

**Consider Running  
for School Board**

Once, it would have been a crazy idea for a Libertarian. But now, Bob Goodman has a new view of the situation. **2**

**Liberty Triumphs  
in Chicago**

An encapsulated look at the 1992 Libertarian Nominating Convention, and the candidates it picked on our behalf. **3**

**Advocates for  
Self-Government**

Ever notice how few of us there are around here? One new member decides to try a new solution to an old problem. **4**



# Free New York

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 3

NOVEMBER 1991

## Liberty Unites in Batavia

### MID-YEAR WESTERN STATE CONVENTION A SUCCESS

The New York Libertarian Party held a Mid-Year Convention in Batavia, New York on October 5, 1991. Although attendance was lighter than anticipated, the low turnout was more than made up for by the high enthusiasm and renewed energy shown by all present. For the first State activity in Western New York within recent memory, the organizers were pleased that the event was held and was profitable, and that the long term benefits were obvious.

Discussion during the morning meeting was focused on insuring that the Libertarian Party adopt an air of professionalism and respectability. Many members were concerned with the bad publicity that long-time Libertarian-baiter William F. Buckley gave the Chicago convention, and noted that he received his information second-hand from a Republican house organ. While there was little that the NYLP can do to correct the errors that were made in Chicago, most attendants were concerned that we not make the same mistakes in New York. Other topics covered during the morning meeting were preparing for next summer's petition drive and insuring that we field a suitable senatorial candidate for 1992. Clay Conrad voiced the desire that a senatorial candidate be found who was interested in running for Governor in 1994, in order to build name recognition. Bob Goodman introduced the subject of the May School Board elections and several present were interested in the possibilities that these

elections present the Libertarian Party. [See Bob's article advocating your running for your school board, on page 2. —Ed.]

Clay Conrad was the luncheon speaker, discussing the failures of Libertarians to effectively communicate to non-party voters, and was followed by Margaret Fries, who gave an excellent presentation on the frauds perpetrated by the News Election Service. Libertarians have been split on the issue of

*Utica Area  
Libertarian Party  
c/o Robert D. Schaeffer  
19 Chestnut Street  
Clinton, NY 13323*

whether or not it would be appropriate to sue the NES, as they are a quasi-private, quasi-public information gathering service which has received at minimum several significant exemptions and special privileges from government. Ms. Fries spoke forcefully and convincingly on behalf of a suit.

James Ostrowski spoke on the prospects of drug legalization, an issue that the LP has been concerned with since its inception. Mr. Ostrowski is one of the foremost experts

within the LP on this issue, and he spoke eloquently and concisely. His 45-minute presentation ran a half-hour over, and many attendees followed him out of the hall for more! Last was Robert Walton of Rochester, who informed the audience concerning the activities of the SIL, and the activities of the Rochester-area SIL chapter especially.

Andre Marrou was our dinner speaker, and excited the audience enough so that we raised over \$900 at dinner alone. The topic of discussion was what New York needed to do in order to support the Presidential Campaign in '92. Two things were paramount: ballot access and party-building. Norma Segal, former NYLP Chairwoman and Mr. Marrou's fiancée, conducted our evening auction, raising still more money for the party and for the Marrou/Lord campaign.

Besides the fact that all present had an enjoyable and educational time, two things were accomplished. First, the party made a small profit on the convention, insuring that we can afford to have a regular Western New York Convention; and second, the convention served as an organizing platform for the Utica Area Libertarian Party that Robert Schaeffer is organizing. Mark Sulkowski and Richard Fuerle, organizers of the Buffalo Region Libertarian Party, both attended as did Roy Hartmann, chair of the Rochester LP. Certain events like this can only strengthen our organizations throughout Western New York, and, through reflection, throughout the state.



## Hello

My name is Rick Wolff. I am *Free New York's* new editor.

In publishing, there's no better feeling than that of indispensability to one's readership. This is accomplished when the paper is accurate, a pleasure to read, editorially far-reaching, and best of all, *on time*.

This I pledge for *Free New York*.

Each issue will bring you the minimum information you need as an NYLP member:

- Summaries of recent meetings' agenda, and recaps of events;
- Upcoming functions of interest;
- A networking directory of active members, with updates;
- The usual begging for submissions.

As we discover the literary among us, I see the editorial scope slowly broadening to pique the interest of non-card-carrying readers, until one day *Free New York* becomes the quotable chronicle of Libertarianism as applies to the Empire State. Chock-full of advice, commentary and watchdogging, *Free New York* will find a prized place on many an otherwise cluttered desk.

But first, the basics. Hard deadlines. Dependable, useful, quotable, intriguing subject matter. Nothing you've read every place else. And nothing which demands from contributors back-breaking hours of word-processing. (Unless you're into that kind of thing.)

See? Already, subtly, the begging begins.

## CALENDAR

November 9:

### New York City LP Annual Convention

at the Ukrainian East Village Restaurant  
140 Second Avenue, corner of Ninth Street

*Featured Speakers:*

**Andre Marrou**, LP Presidential Candidate

**Larry Pratt**, Exec. Dir., Gun Owners of Am.

**Gary Johnson**, NY State LP Chairman

*Admission:* \$30

*Send to:* LPNY, 657 Tenth Ave., NYC 10036

December 14 and 15:

### Bill of Rights Conference

at the Quality Hotel Capitol Hill

415 New Jersey Ave. NW, Wash., DC 20001

*Saturday's Featured Speakers:*

**Don Ernsberger**, Chairman,  
LP Committee for Bill of Rights

**Kevin Zeese**, Drug Policy Institute

**Larry Pratt**, Exec. Dir., Gun Owners of Am.

**Clint Bolick**, Institute for Justice

*Sunday's Agenda:*

Ceremony at Supreme Court Building to honor 200th anniversary of the Bill of Rights.

*Admission:* \$25 - \$50

*Room Rates:* \$70 single until 11/13

*Send to:* LPHQ, DC or call (202) 543-1988

## Submit to Me

Here's the new address for submissions for *Free New York*—my proverbial day-job. It's preferable to the mailbox at my apartment—it's not only small, but might change soon.

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*Or call: (914) 699-2020, 10AM to noon.*

### FORMS OF SUBMISSIONS

Capture those precious computer keystrokes using any current software on any IBM or Mac disc, and mail it with a *high-quality* contingency printout. No article is too

small to send on a disc. If you wish the disc returned, provide packaging and postage. Avoid putting other documents on the disc.

Next best thing: a neat and accurate IBM Selectric or similar quality printout (and only the *finest* dot-matrix printing), which I can run through OCR software. Results are not perfect initially, but beat the hell out of keyboarding the whole thing. Faxes cannot be scanned, unless it's from your faxmodem; send me a sample first. When in doubt, the U.S. Snail Service is fine (this is a bi-monthly, after all). Mind deadlines.

Accompanying photographs are *eagerly* accepted! I see you folks snapping away at events. *Fork them over!* No article to go with the picture? No problem—we'll start a photo file. The best to send are black-and-white prints, though color prints will suffice. For now, slides are useless to me, as our current hardware arsenal lacks a slide scanner. If you're thinking of scanning or drawing anything on your computer, call me first to discuss compatibility.

## Consider Running for Your School Board

*by Robert Goodman*

A few years ago, I'd thought it a waste for Libertarian Party people to run for school board positions in New York. I've changed my mind, and now I want to convince you to put a substantial effort into the May 5, 1992 school board elections. Here are my reasons.

**1. Our candidate(s) will have a good chance of winning.** Although both registered voters for general elections and resident parents of school age children are eligible to vote in school board elections, few votes are cast. We'd need only to get votes from a few who wouldn't vote otherwise.

I used to fear that efforts by ideologic organizations in school board elections would cause an opposition rebound, ensuring the status quo. This happened with the Labor Party (LaRouche) people a few years ago in New York City. However, a subtler effort by a few good family-type Libertarians would probably succeed. Advertise the wo/man, not the organization, and not the movement. Even if the Party backing id discovered, who don't have as scary an image as Lyn(don) "Marcus" LaRouche's people. Once the candidate is elected, and starts succeeding with reforms, then we should seek connecting publicity for LPNY.

**2. Getting elected would be a shot in the arm for LPNY.** Sure, the office is nonpartisan, but a win is a win. Psychologically for ourselves and our observers, it would be satisfying.

**3. The office would boost our candidate(s).** It would be good to recruit school board

candidates who might run for higher office some day, because school board is often a stepping stone to community recognition and higher office.

**4. A libertarian on a school board could make a difference—do some good.** Elected school boards in New York State, and especially New York City, don't have the authority that similar boards do in other states, but they can still accomplish some things. (Just being honest would help!) Last June at Bruce Martin's joint Society for Individual Liberty / LP barbecue I met a Libertarian with just such an experience. And former Free Libertarian Party chairman John Francis points out that it was an elected board that established the East Harlem school choice plan in that district. Even if the choice is among only government schools, the existence of a choice opens people's minds to wider future reforms.

If you think that the system can't be reformed, or that reform is possible but bad because it reduces discontent (the worse-is-better theory), then you won't buy Reason Four. But those beliefs can argue against doing any politics.

If you're already involved in a PTA (though not as a teacher), consider a run for school board. You may already have local friends who'd vote for you, or even help your campaign, and you don't even know it! Or maybe you have someone else in mind. If that someone is a Libertarian, I want to know, because I want LPNY behind her/him.



# Liberty Triumphs in Chicago

## MARROU, LORD NOMINATED FOR '92

by John Sproul

"Liberty Triumphant" was the theme of the 1991 Libertarian Party National Convention, held August 29 to September 1 in the Chicago Marriott Hotel.

After three days of friendly persuasion in hospitality suites, one-on-one politicking, and candidate debates on the convention floor, Andre Marrou was selected on the first ballot to be the LP presidential candidate for the 1992 election, defeating Dick Boddie for the position. Marrou was elected as a Libertarian to the Alaska State Legislature in 1984, and ran as the LP vice-presidential candidate with Ron Paul in 1988.

Dr. Nancy Lord, a physician and lawyer from Washington, DC, was nominated to be the LP's vice-presidential candidate. Dr. Lord made headlines for running a clean and high-profile campaign for the DC mayoral position vacated by Marion Barry.

At the conclusion of voting, Dick Boddie announced his intention to run in California for the U.S. Senate.

Extensive three-day TV coverage of the convention was provided by the C-SPAN public affairs cable network. According to Don Ernsberger, LP Finance chairman, the 800 phone number displayed on the C-Span screen had produced 6,000 calls for more information as of midnight Saturday, August 31. After the rebroadcasting of convention highlights, the figure tallied at around 10,000 inquiries.

Talks at the convention included:

- *The Road from Serfdom—the Case of the USSR and Eastern Europe*

- *From Right and Left to Libertarianism*
- *Police State USA*
- *The Bill of Rights—200 Years Later*
- *A Drug Reform Debate*
- *Fully Informed Jury Amendment*
- *Tax Freedom*
- *Initiative and Referendum*
- *Privatization*
- *Educational Choice*
- *Gun Control*

All these talks were taped, as well as David Nolan's Keynote Address, the Presidential Candidates' Debate, and the Presidential Banquet, featuring speaker Ron Paul. A free catalog of the complete list is available from Jim Turney Enterprises (formerly Liberty Audio and Film Service), 2214 Hey Road, Richmond, VA 23224.

At the business session, the LP platform was fine-tuned, and Mary Gingell of California was elected to chair the party for the next two years. Former LP chair David Walter did not run for re-election. One of the more interesting points raised in Dave's farewell address was that the Party should consider changing its name to the Liberty Party.

The next national convention will be held in Salt Lake City in August 1993. Anyone wishing to receive mailed information when this convention is advertised should submit their request to LP National Headquarters, 1528 Pennsylvania Avenue S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.

*John Sproul's article is borrowed from his submission to the Rochester Region's LP newsletter. We're grateful.*

## Petition Drive Seeks Volunteers

The New York State Libertarian Party is committed, along with Presidential Candidate Andre Marrou, to obtaining ballot access in 1992. We need to gather over 30,000 signatures to insure that we can survive any challenges that may be introduced. Jeffrey Russell, Capitol District Libertarian Party Chair and long-time activist, is organizing the lists of members interested in helping to circulate or process petitions. The NYLP will offer pre-petitioning training throughout the state in May and June. If you can help, please

call Jeff at (518) 233-1344, or write him at 12-A Pheasant Run, Waterford, NY 12188.

In the past, it has been necessary to hire petitioners and processors throughout the state. Every valid signature collected and processed by a volunteer will save the Marrou/Lord campaign \$1, which can then go toward television or radio ads, printing, transportation, etc. Although we may not be able to gather all the signatures needed by volunteers alone, it is the goal of the New York Libertarian Party to gather a higher percentage of signatures by volunteer effort than ever before. Please join us and help us so that in November of '92 you and all New Yorkers can Vote Libertarian.

## CAMPAIGNS

### Blay Tarnoff Runs for White Plains Common Council

by Rick Wolff



By this time, Blay Tarnoff had ballot status petitioning down pat, having made himself indispensable in Gary Johnson's race for governor in 1988 by canvassing communities in the NYC metro

area. So he knew the 1259 signatures he submitted on August 19 assured him ballot access in his bid for one of three seats vacating this year on the White Plains Common Council. He needed 703 signatures on his petition. Perfunctory general contestings were filed by the Big Two, but were not followed through. Blay's campaign was under way officially.

There were three Republican candidates; four Democrats held a primary September 12. Three Right-to-Life candidates seem to show no signs of a campaign effort at all.

Debates are dominated by issues such as how (of course, not whether) to lure a supermarket into midtown; what to do with the property earmarked for Andrew Cuomo's next WestHELP facility; whether the city charter should be amended to elevate and separate the role of mayor from his seat on the Council; and whether to legalize overnight curbside parking. Mr. Tarnoff is holding fast to Libertarian principles throughout.

Campaign budget goals may be surpassed, as our responses have been prompt and generous. Since the printing of a palm card is being donated by a local Republican (!) businessman, nearly all the proceeds will be put into local cable television advertising. Four spots were produced, and time is being bought mostly on CNN, ESPN and Lifetime, and as close to Election Day as possible. It is doubtful if any other candidates are contemplating television—at least, not as heavily.

Presidential candidate Andre Marrou, in the area for the moment, has provided much priceless advice in person and over the phone—a practice he openly invites, but says is undervalued by Libertarians nationwide. "Tell them what they need to hear," said Marrou, "which is seldom what they want to hear."

Blay is, as far as anyone on the state executive board could ascertain at press time, the only Libertarian running for anything anywhere in New York State in 1991.

Assuming it's not too late, your help is welcome. Call Blay at (914) 949-1945 any time to find out how you can lend a hand.



# Membership Drive Update

by Clay Conrad, LPNY Membership Director

Presently, our membership is well over 200, with more coming in regularly. We have also fielded approximately 30 National memberships, about half of them new members. We may run into trouble reaching our goal of 400 by years end unless more National party members choose to join the State Party as well. National membership within New York State is well over 400, so more than half of these are not also State Party Members. It is time now to join and become active in the New York State Libertarian Party.

Why? Consider first that the only way to obtain permanent ballot access in New York is for the Gubernatorial Candidate to get

50,000 votes. This requires a well organized and active State Party. The National Party can not help us here. Consider, please, that there are new regional organizations forming in Middletown, Utica and Buffalo, with other areas soon to join the list. Consider the newsletter you are now holding—it is expensive to mail, print and produce. We would like to send it to every prospective Libertarian in the state, but it is currently going out to only 2,000. Consider that we are building now for our 1994 Gubernatorial race, but that we need your support! If you are not now a member of the New York State Libertarian Party, please join today. Building membership

and gaining recognition go hand in hand, and it is up to us. National will not get us on the ballot, can not retain ballot status and will not fund our operations. It will take New Yorkers committed to stemming the growth of government here in the land of taxation and waste that Mario Cuomo has built. Join now.

**Note:** If you are renewing your National dues, please remember that dues turned in through the NYLP are split between the National and State parties. By paying your National dues through the NYLP, you are increasing your support of the New York Libertarian Party and helping to insure our successes throughout the coming years.

## New Westchester Advocates Chapter Forming

This January, Rick Wolff, your editor, will begin a Chapter of Advocates for Self-Government, the self-described libertarian "marketing division." And he (that is, I) need your help.

The Advocates were founded by Marshall Fritz in 1985 as an exciting alternative to scatter-pattern outreach efforts, at which he found his fellow activists chewing the prospect's ear off and not accomplishing much. (Sound familiar?) Their textbook definition of an Advocates Chapter: "A local service club which helps opinion leaders from all walks of life discover and evaluate their American heritage of self-government (i.e., the combination of free enterprise and free expression)."

Ground Zero is Westchester County, with efforts branching out from there at the slightest invitation. State and county party mailing lists stand to benefit from the referrals.

The effort contacts the public by means of the now-familiar Operation Politically Homeless booths and World's Smallest Political Quiz cards (both of which were invented

by Mr. Fritz, using the diamond chart developed by David Nolan). They're usually brought to events sympathetic to libertarians (big or small L), as well as flea markets, swap meets, or anywhere there is foot traffic and permission to be had.

Then the magic happens: using the prospect list from the OPH event, there begins a five-week course known as a Seminar 1. For 90 minutes a week, six to ten prospective libertarians get a lesson in Liberty Appreciation, using David Bergland's *Libertarianism in One Lesson* as a text. Discussions are not aimed at the participants like a jackhammer; rather, the Socratic Method rules. That means, the host does a lot of shutting up. The participant sells *him/herself* on liberty!

This, I decided at the Chicago Nominating Convention, I had to see for myself (understanding inately that it's the only way such a convincing takes place). So here I am, President of my own Chapter.

Where do you come in, my fellow Libertarian? Carole Ann Rand, President of Advocates, will be explaining the inner workings of

a Chapter at our kickoff meeting, to be held shortly after the holidays. Now, she tells me I can't run this chapter alone. Needed are active, self-replicating Libertarians to handle a data base (with or without computer), the telephones, the OPH bookings, and the Seminar 1's.

What's in it for you? First, the satisfaction that you're helping one of the most successful outreach methods available for us (once one is a Libertarian via Advocates, one *stays* that way). Next, leadership skills you can apply anywhere: organization, time and money management, decision-making, public speaking, and the gentle art of persuasion. And finally, relief from boredom, I personally guarantee you.

Anyone reading this may inquire about filling one of these posts. But if you're an active member, you're very high on my list, and you can expect a phone call from me soon. Beat me to it, and call me at work, (914) 699-2020.

I can't hold these positions open for long, so call today! Take a leap for liberty!

### NEXT ISSUE

## Election Scorecard

If you ran for office this year and we didn't hear about it, then I offer my apologies in advance. Of course, you were too busy campaigning to drop us a line. Besides, this new editor knows there's a pulse, but just can't find where to put his thumb yet.

Not to fret: next issue will feature post-Election Day assessments of your campaigns—the results, personal goals met and not met,

vote total records broken, resource referrals for 1992 candidates, inside tips you learned, and things you'd do differently next time (whether you won or not).

**ALERT: The next Free New York deadline is December 15, 1991. No exceptions will be made.**

**LISTEN FOR YOURSELF!**

**Gene Burns**

is now heard locally on  
**WOR 710 AM**  
2PM - 5PM