

# THE CAPITAL DISTRICT LIBERTARIAN

JULY 93



## LIBERTARIANS AMONG THE TULIPS

Local libertarians John Mounteer, Nate Horowitz, Bill McMillen, Jeff Russell, Terry and Pat Phelan set up an "OPERATION POLITICALLY HOMELESS" booth at the Albany Pinksterfest in Washington Park on May 8th and 9th. The attraction of the booth was the "WORLDS SMALLEST POLITICAL QUIZ." People were actually lining up to take the quiz. The weather for the weekend was almost perfect and according to the Albany Times Union, 75,000 to 80,000 people attended the event. Other booths ranged from "Feminists Against Abortion" to Kiwanis to animal rights groups. It was great to see so many people willing to think about issues.

More than 850 quiz takers had their political fortunes told and 80 left their name and address for further information. Many people landed in the libertarian quadrant including an Albany County Legislator ( a Democrat!)

## Libertarians Convene

The Libertarian Party of New York (LPNY) held its annual convention in White Plains on Saturday May 22. About 80 people attended.

At the business meeting, the following people were elected to the State Committee:

Ludwig Vogel	Chairman
Dottie-Lou Brokaw	Vice Chair
Joseph Brennan	Vice Chair
Gail Bova	Secretary
Pam Haberkorn	Treasurer

State Committee at-large members and delegates to the national convention were also chosen. The national convention will be held in Salt Lake City on Labor Day weekend in

September. Six of New York's allocated seats are yet to be filled. Anyone interested in going should contact the local or state party.

Norma Siegel gave a humorous and informative keynote address in the morning and shared many of the techniques that brought her over 100 thousand votes for United States Senator (against Al D'Amato, Bob Abrams, and Lenora Fulani). Her vote total was more than quadruple the previous statewide record, and twice what we'll need to obtain permanent ballot status in 1994.

Dr. Mary Ruwart Author of HEALING OUR WORLD, spoke at dinner and gave a personal and moving account of her efforts in writing her book. The book gives libertarian solutions to many problems with lots of data and references. It's targeted at Christians and "New-Agers", two groups that Mary believes have great potential to embrace the message of self responsibility and individual rights.

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New State Health Dept. rules are taking some heat from local governments this summer. The state requires one lifeguard for every 3,400 square feet of swimming area in pools. In previous years the rule was one guard for every 75 swimmers. The new rule is costing money for the town and city governments who have had to add staff this summer. The complaint is not only that the regulation is unreasonable, but that the state operated pools aren't required to follow it. Why aren't we surprised?

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## ACTA CASES

Robert Schulz, founder of the All County Taxpayers Association (ACTA) has had his day in court on two important cases. On June 18th he argued his case about "back door borrowing" against a phalanx of high priced, taxpayer financed lawyers. Those present in the courtroom said Bob's performance was impressive and the judge in the case treated him fairly. No decision has been made in the case.

On Wednesday, July 14th Bob was back in court arguing the "meaningless vote" case. This case points out the absurdity of school budget votes when 98% of the budget is predetermined by multi-year teacher and administrative contracts. The folks in Guilderland will be watching this one closely.

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Reality may finally be setting in. Janet Reno US Attorney General and NY State Correctional Services Commissioner Thomas Coughlin both made statements last month saying we need to take a look at our drug laws. They each cited the effects of mandatory sentencing on prison overcrowding. Jim Ostrowski, a longtime libertarian and possible LPNY gubernatorial candidate also spoke at state hearings on the effects of the Rockefeller drug laws.

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## State Committee Meeting

The State Committee of the Party of New York (LPNY) held its' quarterly meeting on Saturday, July 10, in Woodstock, NY.

Pam Haberkorn reported that the convention broke even financially. There is still about \$2,000 in the treasury. LPNY has about 600 paid up members. Becky Akers reported that

we received the names and addresses of about 3,000 people who are interested in the LP. The names came from the national HQ as a result of last year's presidential campaign. She has sent introductory information to most and the rest will be sent soon. She will also contact other organizations to see if they will give or sell us their mailing lists.

Mark Axinn discussed a lawsuit that has been filed by the New Alliance Party. New York State election law states that officially recognized political parties (those that got over 50,000 votes for Governor)) shall be listed on the ballot in the order of who received the most votes for Governor. The order of the unofficial parties is determined by lottery. In the 1990 election, Lenora Fulani of the New Alliance Party got the most votes on the "unofficial" party candidates, making them first of the minor parties on the ballot. The LPNY's position is that all the parties should be listed either by vote totals or lottery.

Dave Harnett discussed the changes we will have to make in our party organization if our candidate for Governor gets over 50,000 votes next year, making us an officially recognized party in New York State. The biggest difference will be that candidates for public office and members of the State Committee will be elected in primaries rather than selected at the State Convention. However, there are many other changes as well. The State Committee agreed that we should start preparing for the changes as early as possible. Details will be discussed at the next meeting.

The LP slate in NYC is: Joseph Brennan for Mayor, Robert Falk for Public Advocate, Vicki Kirkland for Comptroller, and Ludwig Vogel for Manhattan Borough President. About 50 people attended the NYC convention. Finlay Rothaus was the featured speaker. Rothaus is an elected Libertarian serving in the New Hampshire House of Representatives.

The next meeting of the State Committee is scheduled for noon on Saturday, Oct. 23, in West Babylon, Nassau County, Long Island. All members are welcome to attend.

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The Maharishi Mahesh Yogi has promised to eliminate crime in Washington DC. using "positive energy" sent out by 1,000 meditators sent to the city. The demonstration is for one month and promises to create an atmosphere in which crime will not be possible. Should we expect an early congressional recess this year?

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## SELECTIVE SERVICE

(by Eric Rittberg RLC on libernet)

According to INSIGHT Magazine out of Washington (July 26), the House recently rejected an amendment to save the Selective Service Commission, saving the American taxpayer \$20 million. The vote was 202 to 207. A "No" vote was a vote to abolish the SS. 171 Democrats, Bernie Sanders (I-VT), and 35 Republicans voted no.

This vote on Selective Service is a decisive vote from a libertarian perspective. It truly "separates the men from the boys." Conservative Republicans like Dornan (CA), Hyde (IL) and Solomon (NY) voted in favor of keeping the bureaucracy, while libertarian Republicans voted to get rid of it on both fiscal and moral grounds.

Of note among Republicans voting "no" were self-described libertarians Dana Rhorabacher (R-CA), Chris Cox (R-CA), and Dick Zimmer (R-NJ). Zimmer was the only

Republican in the New Jersey delegation, and one of only three Jerseyites out of thirteen to vote no.

Other notable Republicans joining the libertarians in favor of abolishing SS were; freshman Huffington (CA), freshman Horn (CA), Allard (CO), Miller (FL), moderate GOPer Leach (IA), freshman Hoekstra (MI), Walker (PA), Delay (TX), and Klug (WI). Kudos to these gentleman, Cox, Rohrabacher, Zimmer and the other 23 Republicans who voted no.

Disappointedly, of particular note, those Republicans who voted "yea" included; Crane (IL), Franks (CT), Grandy (IA), McCandless (CA), McInnes (CO), Hancock (MO) and Greenwood (PA).

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A state panel formed by Thomas Sobol to study nonpublic education has found that Catholic schools are educational and economic assets that should be preserved. Catholic Schools have higher graduation rates, lower dropout rates and better scores on standardized tests at lower cost and with similar ratio of "at risk" students as public schools. The panel recommended tax credits for parents of children attending non-public schools and deductions for businesses making education related contributions

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### TAX FACTS

State & Local taxes per capita:

U.S. average: \$2088. NY average: \$3337. (Rank #2)

Individual income taxes as % of all taxes:

U.S. average: 32.0% NY average: 53.4% (Rank #2)

State taxes per capita:

US avg: \$1234. NY avg: \$1567. (Rank #7)

State & local spending per capita:

US avg: \$3923.88 NY avg: \$5962.73 (Rank #2)

State & local spending per capita on education:

US avg: \$1158.57 NY avg: \$1412.52 (Rank #5)

State & local spending per capita on welfare:

US avg: \$431.37 NY avg: \$867.57 (Rank #1)

Annual Membership in the Capital District Chapter is \$12  
To join both the State and Local Party the fee is \$21

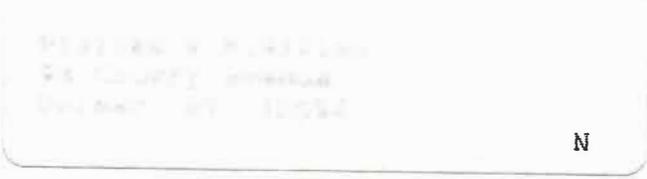
Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm  
The Branch Restaurant on Maiden Lane in downtown Albany.

Letters to the Editor or articles are appreciated and  
can be sent to: Fred Barney  
9 Farnsworth - Apt. 9  
Slingerlands, NY 12159

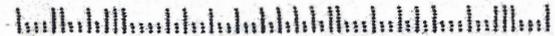
Phone Numbers

Local Chapter: 518 399 1293  
State Party: 212 477 2515  
National Party: 800 682 1776  
Campaign Volunteers: 518 371 3641/518 458 5886

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"...See if the law takes from some persons what belongs to them, and gives it to other persons to whom it does not belong. See if the law benefits one citizen at the expense of another by doing what the citizen himself cannot do without committing a crime.

Then abolish this law without delay, for it is not only an evil itself, but also it is a fertile source for further evils because it invites reprisals. If such a law -- which may be an isolated case -- is not abolished immediately, it will spread, multiply, and develop into a system."

*Frederic Bastiat*

THE LAW