

# Free New York

## The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of New York

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### Harry Browne's Radio Appearances Complement Book Promotion Tour

Harry Browne, campaigning for the Presidential nomination on the Libertarian line, is engaging in a unique combination of radio talk show spots and appearances to promote his recent book, *"Why Government Doesn't Work."* This simultaneous approach to publicity and campaigning will give Browne wide-ranging attention from both the voting public as well as the traditional news media. Browne told long-time Libertarian supporters he hopes this new approach will "bring in enough new supporters to run a first-class national Libertarian campaign from July 4th through Election Day 1996 -- the kind of campaign we've all dreamed of."

In fact, if Browne's book gets onto the best-seller list, staff members believe that would generate unprecedented support for the Libertarian ticket in November 1996. Given that four of Browne's eight books have been best sellers, publication of *"Why Government Doesn't Work"* will achieve three important goals: extending Browne's name recognition, recruiting new Libertarians to the party, and raising money. With the general elections now less than nine months away, Browne is the first to acknowledge political circumstances have changed in the last few months and the change in approach required in response. Hoping to achieve broad-based support in November, Browne observed that in the coming elections, "the difference between Republican and Democrat is so narrow that anyone who tries to squeeze in the center between them risks getting squeezed to death. What the American people want is someone bold enough to stand up and say, 'Look, government doesn't work and we're not going to fix it!'"

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### NY Libertarians In Local Elections; Ballot Access Challenged Again

This past Election Day, Libertarians appeared on the ballot for local positions throughout the state. And formal attacks by tradition party political machines led other Libertarian candidates to withdraw from races before the election. In Dutchess County, Lloyd Wright ran for county legislature. In the Town of Jay, Essex County, Kathleen Balzac ran for Town Council and her husband, Fred, ran for Town Supervisor. Libertarian candidates in Oneida and Suffolk Counties challenged the party machines and received the brunt of attack.

In Dutchess, LPNY State Committee Secretary Lloyd Wright, a long-time resident of Pleasant Valley, was on the ballot running against Thomas Quinn, Republican majority leader, for a position on the county legislature. Running on the line for the Independence Party, Wright focused his campaign on the problems of violent crime as opposed to the so-called problem of victimless crimes. Although Wright had a 500-word piece published in the Poughkeepsie Journal, no debates were held and Mr. Quinn garnished the lion's share of the vote at the polls.

As an example of the lengths the existing party machinery will go to prevent anyone from challenging the electoral status quo, the experience of LPNY party member Juan Sanchez in Suffolk County provides cold comfort to those Libertarians with any political ambition. Juan, a 34-year-old engineer for Lilco, challenged incumbent GOP regulars on the Republican primary ballot in the race for Suffolk County legislature for the Sixth district. This area includes the northern part of Brookhaven Township and extends east till Shoreham and west to Port Jefferson. Sanchez noted that he collected 624 signatures to meet a 500-signature requirement. Although the local Board of Elections validated the signatures Sanchez had collected, the local Republican machine responded with a lawsuit alleging forgery and fraud. In the face of prohibitive legal fees just to maintain his place on the ballot, Sanchez had little alternative but to withdraw from the race.

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## From the Chair

As promised, the LPNY has been undergoing an internal transformation these past several months. Our new State Committee has been hard at work building and strengthening the infrastructure we will need for success in 1998 and beyond. New inquiries are now receiving prompt responses, and their names and addresses are being added to the prospect list. The names and addresses of the new prospects are also being relayed to the National party, which sends each prospect an impressive information packet.

The LPNY has now applied for and received a non-profit bulk mail permit, which has already saved thousands of dollars in postage expenses and will continue to produce savings in the future.

Most important, the LPNY database for members and prospects has been updated and corrected, thanks primarily to the monumental efforts of our always hard-working Vice Chair Jim Harris. As a result, we were recently able to mail approximately 3,500 '98 Counts packets to all members and prospects.

The '98 Counts mailing has been a big success for the LPNY and the complete results won't be in for a while yet. So far, the mailing has brought in almost \$2,200 in current dues-paying members and we expect the mail to continue for a time. While we in the LPNY are always thankful for the members who have thus demonstrated their commitment and support, I am confident that even those who take a "wait and see" approach will soon be won over by the Party's steady progress over the next year.

The LPNY has many more changes planned for the coming months. We have started discussions about the State Committee's structure and functions and hope to improve our organizational efficiency. And, given the ever-changing technology involved, we hope soon to update the current simple database manager with one of several more sophisticated programs as are used by Libertarian organizations in other states. The new system will enable us to do targeted mailings, and to communicate more effectively with both members and Party prospects.

The first phase has begun for the LPNY's OPH Plan: Operation Politically Homeless booths to be established and staffed at college campuses and other key locations around the State. The booths are a time-tested method to generate qualified Libertarian prospects from the public at large. Our goal for 1996 is to double our prospect list to 7,000 people, which should produce comparable increases in membership and revenue. All of which, of course, if directed toward achieving ballot status in the '98 elections.

The OPH Plan is crucial to the LPNY's efforts and the State Committee will soon be calling on all Party members to pitch in and help with this program. Financial contributions are essential to purchasing the booths and other supplies, but more important is the commitment of time: we cannot pay for the time dedicated Libertarians will devote to man the booths, meet the people, answer their questions, and further the

movement. We must bring the people to the philosophy at the same time we bring the philosophy to the people.

The year ahead promises to be productive and exciting. Stay tuned . . .

*The Chair invites members to help with the OPH Booth at Grand Central Station on Feb 27. Call (914) 949 1945.*

### *Browne continued*

Considered the front runner among three candidates seeking the Libertarian presidential nomination, Browne noted that "after all those years of being in the wilderness, standing on the outside looking in, things have changed to the point where we are the mainstream now." Browne's national campaign director Sharon Ayres said that the campaign had to "re-evaluate our plans based on the massive media expenditures being made by Republican candidates in New Hampshire. The entry of Steve Forbes into that race was of special concern." Explaining that Forbes alone would spend \$2 million before the primary, Ayres said that Browne's "entire planned advertising expenditure of \$250,000 for the primary would have amounted to less than one day's spending for all the other candidates." Ayres has been timing Browne's radio appearances to coordinate with the publicity for Browne's book, released to stores nationally on November 27th.

The recent national CityVote preference poll confirmed Browne's gaining familiarity among voters: although one of a number of alternative party candidates offered to CityVote participants, Browne placed well in the middle of the Republican party regulars, higher recognition for the Libertarian party than various incumbent politicians in national office. In fact, support from individuals is critical to Browne's campaign insofar as Browne has qualified for, but refuses to accept, federal matching funds. Contributions to Browne's campaign may be sent to Harry Browne for President, 4094 Majestic Lane, Suite 240, Fairfax, VA 22033. -- Eric J. Gruber

### Operation Politically Homeless

Anywhere there is a crowd, whether a county fair, food festival, or college campus, is a great place to find libertarians. The *how-to* is called an event in a kit sold by Advocates for Self-Government. **Operation Politically Homeless**--OPH--presentation booths are designed to find Libertarians and introduce others to the Libertarian philosophy.

The basic kit includes the diamond chart 22" x 34", quizzes for people to use to place themselves in the political spectrum. Colored dots to place, by score, on the large chart for all to see.

I have participated in OPH booths and have enjoyed myself while watching people's eyes light up.

Advocates for Self-Government can be reached at (800) 932-1776; their Web page is <http://www.self-gov.org>.

Jim Harris

## LPNY Annual Convention

The LPNY Annual Convention will start on Saturday, April 27, 1996, although the location for the event has not yet been determined. Consistent with tradition, there will be a pre-convention dinner on Friday, April 26. Saturday will feature the general business of the Party here in New York, debates on policy and structure. Guest speakers will address the delegates at lunch and at an evening banquet. On Sunday, April 28, the new State Committee will hold its first meeting immediately following the conclusion of the convention Sunday morning. At the State Committee meeting on December 2, 1995, Vice Chair Jim Harris agreed to take charge of coordinating matters for the convention. The LPNY thanks Jim for his willingness to take on this matter. The State Committee also appointed Lloyd Wright to be New York representative to the platform committee at the national convention in July 1996. Many thanks for Lloyd's continuing activity on behalf of the LPNY. Two other delegates from LPNY will be selected at the state party's annual convention in April 1996.

### *Local Elections continued*

Also in Suffolk County, LPNY state committee Treasurer Audrey Capozzi ran for position on the N.Y.S. Board of Regents from Long Island. For twenty years, Capozzi, an educational diagnostician, has been professor of education with BOCES in Suffolk County. The board of regents supervises issuing all professional licensing in the State and Capozzi hoped through the Regent's position to fight against the history of government schools being further strangled by state and federal regulation. Consistent with Libertarian principles, Capozzi sought to simplify the educational law to provide better services at lower taxpayer costs. The Regent's position is filled by election by the state senate and the assembly and, politics being what it is, a former Newsday publisher, Robert Johnson, got the position.

In Essex County, Kathleen Balzac looked to displace an incumbent town councilman and runs on the Independence line; Fred Balzac was on the ballot for town supervisor. Kathleen and Fred, both 36 years old, operate a bed-and-breakfast and both also work as editors. With just 65 signatures or so, Kathy and Fred easily placed onto the local ballot. In Jay, the leading issue facing voters concerned a \$2.6 million state plan to replace an old covered bridge over the Ausable River. The existing bridge could be renovated successfully for as little as \$1 million, but local contractors, feeding at the trough of political patronage, have successfully lobbied the county board of supervisors, who reversed their decision to renovate the old bridge and obtained commitments from the state Department of Transportation to instead begin construction of its replacement. In the election, Kathleen garnered 36 votes. Former town councilman John Sheldrake won the office with 116 votes.

## National Party Convention July 1996

The Libertarian Party will hold its 1996 presidential nominating convention in Washington, D.C. from July 3-7, 1996. Official Party activities including the Presidential Banquet will be based at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, but a gala opening evening is planned for the Jefferson Memorial. Speakers at the convention will include author James Bovard, ACLU President Nadine Strossen, and Doug Bandow, of the Cato Institute. Special room rates of \$99 per night are available from the Hyatt Regency for a limited time. Contact the Hyatt Regency at (800) 233-1234.

## LPNY Reps At National Open House

Washington, D.C. When the National Libertarian Party held an Open House on October 6, 1995, representatives from LPNY were on hand to join in the celebration. New York Libertarian Party state committee Chairman Blay Tarnoff, Vice Chair Jim Harris, and Treasurer Audrey Capozzi met with Bill Winter, national Director of Communications, and other national and state officials at the Party's new headquarters in the Capitol's famous Watergate Office Building, 2600 Virginia Avenue, N.W., Suite 100, Washington, D.C. 20037.

The Open House was held in conjunction with the Council of State Chairs, which convened over the same weekend. One result of the Council's meeting was to change the name of the ad hoc group to the Council of Leadership Training. At that time, programs will be presented -- open to all, not just state party officers and the like -- where Libertarian activists from around the country can participate in leadership training. For example, treasurers and other financial-oriented types can attend a workshop addressed to the various duties and responsibilities that come with office. Information on fund-raising, publicity, and membership activities for the state parties will be available to all interested persons. The Council's next meeting is scheduled to coincide with the National Party's presidential nominating convention to be held July 3-7, 1996. -- Audrey Capozzi

### **'98 COUNTS: A WIN GOING IN**

Recent history in New York State showed that out of 19,000 votes for our state wide candidates only 9,500 voted for our Gubernatorial candidate. Partially based on this voting record, 100,000 votes for our state wide candidates would result in 50,000 votes for our Gubernatorial candidate. Since only 40 to 60% of adults vote we will have to find 200,000 New Yorkers to identify themselves as Libertarians in order to win going in.

One strategy to accomplish this is the OPH booth.

Jim Harris



## Damn Right I was on TV

Several New York City libertarians, including myself and Bob Goodman, received letters in August inviting us to appear on a new, half-hour cable news analysis/interview show called "Damn Right!". The premiere was to be on Tuesday, October 10.

Bob returned the reply card and appeared on the opening show. The first week's topic was taxes. Bob was asked which tax plan he thought fairest, and he replied that no tax plan could be fair, since any tax is the forcible taking of money.

I went to the studio on Tuesday for the taping of Wednesday's show. During the interview of the main guest the host, David Asman of the *Wall Street Journal*, turned to me and asked, "What do YOU think about taxes, Fred?"

"Well, you are talking to a Libertarian. I am opposed to ALL taxation in principle. I'm not for low taxes, I'm for no taxes."

Asman immediately turned back to the main guest, saying that my views had as little support as those of the previous caller, who really loves taxation in principle.

That was the format: interview of a main guest, broken up by tape clips, call-ins (on an 800 number, weekday evenings at 7:30 live for call-in or log-on), and one question to one of the three on-stage audience members. This is all on a set representing a diner. Asman and his main guest sit in a booth, and the three extras sit at the counter, while "Denise" the waitress feeds them tea, cookies, and stage directions. Only one of the counter extras is miked and is asked a question. He can say whatever he wants--up to 30 seconds.

Bob and I have each now done a second show. Mine was on Social Security, in November and at this taping, two of the counter guests spoke, and my friend Karen (the "Banquet

Bumblebee" from the 1983 national LP convention) was given a little shtick to do, going from the counter over to the Damn Right Diner's pay phone and making a call, to add to the illusion of an actual diner. All the counter guests got Tee shirts advertising the Damn Right Diner.

The show is taped weekday evenings at 7:30 (with live call-in and log-on) in midtown Manhattan and can be seen on NewsTalk Television and in syndication.

The producer, Bob Chitester, is said to be a "deep-dyed libertarian," and is looking for more counter guests. To be on the show, call 800-218-8077. (Asst editor note: Norma Segal and John William Perry have also been guests.)

---Fred Cookinham

### March '96 in Sloatsburg

The next meeting of the LPNY State Committee is scheduled for 11:00 in the morning on Saturday, March 2, 1996. The meeting will be held in a private meeting room upstairs at the Sloatsburg rest stop on the New York Thruway. All party members are invited to attend.

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