

New York Prohibitionist



Think NY Vote Dry

2021 Anniversary Issue

Volume 4

The Anniversaries

Welcome to our special anniversary issue of the New York Prohibitionist. This issue commemorates two special anniversaries that are happening in September. The first is the 152nd anniversary of the founding of the national Prohibition Party. On September 1st, 1869, the national Prohibition Party was formally established at a conference in Chicago. This was the beginning of our party's long history as a national force for promoting principled social and political reform in the country.

The second anniversary, on September 8th, is the 4th anniversary of the re-establishment of the Prohibition Party's state-level organization in New York. On September 8th, 2017, the Prohibition Party of New York was publicly announced. Since then, we of the Prohibition Party of New York have worked to spread our message, to promote positive policies and ethical candidates in New York, and to advance the Prohibition Party. We have worked to lay the groundwork for building a strong political presence in New York and we will continue to progress as we move forward.

This issue will commemorate these two anniversaries, reflect on our past, review the progress we have made over the past year, and look toward our plans or the future.

A Brief History of the Prohibition Party in New York

Temperance and prohibitionism have a long history in New York State. There were temperance societies in New York state as early as 1808. Over the following decades, the temperance movement experienced significant growth and advancement in the state. Increasing awareness of the harmful nature of all forms of alcohol helped give rise to teetotalism (total abstinence from the consumption of alcohol), and teetotalism developed to become the mainstream

position of the state's temperance advocates. As the temperance movement developed, there were advocates who became increasingly aware of the social and economic practices that served to encourage and perpetuate drinking. That the producers and sellers and alcohol (who profited off harming others with their products) had a vested interest in encouraging and perpetuating the use of alcohol and would act within their power to impede the temperance movement. Prohibitionism arose as the means of tackling the social, economic, and political dimensions of the problem. By banning the manufacture and sale of alcohol and dismantling the alcohol industry, it could help pave the way for advancing a more comprehensive advancement of temperance.

By the 1830's and 40's some communities had begun banning the sale of alcohol in their areas, and most others had adopted a license system, which determined who was allowed to sell alcohol in their areas. As time went on, local prohibition became increasingly prominent. In the 1850's the movement for statewide prohibition laws had gained steam. In 1851, Maine passed the first statewide prohibition law. In 1854, the New York State Legislature passed its own statewide prohibition law. But it was vetoed by Governor Seymore. State Senator Myron Clark, a key advocate for the New York state prohibition law, ran against Seymore and was elected governor. Once in office, Clark signed the law, and the first period of statewide prohibition in New York was established. Unfortunately, the law was struck down in state court several months later.

The Maine and New York state prohibition laws were part of the first wave of state-level prohibition laws in the country. In the 1850's 13 states had passed state-level laws banning of restricting the manufacture and sale of alcohol. Though these would eventually be taken down by alcohol industry backed



political or court challenges. These experiences helped inspire prohibition activists to embrace advancing prohibition by explicitly establishing the power to ban alcohol in state and federal constitutions.

Following the civil war, prohibition advocates increasingly came to embrace national-level advocacy. Furthermore, some supporters of prohibition concluded that the Democratic and Republican Parties were too reliant on the alcohol industry and wet voters, and were unlikely to fully embrace prohibition on their own. Some began to embrace the idea of creating a national political party dedicated to establishing prohibition and enacting other key reforms that the major parties were reluctant to embrace. In 1867, John Russell took on the task of trying to organize the Prohibition Party. He brought together a coalition of temperance activists and prohibition activists, as well as other reformists (such as former abolitionists and supporters of women's suffrage).

On May 25th-27th, a group of prohibitionists met in Oswego, New York, to move toward organizing the Prohibition Party. A five-person committee (including New York temperance activist and writer John N. Stearns), was established to plan a national convention. The national convention was held on September 1st, 1869, and the Prohibition Party was formally established.

The Prohibition Party established a state-level organization in New York and began running candidates in the state. In 1870, the New York Prohibition Party put

up its first slate of statewide tickets, with Myron Clark as its first candidate for governor. And it began running candidates for congress at least as early as 1882. The New York Prohibition Party organized itself in a rather standard structure. It had an executive committee, including a state party chairman, secretary, and treasurer. There were county-level organizations (with executive committees) and local organizations. The state party held conventions, in which representative members from across the state gathered to select the executive committee, formalize the state party platform, and select state-level candidates for office. The state party selected people to serve on the Prohibition National Committee and delegates for national Prohibition Party conventions.

In addition, during the late 19th century there was a neighborhood in Staten Island called Prohibition Park (now called Westerleigh), which had been a center of temperance and prohibitionist activity in the city. For a time, it had hosted a national Prohibition Party headquarters.

The New York Prohibition Party helped to support the Prohibition Party's presidential New York Prohibitionist candidates for president, when they are able to get on the ballot in the state. In 1884, Prohibition Party presidential candidate John St. John a strong performance in New York. So much so, that it's believed that it helped cause the Republican candidate to lose New York, and consequently cause the Republicans to lose a presidential election for the first time since the civil war.

New York also helped to provide some of the candidates on our party's presidential tickets. William F Varney (the Prohibition Party Presidential Candidate in 1928) and D. Leigh Colvin (the Prohibition Party Presidential Candidate in 1936) were both prominent Prohibition Party figures in New York State. Colvin had also been the Vice-Presidential candidate in 1920. Prohibition Party presidential candidates Clinton Fisk (1884), John Bidwell (1888), and Charles Eugene Bentley (Free Silver Prohibition candidate in 1896 were born in New York. Prohibition Party Vice Presidential candidates John Russel (1872) and Gideon T. Stewart (1876) were born in New York.

Throughout the late 19th to mid-20th century, the New York Prohibition Party ran candidates for numerous local, state, and federal offices. Some candidates managed to win elections. For instance, the Prohibition Party elected over 60 candidates to local offices between 1886-1888. In 1908, Mary Barger was elected city clerk of Jamestown. She was one of the first women to hold elected office in New York. Lynn R. Lewis was elected and served as Mayor of Cortland, from 1911-1912. There were also candidates who had strong performances. In 1890, Prohibition Party Candidate William W. Smith, in the 16th congressional district received 24.73%, of the vote and came in second place. In the same year, Alva Carpenter received 13.63% of the vote in the 31st district, and Jesse Rogers received 10.30% of the vote in the 34th district. In 1892, George Hand received 11.48% of the vote in the 26th district. In 1918, Julius Rogers received 9.48% of the vote in the 34th district. In 1922, H. Westlake Coons received 8.99% of the vote in the 27th district. In 1932, Earnest Clark received 18.76% of the vote in the 39th district, and Arthur Rathjen received 8.73% of the vote in the 38th district. In 1920, Ella Boole received 159,623 votes for Senator. In 1930, Robert Carroll received 190,666 votes for Governor. 1914, John R. Clemens received 68,049 voted for secretary of state. In 1932, the party's candidates for Senator, Governor, Lt. Governor, Comptroller, Attorney General, and Congressman-At-Large, each received 68,000 to 75,000 votes.

The New York Prohibition Party has nominated many different candidates with interesting life stories. For instance, John McKee, the party's 1904 candidate for governor had come to New York City as a young working-class Irish immigrant, and rose to become a successful real estate businessman and party activist. Alfred and Charles Manierre were two brothers, who were both lawyers, and both ran as a prohibition nominee for governor (Alfred in 1902, Charles in 1926). In 1914, the party nominated William Sulzer for governor. Sultzer had been governor in 1913. As governor, he took on state corruption and the power of Tammany Hall. In response, pro-Tammany politicians had him impeached (the only New York Governor to be impeached). While he didn't win reelection, he made

sure the Tammany Hall backed candidate lost as well.

Besides running candidates for office, the New York Prohibition Party worked to advance its effort through issue advocacy and legislative activism. Prohibition Party activists worked to encourage state and local governments to pass stronger laws against alcohol and to enact other reforms.

The state was (and still is) also home to the national party's main financial institution, the Prohibition Trust Fund Association. The Prohibition Trust Fund Association was established as an organization to help financially support the Prohibition Party and various other prohibition supporting organizations. Many of its board members have been residents of New York and often leading figures in the state party.

The New York Prohibition Party spent decades advocating for the establishment of prohibition in New York. This effort succeeded when the 18th Amendment was passed in 1919. During the period of national prohibition, the New York Prohibition Party worked to promote strong enforcement of prohibition laws and defended its continued existence.

In 1926, D. Leigh Colvin became the national chairman of the Prohibition Party (a position he would hold until 1932). Colvin worked to help reinvigorate the party in New York State and nationally. This was being advanced in the state by figures such as then state chairman John McKee and Charles Manierre. In 1926, the Prohibition Party and a coalition of other groups supportive of national prohibition worked to support the senate campaign of former state senator Franklin Christman. Christman had launched a third-party campaign to challenge New York's Republican Senator James Wadsworth (who was opposed to national prohibition and had voted against women's suffrage). Christman had received over 230,000 votes and helped ensure the defeat of Wadsworth.

The New York Prohibition Party tried to prevent New York from ratifying the 21st Amendment. It ran dry candidates for the convention to ratify the 21st Amendment, in the hope of trying to get it defeated. Unfortunately, the 21st Amendment was ratified and national prohibition came to an end in 1933.

Though national prohibition had ended, the Prohibition Party continued, in New York and nationwide. In 1936, the national Prohibition Party conference was held at the Niagara Falls State Armory Building, in Niagara Falls, New York. D. Leigh Colvin was selected as the party's first candidate after national prohibition. He would earn over 37,000 votes. The party's national vote total would increase in each presidential election, until it reached its post-national prohibition peak of over 103,000 votes in 1948.

The New York Prohibition Party continued to run candidates for several years after the end of national prohibition. The last recorded prohibition party candidates for the old state party organization were in 1940. As it stands, we don't have much information about what happened with the New York Prohibition after 1940. It's conceivable that the state party organization may have continued for some unknown period of time after 1940. Though it is known that New York State continued to have Prohibition Party members in the state, even after the old state party organization ended. Some of these include members of the Prohibition Trust Fund Association. Prohibition Party member Russell Hallock represented New York in the Prohibition National Committee for years before the re-establishment of the state party organization in 2017.

The story of the reestablishment of the Prohibition Party's state-level organization starts with the 2016 presidential campaign. James Hedges' presidential campaign generally helped to revitalize the Prohibition Party and helped to bring in new members. At the Prohibition Party's 2017 conference, two newer Prohibition Party members from New York, Jonathan Makeley and Robert Emery joined Russell Hallock as members of the Prohibition National Committee. Shortly after the conference, Jonathan Makeley had begun communicating with other party members about the idea of reestablishing a state-level party organization in New York state and took on the task of working to organize it. Jonathan Makeley, Robert Emery, and Russell became the main founding members of the reestablished Prohibition Party of New York. On September 8th, 2017, the reestablishment of the Prohibition Party of New York was publicly announced. Thus, a new chapter in the

history of the Prohibition Party in New York State had begun.

Updated version: September 2021



Past State Party Leadership and Candidates

As we proceed forward, we are also looking to our past: to gain understanding and guidance. Here are some historical sources, which provide some good information on the old New York Prohibition Party state organization.

In 1926, D. Leigh Colvin published his book, *Prohibition in the United States: A History of the Prohibition Party and of the Prohibition Movement*. The book included in its index, a list of the Governor Candidates, State Chairman, and National Committee Members.

This is what Colvin Listed:

New York. The candidates for Governor were: Myron H. Clark, '70; C.C. Leigh, '72; Myron H. Clark, '74; William J. Groo, '76; John W. Mears, '79; A.A. Hopkins, '82; H. Clay Bascom, '85; W. Martin Jones, '88; J.W. Bruce, '91; Francis E. Baldwin, '94; William W. Smith, '96; John Kline, '98; William T. Wardwell, '00; John McKee, '02; Alfred L. Manierre, '04; Henry M. Randell, '06; George E. Stockwell, '08; T. Alexander MacNicholl, '10 and '12; William Sultzter, '14; C.E. Welch, '16; Charles S. Whitman (Rep), '18; George F. Thompson, '20; George K. Hinds, '22; Charles E. Manierre, '26.

The members of the National Committee were: William Hosmer, '69; C.H. Mead, '76-'80; C.C. Leigh, '76-'80; Stephan Merritt, '80-82; J.W. Grosvenor, '80-82; Dr. T.J. Bissell, '82-'88; J.O. Hazelton, '82-'84; J.W. Bruce, '84-'88; H. Clay Bascom, '80-'96; William T. Wardwell, '88-'08; Fred F. Wheeler, '96-'00; Francis E. Baldwin, '00-'04 and '16-'24; J.H. Durkee, '04-'08; George E. Stockwell, '08-'12; C.E. Pitts, '08-'12; Alexander T. MacNicholl, '12-'16; Olin S. Bishop, '12-

'20; Mrs. D. Leigh Colvin, '20-'28; William F. Varney, '24-'28.

The State Chairman were: D.T. J. Bissell, '73; Fred F. Wheeler, '84-'89; Francis E. Baldwin, '89-'93; Dr. Mitchell Downing, '93-'98; J.H. Durkee, '98-'07; C.E. Pitts, '07-'12; O.S. Bishop, '12-'19; W.H. Burr, '19-'21; W.E. Moore, '21; John McKee, '22-'24.

It should be noted that Colvin made a mistake in the governor's list. Alfred Manierre was a governor's candidate in 1902 and John McKee was the candidate in 1904. Also, John McKee had been the state chairman in 1926. So, it is likely that he returned to the chairmanship at some point between 1924 and 1926. In addition, William F. Varney served as state chairman in 1936.

Another important source for the history of the New York Prohibition Party is a digitized version of the 1906 handbook of the Prohibition Party in New York. <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.390%2015071647940;view=1up;seq=3>

The handbook provides a lot of information about the structure of the New York Prohibition Party at the time. It had an executive committee, including a state party chairman, secretary, and treasurer. There were county-level organizations (with executive committees) and local organizations. The state party held conventions, in which representative members from across the state gathered to select the executive committee, formalize the state party platform, and select state-level candidates for office.

From it can be seen that the 1906 state party's executive committee consisted of Chairman J. H. Durkee of Rochester, Secretary Rev. Clinton J. Taft of Binghamton, Treasurer J.A. Hartman of Albion, and committee members William T. Wardwell of New York City, F. E. Baldwin of Elmira, Levi Hoag of Binghamton, Captain Henry M. Randall of Port Jefferson, Alfred Manierre of New York City, and James McNeil of Hudson.

There is the Partisan Prohibition Historical Website.

<http://www.prohibitionists.org/>

It has compiled a lot of information on the history of the Prohibition Party. Part of this includes a list of past Prohibition Party candidates in New York state. While

it doesn't contain information on every past candidate, it does contain the most comprehensive list that is so far available. <http://www.prohibitionists.org/Candidates/candidates.html>

The New York Prohibition Party Website includes a history section with articles on various figures that were involved with the Prohibition Party in New York, as well as other articles on state party history. The News section of the website contains all issues of the New York Prohibitionist Newspaper, and most issues of the paper include at least one historical article.

New York Prohibition Party Website: <https://newyorkprohibition.wixsite.com/new-york-prohibition>



Prohibition Party History

The Prohibition Party has a rich and continuing history. For those who are looking to help familiarize oneself about the Prohibition Party's history, here are some good places to start:

Prohibition in the United States: A History of the Prohibition Party and of the Prohibition Movement, by D. Leigh Colvin is a classic account of the party's history up to 1926.

The Politics of Prohibition: American Governance and the Prohibition Party, 1869–1933, by Lisa Anderson, is a good example of more recent scholarly work covering the history of the Prohibition Party up to the end of national prohibition.

Partisan prophets; a history of the Prohibition Party, 1854–1972, is a short book on the history of the Prohibition Party up to 1972 and is one of the few significant works that covers the party's history after national prohibition.

More recently, James Hedges and the Partisan Prohibition Historical Society published *A Faithful Remnant: Prohibition Party 1972–2016*. The book continues where Storms' book left off and provides

details on the Prohibition Party's history from 1972 to the 2016 election.

There is also the paper, *The Continuing History of the Prohibition Party, 1933–2018*, by Jonathan Makeley, which provides an overview of the party's history after national prohibition. https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/2cc7be_05fb2a_92e40144e7b928acce497ebc2b.pdf

America's Other Party: A Brief History of the Prohibition Party, by C.L. Gammon is another good book for providing an overview of the party's history.

The Partisan Prohibition Historical Society website contains plenty of information on the party's history. <http://www.prohibitionists.org/>

There is also the *Others* book series by Darcy Richardson, which covers the history of third party politics in the country, including that of the Prohibition Party.

Issues of *The New York Prohibitionist* generally contain articles on Prohibition Party history. Typically these are biographic articles on the lives of certain Prohibition Party figures in New York.

Online newspaper databases, such as newspapers.com, contain a lot of old reports on the activities of the Prohibition Party and its candidates. And the election database OurCampaigns.com contains information on the election results for various Prohibition Party candidates.

The Prohibition Party of New York Over the Past Year

Over the past year, we in the Prohibition Party of New York have worked to spread our message, develop our organization, and to help positively impact our state's politics. Here is an overview of some of the big things that have happened over the past year.

Organization

Over the past year, we have worked to develop the Prohibition Party of New York as an organized group. We have worked to encourage New Yorkers to join the Prohibition Party. The Prohibition Party of New York continues to be headed by state chairman Makeley. In the past year, we have seen an increasing number of people in this state join the party. The state party is working to recruit more members and

develop their participation, so that one day we will be able to form a fully functioning state party executive committee.

Public Messaging

We have worked to develop our public messaging efforts in order to increase public awareness of the party and help influence the state's political discourse. The New York Prohibitionist acts as a central element for state party news and messaging. The New York Prohibitionist has seen increasing readership. The email list for the New York Prohibitionist has continued to grow over the past year.

The state party has worked to extend its messaging through social media sites, including Facebook and Twitter.

On Twitter, we have 217 followers and have reached over 910,000 cumulative impressions (the number of times someone has seen something from us on twitter). Our Twitter Account is titled New York Prohibition Party and the link is <https://twitter.com/nyprohibition>

On Facebook, we currently have 143 followers. We have used information features from Facebook to keep track of our ability to reach people through it. Our most recent data shows that content from our Facebook page has been viewed by people in at least 411 communities across the state, in 61 out of 62 counties. We also reached people in every other state in the country, and over 50 other countries. Our Facebook Page is also titled New York Prohibition Party and the link is <https://www.facebook.com/NewYorkProhibition-Party-1864593657192574/>

We also have a New York Prohibition Party YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtuWVwdwFLrLPvpYK5sVijQ>

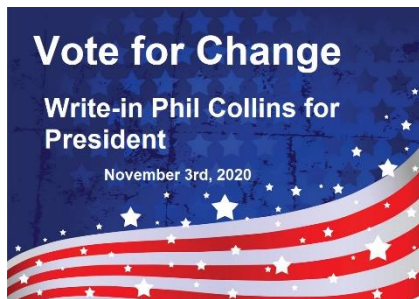
News Coverage

Over the past year, the Prohibition Party of New York has seen some news coverage in some online publications and local newspapers, particularly in regard to our efforts in the 2020 election.

Campaigning

In 2020, we campaigned for the Prohibition Party presidential ticket in New York. We were able to successfully complete the paperwork needed to register Phil Collins as a presidential write-in candidate in the state. As a result, New

Yorkers were able to have their vote for a Prohibition Party presidential candidate for the first time in decades. The Prohibition Party of New York conducted a campaign, encouraging people to cast a write in Phil Collins. We were able to get 10 write-in votes across New York State.



Policy Advocacy and State Trends

Over the past year, the Prohibition Party of New York has worked to advance its issue advocacy efforts. We have worked to promote the passage of positive legislation and policies in the state, while advocating against policies that were harmful to the wellbeing of New Yorkers.

We spoke out against the state the governor and state legislature's misguided decision to weaken restrictions against alcohol sales during the coronavirus pandemic for the sake of aiding alcohol selling businesses. Alcohol was already a significant public health problem before the pandemic. But given that alcohol use weakened the immune system and made users more susceptible to the coronavirus, and alcohol use was rising among segments of the population during the pandemic, weakened restrictions alcohol sales served to further exacerbate both the harms caused by alcohol and harms caused by the virus. We advocated for the state to reinstate its old restrictions on alcohol sales. This effort succeeded when the state revoked the weakened restrictions as part of ending the state's declaration of emergency on covid. Some pro-alcohol elements made attempts to try to make the weakened restrictions permanent, but we stood against them, and their efforts to pass pro-alcohol bills during this year's regular state legislative session were thwarted.

Unfortunately, pro-drug elements were able to cause damage another front. In April, the New York State Legislature and Governor Cuomo made the misguided and ill-conceived decision to legalize the sale of recreational marijuana in the state.

This is a significant step backward when it comes to public health and consumer protection. Though there is still a window of opportunity for various local communities to insulate themselves from this. Towns, villages, and cities have until the end of the year to vote to opt-out and establish rules banning or restricting the sale of recreational marijuana in their area. The Prohibition Party of New York has been working to inform local communities and to encourage them to opt-out of recreational marijuana sales. Various local communities have already begun to take steps to opt-out, and we hope to convince more communities to opt-out before the end of the year.

The Prohibition Party of New York has advocated for the state to improve the quality of education and for the state to take serious steps to help ensure that all schools are adequately funded.

Last year, the state legislature passed a set of anti democratic changes to the state's ballot access laws. These changes made it vastly harder for minor party and independent candidates to get on the ballot for offices in the state, created an almost impossible standard for parties to gain and retain statewide ballot access recognition, and resulted in four political parties being stripped of their statewide ballot access in New York. The Prohibition Party of New York, along with several other parties in the state, have stood up against these anti-democratic changes to ballot access. We have spoken out against these changes, called on the governor and state legislature to repeal them, have contended that the courts should strike down the ballot access changes as unconstitutional, and have called for the state to restore statewide ballot access to those parties who had their status unjustly stripped from them.

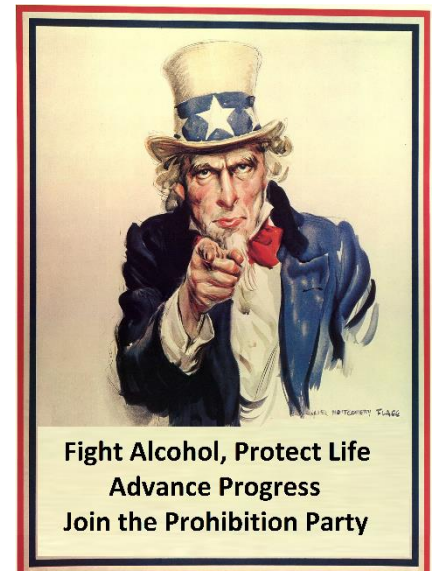
In this year, our state has been affected by the coronavirus outbreak and its impacts. The Prohibition Party of New York has worked to help our state face these challenges and to articulate a vision for this state going forward.

Due to the economic impacts of the coronavirus, the state is facing significant economic and fiscal challenges. The Prohibition Party of New York has called on state legislators to prioritize the protection of the life and wellbeing of New Yorkers in its budgetary decisions.

In this time of challenge and uncertainty, the Prohibition Party of New York has worked to put forward a vision for the state's future. A vision for a new approach to governance focused on moral principle, public service, and advancing the public wellbeing. A vision of a state filled with healthy, prospering communities, and greater opportunity for all New Yorkers, brought about by hard work and positive reforms.

Overall

Overall, we have been gradually making progress in developing the Prohibition Party of New York and building the basis for enacting positive change in the state. While we remain in the early stages of our development, we have the opportunity to make great progress as we move forward. As we move forward, we will continue to build our party and work to move the state in the right direction.



Plans and Goals for the Future

As we move forward, we have much that we seek to accomplish. We are working to spread our message, grow our party, and develop its presence in New York state.

In these trying times, our party can participate in the public discourse on how to address the great challenges facing our state. We can act as a voice of reason in favor of an approach based on moral principle, ethical public service, protecting the lives and vital wellbeing of the people, cultivating human potential, and positive social reform. We can act to present a vision for a better future for the people of New York.

In the long term, we will work to grow our party and make it a stronger force in New York politics, so that we can better advance progress.

We are working to establish a fully operating state party executive committee. We are looking to run in candidates in local elections and to grow the party over time. We will continue to operate as a non-state recognized minor party, engaging in issue advocacy and running candidates through independent nominating petitions, until we can hopefully one day become large enough to attempt to become a state-recognized minor party.

A key element to our future growth will be expanding our ability to spread our message and reach people.

There are several things which could be done to help with this, including:

- Continuing to grow our social media messaging
- Working to get more coverage in local and state-level newspapers
- Trying to get coverage in other mediums such as radio and TV news
- Continuing to develop our website and our state party newsletter
- Making greater use of advertising efforts such as flyers, pamphlets, and letters to the editor
- Attending more events in communities across the state in order to expand public awareness and form positive relationships with people and groups within these communities
- Work to put on our own events to help build our party's membership, public presence, and organization
- The use of activist techniques designed to help attract attention to our cause.
- Increased use of email, phone calls, and letters to important and local elected officials

It is also clear that in order to build greater support for our party that we will need to address the problem of the misinformation and propaganda that the alcohol industry and its wet supporters have long spread throughout the state. For this, we need to respond by informing people in the state about the harmful

nature of alcohol, the damages it causes to society, about the benefits of teetotalism, about the benefits of strong laws against alcohol, about the need to abolish the alcohol industry, and the actual history of temperance and prohibition in our country. In order to do this, we must forge connections with community groups, health groups, educators, faith groups, historians, and the like, convince them of these things, and work with them to help inform the public.

Likewise, we must work to build our membership. Though public messaging, holding events, and working to engage with people, we can work to attract more people to join the party.

We must continue working to develop a network of activists and groups across the state, in order to help advance our common issues and policy goals. That will involve working to find activists and groups with which we share common goals, getting in contact with them, working to establish a positive relationship, and working to find ways of working collaboratively. If we can do this enough times, in enough places in the state, we can eventually build a coalition for helping to drive change in the state.

The more we can build up our membership and the more we can build a network of support across our state, the more we will be able to engage in larger-scale political activism, and the more we can influence the state's political direction.

Another key front for advancing our party is running and electing candidates for office. As we work to build our party, we will work to find more people who we could run as Prohibition Party candidates for office in New York state. Our greatest opportunities early on are likely with small local offices. Things such as school boards, town and village governments, and other local offices. The relatively lower ballot access requirements increase the likelihood of being able to get on the ballot, and their smaller total voting population means that it requires relatively less money and manpower to be able to reach enough voters to be competitive. If we run enough candidates for local offices, eventually some of them will start winning elections. By winning local elections, we can be in a position to enact reforms on a local level, to build

grassroots support for the party, and create a base to help run candidates for higher offices in the future.

Then there is the matter of the party's presidential campaigns. Given the high ballot access requirements in New York state, we won't be able to get a Prohibition Party candidate on the ballot for president any time soon. But we can still help get votes through write-in efforts. In 2020, we were able to file paperwork to get write in ballot certification for our presidential candidate and we conducted a campaign to convince voters to vote for them. In future presidential campaigns we can file for write-in certification for our ticket and then work to conduct even larger write-in campaigns.

Overall, we plan to grow our party and its impact on our state's politics and social condition. As we move into our second year, let us resolve to work to achieve even more progress than we had this year

"These words are addressed to the prohibitionists who believe in the principles here enunciated, and propose to support those principles at the ballot-box. We are enlisted for the war, and the struggle will be a long and desperate one before our principles can be fully engrafted upon the laws of the land."

John N. Stearns



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