

Free NY



WORKING TO ACHIEVE LIBERTY IN OUR LIFETIME

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK

VOL 2 APR 2004

GAY MARRIAGE IN NEW YORK: CAN THE STATE SANCTION LOVE?

The "gay marriage" issue heated up this March in the Hudson Valley. After suffering decades of stultifying social stigma, exclusionary prejudice, and vilifying attitudes, it is no longer unfashionable to be gay in pop culture American society.

The popularity of homosexual themed TV sitcoms and reality shows, gay fashions and vernaculars, routine gay couple parenting, even a parody on South Park demonstrate that gay/lesbian culture and members have broken through the pink curtain into modern society, and have begun to reflect a new acceptance

for gay/lesbian lifestyles as just another way of living in America. It is in fact now those who are outwardly prejudiced against gays/lesbians who are portrayed, and generally viewed as lugheads and throwbacks.

A road arduously trodden, gay/lesbian activists' had long lobbied in lay society and in the legal arenas for the common respect of fellow citizens and equal rights under the law. Those battles have finally scored successes in both; having won an apparent majority of acceptance in everyday society, they now seek to complete their integration by having their civil unions legally and socially recognized as being on par with heterosexual married couples.

In a series of hard won court battles, e.g. the U.S. Supreme Court striking down all sodomy laws, the Massachusetts Supreme Court ruling it a civil rights violation to deny homosexual couples equal treatment

Cont'd on Page 7

| <u>WHAT'S INSIDE</u> | |
|-----------------------|------|
| LETTERS TO THE EDITOR | # 3 |
| OUR PARTY MATTERS | #4 |
| LPNY CONVENTION INFO | #12 |
| RATIONAL RECREATION | # 19 |

New York Libertarian Party's Upcoming Annual Convention

On April 24, 2004, the NYLP will convene its annual state convention in NYC to bring together all those interested in advancing the NYS Libertarian Party and the libertarian cause. Members will elect committee officers of the state party and confirm our state's delegates for the National LP Convention occurring on the Memorial Day weekend. All members of the state party are invited to attend the free business session of the convention and cast their votes for the party officers. For the

rest of the convention the Party collects fees to cover convention and other projects costs.

Noted speakers have been invited and will orate on libertarian matters ranging from eminent domain to taxpayer's rights, see page 14, et seq.

A chance to pow-wow with fellow Libertarians and be among those who actually agree with libertarian goals and principles will be a refreshingly unusual experience to all who attend. Supporters of liberty from across New York State will come together to eat, drink, and prepare for the fun and

Cont'd on Page 4



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 Submissions deadline is
 20 days prior to the next
 issue publication date.**

CONTENTS:

GAY MARRIAGE IN NEW YORK 1
THE 2004 NYS LIBERTARIAN CONVENTION 1
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....3
ACTIVISM SUGGESTIONS5
AN OVERVIEW FROM THE NYLP CHAIR,6
ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, PAST AND PRESENT:8
NYS LIBERTARIAN CONVENTION SCHEDULE 13
GUEST SPEAKERS 14
NYLP CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER ACTIVITIES 17
FIGHTING THE NEW YORK STATE SMOKING BAN.....20
ONE NATION(ALISM), UNDER GOD?21
THIRD CLASS CITIZENS.....22
ANGUISH LANGUAGE.....23

Notice to subscribers:

Due to a technical error, some of last issue's mailing of FreeNY (Jan 2004, Vol. 1) were not addressed correctly; in the event you did not receive January's issue, please contact the Editor with your name and address, and a copy will be sent to you.

The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official stance of the NYLP, and are otherwise the authors' responsibility.

Would you prefer to receive Free NY in electronic format?

On Dec 4, 2003, the NYLP Committee voted to make all issues of FreeNY available to the public, via the NYLP Website. So if you would prefer to receive it in that form as soon as it is finalized (typically 2 weeks prior to publication), please visit: f1.pg.briefcase.yahoo.com/garyonthenet , or visit ny.lp.org/FreeNY. You may also opt out of receiving the hard copy of FreeNY at a link there or by contacting the Editor.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Libertarians Know the Difference

(And don't call me Shirley)

To the Editor:

I would like to address the article "Marihuana Plants targeted by the Helli-cops" wherein it has stated;

"In this democracy of ours, is there to be NO opportunity EVER from the public to witness open debate on this issue, and for the public to express its honest opinions on the marijuana questions".

Surely, libertarians know the difference between our REPUBLIC and a democracy. If you want or act like you live under a democracy, you get everything you ask for. You get majority opinion which can grant or deny the minority rights. Where 51% of the people can take away the rights of the remaining 49%. You have been granted your rights, under a democracy, by the government. If the government granted you rights, they can take them away!

I live under a REPUBLIC, protected by a constitution (article 4 section 4), where my rights come from God and only God can take them away. No, it is not a democratic republic. It is a constitutional republic.

If you are not sure, look into the constitutions of any state and the federal constitution and see if you can find where we are a democracy. I know you will not find it. So my question to Don Silberger is, what form of government does he live under. If libertarians don't know the difference, who will?

Thanks,
Christopher Schuh

It pays to go out of business

I think we should all just have the people in Albany that voted on this [smoking] ban make up the money that we have all lost, because this is a governmental take over without just compensation. They are not the ones who paid for our PRIVATE property and they don't pay our HIGH taxes and they surely don't compensate us for what we have lost. If and when we lose our businesses then we can all go on WELFARE and let the STATE take care of us and our employees. Let's see, we would get our gas bills PAID, medical bills PAID,

rent vouchers, and we would get plenty of food. All at the tax payers expense. That's the only way we would get compensated. Let the state take care of us instead of us taking care of them with our tax dollars. Maybe they won't get so many raises for doing nothing.

Brenda

Don't wanna play no Dirty Game

I'm not involved in the LP to win. Frankly, I don't really believe that we'll ever win and dominate. I don't care about winning.

I'm here on principle. I'm here because it's the right place to be; our philosophy, I believe, is correct. So, I want that philosophy, and I want it in its entirety.

Politics is a dirty game of compromises and under the table transactions. I don't want to live like the Democrats or the Republicans, at least not in my head. They can control me with their laws, but they can't force me to tell them that they're right. That's why I'm here in this (arguably extremist) third party and why I think there's not a reason to look back.

Curry

One Man's Poison . . .

Dear Editor:

So what's the real purpose of the smoking ban? Is it really to get people to stop smoking? Is it to make money off of sin taxes? Or is it to (snicker) save our bartenders so they can feed us another drug that can kill us!

Seems like a big scam-sham made by bored politicians who have nothing better to do.

Gregory T.

OUR PARTY MATTERS

THE 2004 NY LIBERTARIAN CONVENTION

FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS, AND FOR YOUR PARTY

Cont'd from Page 1

challenges of the political seasons in 2004 and beyond.

The 2004 LPNY state convention will occur in Manhattan at the Holiday Inn Martinique on Broadway (49 W 32nd St). (Please see inserts and convention registration form included, page 11 et seq.)

This convention is the place to share your views on all areas of social liberty. It is for those among us who believe they can make reasoned choice whether to choose drugs and medicines or not, and to let others decide as well. Whether gun control legislation is not just misguided but outright dangerous; whether the government has the presumptive right not only to steal your property, under eminent domain laws, but also to misuse those laws and grant favors to select businesses. All concerned persons can spend the afternoon with like-minded New Yorkers, and meet with LPNY officials.

The LPNY will greet visiting national candidates for the Libertarian Presidential nomination, Gary Nolan (www.garynolan.com) and Aaron Russo (www.russoforpresident.com).

Plans include voting on nominations for US Senate to challenge senior Senator Schumer (Where other parties fear to tread, we are positioned to

take on his warchest and his stances on the war on drugs, the war on gun ownership, and the Patriot Act, among others.)

Our convention will start by 10am. We host our lunch banquet from noon – 2pm. And, the official party business is free and open to all LP members starting at 3:00 p.m.

The convention will take place in two halls at the Martinique hotel. The main hall is for primary presentations and party business. (The elected 2004 state committee will meet briefly at the end of the convention.) The alternate room will host additional speakers, video presentations, and informal opportunities to socialize and converse.

A Note from the LPNY Convention Director: I am working for our LPNY members to make this meeting a success, and welcome your returned registration

form as soon as you can, please see page 11, et seq. You may also look soon to register online at www.ny.lp.org I will ask that any donor contributing \$85 or more at the LPNY website in March be given an option to register for the convention. Please confirm your donation to me and I will confirm your registration. (718-278-1520 or 516-SOS-GOVT.)

Thank you for the pleasure of your company on April 24, I hope to see you there. Make New York a real home for Liberty and let freedom ring in our state.

Thomas Ruks, trukslp@yahoo.com,
Vice-Chair, LPNY

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Visit us at:

<http://LD.NET/?libertarian>

And know that every phone call you make contributes to the NY Libertarian Party, and its effort in the continuing struggle for freedom.

National LP Convention News

LPNY Committee Meeting Briefs

The 2004 Libertarian Party National Convention will take place over Memorial Day Weekend at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel in downtown Atlanta, Georgia.

The kickoff event will be the "Welcome" Reception on Thursday evening, May 27. Official Business will begin on Friday morning, May 28, and run through the afternoon of Monday, May 31.

The "big" Business item for delegates will be the Nomination of LP 2004 Presidential and Vice-presidential Candidates, which will take place on Sunday, with the Gala Banquet that evening honoring our nominees.

In addition to the Business Sessions, there will be a whole weekend of Great Speakers: at all the Meal Events, some in the Main Convention Hall (where the business takes place) and at the various Workshops that take place concurrent with the Business Sessions.

The "Red, Rock and Blues" Concert will be on Friday night featuring the fabulous Jimmie Vaughan (plus other great musicians).

This Convention has something for everyone: delegates and non-delegates, members and non-members, "newbies" and old-timers!

Check out all the links on the LP Convention Home Page, at www.lpconvention.org. More info will be added as it becomes available, particularly additional speakers as they are confirmed.

The last quarterly LPNY State Committee meeting occurred on January 31, 2004, in Sloatsburg, NY.

In selected highlights of the meeting, the Committee discussed/planned:

1. The LPNY's resources utilization efficiency, compared to other Libertarian State Parties, e.g. how well other state LP's utilise the resources available to them in comparison to the LPNY, in members, funds, media attention, etc.

2. Developing a standardized program and procedure to greet new LPNY members who want to be libertarian activists, educate them into the LPNY activist culture and how to best utilize their energy and involvement in LPNY activist projects.

3. A motion was made to reduce the size of FreeNY to 8 pages, the motion was not seconded and not voted upon.

4. Provide a line-item donation option ability (e.g. to a specified project, particular chapter, etc) in new membership outreach instruments and efforts.

5. Organizing a phone calling outreach project, to bring back expired memberships and/or LPNY pledges.

6. The formation of a LPNY Commendation Program, officially honoring those persons instrumental in furthering libertarian goals, and/or completing successful libertarian activist projects in New York; said commendation is bestowed by a Certificate of Recognition and an official Letter of Commendation from the NY State LP Committee.

Our Party Matters

ACTIVISM SUGGESTIONS

A Recurring Section, highlighting suggestion(s) made by LP Members as a starting point for NYLP activist projects or activities in the furtherance of LP goals. (Editor kindly requests topic contributions for this section)

The LPNY wants your ideas! How can the libertarian understanding of individual liberty be made more acceptable to voters so that they will vote for Libertarian Party candidates? Everyone who submits an original idea will receive a gift. The best submission, as determined by the Committee, will get \$150. The 1st prize submission will be announced at the Convention on April 24.

A successful submission should: be less than 3000 words; include a name and contact address of the person(s) making the submission; provide at least one idea to make LPNY more

interesting to voters; show how the idea(s) can be projected to people and draw press and volunteers; show how the idea(s) can lead to 50,000 votes for our next candidate for Governor; provide an outline of how the idea(s) could be presented to voters; provide a list of resources (organization of people and money) to turn the idea(s) into reality. Submit your proposals before 1 April to:

**Libertarian Party
of New York
Attn: Contest
P.O. Box 728
Bellport, NY 11713**

AN OVERVIEW FROM THE NYLP CHAIR,JOHN CLIFTON:

HALFTIME:

I have used much of the first year as chair to express my own inclinations about party activity and direction, and more importantly to learn about things. Part of this process was to analyze what previous LPNY committees have done with an eye towards building on their achievements, while changing things where needed to avoid the outcomes that end up putting us in the same rut. The progress made last year (the ability to enroll as Libertarians, increased media coverage of state and local chapter activity, etc) certainly represents a productive change for the better. I hope to serve an additional year as chair to provide continuity in building on efforts begun in the past year. I have summarized some current issues and campaigns below:

1. Fundraising Launch.

I have started calling through the current LPNY member list to a) ask for participation in the LPNY monthly pledge program, b) failing that a one time or special contribution, c) their attendance of the convention, and d) their availability for various kinds of activism (e.g., printing up copies of a convention flyer and posting it in their area). Perhaps some of the extra bodies needed to help with the identified ongoing party functions (including bodies who will begin to contact the lapsed members) will hopefully be activated by this effort. I also hope to locate one or two private houses (Westchester, the Hamptons) where an upscale fall LPNY fundraiser could be held for the LP Presidential and Senate candidates; those who know of possible sites should let us know ASAP for planning purposes.

I can proceed with contacting the current member list, because we can now process the applications through [Click and Pledge](#), via the state website at www.ny.lp.org. I would hope all members are able to expend at least \$17.76 or more a month. Future phone tree efforts will likewise be preceded by the mail appeals to the list, to optimize their responsiveness. The committee will draft one or more four-page fundraising letters that can serve as templates for follow-up mailouts in the months and years to come. As per some concerns that our appeals be specific, the first letter could be registration or petition drive oriented, another campaign-centered, etc.

2. Strategy Dynamics.

There was a spirited discussion within the committee recently, over an ideas vs. action vs. results emphasis for the direction of the LPNY. My own emphasis (on results) was not intended to ignore or disparage anybody's expertise, ideas, or other people's heroic activism for LPNY. As I once said about Jim Harris's great cross-county initiative project, I just don't want to see one person's vision ending up crowding out everybody else's passions or achievements. I would definitely like to see these visions and passions add up to something, get followed up consistently with appropriate resources, and a willingness to manage (and not avoid) risks involved. Bonnie Scott recently outlined her extensive list of needed to-do items in a four year plan to develop LPNY and get us permanent ballot access. More people should be engaging her on these particulars than just me.

My own strategic outline (posted online April 2003) remains the same: replace and disinvest from the statist establishment, while enacting a new pro-liberty system, even if that means putting off direct "electoral" political action (e.g., mounting campaigns without resources) to build up those resources through "non-electoral" political action (developing political coalitions, supportive institutions, at times radically confronting the system, etc.). The object should be inducing actual change outside the LP universe, not smoother wheel-spinning within our sphere of operations. I strongly suspect the latter syndrome is largely why many are lapsed, or unwilling to act. They need to see an outcome that makes it worth responding to our perennial call to arms.

Normally, to 'get things done' an organization has three choices (beyond having one or two people do everything, which is not a viable long term solution): Delegate, Outsource, and Automate the ongoing work tasks. To delegate, you need sufficient people, to outsource, you need to be able to pay people or firms, and to automate, machines are needed. In lieu of resources (people and cash), LPNY should automate and outsource party functions, then delegate where we have the people. Bonnie Scott is doing most of automating via the web, by setting up systems and archives on the website that reduce the manpower

needed to retrieve or accomplish things offline. To outsource, we should elect to prudently invest the money we have to bring in more prospective members, by effective advertising, paying for magnet speakers and whatnot, to reach the masses the party lacks the personnel to canvas for.

The impasse we keep reaching is, LPNY seems to lack the people to even recruit the appropriate number of people it takes to be consistently effective, that is, to change the results through electoral action---yet we keep talking about launching such action. Repeat, we lack the people to get the people, to begin to put the ideas and to-do's into action. The 'more ideas' people and the 'more action' people are thus in the same boat, lacking the resources to implement. I think we should show the lapsed/inactives something first on the automating and outsourcing side, before we try to delegate activist tasks to them.

3. New Platform.

At the state chairs conference, I spoke with one of the committee members (George Squyers) who have drafted a new version of the LP platform., Based on a long talk in which I expressed my concerns (see previous column), I am not worried about the new version being a Trojan horse that will abolish the LP's principles. (There's a link to the new platform in each issue of LP News, and I suggest everybody look at the new proposed platform.) I still think the project was unnecessary, freights the platform with added PR functions no other party platform is expected to

handle, will not solve the problem of opponents trying to make the party look bad (they'll just reference the earlier version or other writings), or of people voting for a badly worded amendment on the floor of the convention, as per the old format; they'll now just be poorly wording them according to the new format.

The new format states each issue in terms of a uniform problem-principle-LP solution structure, where an issue is introduced first, then explained in terms of the principle involved and the Libertarian plan to address the issue. While this set-up may make communication of the party's ideas easier and less prone to be distorted, it seems to structurally subordinate the principles into a reactive context (unless we're responding to something, we cannot assert our beliefs). The current platform is mostly presuppositional---it presumes the right to declare something apart from its specific application---while the revamp seems to proceed from a universalist assumption, that 'if we could just establish common ground first, then we could get people to rationally accept our principles' and solutions.

I am skeptical that this universalist bias is any better than the current structure, and think it puts the new platform in the posture of being on the defensive. I have concerns this will underscore the perception the party is more concerned with appearance than substance, and in converting what SHOULD be a straightforward, fundamental statement of principles into a list of LP home remedies.

Peace and Freedom,
John

CAN THE STATE SANCTION LOVE?

(CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

under the law, the issue is finally coming to a head, the dam has begun to burst and the collective government at-large can no longer simply dismiss the demands for equal treatment under the law.

Armed with these shifting opinions in both society and the courts, gay/lesbian activists have allied with sympathetic public officials to force the issue, and by either ignoring concurrent state law, reinterpreting the legal elements of said laws, or appealing to a higher legal authority, have leapfrogged the legal objections and effected their marriage to each other by civil law ceremony.

The practice, starting most famously in San Francisco, CA this year, found its coastal counterpart in New Paltz, NY, where Mayor Jason West has been

also sanctioning civil unions. (It would appear that in California the Mayor is more blatantly violating prima facie law, where a Proposition 22 was passed by the voters explicitly stating that only heterosexual couples can/would be recognized by California law, here in New York, the law is a bit more vague, citing terms like "bride" and "groom", and "husband" and "wife", leaving room for possible interpretation as to what those terms actually can mean.)

Predictably, those in charge of administering the law lag far behind the sensibilities of the modern societal psyche, and respectively allied with moralistic reactionaries still peppered throughout society, but now in the effective minority, have begun to push back to maintain the status quo, attempting to undermine

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, PAST AND PRESENT:

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NASSAU COUNTY LIBERTARIANS PRESENT EX-JUDGE RAAB TALK ON JUDICIARY REFORM

Westbury, NY 1/28/04: Former State Supreme Court Justice Ira Raab has something to say about the justice system and how we pick our judges. He will get his chance before his friends in the Libertarian Party of Nassau County at their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, 2/17/04 from 8pm to 9:15pm in the lower level conference room of 230 Hilton Avenue, Hempstead.

Free to attend. Call 516-767-4688 for information. Nassau Libertarian Chair Richard Cooper of Westbury says "We Libertarians are proud to have supported Judge Raab for his successful campaigns for District Judge and State Supreme Court Judge. The Libertarian Party is vitally concerned with freedom, justice and the rule of law for everyone."

Judge Raab will address critical issues. "Judges are not supposed to be involved in politics, but they run for office politically. Judges may not contribute to political parties and candidates, but they may buy two tickets to any number of dinners at \$1000 per ticket when the judge runs for office.

Judges may not know who contributed to their campaigns, but they may see who comes to their fundraisers and paid for their tickets. Should judges be appointed or elected?"

Judge Raab is a resident of Woodmere, a graduate of City College and Brooklyn Law School. Since stepping down from the bench he has resumed the practice of law in New York and Florida.

LIBERTARIANS PRESENT "THE PATRIOT ACT VERSUS AMERICA" TALK

Westbury, NY 1/8/04: On September 11th, 2001 Libertarian Party member and NYPD Officer John W. Perry died helping people at the World Trade Center. Nassau Libertarians will present his parents James & Patricia Perry of Seaford to speak on "The Patriot Act Versus America" at their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, 1/20/04 from 8pm to 9:15pm in the lower level conference room of 230 Hilton Avenue, Hempstead. Free to attend. Call 516-767-4688 for information.

Patricia Perry charges that "The USA Patriot Act is unpatriotic in that it is contrary to the principles of freedom from government interference that were added to the US Constitution in the first ten Amendments,

the Bill of Rights." Nassau Libertarian Chair Richard Cooper of Westbury declares the USA Patriot Act to be a threat to America and notes that the Libertarian Party opposed its passage and calls for its repeal.

James Perry graduated from the University of Kansas with a degree in electrical engineering. Later, he went back to school and became a psychiatrist. He recently retired from the NYS Department of Mental Healthy where he served as psychiatrist at Middletown Psychiatric Center. Patricia Perry graduated from the University of Kansas with a degree in elementary education. Both were members of civil rights organizations during the 60s and peace organizations during the 70s. Patricia has served on the board of the New York Civil Liberties Union Nassau chapter since 1989. They are the parents of three children, including John, who was an avid Libertarian Party member.

In September, the Nassau Libertarians presented a tribute to Officer Perry and a memorial to all those murdered on 9/11. His parents showed the Thomas Jefferson Award presented posthumously to John at the Libertarian National Convention.

Libertarians Respond To Pataki's S-O-S

Albany, NY-1/11/04: Members of the Libertarian Party were summoned to the rescue to act as truth detectors, following Governor Pataki's State of the State speech delivered last week. LPNY Chair John Clifton commented that "all New Yorkers need to be saved from Pataki's gaseously long, bland, authoritarian homages to infinite government force, which have become as bloated and expansive as has state spending itself." Noting the new state laws Pataki signed in 2003 prohibiting sales of ephedra and restaurant smoking, Clifton added that "the Governor ought adopt a tight 'prohibition freeze' in which he abstains from banning anything else for at least 12 months."

Reduced choice for New Yorkers, expanded state power, and self-serving rhetoric to excuse away over-the-cliff spending were the most obvious problems Libertarians found with Pataki's address. LPNY Treasurer Werner Hetzner observed that while Pataki was up-beat, "it was the kind of reassuring speech former Enron Corp. Chairman Kenneth L. Lay might have given to stockholders just before the collapse. Of course NYS is not Enron. Enron would not be bankrupt if it could just keep raising prices like NY can keep raising taxes. Enron could still be sitting pretty if, like

NY, it could keep borrowing to cover deficits or sell its assets to its own Authorities and call it revenue.”

According to the Manhattan Institute’s E.J. McMahon, adjusted for inflation, spending during Pataki’s previous fiscal years in office has risen almost twice as fast as it did in Cuomo’s last eight years. “Real state spending in New York has risen 54 percent over the past two decades,” McMahon writes. “About one-third of the total dollar increase occurred under Pataki....state funds spending will rise in fiscal 2003-04 and 2004-05 by a total of 10 percent-more than twice the projected inflation rate for that period.”

Mr. Hetzner offers his own analysis: “What’s a \$6 billion deficit among friends when future generations foot the bill? Who really cares when you can pour money into government schools and call it reform? So what if government medical programs break the bank and health insurance laws drives up costs? Are government pensions too generous? No problem. Someone will find something new to tax or something old to tax more. Besides, as long it includes the word ‘environment’ we’ll always vote for another bond act.

“The LP questions the value of legislated initiatives and reforms. Where is the accountability Mr. Pataki speaks of? Where has it been? If local schools are an example of “government by and for the people”, then we must accept the notion that, we, the people, actually want schools that fail to perform competently. On the other hand, if we must pay for a money pit we obviously don’t want, does that not make us accountable to government?

“Free people, not obedient people, make a better society. A free market more accurately reflects the wishes of free people than government edicts. The market adjusts to the choices of free people. All they need to do is choose. People need not attend board meetings, plead with management, or send political contributions to elect a different CEO for better values. Competition does the trick. What can be more liberating than choice?”

Manhattan LP Elects New Officers

Despite single-digit temperatures and howling winds, more than 60 Libertarians braved the elements to make this year’s Manhattan Libertarian Party annual convention a resounding success. The convention was held on Saturday, January 10th, at the 1050 Restaurant.

The members elected a new county committee to lead the chapter in 2004:

Chair: Jim Lesczynski

Secretary/Treasurer: James Eisert

Media Relations Director: Joseph Dobrian

Fundraising Director: Theron G. Burrough

Membership Director: Josh Michelman

Chapter representative: Dr. Tom Stevens

Following the business session, the convention attendees were treated to an eclectic line-up of guest speakers. Infamous “subway vigilante” Bernie Goetz kicked off the afternoon with a discussion of jury rights, drawing on his own experiences in the courtroom. He was followed by David Kaczynski, executive director of New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty and younger brother of the Unabomber, Ted Kaczynski. David gave a moving account of his heart-wrenching decision to turn in his own brother to the authorities to prevent additional killings, and his chagrin when he learned that he might have put yet another life in danger at the hands of the government. Tim Bailey from the New York City Bill of Rights Defense Campaign (of which the Manhattan Libertarian Party is a coalition member) updated the convention on the progress of the city resolution to oppose the Patriot Act.

The keynote after-dinner speaker was Jacob Sullum, senior editor of Reason Magazine and author of *Saying Yes: In Defense of Drug Use*. Jacob spoke on the topic of “Voodoo Pharmacology,” or the tendency of drug warriors to use junk science to legitimize prohibition.

The biggest surprise of the convention was that it attracted the interest of NY Press, an alternative weekly newspaper. The result was a cover story about the convention: “Drugs, Guns & Smokes: The Libertarian Plan for New York.” The Manhattan Libertarians plan to build on their momentum coming out of the convention by continuing to earn media coverage and generate voter interest throughout 2004.

Russo Will Pledge up to \$250,000 for Ballot Access

February 4, 2004.

Aaron Russo, candidate for the Libertarian Presidential Nomination, will pledge to generate up to \$250,000 for Libertarian ballot access efforts. “On the first million dollars my campaign raises,” Russo promised, “every time I raise a dollar, twenty-five cents is going straight to ballot access. That’s \$250,000 for ballot access.

That’s twenty-five percent off the top, going straight to volunteer enhancement, to paid petitioners, and to litigation for 50 state ballot access. No matter who wins

our nomination, this money will benefit our Party and nominee." Russo announced that the Libertarian Party's leading experts on ballot access and campaign finance are on board to assist with access drive organization and campaign finance law compliance. An external auditing process will show that the money was actually spent on ballot access.

Senior Campaign Advisor Stephen Gordon reiterated that the quarter million dollars would be calculated from the campaign's gross income.

Fundraising and staff expenses will come from elsewhere, so the quarter-million will be free and clear to be spent on ballot access. "Volunteers are pouring into our headquarters," Gordon added. "When appropriate, we will ask them to help the campaign by helping with fifty-state ballot access. That will include petitioning, hosting paid petitioners, and processing collected signatures."

Russo reminded listeners of his campaign goal: Raise the Libertarian Party to a new level of effectiveness. "I can do that," he said, with your help. "I need your time as a volunteer, and your donations to my campaign."

MONROE COUNTY LP (ROCHESTER) HOLDS ANNUAL CONVENTION

On February 21, at the Radisson Hotel. A buffet lunch was followed by two excellent speakers.

The first was Dr. Steven Landsburg, author and professor of economics at the University of Rochester. Dr. Landsburg wasted no time as he shredded the myths surrounding poverty in America, protectionism and sweatshops, and the ill effects of government intrusion in our lives. His defense of entrepreneurs and capitalism was wonderfully logical, articulate, and inspiring. Attendees were happy to learn that his fine popular books on economics, "The Armchair Economist" and "Fair Play", would soon be joined on the shelves by his latest work, titled "More Sex is Safer Sex (And Other Surprises)".

Following Dr. Landsburg was John Bliss, an award-winning teacher in the Rochester City School District at one time, now an education reformer who ran for election to the RCSD Board in 2003 as an Independence Party candidate. Today Mr. Bliss is pushing for the creation of a new charter school in Rochester, drawing on his vast experience which includes 10 years teaching in one of the lowest-performing schools in Rochester. He enlightened the crowd with tales of his experiences and lessons learned dealing with parents, administrators, the union, and some wonderful young children caught

in seemingly hopeless circumstances.

Stephen Healey was elected as the new chairman. Joseph Kirchner was re-elected Treasurer. Andy Demers was elected as representative to the State Committee. Check out photos and the monthly meeting schedule at www.rochesterLP.org

LIBERTARIANS MOURN BAR EXTINGUISHED BY SMOKING BAN

Bellport, NY- 2/10/04: NY Libertarians mourn The Web, a tavern in upstate Ogdensburg hit by \$4000 in smoking ban fines which the owners, Anthony and Janet Doerr, cannot pay and will close. They will leave the state if their appeal fails. "This shows that the smoking ban proponents are wrong when they claim that their scheme will boost business," contends Richard Cooper, a former Libertarian Party of New York State Chair and coordinator of the party's Can the Ban drive. Cooper urges contributions on behalf of the Doerrs to go to The Web, 18 Lost Village Road, Ogdensburg, NY 13669.

The Doerrs built The Web themselves in a barn on their property only a year and a half ago. Janet Doerr, a smoker, tends bar while her husband Anthony works full time days as a store manager and in the bar nights. Because they fought their \$2000 fine, they had it bumped up to \$4000. She says "I've been fighting. They are trying to shut me up." Ogdensburg Libertarian activist Lee Monnet says "It's a shame that New Yorkers are penalized for defending their rights."

Libertarian State Chair John Clifton, a nonsmoking social worker and former drug abuse counselor, rejects the ban. "The statewide restaurant ban on smoking is a blow to free choice for all New Yorkers, whether they smoke or not."

Libertarians are seeking petition signatures to repeal the smoking bans. The petition, authored by Cooper, and published in Jan 2004 FreeNY, reads "We the undersigned, whether smokers or non-smokers, agree with the Libertarian Party that bans on smoking in restaurants and bars should be overturned. Bar and restaurant owners should have the right to decide whether to permit smoking or not on their property.

The public has the right to choose whether or not to patronize or work there. The government should not interfere with their choices."

CAN THE STATE SANCTION LOVE?*Cont'd from Page 7*

said efforts by calling for constitutional amendments outlawing same sexed married couples.

In New York, although NYS Attorney General Elliott Spitzer says he empathizes philosophically with homosexual couples' wants, Mayor West is being charged locally with stop-gap indictments, side-stepping the fundamental issue being challenged by these civil disobediences, and charging him with technical violations of the administration of the marriage procedure (e.g. issuing a marriage certificate w/o a license), a misdemeanor under NYS law. As of this writing though, it appears that the Spitzer has begun to amicably confer with the Mayor, so as to consolidate his actions into a viable presentation to the courts to validate them on constitutional grounds, and ostensibly with the non-opposition of the NYS government.

To Libertarians, all of this hullabaloo is such a non-issue. The base principle is so simple, and so is the answer to this "dilemma"; people should be permitted to do anything they wish, enter into any contract or agreement, as long as it is voluntary and substantively harms no one else. Furthermore Libertarians believe in the Constitutional principles of the separation of Church and State, and Equal Protection.

Gary Treistman, 2003 candidate for Town Justice in nearby Woodstock, explains: "The govt should not be involved in sanctifying any uncontested contract, marriage or otherwise." He adds, though, that, "given the situation that it is, then the same rights and privileges ought to be extended to any two people who voluntarily want to participate in what is called 'marriage' What is the real difference anyway?"

The Hudson Valley Libertarian Party criticizes the Ulster County District Attorney Don Williams for the filing of criminal charges against Mayor Jason West of New Paltz; HVLP Chair Don Silberger says: "The gay marriage issue is analogous to that of interracial marriage. The State shouldn't be dictating the terms of marriage in that way. At the rally I attended Wednesday 3/4/04 evening, I carried a sign which read KEEP YOUR LAWS OFF MY VOWS."

Hearing of Elliot Spitzer's suggestion that it needs to go to the courts for "marriage" to be redefined, Libertarians counter that perhaps the Legislature should resolve the conflict by not using traditional terms with traditional definitions, like "bride and groom" and "husband and wife." They claim this conflicts with the New York State Constitution's Article 1, Section 1, which

reads, "No member of this state shall be disfranchised, or deprived of any of the rights or privileges secured to any citizen thereof." Libertarians say that it's time to take religious language out of the New York statutes--and out of the purview of courts. The Libertarian Party urges the State Legislature to act to revise the wording of key sections of New York's laws. Libertarians say that one answer might be to remove marriage from the laws completely, and replace the system of marriage licenses granted by the state with one of courts recognizing any "civil union" contracts executed by competent parties--with or without a religious ceremony to go along with it.

John Clifton, chair of the Libertarian Party of New York, comments that "Gays have the liberty to enter into contracts without interference like everybody else. Traditionalists have the liberty to reject having absurd redefinitions of a private institution forced on them by decree. Neither the right or the left should be using civil government to impose their views on each other---but they are."

Silberger notes, "Indeed, despite his official title of Mayor of New Paltz, Jason West's actions challenge the state's lock on marriage and its definition." Insiders fear arrest of Mayor West as he is expected to continue to perform these weddings. But, the Libertarians ask, "How many Hudson Valley mayors do they have to arrest before this issue of religion in our statutes is replaced by more neutral terms involving contractual agreements?" Mayor John Shields of Nyack has indicated that he might also marry gay couples in his town. Other town clerks around New York have expressed that they would support same-sex couples, if the law's language was changed and they had the go-ahead from state leadership.

(There has been a Libertarian organization in the Hudson Valley since the early 1970s. More information about today's Hudson Valley Libertarian Party can be found at: ny.lp.org/HudsonValley)

Article by Gary Treistman; Contributing Reporter Bonnie Scott.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK

2004 State Convention

REGISTRATION FORM

Saturday, April 24

Please visit, www.ny.lp.org

Or email Thomas Ruks, TruksLP@yahoo.com

Holiday Inn

Martinique on Broadway

49 W 32nd St, New York, NY 10001

Tel: (212) 736-3800 / Fax: (212) 277-2703

Email: stay@martiniqueonbroadway.com

Schedule of Fees (Please enter quantity of the item being ordered on it respective line):

- ___ Full Convention, presentations and banquet (10:00am-6:00pm)
\$65 with payment postmarked/sent before March 30, \$85 after.
\$45 for current students of a learning institution, School and Photo ID will be required at the door for admission with this discount.
- ___ Lunch banquet only (noon-2:00), with national nominee presentations - \$45
Choice of menu ___ Chicken Francaise ___ Pasta Primavera
Presentations only, no lunch-\$40
- ___ Optional newsletter, Free New York and Libertarian Party news subscriptions-\$25
- ___ Or optional renewal of 2003 Libertarian Party pledged membership- \$25
(New members may join at convention registration or at www.lp.org)

Money order, or check enclosed payable to:

Libertarian Party of New York, (2004 convention)
c/o Thomas Ruks/ LPNY, 2706 Avenue 21, Astoria, NY 11105

Or charge:

Account # _____ / _____ / _____ / _____
Expires ____/____

X _____
Signature for Credit Card Payment or Optional Membership Renewal Date

Print Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County _____ Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Employer _____ Occupation _____

Telephone _____

 LPNY Convention Registration 2003 Member/Pledge Registered Libertarian Voter

Political contributions are not tax deductible. Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer of each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK

2004 State Convention

Saturday, April 24

10:00 a.m.-5:30/6:00 p.m.

Convention Schedule

Please visit, www.ny.lp.org

Or email Thomas Ruks, TruksLP@yahoo.com

Holiday Inn

Martinique on Broadway

49 W 32nd St, New York, NY 10001

Tel: (212) 736-3800 / Fax: (212) 277-2703

Email: stay@martiniqueonbroadway.com

<http://www.holidayinnbroadway.com/>

Confirmed presenters:

Gary Nolan and Aaron Russo, candidates for the Libertarian Party Presidential nomination

Justin Raimondo, editorial director of Antiwar.com

Dr. John Berthoud, President of the National Taxpayers Union

Additional speakers and video presentations to be announced

National nominees and Justin Raimondo present during the lunch banquet; the lunch menu includes a choice of * Chicken Francaise or * Pasta Primavera. RSVP required.

(Please advise if any special dietary restrictions)

| | | Main Hall | Side Hall |
|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Registration | | Liberty Agenda | "Party" Agenda |
| 9:30-10:30 | 10:00-10:30 | Convention Welcome | Social |
| | 10:30-11:00 | Eminent Domain | Video presentation |
| | 11:00-11:30 | Second Amendment | Social |
| 11:30-12:00 | 11:30-12:00 | Dr. Berthoud, NTU | Queens LP chapter |
| | 12:00-12:30 | Banquet Welcome | Social |
| | 12:30-1:00 | Nolan/Russo | Video presentation |
| | 1:00-1:30 | Justin Raimondo, AntiWar | Q&A, Nolan/Russo |
| | 1:30-2:00 | Justin Raimondo | |
| | 2:00-2:30 | Liberty & Legislation | Q&A, J. Raimondo |
| 2:30-3:00 | 2:30-3:00 | Liberty & Legislation | Video presentation |
| | 3:00-3:30 | Tributes/Awards | LFC social |
| | 3:30-4:00 | LPNY Business Session | Social |
| | 4:00-4:30 | LPNY Business Session | Video presentation |
| | 4:30-5:00 | LPNY Business Session | Social |
| | 5:00-5:30 | Candidate US Senate | Social |
| | 5:30-6:00 | Q&A, social | Committee Business |

Amendments/Changes to the LPNY State By-Laws (rules of our state party) will be voted upon at the business meeting.

The following amendments were approved by the State Committee for submission to LPNY members for a vote at the convention to accept or reject:

1

To amend the Bylaws by implementing Instant Runoff Voting in our state party to speed up our voting and serve as a demonstration whenever a convention is televised. This proposal adds the text: "Voters would rank 1 to [the number of offices open] candidate choices per office. Those first [number of offices open] candidates who receive a majority of first choice votes are elected. If no candidate gets a majority: then the candidate with fewest 1st choice votes is defeated. Then the remaining candidates receive the next choice votes of those voters whose 1st choice candidate was defeated. The process continues until the offices are filled with candidates who have gotten a majority of the combined votes."

2

The proposed change: Changing Article VI: State Committee, Section G. "All members of the State Committee of the LPNY shall be members in good standing of the LPNY and shall be at least nineteen (19) years of age" to be changed to "G. All members of the State Committee of the LPNY shall be members in good standing of the LPNY and shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age".

3

The proposed change: Changing Article X: Quorums, Section B. "At all meetings of the State committee, a quorum shall consist of one-half of the members in good standing of such Committee, exclusive of the Immediate Past Chair" to be changed to "B. At all meetings of the State Committee, a quorum shall consist of one-third of the voting members in good standing of such Committee, not counting vacancies."

NYS LIBERTARIAN CONVENTION

GUEST SPEAKERS

Here are the orators scheduled to speak at our convention on April 24, 2004

Convention guest speaker: **Justin Raimondo**



Justin Raimondo is the editorial director of Antiwar.com. He is also the author of Reclaiming the American Right: The Lost Legacy of the Conservative Movement (with an Introduction by Patrick J. Buchanan), (1993), and Into the Bosnian Quagmire: The Case Against U.S. Intervention in the Balkans (1996). He is an Adjunct Scholar with the Ludwig von Mises Institute, in Auburn, Alabama, a Senior Fellow at the Center for Libertarian Studies, and writes frequently for Chronicles: A Magazine of American Culture. He is the author of An Enemy of the State: The Life of Murray N. Rothbard.

Convention guest speaker: **Dr. John Berthoud**

John Berthoud is President of the **National Taxpayers Union** (NTU) and the **National Taxpayers Union Foundation** (NTUF) in Alexandria, VA. NTU, founded in 1969, is the nation's largest grassroots taxpayer group with 350,000 members in all 50 states. NTUF was founded in 1977 and provides critical research on a variety of tax and fiscal issues. Dr. Berthoud is also presently an adjunct lecturer at George Washington University, teaching graduate level courses on budgetary politics.

Prior to joining NTU and NTUF, Dr. Berthoud worked for a variety of public policy organizations in Washington. He has been a guest on hundreds of radio and television programs, and his work has appeared in a wide variety of publications across the country. (Email - ntu@ntu.org)



Convention guest speaker: **Rich Cooper**



Richard A. Cooper has actively fought for property rights since he began libertarian activism in the Seventies. Currently, **Nassau County LP Chair** he has previously served as the NY State LP Chair. He has spoken out against rent control, rental registration, zoning, and eminent domain across New York. Notable battles include St. Luke's Pentecostal Church in New Cassel, Long Island, the "Timescam" scheme of *The New York Times*, and most recently, the Brooklyn Nets Arena.

He authored the smoking bans petition and is coordinating that drive statewide. Of eminent domain, he warns, "It could happen to you."

(Email - lpny98campaign@hotmail.com)

Convention guest speaker: **Gary Popkin**

Gary S. Popkin is 65 years old and lives in Park Slope in Brooklyn. He came to libertarianism from the left many, many years ago after recognizing that the ideas of the left simply did not do what was claimed for them. Later he learned why the ideas of the left can never work, and saw how the principle of self-ownership can solve many seemingly intractable social problems. Gary has been active in Libertarian Party affairs for many years and was a Libertarian Party candidate for the US Congress in 1994.

Gary has a Ph.D. in Operations Research from the Polytechnic University (in Brooklyn) with a dissertation on the testing of computer programs, and is right now teaching his final semester as a Professor of Computer Systems Technology at the New York City College of Technology. He is married and has two grandchildren, a girl 14 years old and a boy 8 months.

(Email: gary_popkin@hotmail.com)



Convention guest speaker: **Gary Nolan**

About Gary Nolan

Gary Nolan has been "America's Voice of Liberty" for more than a decade, reaching millions with his message of individual liberty, personal responsibility, and constitutionally limited government.

As the host of two nationally syndicated radio shows, Gary Nolan entertained listeners with insightful political commentary and substantive public policy debate. His "Nolan at Night" program, broadcast nightly from Washington, DC on the Radio America Network, featured numerous high-profile guests, including an entire night each week devoted to experts from the libertarian CATO Institute.

From 1997 to 1999, in addition to hosting his nightly radio show, Gary Nolan served as President of Washington-based "Capitol Watch," working to defend American taxpayers from "higher taxes and wasteful spending." He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the anti-tax group "Free the Eagle."

As a small businessman in Cleveland, Ohio, Gary Nolan was initially attracted to the Republican Party. Over time, he became increasingly frustrated with their bloated budgets and continuing failure to cut spending. During a live nationwide radio broadcast in January 1999, he publicly resigned from the Republican Party and became a proud card-carrying member of the Libertarian Party.

Gary Nolan has been interviewed more than 30 times on national television, including appearances on ABC's "World News Tonight," CNN, FOX News Channel, MSNBC and C-SPAN. His media savvy & expertise on a wide range of issues make him a formidable candidate to represent the Libertarian Party as its nominee for President.

Gary Nolan has been campaigning full time across America since January 2003. He intends to use his background and experience in media and communications to present a positive Libertarian message to all Americans, build grassroots support for the Libertarian Party, and advance the cause of liberty. He actively seeks your support and involvement in his campaign.

Visit: www.garynolan.com



Convention guest speaker: **Aaron Russo**

Born in Brooklyn, New York to hard-working middle class parents, Russo learned the value of hard work, an entrepreneurial spirit, and social responsibility. These are the same principles that have helped Russo achieve success as an award-winning producer, a fiscally responsible businessman, and a NAACP Image award winner. It is these same principles, which drive Russo to speak out on behalf of the frustrated people of America. "I have a sincere belief that the Constitution and Bill of Rights as envisioned by Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and Ben Franklin, are the documents that America is supposed to be governed by. Unfortunately, neither political party respects the vision of our founding fathers, and these documents have been relegated to the dustbin. I want to dust them off and restore them to their proper role in our lives. That is why I am running for President."

Russo is known for the unique combination of being highly creative yet fiscally responsible. His management talents have been recognized with an Emmy, a Tony, Golden Globe nominations, and many gold and platinum records as well as six Academy Award nominations for his films. In an industry known for severe budget overages, Russo has managed to complete every film, TV, Broadway, and music production, on budget and on time. As a self-made entrepreneur, Russo truly understands the bottom line. The key to Russo's success in all endeavors has been straight talking, perseverance, and the ability to stay focused on the objective. "Aaron Russo is a man of his word." – Jack Nicholson
1998

Aaron Russo decided to run for Governor of Nevada in the 1998 election, even though he had never run for or held a political office. Against all odds, he received 26% of the vote in a four-way race in the Republican primary, while building the largest grassroots volunteer organization in Nevada gubernatorial history. After that highly successful experience, he resigned from the Republican Party, and registered as an Independent, believing that both major political parties don't serve the American public's interest and actually cause great harm. As the result of his support in Nevada, Russo helped mobilize a large enough coalition of people to vote to legalize the medical use of marijuana against the Governor's opposition. He was geared to run again for the 2002 gubernatorial election in Nevada, but withdrew to battle cancer.

While successfully battling bladder cancer, (using alternative medicine, against his doctor's wishes, combined with surgery) Russo watched the government implement the unconstitutional and immoral Patriot Act followed by the unsanctioned War on Iraq. As his health strengthened, so did his resolve. As the adage goes, "what doesn't kill you makes you stronger", and for Russo this meant taking on his greatest challenge – to enter the Presidential race in order to steer this great country back onto the course established by the Constitution. He wants to return the federal government back to its proper role in people's lives and bring our troops home from Iraq and the rest of the world. Aaron Russo is a concerned citizen. He is the father of two sons, Max and Sam, with his best friend, Heidi. He is an active, well-respected member of the entertainment community being a member of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the Directors Guild of America. Russo wants to live in a free America and is committed to ushering in real change. Russo is a patriot and is running as a Libertarian.

Visit: www.russoforpresident.com

NYLP CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

A SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES, DEVELOPMENTS AND PROGRESSES MADE BY THE NYLP CHAPTERS AND THEIR CONTACTS, AS REPORTED TO FREENY BY THE CHAPTER'S THEMSELVES. SEE OTHER ACTIVITIES DETAILED IN ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION THAT ARE TOO VOLUMOUS TO REPRODUCE HERE. IF YOU ARE (OR WILL BE) A LIBERTARIAN AND YOUR PART OF THE STATE IS NOT REPRESENTED YET, CALL (516)SOS-GOVT TO GET HELP TO SET ONE UP.

Capital District

1marketsquare.com/CapLP/Main.shtml

Albany and Vicinity

Jeff Russell, JRuss1776@aol.com

518-371-3641

The Capital District Libertarian Party meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Branch Restaurant on Maiden Lane in Albany. Meetings start at 6 PM and usually last about an hour. There are about 50 members of national who live within an hour's drive of Albany. About 10 of them are fairly active, but only 4-5 attend meetings.

Central New York

Onondaga, Oswego, Madison, Cortland

Kevin Delaney, kdzrd@aol.com

Please contact for info and meetings schedule

Western New York

(Includes Allegany, Chautauqua, Wyoming, Cattaraugus Counties)

John Wadsworth jlwads@verizon.net

Buffalo, NY

716-886-1919

There are fairly regular meetings in Buffalo at this point--please contact John Wadsworth in Buffalo if you'd like to get involved.

Please contact him to be put on his email list.

Hudson Valley

(Includes Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster Counties)

Don Silberger, DonSilberger@hvc.rr.com

845-255-8819

Peter Carl

845-679-8340

P.O. Box 66, Lake Hill, NY 12448

Gary Treistman, garyonthenet@yahoo.com

845-679-4770

POB 563, Bearsville, NY 12409

Meets "religiously" on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the College Diner in New Paltz, one block east of the thruway exit on route 299. We love good conversation, and discuss/plan activist goals at our meetings.

Kings County (a.k.a. Brooklyn)

Gary Popkin, gary_popkin@hotmail.com

Although not yet a full-fledged chapter Mr. Popkin is its Temporary County Chair, and designated contact.

Libertarian Party of Monroe County

www.RochesterLP.org

(includes Genesee, Orleans, Wayne, Livingston, and Ontario counties)

Steve Healey, easterof1916@runbox.com

Andy Demers, andy@genesistems.com

Andy Demer was recently appointed as chapter representative. The chapter had its annual convention in February, see Announcements for details.

The chapter's monthly meeting schedule is being rearranged, please contact us for the latest meeting times.

Call 585-529-9354 or visit www.rochesterLP.org.

New York County (a.k.a. Manhattan)

www.manhattanlp.org

Jim Lesczynski: info@manhattanlp.org

Manhattan Libertarian Party

(212) 252-3449

18 Greenwich Avenue

Box 127

New York, NY 10011

The chapter held its annual convention on January 10, see Announcement Section for details.

Join the lpny_manhattan@yahoo.com mailing list to start contributing your ideas about how to make it work. Stop in at our monthly meetings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month, at Evergreen Restaurant, 10 East 38th Street. The first hour is a business meeting. The second hour is educational/social with dinner and guest speaker.

On March 10th - Mary Alice Carter, NARAL Pro-Choice New York spoke at the meeting, and on April 14th - Sharonne Salaam, People United for Children is expected to speak.

On Thursday, April 15th at the Main Post Office, 32nd Street & 8th Avenue, a Tax Protest will be held. Times to be determined; Wednesday, May 12 Michael Shenker, founder of the Campaign to Demilitarize the Police will be the guest speaker. Check www.manhattanlp.org for latest info.

Nassau County Libertarian Party

Vincent O'Neill

516-676-8029

Meets in the downstairs conference room at 230 Hilton Avenue, Hempstead, at 8:00 PM on the third Tuesday of each month. Also see Announcements for other events.

Libertarian Party of Queens County

www.lpqc.org

info: (718) 707-1421

Meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, at Bohemian Hall, 29-19 24th Avenue, Astoria, Queens (Subway: one block north of the Astoria Boulevard N train station, just west of 31st Street.)

Suffolk County

Barry Loberfeld, BLoberfe@suffolk.lib.ny.us

516-543-3510

Contact Barry for meeting times and location.

Southern Tier Libertarians

(Includes Cortland, Chemung, Broome, Otsego, Schuyler, Tioga, and Tompkins Counties)

Michael Lurie, mlurie@control.com

607-797-7162

College/School Chapters and Contacts:**A note from the LPNY College Outreach Coordinator:**

If you work or go to school at a college or university in New York State and would like to be a designated contact for the Libertarian Party, I would appreciate your contacting me at the E-Mail address noted below.

Perhaps you are a professor who would be willing to serve as an Advisor to a College Libertarian chapter. Perhaps you are a student who is interested in leading a Libertarian Freedom Coalition, an alliance of students who agree with us on a broad range of issues.

Perhaps you are someone who would be willing to put up a notice seeking to identify students who would agree to serve as officers of a Libertarian Party organization at your school.

If you can help out in any capacity, please let me know.

Dr. Thomas Robert Stevens

LPNY College Outreach Coordinator

YRSpartan@aol.comCOLUMBIA COLLEGE LIBERTARIANS

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Contact: Will Thomas (President)

wrt2003@columbia.edu

Damian Najman (Vice-President)

ddn2005@columbia.edu

libertarians@columbia.edu

Website: www.columbia.edu/cu/libertarians

COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL LIBERTARIANS

COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Contact: Damian Najman (Co-Chair)

ddn2005@columbia.edu

MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Contact: Adam Scavone

as2491@columbia.edu

Adam is a graduate student in the Department of Sociomedical Sciences at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. He has been focused on drug reform and has been active with Columbia's Students for Sensible Drug Policy.

COLLEGE LIBERTARIANS OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Contact: Curry Taylor

ctaylo12@twcnny.rr.com

Graduate Student of Condensed Matter Physics Chapter in the process of obtaining formal recognition from the school; Dr. Jonathan Macey has agreed to be Faculty Advisor

CUNY BARUCH COLLEGE

Contact: Kimberly D. Bloomston

iamkimoo@hotmail.com

Trying to organize a chapter there. Any help would be appreciated.

ELMIRA COLLEGE

Contact: Dr. Bryan C. McCannon

Assistant Professor of Economics

bcmccannon@yahoo.com Has agreed to be our contact and to be Faculty Advisor to any chapter forming at that school.

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

Contact: Salvatore "Sam" Russo
 srusso@fordham.edu

Mr. Russo is a student at Fordham School of Law which is located at Fordham University, Lincoln Center Campus

ITHACA COLLEGE

Contact: Prof. Kim Gregson
 Rm 328 Park Hall
 Park School of Communications
 Ithaca College
 Ithaca, NY 14850
 607-274-7348
 kgregson@ithaca.edu

The democratic student group here (IC Democrats) is trying to set up a lecture series on civil liberties. IC Dems knows that Libertarians are strong supporters of individual civil liberties. and he wondered if someone would want to come to campus to talk about the topic "Civil Liberties during a War on Terrorism."

MAINE-ENDWELL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Contact: Dylan Lainhart
 masterdlx@stny.rr.com

This school is located in Endwell, New York in Broome County. Mr. Lainhart is a Senior who is a Libertarian eager to get involved with our outreach efforts.

NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

Contact: Prof. Gary Popkin
 gary_popkin@hotmail.com
 Professor of Computer Systems Technology
 Prof. Popkin has agreed to be our contact and to be Faculty Advisor to a chapter organizing at that school

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Contact: Michael Robert Miller
 mikemillernyc@hotmail.com
 Senior, Acting major
 Graduating May, 2004

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Contact: Dawn Pepin
 dap6401@rit.edu
 Dawn Pepin is currently trying to find other interested students in order to organize a chapter at her school.

SUNY BINGHAMTON

Contact: Prof. Charles Goodman
 Assistant Professor of Philosophy and AAAS
 Binghamton University
 Office phone: (607) 777-2610
 cgoodman@binghamton.edu

THE COLLEGE LIBERTARIANS OF BROCKPORT SUNY BROCKPORT

Contact: Adam Chamberlain
 acha0102@brockport.edu
 585-395-4665
 Junior at SUNY Brockport

SUNY BUFFALO

Contact: Don Stillwagon
 dfs8@buffalo.edu
 716-645-4475
 Don Stillwagon is a Freshman who is currently in the process of organizing a chapter at this school. He would welcome any advice and suggestions you may have to offer.

COLLEGE LIBERTARIANS OF SUNY FREDONIA SUNY FREDONIA

Contact: Aaron Stadler (President)
 groovefeeling@hotmail.com
 At "Activities Night", where all the student political groups try to get new members, we got more interest and contact e-mails than all the other political groups combined. I had political quiz cards and literature which I handed out. Unlike the greens, democrats, and republicans which just sat behind their table, I was out approaching people, asking them "Are you tired of government Oppression?" If they said yes, I would encourage them to sign up. The sign on our table stated "LEGALIZE POT, Liberty & Peace, College Libertarians". We planned two major events this semester. We will do a presentation on the War on Drugs. Then we showed a documentary on the war on pot entitled "Grass", a film by Ron Mann. In early March, a speech was given by Steve Healey on the drug war, to a room of 50 people.

SUNY NEW PALTZ

Contact: Prof. Don Silberger
 donsilberger@hvc.rr.com
 Prof. Silberger, who is an Associate Professor of Mathematics and the Director of the M.A. Program in Mathematics, serves as Faculty Advisor to any college libertarian group which seeks to form at this school.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Contact: Kimberly Gehl
 Day Hall Box 158
 Mount Olympus Drive
 Syracuse, NY 13210
 kgehl@syr.edu

Kimberly Gehl is looking for interested Libertarian students at her school and hopes to form a chapter in the fall. She is a Freshman and is scheduled to graduate in 2007.

AVOCA CENTRAL SCHOOL

Avoca, New York (Steuben County).
Luke Slayton

UR LIBERTARIANS

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Contact: Eric Miller

Sophomore

Economics Major

CPU Box 276577

River Campus

Rochester, NY 14627

em003m@mail.rochester.edu

Eric Miller is planning on holding meetings on campus every Wednesday.

FIGHTING THE NEW YORK STATE SMOKING BAN

(Disclaimer: I am not an attorney. This is not legal advice. You are strongly urged to check with your attorney before making any changes in your business policies.)

Bars and restaurants across the state are allowing their patrons to light up to protest the New York State Smoking Ban. Here's how they do it while complying with the letter of the law. The entire law is available here. The most important portions to consider are the definition of smoking, and what owners are required to do under the law.

§ 1399-n. Definitions

8. "Smoking" means the burning of a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe or any other matter or substance which contains tobacco. Substances that do not contain tobacco, such as herbal cigarettes, are not covered by this law.

§ 1399-p. Posting of signs.

1. "Smoking" or "No Smoking" signs, or the international "No Smoking" symbol, which consists of a pictorial representation of a burning cigarette enclosed in a circle with a bar across it, shall be prominently posted and properly maintained where smoking is regulated by this article, by the owner, operator, manager or other person having control of such area.

§ 1399-t. Enforcement.

4. The owner, manager, operator or other person having control of any area subject to the provisions of this article, shall inform, or shall designate an agent who shall be responsible for informing individuals smoking in an area in which smoking is not permitted that they are in violation of this article.

That's it. A proprietor has to post signs. He has to inform any smoking customers that they are in violation of the law. Once he's done that, he is in complete compliance with the law.

If his customer continues to smoke after being informed it is

against the law the proprietor (or employee)

Does not have to insist that they stop.

Does not have to stop serving them.

Does not have to call the police.

The law has no provisions to fine or penalize the smoker.

Note: This refers to the New York State law. It does not supersede local laws and restrictions, which may be much stricter. For this reason we once again urge you to consult with your attorney before making any changes to your business policies.

For instance, the New York City law also bans ashtrays. (Some establishments have been fined for having clean, empty ashtrays locked up in back rooms.) NYC law also allows the Department of Health to fine the person who is smoking. However, they haven't enforced that part of the law, and have publicly stated they don't intend to.

How to Fight The New York State Law

Here's how to let people smoke in your bar or restaurant and still be in 100% compliance with the law.

Don't apply for a Waiver. Waivers are being doled out infrequently. You're not likely to get one, and if you do, it is only a stay of execution. When it expires your situation will be worse than it is now. You'll be subjected to the same law, and many of your competitors will be out of business (therefore unable to join you in the fight). Waivers are bowing to the state, agreeing they had the right to deny you your property rights with the passage of this law, and begging with them to please give them back to you for a little while.

Make sure "No Smoking" Signs are clearly visible throughout the establishment. If a patron lights up, an employee of the establishment must tell them they are in violation of the law. Ask them to sign a card that states "I have been informed by an employee of Joe's Bar and Grill that smoking in this establishment is a violation of New York State Law." Have them print their name, sign their name, and date the card. Store the cards in a safe place.

The NYS law doesn't prohibit ashtrays. In the interest of fire

safety, provide ashtrays. (In New York City you're not allowed to do this.)

If you have a valid Certificate of Registration to sell cigarettes or tobacco from the State Department of Taxation and Finance, sell and promote herbal cigarettes. Use clear, obvious signs to advertise them. If you don't have a certificate to sell them, consider giving them away for free to anyone who requests them.

Optional: Put up a collection jar to collect contributions for paying off fines and legal fees.

People who chose to smoke in your establishment are willfully engaging in civil disobedience, protesting an unfair and unjust law. Advertise that fact. Contact every local media outlet you can, and publicize what is happening in your place. This may have the side effect of filling your place with happy customers, but it is also sure to bring in some miserable nannies, who can be counted on to whine to the Department of Health.

When the Department of Health cites you for a violation, always fight any fine. Demand that the DOH detail the exact time and place of the violation. (Many notices don't include this information.) Your attorney can help you stretch out the proceeding

as long as possible. If he can't, find a new lawyer. You will have signed documentation that proves you informed your customers of the law. You can also note that your patron may not have been smoking tobacco, since you sell, promote (and perhaps give away) herbal cigarettes. The burden of proof is on the DOH enforcement officer.

When (not if) you are fined, be aware of your rights to appeal any decision made by the local DOH right on up to the state level. Always take advantage of this right.

Reach out to competitors. Encourage every bar, restaurant, bingo hall, pool hall, bowling alley and private club in your area to participate. Don't think of them as competing with you for customers. Realize they are powerful partners with you in this fight. The more people who participate, the more likely this onerous law will be

changed, or just ignored.

If you and your fellow hospitality business insist on exercising every legal right you have, you'll overload the system. Overload it. (Article by Dave Hitt,

printed by permission. Visit: www.davehitt.com]

The Sausage Principle:

People who love sausage and respect the law, should never watch either being made.

ONE NATION(ALISM), UNDER GOD?

As the time approaches for the Supreme Court to hear arguments on whether the words "under God" should be stricken from the Pledge of Allegiance, it might counsel us to know where the Pledge itself had spawned from. The case presents an opportunity for the entire "pledge issue" to be changed by libertarians from a minor debate about "under God" to a debate about government, socialism, totalitarianism and government schools.

There are few people who know that when they pledge allegiance to the flag, they recite a pledge written in 1892 by an ardent socialist, to promote socialism in the most socialistic American institutions - government schools.

There are few people who know that the socialist salute to the flag was like the salute of the "National Socialist German Workers' Party." (visit members.ij.net/rex/pledge1.html, and see the astounding photos that are only viewable at that website.)

Yet, those are issues in the pledge debate that pre-date the insertion of "under God" in 1954. The pledge of allegiance was authored by the self-proclaimed socialist Francis Bellamy. Bellamy was the first cousin of the socialist, Edward Bellamy. Edward wrote the futuristic novel, "Looking Backward," published in 1888, describing life in the year 2000. It was actually a totalitarian society where all private transactions are outlawed, where the government places all men in an "industrial army" and where the monolithic government school system is operated specifically as part of the "industrial army" system. Bellamy saw it as a utopia. The same socialist ideas that inspired the American Pledge of Allegiance, also caused mass atrocities worldwide.

Furthermore, the book spawned a socialist movement in Boston known as "Nationalism," the Nationalist magazine, and "Nationalist Clubs" whose members wanted the federal govern-

ment to nationalize most of the American economy. Francis Bellamy was a member of this movement and a vice president of its socialist the auxiliary group.

Bellamy had often lectured on the so-called "virtues of socialism and the evils of capitalism." In 1891, he was forced to resign from his church because of his socialist activities. He then joined the staff of the magazine "Youth's Companion" and wrote the pledge of allegiance. It was only after the National Socialist German Workers' Party tried to impose socialism on the world, the U.S. flag salute changed from the straight-arm socialist salute to the modern hand over the heart.

There is something more disturbing than all of the above, however: Most children are never told any of the preceding history in government schools, though each day often includes a collective robotic recital of the pledge.

No one would trust the government to tell you the truth if it ran the newspapers. Why should anyone expect the government to tell children the truth in government schools? As Libertarians say: The separation of school and state is as important as the separation of church and state. And that is the real solution to the pledge debate and all other school issues: remove government from education.

Article by Rex Curry, an attorney based in Tampa, who can be reached at rex@ij.net

THIRD CLASS CITIZENS

Government Without Representation, and Reasons to Lower the Voting Age

No right is more precious in a free country than that of having a choice in the election of those who make the laws under which we must live. Other rights, even the most basic, are illusory if the right to vote is undermined.

At the height of the Vietnam War most Americans realized the sick double standard inherent in sending 18-year-old soldiers to fight and die for their country when they weren't allowed to vote. But the double standards didn't go away in 1971; right now youth are subject to adult penalties and social responsibilities, and even the death sentence despite lacking the right to vote.

In Colorado, for example, defendants under the maximum age for juvenile court jurisdiction may nonetheless be charged by direct filing in criminal court if they are over 14 years of age and are charged with one of a legislative list of violent crimes.

Youth pay billions in taxes to state, local, and federal governments yet they have absolutely no say over how much is taken. This is what the American Revolution was fought over; this is taxation without representation; according to the IRS, "You may be a teen, you may not even have a permanent job, but you have to pay taxes on the money you earn like everyone else".

In addition to paying taxes, young people are affected by every other law that Americans live under. As fellow citizens in this society, every action or inaction taken by lawmakers affects youth directly, yet they have no say in the matter.

The just power of government comes from the consent of the governed, as it stands now youth are governed but do not consent. This is un-American. Like all tax-paying, law-abiding Americans, youth must be afforded the equal right to vote. Politicians will represent their interests only to the citizens that can vote. Politicians represent various constituencies; currently young people are no one's constituency. Why should politicians care about the needs and wishes of youth when they have no ability to vote for or against them? It is only through warders of youth do politicians care about youth, the youth themselves are secondary. Lowering the voting age will give politicians a real reason to respect the desires of young people.

Youth feel alienated from politics and politicians, lowering the voting age will include them in the process. The

words spoken before the Senate Judiciary Committee supporting lowering the voting age in 1971 are as true then as they are now, "The anachronistic voting-age limitation tends to alienate them from systematic political processes and to drive them to into a search for an alternative, sometimes violent, means to express their frustrations over the gap between the nation's deals and actions. Lowering the voting age will provide them with a direct, constructive and democratic channel for making their views felt and for giving them a responsible stake in the future of the nation."

Opponents cite many reasons to deny youth the vote, but under even the most casual analysis, these usually can be seen for red herrings they are.

Even senile, neurotic, and psychotic adults, or ordinary non-expert adults often do not meet the unrealistic standard

opponents to youth voting propose. Turn on the Tonight Show one night and see the collection of adult buffoons who can't tell Jay Leno who the vice-president is, or who have forgotten how many states are in this country. Yet these adults are happily given the right to vote. The fact is, intelligence or maturity is not the basis upon which the right to vote is granted, if that were the case all voters would need to pass a test before voting. Though "...under voting rights jurisprudence, literacy tests are highly suspect (and indeed are banned under federal law), and lack of education or information about election issues is not a basis for withholding the franchise.", S.Ct.

Youth shouldn't be held to a stricter standard than adults. It is silly to fear that huge masses of youth will rush to the voting booth and unwittingly vote for Mickey Mouse and Britney Spears. By and large, those individuals with no interest in politics and no knowledge on the subject will stay home from the polls and not vote. This mechanism works for adult voters as well. Youth will behave no differently. Besides foolishly throwing a vote away, some worry about youth voting for dangerous radicals. These fears are unfounded as well, "We should remember, too, that many people today vote at first, and often for many years after, exactly as their parents voted. We are all deeply

Articles & Editorials

The Conventions of Retention

On average, people retain 10% of what they read, 20% of what they hear, 30% of what they see, 50% of what they both see & hear, 70% of what they discuss, 80% of what they personally experience, and 90% of what they teach to someone else.

influenced, in politics as everything else, by the words and example of people we love and trust.”

What kind of twisted, incongruent message do we send when we tell youth they are judged mature, responsible adults when they commit murder, but silly, brainless kids when they want to vote? This is a double standard, no different than during the Vietnam War. War isn't a dead issue now either, leaders who youth can't vote for today may send them to war tomorrow. Lowering the voting age is the just, fair way to set things straight.

Including youth in a real, substantive way in politics will lead to even more interest as they take their public-spirited nature into the political realm. Many opponents to lowering the voting age assume apathetic youth today will be no different when given the right to vote, this is wrong. Responsibility comes with rights, not the other way around.

And yet, it is not a pre-condition of self-government that those that govern be wise, educated, mature, responsible and so on, but instead these are the results which self-government is designed to produce.

Youth have a unique perspective, they'll never have those experiences again.

Lowering the voting age may not be the magic bullet to improve the lives of youth, but by giving them a real stake in their futures and their present lives it will push them to become involved, active citizens of this great nation. The National Youth Rights Association strongly urges lawmakers and individuals in this country to seriously consider lowering the voting age.

Article edited by Gary Treistman

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RATIONAL RECREATION

ANGUISH LANGUISH

The object of the Anguish Languish challenge is to read the seemingly nonsensical stream-of-consciousness poem written below, and decipher the underlying quotation, saying or exposition that it actually represents. The rules by which it is correlates to the underlying message, are that the words you read in the poem are phonetically similar in enunciation to the original message, although not always exactly so.

For example, as a simple start:

*“Gamma Way”, when stated aloud, actually sounds like “Get out of my way”, or:
Needles Toes Hay”, translates to “Needless to say”*

Now lets try a slightly more complicated one for you to solve on your own:

“Aye yum soap polar tickley cracked.”

(Didja get it? Do you think its true?)

And now here's the real heavy duty challenge:

§

Decant sipped female tarry nieces set he's adduct Tivoli brood, antacid dentures placed a city. Bacchus thane verbally huff they fizzy haj hover writing impotence, Thorazine attempt asian tone folks accurate teen access ziti stooge ester fine awning roach mint a pence evil laboratories. Forth a treason, the melt trees succor at tiara gum mint moss beep roach twitter hell thesis kipped a schism.

§

(Hint: This is a statement made by a celebrated Jurist)

Last Issue's Challenge was won by Bob Cotton; the answer's text of which was:

“Throughout history it has been the inaction of those who could have acted, the indifference of those who should have known better, the silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most that has made it possible for evil to triumph.”

Haile Selassie - Former Emperor of Ethiopia

(Send all comments and/or solutions to FreeNY@hvc.rr.com, or by mail at the Editor's contact address; there is a \$15 prize for the first correct answer before July 1, 2004, email or postmark date. The previous issue's winner is not eligible for prizes in this issue's Challenge.)

LPNY is looking for people to get things done. Interested?

Yes! I want to get things done and make things happen in the following area(s):

Be a LP candidate for elected office in my area.

Work in behalf of a LP candidate for elected office in my area.

Work on an LPNY Committee project or task.

Collect petition signatures to get LP candidates onto the ballot.

Contribute money to pay for other people to collect petition signatures.

Other: _____

Here are some skills or areas of interest I want to tell you about.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Send to:

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