



NEW YORK LIBERTARIAN PARTY NEWS

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N. Y. Libertarian Convention Changes Party Name, Elects McMillen Chair

Libertarians from around New York state gathered in Middletown on the weekend of May 17-19 for the New York Libertarian Party's 1985 state convention. New state party officers were elected, the party's official name changed and two important resolutions adopted. A number of speakers and panel discussions highlighted the annual meeting, including former LP Vice Presidential candidate, Jim Lewis, and noted tax rebel, Irwin Schiff.

William McMillen of Clifton Park, a community near Albany, was elected State Chair of the party. Bill had previously served as Vice Chair and was the party's candidate for New York State Comptroller in 1982. Elected to the party's two Vice Chair positions were Dottie-Lou Brokaw of Cortland and Tom Lowy of New York City. William Stocker of Port Washington was elected Treasurer and Dawn Davis of Schenectady was chosen as the party's Secretary.

Five "at-large" State Committee Representatives were also elected: Don Davis, Schenectady; Reed Halsted, Mt. Kisco; Vickie Kirkland, New York City; Sieglinda Kress, New York City; and George Wager, Albany.

After a spirited debate, the convention voted to change the party's name to Libertarian Party of New York. The change came as a result of an amendment to the party's by-laws, which passed overwhelmingly. The party had been known as the Free Libertarian Party, a name which had been chosen back in the early 1970's to accomodate State Board of Election concern that "Libertarian Party" would be confused by the voters for "Liberal Party." The change brings the New York party into conformity with its sister parties in the rest of the country.

The convention formally opened on Saturday, May 18, with a keynote address by Jim Lewis. The topic of Lewis' speech was "A Strategy for Reclaiming Liberty." He said that the LP needs a real strategy for growth and must learn how to develop goals. He also stated that we must learn how to follow-up on electoral campaigns with organizing and outreach. He urged the New York LP to publish an outreach newspaper like the Vermont, Connecticut and North Carolina parties are currently doing. He also urged libertarians to "make contact with freedom fighter groups in your community," such as tax patriots, home schoolers and honest money organizations. Jim concluded his address with the suggestions that the party consider changing its name to the "Constitution Party," which he argued would capitalize on the upcoming bicentennial celebration of the Constitution's adoption in 1989.



State Chair, William McMillen

Irwin Schiff, the well-known tax resister and author of several books on tax resistance, including the recently published "The Great Income Tax Hoax," delivered a stirring banquet address that covered much of his on-going struggle with the IRS. Schiff, who hasn't filed an income tax return since 1974, was arrested in March and charged with tax evasion, only three weeks after his new book was published. Among the points that he made in his speech was that even though the income tax is unconstitutional, the judges lie about the law. "Let's end this fiction that we are a nation of law. Even dictatorships have phony trials. It's hard for Americans to understand that they are living in a fascist dictatorship."

Based on an appeal by Irwin Schiff, the convention adopted a resolution condemning illegal and abusive enforcement of IRS laws by federal agents and called for a special federal grand jury investigation of reported abuses. One of the recently reported abuses highlighted during the debate took place in Michigan, where IRS agents broke into a privately owned day care center which was allegedly behind in its tax payments. The agents locked the children being cared for at the center in a room until their parents came to pick them up at the end of the day. But the children were not released until the parents agreed to pay their day care fees to the IRS, even though they personally did not owe the back taxes. Little wonder that Schiff described IRS agents as "outlaws."

Another resolution adopted by the convention was directed at another abusive government body--PASNY, the Power Authority of the State of New York. The resolution--which called for PASNY's state charter to be revoked, as well as its power to use eminent domain--was sparked by the presentation of Doris Delaney, who heads an organization called PROTECT (Prudent Residents Opposed to Electric Cable Transmission). Charging that PASNY is a government bulldozer that "has a free license from the State of New York to do whatever it wants to do," she described numerous cases where the property rights of farmers and other rural New Yorkers have been trampled on. "PASNY has to be stopped," she said. The convention agreed.

Other convention highlights included three panel discussions on "The 3rd Party Dilemma." The first panel, moderated by

former State Chair, Gary Greenberg, looked at the dilemma from the media's point of view. Three representatives of the print and broadcast media discussed how they view third parties generally and the LP specifically. They also made suggestions on how libertarians can work better with the media.

The second panel, moderated by Guy Riggs of Poughkeepsie, consisted of two political professionals, Walter Jablonski of the Dutchess County Board of Elections and former U.S. Congressman, Ned Pattison. Mr. Jablonski discussed the nature of voters and election laws, while Pattison talked about the problems of running for office and getting elected. The former Congressman suggested libertarians get better organized in trying to influence politicians who are in office. He said letters to office-holders are very effective and that "even 25 letters on an issue will make a Congressman sweat bullets."

The third panel, moderated by Jim Lewis, consisted of party activists from around the state. It explored the question: What have we learned and where do we go from here? Ed Jowett of Binghamton cautioned the audience not to go away complacent. "There is a justifiable concern about how we market ourselves," he said. Jowett concluded by saying that political action must be first on our list of priorities. Bill McMillen suggested that the party must get more directly involved in specific causes. Tom Lowy urged the chapters to commit themselves to publishing monthly outreach newsletters as a recruitment tool. All agreed that the 1986 state elections would be crucial to the future of the party.

Among the other speakers at the convention were: Paul Jacob, the libertarian anti-draft activist currently awaiting trial in Little Rock, Arkansas; Rebecca Shipman, the National Director of the Association of Libertarian Feminists; Philip Fixler, Director of the Local Government Center, which is part of the Reason Foundation; and Jim McClarin, the former Executive Director of the Placer County, Calif., LP who played a central role in the libertarian election win there last year.

Delegates to the 1985 National LP Convention which meets in Phoenix, Ariz., were chosen by the convention. Two special delegates were elected: Dean Grimes of Binghamton to the Platform Committee; and Ed Jowett, also of Binghamton, to the Credentials Committee.

View from the Chair

The State Party's Relationship to Local Chapters

by William P. McMillen, State Chair

As I begin to face the challenges of the position of Chair of the Libertarian Party of New York, I find that one of the largest problems we have is that of sustaining membership. Comparing membership lists over a period of time indicates that many people simply are not renewing. There are a number of possible reasons for this and I would not pretend to be aware of all of them. An all-encompassing explanation might be that it has been perceived that membership has not provided a significant enough payback to justify the membership dues.

The new leadership of the party--myself and the State Committee--could address this problem in one of two ways: identify the problem as one of perception only (and handcuff ourselves to inactivity); or address the issue of determining what value we can offer in exchange to individual members and to the various chapters throughout the state.

At our first State Committee meeting (which is scheduled for June 8th in Cobleskill), we will address several issues dealing with the state party's relationship to the local chapters--including dues, proportional representation for the chapters at state conventions based upon state party membership, use of bulk rate mailing permits, and newsletter services.

In addition, we will be discussing a political action plan directed toward 1985 and 1986 election campaigns. This will involve a program of regional workshop presentations on the various aspects of political campaigns--so that libertarians contemplating a campaign will have a greater knowledge of what needs to be done and an awareness that they need not reinvent the wheel. Party members and chapters must be able to look toward the state party for expertise and experience in these areas.

The State Committee will also be discussing the site of the 1986 State Convention at which we will be nominating our candidates for statewide office, including Governor. Other items on the agenda include the location of the state party office and our 1985 and 1986 budget requirements and limitations.

Buffalo LP Resumes Newsletter and Endorses "Give it Back" Petition Drive

The Buffalo chapter of the New York Libertarian Party resume publication of its monthly newsletter, "Libertarian Letter," in April. The four-page newsletter was mailed to the chapter's entire mailing list and included articles on the television media and children's rights. The chapter also endorsed the "Give it Back" campaign and is conducting a petition drive to make the "fat cats" give the money back.

The Erie County Libertarians are holding discussion groups on alternate Mondays at Medaille College. A monthly letters-to-the-editor meeting is also being held, which is resulting in several published letters in the local press.

Rochester Libertarians Hear Utility Spokesman Discuss Government Regulations and Environmental Protection

The Rochester Society for Individual Liberty held a dinner meeting Friday, May 17, at the Colonial Hotel Restaurant and heard a spokesman for the Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation discuss the effects of regulatory laws on the utility's current operations and its plans for new facilities. A discussion on regulation and environmental protection followed the remarks of Robert Deseyn, the Environmental Engineering Manager of the Rochester company.

The program also included an animated movie, "Freedom River." The chapter's next meeting is set for Friday, June 21. Martha Olijnyk of the Ontario Libertarian Party will discuss the free-market experiment in Ciskei, an independent republic in southern Africa.

I wish to thank the membership for the opportunity to contribute in some small way to the cause of liberty. With the help and suggestions of each and every one of you, I feel we can make great strides in that direction.

POLITICAL TOOLS:

The Election Office

by Ed Jowett & Jim McKeown

(This is the second in a three-part series on political campaigning. The authors are both Libertarian Party activists in Binghamton, N.Y., and helped coordinate the party's nationwide "Campaign '84.")

Few Libertarians have been inside their Election Office, other than to handle their own personal voter registration. Rather than look at the Office as a public library for political activists, most of us consider it another evil aspect of the bureaucracy--to be avoided, if at all possible.

You should, however, view the records there as completely open to public inspection. Feel free to scan what they have and take copies of anything you think you might need at a later date (the cost of photocopies is usually nominal). The Office's personnel should be used to assist whenever necessary. Most of these individuals do things by rote and may not know just what is, or is not available. It's up to you to do the investigation and research to get what you need.

What types of information can you use from the Election Office? Find out what the traditional parties use to support their activities.

Street Maps

Just knowing the geography covered by the campaign can help. Very often individuals make assumptions about which area residents can vote in the election. This can be quickly clarified with the maps. Also, these maps assist in breaking down the area by its natural as well as political boundaries, which is essential to any door-to-door effort.

Voter Registration & Sign-in Lists

The first time one of us reviews our local voter registration list, we are literally amazed at the number of libertarians--relatives, friends, co-workers or neighbors--who aren't currently registered to vote. Knowing this definitely changes the way you'll "talk politics" with each one of these

individuals in the future, since each registration is an almost certain vote. Of course those registration rolls which indicate "Libertarian" enrollments should be matched to your own lists and new individuals should be personally contacted by the campaign.

Since voting itself is a matter of public record, you can get a list of those who voted in any particular election. Say you are going to distribute your candidate's brochure door-to-door just before the election and you don't have enough individuals to doorbell each registered voter. For Libertarian campaigns with scarce resources it would be smarter to stop at only those houses whose residents voted in last year's off-election. This would cut down the number of households to be contacted and yet maximize the effectiveness of the action.

Rapid Precinct Finders

Tools like these are a great help to the traditional parties. With these, you can determine which precinct a person is in, based on their address. Then, for example, if you are processing a petition signature which only indicates a mailing address, you could quickly add the proper precinct number. The alternative--using maps and registration lists alone--takes about 10 times longer. And what happens if you finally conclude the signer isn't a registered voter? With these rapid precinct finders, you can just indicate the precinct an individual should be registered in.

Election Law

Having your own copy of the currently published election law and prescribed election deadlines is a campaign necessity. If you are completely at the mercy of the election officials' selective readings and interpretations of the law--or subject to the normal time delays of your local party's "expert"--you could easily find yourself trapped with no alternatives from which to choose. You are probably never going to become an election law expert, but you should try to read well in advance those sections of the law that seem to apply to your campaign. See if you can get answers to as many of your questions as possible. If you do end up in a time-bind with a legal question and you can't get the needed advice, try to follow all technicalities--no matter how small--according to your own reading of the law. Keep in mind, you are getting

valuable political experience to be used by your group in future years, no matter what the outcome of this particular problem is.

Recent Votes Cast

Reviewing past votes by precinct may assist you in directing some of the campaign's resources. For example, if polling places in one area never produce Libertarian votes, you might assign a few pollwatchers there on election day. After targeting a campaign to individual voter households on a door-to-door basis as much as possible, you'll soon agree these historical precinct vote counts can clearly be multiplied many times over in the future.

Registration Forms

Three-quarters of the people you register to vote during the campaign will vote for your candidate on election day. This factor is extremely important for a party at our stage of development. Campaign managers should maintain a supply of voter registration forms obtained from the local election office and see that all people involved in the campaign always have a few each. Help a potential voter complete the form and actually deliver it yourself to the local election office. These actions will register many more individuals and translate into more votes--and activists--than if you just hand out these forms.

Projecting the Vote

An automobile can't accelerate from 0 to 60 MPH without a reasonable amount of time to pass. A Libertarian vote count--from the last election until such time as we regularly start fielding winning candidates--is no different. Time and time again, when a campaign produces drastically less votes than its workers expect, it has marked the end of political action by them in that area for some time.

Keeping these factors in mind, set a vote target which has some "stretch" built into it. Do not make this vote target public. Also, do not let it be known that your projected vote is not enough to win. When there is no reasonable expectation of winning, the best public reply is: "We are going to get a lot of votes--many more than any previous Libertarian candidate."

LP Candidates Announce in Nassau County

Four libertarians announced their candidacies for office at the June 17 meeting of the Nassau County LP. Leonard Hirsch of Westbury wishes to run for Nassau County Executive. William Stocker, Port Washington, announced for Nassau County Comptroller. Paul Otterstedt of Farmingdale declared for Nassau county Clerk. Richard Cooper, Westbury, is considering a race for the Town of Hempstead Presiding Supervisor. A nominating convention is scheduled for July 15 at the Jolly Swagman Inn in Hicksville.



Candidate Leonard Hirsch (L.) in Discussion With Tom Hazard and Dottie-Lou Brokaw of Cortland, and Vickie Kirkland, N.Y. City (R.) at State Convention.

Discussion of this vote projection should also be confined to campaign management. As other individuals working on the campaign discuss the subject, you should make sure all are aware of the historical Libertarian vote counts and what specific actions are needed in the current campaign to do better this time around. Also, when someone offers a vote projection that is sizably more than the campaign's goal, ask for the specifics they have to support their opinion.

(Part III of this series will discuss how successful campaigns use a calendar of events and will also cover voter telephoning and election day activities.)

Freedom Reborn



the 1985 National Convention of the Libertarian Party

Hyatt Regency Hotel • Phoenix, Az • August 14 thru 18

The 1985 Libertarian Party National Convention is to be held in the spirit of rebirth — the rebirth of freedom's ideals and the rebirth of the freedom movement; a second chance to restructure the consensus for liberty and another chance to inspire the activism required to promote it. Please join us in:

Speakers, panels and workshops on topics as far ranging as the environment and internal party education, a brochure and video production workshop and a great debate between major party leaders on defense and a philosophical debate of the existence — or non-existence — of natural moral rights.

Four breakfasts, Thursday, through Sunday morning, will feature Karl Hess, Gene Burns, Sam Steiger and Dick Boddie; a hayride/steakfry at the western theme park Rawhide Thursday evening will rekindle the free spirit of the Old West; a planned roast of the 1984 Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates David Bergland and Jim Lewis will provide the requisite ounce of laughter on Friday evening; and, the Saturday evening Banquet extravaganza will set your hearts aflame with a renewed vision of what a world with liberty might be!

Full details of this adventure will be mailed to you in early April, but why wait when "Freedom Reborn" awaits you?

EARLY EARLY EARLY EARLY EARLY EARLY EARLY **REGISTRATION** EARLY EARLY EARLY EARLY EARLY EARLY EARLY

FULL PACKAGE:

4 breakfasts, Rawhide steakfry/hayride, Bergland-Lewis roast, all workshops, panels & seminars, the Saturday night banquet, the defense debate and registration.

\$240 thru July 4; \$300 after July 4

DELEGATE PACKAGE:

4 breakfasts, Rawhide steakfry/hayride, Bergland-Lewis roast, the defense debate, the Saturday night banquet and registration.

\$210 thru July 4; \$230 after July 4

ECONOMY PACKAGE:

Saturday night banquet and registration

\$80 thru July 4; \$95 after July 4

REGISTRATION ONLY:

\$25 thru July 4; \$30 after July 4

Registration permits you access to the convention floor debate. Individual events available only after July 4: Breakfasts, \$20 each; Banquet, \$65; Rawhide, \$35; Roast, \$20; Defense Debate, \$10; Seminar package, \$100 (individual seminar/speaker/workshop prices not yet set).

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Description	Price	Quantity	Total
FULL PACKAGE	\$240		
DELEGATE PACKAGE	\$210		
ECONOMY PACKAGE	\$80		
REGISTRATION ONLY	\$25		

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Make checks or money orders payable to: Arizona LP, Freedom Reborn,
P.O. Box 501, Phoenix, Arizona 85001.

McMillen Joins Bikers

in Helmet Protest

by Bill McMillen

LIBERTARIAN CALENDAR

On May 20th, ABATE (A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments) staged their 10th annual protest of the mandatory helmet law at the state capitol in Albany. Joining the approximately 1500 cyclists, who traveled a 12-mile route to the capitol, was State Chair Bill McMillen, who rode on the back of one of the motorcycles in a three-piece suit holding a disconnected seat belt out to his side.

The coordinators of the event agreed to let him join when he explained that he wished to emphasize the many years that the cyclists had been warning others of government intrusion in what ought to be individual decisions, and how these warnings went unheeded. He said that by joining the bikers' protest he was trying to appeal to New Yorkers to heed the warnings now before government finds new ways to impose itself on freedom of choice.

McMillen was interviewed by one of the local TV stations and was also asked to speak before a rally of the protesting cyclists. His remarks were warmly received, especially when he told them "I don't know much about motorcycles," and then holding the seat belt up, continued "but I do know about totalitarian enactments."

Binghamton

July 14th Picnic and Swim Party, 12 Noon to Dusk. Endicott, N.Y. \$7.50 Admission. Speakers: Bill McMillen and Wanda Hudak. Call Jay Fields (607) 722-2677 or Jim Buttolph (607) 757-0215 for information.

Rochester

July 20th Picnic, 1 - 6 PM. Ellison Park, Circle Shelter Blossom Road Exit I-590, then 1½ miles east. No Charge, But Donations Welcome. Call Verne Saunders (716) 663-7723.

Nassau County

July 15th Nominating Convention, 7 PM. Jolly Swagman Inn, Hicksville. Candidates for Public Office to Be Nominated. Call Richard Savadel (516) 795-3622 for information.

Protests Are Misguided

To the Editor:

There has been a lot of coverage recently on protests against certain companies or institutions that have foreign investments in South Africa. The one example closest to home is the protest against Cornell University orchestrated mainly by its students.

The question that all of us must ask ourselves is whether or not these actions will help blacks in South Africa.

In a recent poll of black production workers in South Africa by a South African law professor of Natal University, it was noted that a 75 percent majority supports foreign investment and REJECTS "Disinvestment." The blacks that were polled felt that disinvestment would only harm blacks

economically and thus set them back in their struggle to win political equality. Foreign investment has created thousands of jobs for African workers who would otherwise probably be unemployed. The vitality of South Africa's economy offers more hope to South African blacks that do destructive forms of pressure from abroad (whether from American citizens or the American government). Forcing American businesses to curb their investments could also reverse certain workplace reforms these businesses have initiated, ranging from abolition of segregation in the workplace, to improved housing, schooling and other facilities for their workers.

In a recent Los Angeles Times editorial it was noted that well over a hundred companies with investments in South Africa signed an agreement to actively seek an end to apartheid. It is felt that this action is an important source of influence and pressure on the government of South Africa.

Although these protests, such as the one in Cornell, may be considered noble, they are also misguided. Peaceful political change is more likely to come as a result of an increasingly prosperous black population asserting its rights than through an attempt by well-intentioned American disinvestment proponents to force South Africa into economic isolation.

Sincerely,
Thomas H. Hazard
Cortland County chairman
of the Libertarian Party

Libertarian Party of New York

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