

Farewell Address

Gary Johnson, 1991-1992 State Party Chairman, sums up the past year, and outlines future party plans in this Presidential Election year. **2**

BATF At It Again

As we welcome Larry Pratt of Gun Owners of America to our Convention, Lou Vogel assesses anti-gun efforts, both private and Federal. **2**

Registration Form

This complete Registration Form makes assuring your seat at the Convention easier than ever. But don't throw the rest out! It's your program. **3**

Free New York

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 5

MARCH 1992



LIBERTY GUIDING THE PEOPLE, OIL, EUGENE DELACROIX, 1831

Libertarians Converge on White Plains

More than 100 Libertarians from all over New York State will meet in White Plains for the 1992 State Convention, at the White Plains Hotel on Saturday, May 9.

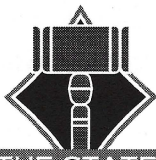
Members will nominate a candidate to challenge Republican Senator Al D'Amato, and to elect new statewide officers. Highlights of the day-long event will include a luncheon with **Larry Pratt**, Executive Director

of Gun Owners of America, and a banquet honoring Presidential candidate **André Marrou**.

Getting the Libertarian ticket on the ballot, and getting out the vote in November will be the focus of an afternoon workshop which will feature former candidates and and veteran petitioners, who will attempt to explain some of the pitfalls of New York elections laws. "New York has some of the

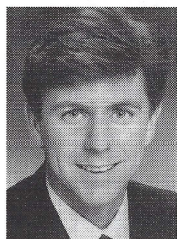
worst election laws in the country," said **Gary Johnson**, outgoing State Chair and former candidate for Governor in 1990. "We need 20,000 signatures to get on the ballot statewide, but there are so many restrictions that we need twice that many to fight a legal challenge to our petition."

Author **Joan Kennedy Taylor** will give a talk on Libertarians and Feminism later that day.



FROM THE STATE CHAIR

Looking Forward to It



GARY JOHNSON

It is my distinct pleasure to invite you to join me for the 1992 LPNY State Convention. Next to the November election itself, this is probably the most important event of the year for New York Libertarians. At White Plains we will lay the

groundwork not only for a successful statewide campaign, but also for an electoral breakthrough in 1994.

Many people have asked me why we bother running in statewide races when we might so better in local races with our limited resources. While it makes a lot of sense to concentrate on local races in certain areas, New York presents one major hurdle we have to overcome before we can compete in the electoral process on a level playing field: we have to get at least 50,000 votes for Governor

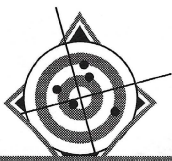
before the LPNY will be recognized by New York State as an "official" political party. We got halfway there in 1990, and our mailing list and membership rolls have grown dramatically since then. The Presidential and Senatorial campaigns provide a wonderful opportunity to accelerate that growth. The 1992 election provides us with a chance to find the voters who will give us ballot status in 1994.

An old saw in politics goes, "Identify your voters and get them to the polls." This is as true in the age of television, spin control, and sound bites as it was in the early days of the Republic. Whenever you hear about the success of an unknown candidate—Jimmy Carter in 1976, or Bill Clinton in 1992—it is because of careful attention to this simple rule. If we want access to the ballot in 1994, we will have to identify the people who will not only vote for our ticket, but also provide the signatures, volunteer time, and money needed for a successful campaign.

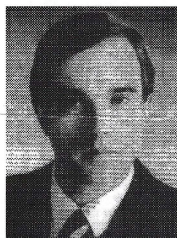
So how do we identify these voters? Larger campaigns would rely on "polling" voters using telephone banks and following up on those who provide positive responses. But we now have a more cost-effective method of reaching libertarian voters, thanks to the Operation Politically Homeless concept. We can have tables at (among other venues) a number of the County Fairs around the state and

invite passersby to take the "World's Smallest Political Quiz" or similar questionnaire. Respondents who score in the "libertarian quadrant" provide future names for the mailing list and can then be recruited for membership. The Marrou/Lord campaign provides a kit we can use for this purpose and I think the State Committee should purchase one.

During the 1990 campaign my wife and I spent a very enjoyable afternoon petitioning at the Oswego County Fair thanks to Cathy and Don Nickles. County Fairs can be some of the best breeding grounds for this sort of grassroots action. Some of these Fairs, in Oswego, Orange, and Ulster Counties, even coincide with the petition drive and provide excellent places to get signatures. I intend to ask the State Committee to budget enough money to have booths at five or six fairs over the summer. Each booth can be rented for less than \$300. More importantly, we would need two to four volunteers per day to cover each booth. How many New York Libertarians would like to do something concrete to transform the LPNY into a "real" political party? Are you ready take part in a project that could double or triple our mailing list in a few months? Building a party is relatively simple. It takes hard work, organization, and can be a lot of fun. I hope you will decide to join the fun in White Plains and the coming months ahead. ★



RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS



LUDWIG VOGEL

Handgun Control, Inc. has told its supporters that its number one Federal legislative goal in 1992 is to enact "the Brady Bill." Number two is passing "a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines." Number three is to restrict the number of

Federal Firearms License holders and to increase their license fees (in which they're joined by the National Association of Stocking Gun Dealers).

HCI's number one state priority is to defend "assault weapons bans in New Jersey, California and New York City" and defend the Washington, DC law making gun manufac-

turers liable at civil law for criminal acts committed with their products. Number two is blocking Ohio and Illinois pre-emption laws. Number three is to ban "assault weapons and high-capacity magazines in Texas." And number four is to block permit-to-carry laws, which are being pushed in Texas as a result of the Luby's restaurant massacre of last fall.

WOMEN AND GUNS

Their principal political goals are to "expose those politicians who won't sign a 'Pledge for Public Safety'" promising support of both "the Brady Bill and a Federal assault weapon ban." Finally: "public education campaigns" about "the extremist nature of the gun lobby and alert women . . . that they've been targeted as a new market for the gun sellers."

HCI is upset at the talk shows that feature armed women, news reports about women and armed self-defense. A case in point would be the January 7 *Washington Post* "Style" section front page that proclaimed, "More and More Women Are Buying Guns for Self-Defense." This story ran alongside "I Want to Feel Safe Again"—One Woman Tells Why She's

Carrying a Gun" and a listing of DC-area target ranges where handgun training is available.

The lead article cited statistics that a third of all women will be raped, robbed or assaulted; that the National Crime Survey shows 30 percent of home burglaries result in violence; that Justice Department studies show that armed citizens are much less likely to suffer losses or personal injury from thieves; and Professor Gary Kleck's finding that "handguns were used by citizens for defense against criminals some 645,000 times in 1990," and that "in fewer than one percent of those cases did criminals manage to turn the guns against their owners." Never before have we seen such a story from the *Washington Post*!

Though Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Joseph Biden has declared the House-Senate compromise crime bill dead, it's possible that Senate Democrats will push a partisan vote on the House-passed bill early in the year—mainly to force President Bush in a political box, for the compromise bill appears to expand the death penalty. The

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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president wants the "tougher on criminals" S.1241 that passed the Senate last summer, but isn't likely to get it. S.1241 contains a "sometimes instant" background check on all firearm retail transactions (for an estimated fee of \$20 per gun), plus the DeConcini ban on 13 military-style firearms.

THE VOGEL LETTER

Participants in our New York City convention who signed my letter to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms might be interested to learn that BATF reported receiving between 1500 and 2000 comments on the proposed rule that their letter addressed. In other words, we New York Libertarians accounted for about two percent of all the input the BATF bureaucrats received before they officially closed the window of opportunity to comment on their curious interpretation of the 1990 crime bill. Last summer, BATF had decreed that a provision of the 1990 crime bill that prohibited domestic manufacture of non-importable firearms from imported parts really was a ban on modification of any lawfully imported firearm with domestic parts or any domestically produced firearm with imported parts. Modification was defined as the addition of any two parts from a long list that included screws and springs. Under this new and very curious interpretation, any such modification of an existing firearm was to become a felony! ★

Joan Kennedy Taylor

In recent years, the term "feminist" seems to have been appropriated by advocates of censorship, and a radical, statist social agenda typified by the movement known as "feminist legal studies."

So if you think "libertarian feminist" has become an oxymoron, by all means spend an hour with **Joan Kennedy Taylor**, libertarian, author, and feminist. Joan, Executive Direc-

tor of the Association of Libertarian Feminists (A.L.F.), will discuss her new book, *Reclaiming the Mainstream: Individualist Feminism Rediscovered*, published by Prometheus Books. Joan's book has been hailed by Nadine Strossen of the ACLU as "an important contribution to the movement for individual rights, including women's rights." This workshop will provide a wealth of ideas and insights for anyone concerned about the future of the women's movement.



Schedule

- 8:30—9:30 Registration
- 9:30—11:30 Business Session
 - Election of Statewide Officers:
 - Members at Large (5)
 - Treasurer
 - Secretary
 - Vice Chairs (2)
 - Nomination of 1992 Senatorial Candidate
- 12:00—2:00 Luncheon with **Larry Pratt**
Introduction by **Margaret Fries**
- 2:15—3:15 **Gary Johnson** "Getting on the Ballot and Getting out the Vote"
- 3:30—4:30 **Joan Kennedy Taylor** "Libertarian Feminism"
- 5:30—6:30 Cocktail Hour
- 6:30—7:30 Dinner and Auction
- 7:30—8:30 Special Guest Speaker:
Presidential Candidate **André Marrou**

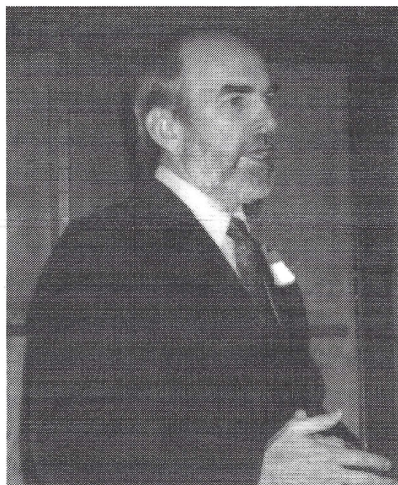
Election of Officers

One of the most important orders of business at the 1992 State Convention will be the selection of new officers for the 1992-1993 year. Whoever is selected will carry the responsibility of continuing the record growth experienced by the Libertarian Party of New York in the past two years. Vacancies to be filled include Chair, two Vice-Chairs, Treasurer, Secretary, and five at-large members.



1992 STATE CONVENTION

The Hero of Dixville Notch



If you, like a great many other people, were listening to the radio or watching CNN shortly after midnight on Tuesday, February 18, then you heard the surprise in the voices of the reporters as they announced the early returns from the New Hampshire primary. **André Marrou**, Presidential candidate of the Libertarian Party, had beaten George, Pat Buchanan,

and all the Democrats combined with 11 out of 31 votes cast in the tiny vacation spot of Dixville Notch. The *Manchester Union-Leader* had to scrap a headline proclaiming Buchanan the early winner for one that simply said "Voter Turnout Heavy." For the next 18 hours, the Marrou "victory" were the only election returns available, and were reported in most major daily newspapers, CNN, and the morning news programs like the *Today* show. Never before had a Libertarian Presidential candidate received as much press attention this early in a campaign.

Marrou went on to win about 3500 votes statewide, despite a shoestring budget and a shortage of Libertarian ballots at some polling places. He will be entering five more primaries, in Nebraska, North Dakota, Idaho, Montana, and California—the state with the largest number of registered Libertarians in the country.

Marrou will share some of the "secrets" of his New Hampshire success, as well as his plans for the future, at a banquet in his honor at the 1992 LPNY State Convention. Marrou is a former Alaska state legislator, and was the Libertarian candidate for Vice-President in 1988.

Introducing Marrou will be outgoing State Chair W. Gary Johnson.

2nd Amendment Luncheon



Larry Pratt, Executive Director of Gun Owners of America, will be the guest of honor at a luncheon held in conjunction with the LPNY state convention. Introducing Pratt will be Margaret Fries, a former candidate for New York Attorney General and a former candidate for Town Justice in Conklin, New York.

**1992 LPNY ANNUAL CONVENTION ★ SATURDAY, MAY 9 ★ WHITE PLAINS HOTEL
YOUR COMPLETE REGISTRATION AND PROGRAM KIT IN THIS SPECIAL EDITION**