence. Every individual is free to communicate, articulate, share, or otherwise assert their ideas and beliefs, and to expose themselves or refrain from exposing themselves to the freely expressed ideas of others.
- 1.6. **Personal Privacy.** Individuals have the right to manage and protect their personal information, choices, and activities, including deciding the extent to which they share this information with others.
- 2. **Interaction and Collaboration.** Every individual inherently holds the unalienable right to freely engage or not with others. Specifically:
- 2.1. Free Association. Every individual has the right to interact, associate, and form connections with other individuals, as well as the liberty to create, join, and participate in associations, organizations, and groups of their choosing.

- 2.2. **Peaceful Assembly.** Individuals have the right to gather peacefully with others for any purpose, whether social, recreational, cultural, political, or otherwise.
- 2.3. Voluntary Agreements and Free Exchange. Individuals have the right to engage in voluntary agreements, contracts, organizations, groups, and any other free exchanges with others, including the right to trade goods, services, and their time and labor. This includes the freedom to negotiate, accept, or reject terms, ensuring all agreements are transparent and made with informed consent.
- 3. **Defense of Rights.** The most basic implication of a right is that it may be defended. Individuals may determine the manner of their defense and may act individually, in groups, or authorize others to act on their behalf. The preservation and defense of individual rights is paramount to liberty.
- 3.1. **Defensive Response.** Individuals have the right to use reasonable and necessary force, including the use of weapons, to protect themselves, others, and property, and therefore have the right to keep and bear any arms.
- 3.2. Immediate Defensive Action. The right of defensive re-

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sponse protects the need for immediate action in situations where rights are under direct and imminent threat, enabling individuals to act independently without external approval.

- 3.3. Assistance in Defense. Individuals may allow others to aid in their defense or decline assistance. Those who provide assistance have no more right to use force than those requesting it and carry the same responsibilities. Furthermore, those delegated the authority to assist shall not be granted immunity and must be held accountable for their actions to the same extent as anyone else.
- 3.4. **Peaceful Resolution in Defense of Rights.** Recognizing that the foundation of a free society includes the potential use of force for

defending rights, a civilized society provides peaceful means to achieve resolutions. Individuals and groups should seek peaceful means for resolving disputes, including but not limited to mediation, arbitration, negotiation, and legal recourse, including a fair trial and due process.

- 4. **Universality of Rights.** Human rights are the same for every man, woman, and child, however there are specific provisions for those unable to exercise them independently.
- 4.1. **Parental Authority.** A child's parents have the sole authority to exercise the child's rights on the child's behalf in the child's best interests, which authority may only be abrogated if a parent acts unquestionably against the child's interest, beyond a reasonable doubt.
- 4.2. Rights Held in Trust. For

adults who are organically incapable of informed consent, responsible adults may be appointed to exercise their rights on their behalf in their best interests, which appointment may be changed at any time if it is in the adult's best interest to do so.

- 4.3. **Emancipation.** Individuals whose rights are being exercised by another may be emancipated at any time they become capable of informed consent.
- 5. **Preserving Liberty.** Government will inevitably grow more tyrannical if left unchecked. It is essential for citizens to be vigilant in defense of their freedom and sovereignty. Therefore, it is the responsibility of citizens to actively restrain the government, its powers, and its agents from perverting the rights of the people.

LPNY OPPOSES ERA PROPOSAL 1

by Andrew Kolstee LPNY Chair

On August 26, 2024, the Libertarian Party of New York State Committee voted on a resolution to oppose the Equal Rights Amendment Proposal 1. The drafting of the resolution was spearheaded by Legislative Affairs Director Rich Purtell. Here is the text of the adopted resolution:

WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) proposal 1 poses a significant threat to parental rights by potentially allowing government overreach in areas such as education and medical treatment for minors, possibly mandating gender and sex education without parental knowledge or consent, or allowing minors access to gender-affirming treatments without parental involvement;

WHEREAS, the ERA proposal 1 does not provide equal rights for all, but selectively mentions specific groups while excluding others, such as those discriminated against based on marital status or genetic information;

WHEREAS, existing federal and state laws, including the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amend-

ment to the U.S. Constitution and Section 11 of the New York State Constitution, already offer comprehensive protection against discrimination for all individuals;

WHEREAS, Section 11 of the New York State Constitution explicitly mandates equal protection under the law for all persons without arbitrary discrimination and prohibits discrimination of civil rights based on race, color, creed, and religion, with these principles extendable to other areas such as gender and disability through judicial interpreta-

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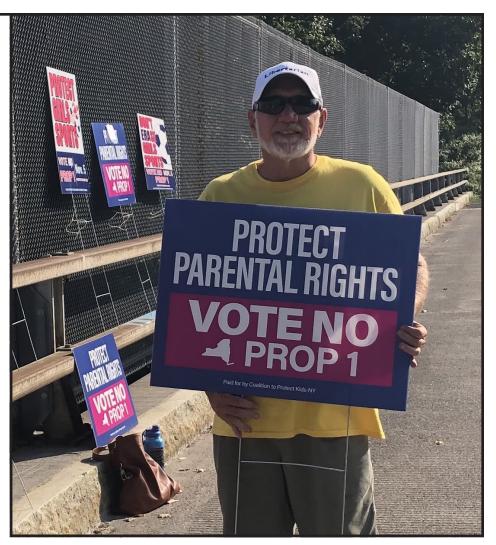
tion;

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has determined the issue of abortion is to be managed at the state level, not federal, and New York State has already codified abortion rights, including for late-term abortions, through the Reproductive Health Act, making proposal 1 redundant in terms of protecting women's reproductive rights;

WHEREAS, the proposal's language is overly broad and ambiguous, creating the potential for significant legal challenges that could burden taxpayers with costly litigation, while also undermining protections specifically designed for women, such as those against sexual assault and in domestic violence shelters, and may give biological men identifying as women access to women-only spaces;

WHEREAS, the broad scope of the ERA proposal 1 could extend privileges traditionally reserved for citizens, such as voting, to non-citizens, including undocumented immigrants, thus potentially creating further legal and social complications;

WHEREAS, the proposal could negatively impact women's sports by undermining Title IX protections, thus allowing biological men identifying as women to compete in women's sports, creating unfair competition and jeopardizing scholarships and opportunities that many women rely on for their education;



Steve Becker

WHEREAS, the proposal's implementation would impose financial burdens on schools, businesses, and taxpayers, with increased costs for compliance, legal consultations, and the creation of inclusive environments, such as gender-neutral facilities, ultimately leading to a negative economic impact;

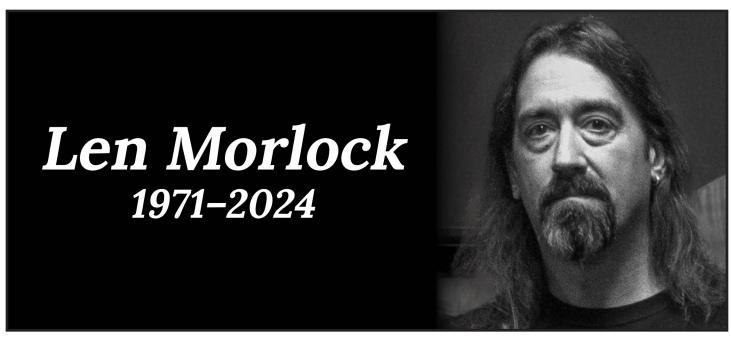
WHEREAS, the proposal, if passed, will result in expanded government control at the expense of individual rights and freedoms, contrary to the intentions of our forefathers, who advocated for limited government to protect the rights of all citizens, and would likely be subject to numerous legal challenges, further straining state

resources and taxpayer funds;

THEREFORE BE IT RE-**SOLVED**, that we, the Libertarian Party of New York, oppose the New York State Equal Rights Amendment proposal 1, recognizing it as a dangerously broad and unnecessary measure that threatens parental rights, undermines existing protections for women, imposes financial burdens on taxpayers and businesses, potentially grants non-citizens the same privileges as citizens, and expands governmental control at the expense of individual liberties. We urge all voters to vote "No" on this proposal in the upcoming November election.

HELP US GET A3312 PASSED

This bill, if passed would lower the ballot access thresholds back to the previous standards: the number of votes needed to get ballot access to 50,000 (from 130,000 or 2%), and lower the petition signature requirement for a statewide office to 15,000 (from 45,000). Contact your representatives in the New York State Legislature and ask them to this bill! Contact Legislative Affairs **Director Rich Purtell at** rpurtell@lpny.org to get involved with pushing this bill.



IN MEMORIAM: LEN MORLOCK

by the Chautauqua County Libertarian Party

It is with profound sadness that we share the news of the passing of Len Morlock, on Monday, August 26, 2024, at the age of 52. Len served as Chair of the Chautauqua County Libertarian Party since 2022 and a member of the State Committee since 2021. Len was a pillar of the local liberty community in Chautauqua County and an unwavering advocate for freedom and libertarian principles.

Len became a Libertarian in 2000 and had been a long-time supporter of the liberty movement before becoming actively involved with the party. In August 2015, he attended the second-ever meeting of the Chautauqua County Libertarian Party (CCLP) as it was in the process of organizing. Though he didn't seek a formal role when the CCLP was officially chartered in October 2015, Len quickly became an essential part of the local party.

Throughout his involvement, he played a key role in supporting candidates, promoting our cause, and championing libertarian principles. His presence at the county fair booth, organizing of CCLP pic-

nics in Mayville, and his countless conversations sparked by his signature liberty-themed t-shirts left a lasting impact on everyone he encountered. Len was dedicated to advancing our party and the broader liberty movement, both within our community and beyond.

In 2017, Len was elected Vice-Chair of the CCLP, a role he held until 2022. In 2020, Len was among those who made history as a candidate in New York State's first Libertarian Party primary when running for State Committee to represent Judicial District 8. Although he wasn't initially elected, his dedication led him to fill a vacancy in January 2021. He served on the State Committee and was re-elected in 2022 and 2024, with plans to take office for a third term in September 2024. In October 2022, Len was elected Chair of the Chautaugua County Libertarian Party, a role he held until his passing. Len was a Delegate to the Libertarian National Conventions in 2018, 2020, 2022, and 2024 and also served as a Presidential/Vice Presidential Elector for Jo Jorgensen/Spike Cohen in 2020.

Len was a regular attendee at

PorcFest, where he enioved camping and connecting with fellow liberty-minded individuals. He was an avid listener of liberty podcasts, always staying informed on current political events and developments within the liberty movement, and often shared new ideas to advance liberty. Len was always willing to express a well-thought-out opinion on almost any subject. Whether or not one fully agreed with him, his opinion was always worth knowing. He enjoyed kayaking on Chautauqua Lake and was always ready to promote liberty to anyone he met while doing so. More recently, he was working to promote Freedom Cells and build the liberty community through the establishment of "Liberty on Tap" meet-ups.

Len was committed to building a strong libertarian community. He was always willing to have a conversation about liberty, and fostering a sense of unity within our movement was his true passion. Len's loss is deeply felt by the Chautau-qua County Libertarian Party, the Libertarian Party of New York, and everyone who had the privilege of knowing him. His passion for liberty and his tireless work for our cause will be remembered always.

COUNTY AFFILIATE NEWS

ALBANY

CONTACT:

Justin Carman, County Liasion jcarman@lpny.org

ALLEGANY

CONTACT:

Jame VanDewalker, County Liasion jvandewalker@lpny.org

LEARN MORE:

fb.com/AlleganyCountyLP

CHAUTAUQUA

CONVENTION:

Thurs., Oct. 3, 2024 @ 7:00 PM Location TBD and Zoom

CONTACT:

Bob Peterson, Acting Chair

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

COLUMBIA

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., Oct. 16, 2024 @ 7 PM Google Meet (third Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

Scott Hoskins, Chair

scottdhoskins@gmail.com

CORTLAND

CONTACT:

Sam Hordeski, Acting County Chair/ County Liaison samuelh93@yahoo.com

CLINTON

CONTACT:

Zachary Remian, County Liaison

zremian@lpny.org (518) 310-6664

DUTCHESS

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., Sept. 21, 2024 @ 5 PM Bella Italia Restaurant Route 9 Wappingers NY 12590 (3rd Saturdays)

CONTACT:

Catrina Rocco, Chair Robert Cocomello, Vice-Chair info@dutchesscountylp.org

LEARN MORE:

dutchesscountylp.org

ERIE

NEXT MEETING:

Held Monthly via Zoom

CONTACT:

Duane Whitmer, Chair chairman@eriecountylp.org

KINGS (BROOKLYN)

NEXT MEETING:

Tues., Oct. 15, 2024 at 3 PM @ Fourth Avenue Pub 76 4th Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11217 (3rd Tuesdays)

CONTACT:

Christopher Skelly, Chair cskelly@cskelly.tech

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., Oct. 3, 2024 @ 7 PM (first Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Steve Becker, Chair

drsbecker@aol.com

LEARN MORE:

monroecountylp.org

NASSAU

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Oct. 10, 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)

<u>CONTACT:</u> Chance Haywood, Chair

chaywood@lpny.org

NIAGARA

CONTACT:

Wendi Szabo, Acting County Chair/ County Liaison

wendiszabo@gmail.com

NEXT MEETING:

TBD

ONEIDA

NEXT MEETING:

Mon., Oct. 21, 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

live free@juan rayala.com

PUTNAM

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Oct. 10, 2024 at 7 PM at McCarthy's 374 Route 52, Carmel, NY 10512 (2nd Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Bill O'Donnell, Chair

billod10704@gmail.com

QUEENS

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., Oct. 12, 2024 @ 12 PM The Original Stamatis Restaurant 29-09 23rd Ave., Astoria (2nd Saturdays)

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., Oct. 2, 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., Oct. 17, 2024 @ 7 PM @ Coffee and Collectibles (3rd Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Susan Overeem Cummings, Chair

susanovereem@gmail.com

SARATOGA

CONTACT:

Naz Garabedien, 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., Oct. 14, 2024 at 6:30 PM Hickory BBQ, Kingston, NY (second Mondays)

CONTACT:

Sam Kniffen, Chair

samkniffeno1@gmail.com

LEARN MORE:

www.UlsterLP.org

WAYNE

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., Oct. 26, 2024 at 10 AM Yellow Mills Diner 2534 NY-31 Palmyra, NY 14522 (last Saturdays)

CONTACT:

Jim Dayton, Chair

idayton@lpny.org

LEARN MORE:

lpwaynecounty.org

WESTCHESTER

CONTACT:

Rajib Maitra **Acting County Chair/**

County Liaison

rajib.maitra1@gmail.com

YATES

CONTACT:

Jeff Bradley, Chair

ibradley@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







RollingStone VICE The Washington post



AMERICA NEEDS A CHOICE who understands both the realities of modern life and the challenges faced by a new generation; who is both dynamic enough to adapt to new conditions and energetic enough to bring innovative change to old institutions.

-Chase Oliver



Iournal-Constitution



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Join the Movement! VOTECHASEOLIVER.COM

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Rich Purtell 2nd Vice-Chair

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W. Cody Anderson Treasurer

Maura Botsford At-Large

Justin Carman At-Large

Keith Redhead At-Large

William Schmidt At-Large

Karyn Thompson At-Large

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IT Director

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Vacant

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Paul Grindle

Political Director

Maura Botsford

Events Coordinator

Daniel Castello

Platform Committee Chair

Andrew Kolstee

Rules Committee Chair

STATE COMMITTEE

Mark Axinn (JD1)

Morry Davis (JD1)

Chance Haywood (JD1)

Paul Grindle (JD2)

Matthew Morgan (JD2)

Gary Popkin (JD2)

W. Cody Anderson (JD3)

Justin Carman (JD3)

Lora Newell (JD3)

Jennifer O'Connor (JD3)

Amanda Ellithorpe (JD4)

Stephen Healey (JD4)

John Janes (JD4)

Zachary Remian (JD4)

Karyn Thompson (JD4)

Vacant (JD4)

Daniel Castello (JD5)

Shawn DeGrand (JD5)

James Fitch (JD5)

Matthew Guilianelli (JD5)

Erinn Leatherman (JD5)

Adam Magoon (JD5)

Amber Nunes (JD5)

Keith Redhead (JD5)

Mark Braiman (JD6)

Craig Colwell (JD6)

Samuel Hordeski (JD6)

Vacant (JD6)

Christopher Olenski (JD6)

David Penner (JD6)

Steven Becker (JD7)

Jeffrey Bradley (JD7)

Justin Pelletier (JD7)

Sean Phelan (JD7)

Marc Smith (JD7)

James Ziobro (JD7)

Vacant (JD7)

Vacant (JD7)

Vacant (JD7)

Vacant (JD7)

Erin Becker (JD8)

Maura Botsford (JD8)

Andrew Kolstee (JD8)

Francis Law (JD8)

Charles Roggen (JD8)

Jame VanDewalker (JD8)

Duane Whitmer (JD8)

Vacant (JD8)

Vacant (JD8)

Juan Ayala (JD9)

Robert Cocomello (JD9)

Daniel Donnelly (JD9)

Robert Greibesland (JD9)

William Schmidt (JD9)

Christian Vondras (JD9)

Jeffrey Denecke (JD10)

Jonathan Gunther (JD10)

Vincent O'Neill (JD10)

VIIICEIII (JD10)

George Ostrowski (JD10) **Christian Padgett** (JD10)

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Robert Schuon (JD10)

Blay Tarnoff (JD10)

Randyn Tarnoff (JD10)

John Clifton (JD11)

Francisco Olvera (JD11)

Irwin Mark Weinblatt (JD11)

Vacant (JD12)

Vacant (JD12)

Vacant (JD13)

Vacant (JD13)

Richard Purtell (ex-officio)

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