

Chautauqua County Libertarian Party Chair's Report – May 6, 2021 – Page 1

STATE COMMITTEE REPORT

1. **STATE/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS.** A State Committee meeting was held on Sunday, April 11, 2021. Three members of the State Committee were removed after a hearing. Additional resignations after that meeting leaves 10 total vacancies on the State Committee. These vacancies will likely be filled at the next meeting of the State Committee, which is likely to be held in person in July. There was also a resolution to referring to Daylight Savings Time as Government Incompetence Day, but it failed. At the April 13, 2021 Executive Committee meeting, Montgomery and Putnam Counties became official affiliates, bring the number to 28 organized County Affiliates out of 62 total counties. At the April 18, 2021 Executive Committee meeting, a contract was established with a marketing firm for issuing press releases over the next three months.

2. **BALLOT ACCESS LAWSUIT.** Oral arguments for the preliminary injunction were held on Wednesday, April 28, 2021. The judge has not yet made a decision. In the next phase of the lawsuit, responses by the defendant are due on May 14, 2021 and our response is due on May 31, 2021.

3. **TRAININGS.** The next monthly meeting will be held for County Affiliate leaders on Tuesday, May 11, 2021.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS PLATFORM.** There has been discussion on the need for a more streamlined means of communication among state and county leaders and a survey was sent out to gather feedback.

BUSINESS

1. **ELECTION DISTRICT DELEGATES.** We currently have 8 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. **INDEPENDENT PETITIONING.** The independent petitioning period began on April 13, 2021 and the filing dates are May 18 – 25, 2021. 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. Signature requirements were posted on the Chautauqua County Board of Elections website.

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

3. **CANDIDATES.** No new candidates have come forward.

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2021 OPERATIONS

1. **LEGISLATIVE AGENDA.** We have made more progress with this. I have taken all the policy notes and discussions from our policy meetings as well as notes from the Liberate Chautauqua discussions and put it into a document that will need to be refined further as well as include action steps for issues we want to address.

2. **LIBERATE CHAUTAUQUA.** The first meeting was held on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with 8 in attendance (6 from our committee). The second meeting was held on Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. and focused on a discussion on problems facing local business owners. There were 6 in attendance. These discussions are helping us develop a legislative agenda and prioritize issues to address. Groups that are interested in this include Advocates for Balance at Chautauqua and Chautauqua Updates.

3. **ACTIVISM.** In order to move items out of our 2021 plan, I have placed such items here that we discussed: a creek cleanup, working with other organizations, working with NY Volunteers, etc.

SPECIAL EVENTS

1. **CAMPAIGN LAUNCH EVENT FOR GERRIT CAIN.** 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