

FLP News

Newsletter of the Free Libertarian Party of New York
Number 3 October 1983



The Greatest Convention Ever

Everything you wanted to find at a convention was present at New York's 1983 Libertarian Party National Convention. The eight-day affair was highlighted by the hard fought presidential race. Candidates spent several hectic days lining up constituencies, securing endorsements from party leaders and addressing state delegations. The climax of all this politicking came on Saturday, September 3rd, when, after four tense ballots, California's Dave Bergland was elected. On Sunday, the convention nominated Jim Lewis of Connecticut as the Libertarian Party's 1984 Vice Presidential candidate.

But nominations were not the only thing that kept the 800 convention attendees busy during the week. Without any serious hitches, more than eighty speakers addressed a variety of workshops, panels and other events.

Four breakfasts featured some of the more notable speakers: Dr. Thomas Szasz, Barbara Branden, Douglas Casey and Henry Holtzer. Entertainment events included an exhilarating tribute to the idea of liberty by John Doswell, a hilarious monologue by John Northrup, a magic show, a visit to the interior of the Brooklyn Bridge, a cabaret show and others.

And, of course there was the excitement of just being with 800 libertarians. The sharing of ideas, the debating of issues and the availability of so many party leaders all combined to make the 1983 Convention a standard by which all future conventions will be judged.

CONVENTION FINANCES AT A GLANCE

A serious question that entered the minds of many New York libertarians as the convention approached was: did we undertake too much? Will the FLP overcommit itself and by so doing incur a debt which would take years to pay off (as the National Party did)?

Regional Reports...

New York: Pres Con director and former N.Y. State FLP chair/ debated Dr. Fred Newman before a SRO crowd at New York University. The debate centered around three issues: housing, poverty and welfare. Each speaker had a chance to address the problem and each were allowed two rebuttals.

Dr. Fred Newman is a practicing therapist who is an executive board member of the New Alliance Party and ax writes a regular column for their newspaper.

The debate was held at the Loeb Student Center on June 24. It was the first of a series of planned debates that the NYC chapter is initiating with other political parties and special interest groups on politically sensitive and current political/economic and social problems.

Cortland: Tom Hazard is running for the office of Mayor of Cortland on the Libertarian line. He is joined by Bob Clark, who is running for the job of Solon Town-Supervisor. Officers of the Central New York chapter, their names and their telephone numbers follow:

Chair - Dottie-Lou Brokaw. 39 Prospect Terrace. Cortland, NY 13045. (607) 753-9176.

Vice-Chair - Evan L. Webster. 106 West South Street. Groton, NY 13073. Home: (315) 497-0042. Office: (607) 898-3190.

Treasurer - Neil Brown. 5374 Catalina Circle. Clay, NY 13041. (315) 699-3148.

Cortland County Chair - Thomas H. Hazard. 77 Maple Avenue. Cortland. NY 13045. (607) 756-6585.

Onondaga County Chair - Tim Delay. 127 Rider Avenue. Syracuse, NY 13200. (315) 478-7232.

Dottie-Lou Brokaw is also seeking county chairs and/or contacts for other counties both in Central New York and around the state. If you are interested please contact her at the above telephone number.

Westchester: A chapter meeting was held September 18th. Members are currently looking into a number of projects including a public access cable television show, talks by "name" libertarian speakers and a fund-raiser for the LP's 1984 campaign. A merger with the Rockland/ Orange chapter is also under consideration.

NEXT IN FLP NEWS:

Meet the Candidates. Articles on 1984 LP Candidates Dave Bergland and Jim Lewis.

On The Platform

Bill McMillen

The platform of the Free Libertarian Party begins with an affirmation of certain principles and then recognizes certain issues to which those principles may be applied. In drafting the state platform, the platform committee looked to the national party platform for guidance on content, design, and phraseology. Accordingly, this procedure was followed in drafting a platform plank on abortion.

In the national party platform, the principle of one's right to one's own life is clearly stated as is the conclusion that the exercise of and respect for that right requires that government make no laws restricting the right of women to choose abortion. However, of what significance is the stated opposition to tax funding of abortion in both the state and national platform? Is this wavering on the issue? Is this a specific message to those opposed to abortion, that they need not take our position on this issue seriously? The national platform states, "It is particularly harsh to force someone who believes that abortion is murder to pay for another's abortion." Is it not also particularly harsh to force someone who believes that taxation is theft to pay for another's tonsillectomy? Yet nowhere in the platform do we oppose tax funding for tonsillectomies.

Several years ago, Gary Greenberg argued in Federal court on behalf of the Libertarian Party for mailing rates on a par with those granted to the Republicans and Democrats. In the absence of a free market in postal service, he was advocating a doctrine not specifically mentioned within our platform: equal treatment under the law.

Government subsidizes an assortment of medical procedures, emergency, preventative and elective. To permit a government which taxes women to deny care and treatment for a condition that is peculiar to women is to condone discrimination. A party of principle should take issue with such government. If the government should decide that sickle cell anemia is no longer a disease entitled to subsidized treatment, or that AIDS is no longer deserving of research funding; should we merely dismiss this discrimination by only affirming our opposition to tax funding for sickle cell anemia and AIDS treatment and research. I think not.

No libertarian principle is clarified by specific opposition to funding of abortion. The inclusion of this specific opposition in the platform merely suggests that some libertarians would be more or less aggressive in their opposition to public funding depending upon whom the taxes are being levied against and which segments of the population are being funded.

Note: I have received several comments on last issue's article as well as suggestions for future topics. Please send replies to me at 41 Weston Drive, Clifton Park, New York 12065. The next article will be drawn from these replies.

The FLP Platform Committee was Chaired by Steve Schneider. Members included David Greene, Dave Hoesly, Marc Joffe, Sieglinde Kress, Bill McMillen, Chuck Steber and Bill Stocker.

Convention...

I am happy to report that the convention made money. No FLP member need worry about calls for contributions to pay off the debt (though we will be needing money for our 1984 campaign!). While all the details will not be known for some time, a profit of several thousand dollars is likely. This will enable the FLP to meet some of the goals it set for itself in May of this year.. These included a safety net or cushion so that we would never again have a zero bank balance. In addition, we can buy an answering machine and some outreach films from World Research, Inc.

I look forward to reporting to you more fully on all of this in these pages in upcoming issues and at our state FLP convention in the Spring.

- J.F.

386 Free Libertarian Party members wish to express their thanks and appreciation to all those who made the 1983 Libertarian Party National Convention the success that it was...

Gary Greenberg, Loretta Weiss, Ira Gottlieb, Andrea Rich, Marian Williams, Beth Gottlieb, John Kunze, Barbara Schwartz, Gillian Jewel, Denise Kline, Anita Anderson, John Doswell, Joe Kleinman, Rick Horan, Michele Schwartz, Randy Hewitt, Frank Hess, Jim Ratigan, Karen Stern, Norm McConnell, Mike Edelstein, Jim Harris, Eleanor Rosenblatt, Bill Zelco, John Carriel, Fred Cookinham, Tim Koller, Steve Jones, John Boorman, Cathy Thomas, and John Francis.

We would also like to extend both our apologies and our thanks to all those we failed to list above.

The Free Libertarian Party
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