

# Chautauqua County Libertarian Party Chair's Report – April 1, 2021 – Page 1

## STATE COMMITTEE REPORT

1. **STATE/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS.** A State Committee meeting was held on Sunday, March 14, 2021. 7 vacancies were filled on the State Committee (including one in our Judicial District, with Gerrit Cain filling the vacancy) and 38 candidates were given Certificates of Authorization. Each committee gave a report as well. Full minutes can be found at [lpony.org/part-resources](http://lpony.org/part-resources) (password: libertyinny). At the March 25, 2021 Executive Committee meeting, the Dutchess County Libertarian Party became an official affiliate. Montgomery and Putnam have also formed but their affiliation there has been no vote on making their affiliation official.

2. **BALLOT ACCESS LAWSUIT.** In the request for a preliminary injunction, no decision has been made. On March 31, 2021, the Judge scheduled oral arguments for Friday, April 23, 2021 at noon.

3. **TRAININGS.** The next monthly meeting will be held for County Affiliate leaders on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 and Rob Arrigo will continue his presentation on the nature of politics.

## BUSINESS

1. **ELECTION DISTRICT DELEGATES.** We currently have 7 election district delegates. We have a total of 198 positions to be filled and we need at least 50 members by 2022 to form a constituted county committee under Election Law.

2. **FACEBOOK.** Meetings through June 3, 2021 are set up on Facebook.

3. **WEBSITE.** Meetings are up on the website through September 2, 2021. The candidate questionnaire does not work on mobile, but I have not had a chance to figure out the issue. The questionnaire works fine on the desktop version.

## ELECTIONS

1. **DESIGNATING PETITIONING.** The designating petitioning period ended on March 25, 2021. That afternoon, I filed Libertarian petitions as follows: Gerrit Cain for County Legislator District 16 (including petitions for the Conservative line), Andrew Kolstee for County Legislator District 9, Len Morlock for Chautauqua Town Council, and Andrew Liuzzo for Jamestown City Council At-Large. All Libertarian petitions were invalidated, but if we are granted the preliminary injunction, I expect that all of us will be back on the ballot.

2. **INDEPENDENT PETITIONING.** The independent petitioning period begins on April 13, 2021 and the filing dates are May 18 – 25, 2021. Opportunity to Ballot (OTB) was eliminated this year. The threshold for the number of signatures was recently cut in half, in which the requirement is now 2.5% instead of 5% of the votes for Governor in the last gubernatorial election. For the offices in which we have submitted petitions: County Legislator District 16 (73 signatures), County Legislator District 9 (42 signatures), Chautauqua Town Council (43 signatures), and Jamestown City Council At-Large (184 signatures).

3. **PRESS RELEASE.** At some point, we will need a press release regarding our candidates, probably once we know where we stand on the ballot.

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### **ELECTIONS (continued)**

4. **CANDIDATES.** Russell Payne, who was our candidate for Carroll Town Supervisor in 2019, requested our endorsement for this year. By the time he sent his email, it was too late for us to hold a vote in order to submit candidates for a Certificate of Authorization. I informed him that the independent petitioning period is coming up and that would be another opportunity. I told him to fill out our candidate questionnaire.

### **2021 OPERATIONS**

The status of the items we placed in the 2021 plan are in this section.

1. **LEGISLATIVE AGENDA.** Our drafted legislative agenda needs to be refined further. Since the focus is county issues, this agenda can be developed along with campaign issues this year and issues we learn from the Liberate Chautauqua initiative.

2. **LIBERATE CHAUTAUQUA.** A planning meeting was held on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 7 p.m. It was decided that we hold two or three initial meetings via Zoom to start gathering interest. A Facebook page was created (we need 10 likes to get an official username) and promotion has begun. A press release is drafted, set to go out tomorrow for the weekend news. Jackson Arthurs has been actively promoting the event, and we have connected with Advocates for Balance at Chautauqua Institution. I spoke with Paul Anthony, and he said he and some other members of their group will attend. I registered domains for a website ([www.liberatechautauqua.org](http://www.liberatechautauqua.org), [www.liberatechautauqua.com](http://www.liberatechautauqua.com), [www.liberatechq.org](http://www.liberatechq.org), and [www.liberatechq.com](http://www.liberatechq.com))

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

1. **CAMPAIGN LAUNCH EVENT FOR GERRIT CAIN.** Planning for some time in the spring. Date and location TBD.

2. **FUNDRAISER.** TBD Spring/Summer 2021. We need to begin planning this event. We are probably going to replace this event and/or merge with the annual convention. The Erie County Libertarian Party had a successful chicken BBQ fundraiser, and it is an ideal I think we should consider.

3. **SUMMER PICNIC.** TBD Summer 2021. The pavilion at the Mayville VFW with the chicken BBQ in 2020 was a great event and would be ideal again for our 2021 summer picnic. As the summer approaches, we will schedule the annual summer picnic.

4. **ANNUAL CONVENTION.** TBD September/October 2021. We always have a guest speaker at our convention. Any ideas for a guest speaker?

For other events, we may want to coordinate as the Western New York Libertarian Coalition and hold a regional event.

Andrew Martin Kolstee  
Chair, Chautauqua County Libertarian Party