

New York Prohibitionist



Think NY Vote Dry

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A Vision for the Future

In these trying times, the Prohibition Party of New York continues its work to advocate for positive policies and advance social reform. We offer a vision for a better future for New York. 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. If you are interested in helping to make a positive impact on your state and your community, consider joining the Prohibition Party of New York.

"The cause is as sure as the stars shine. Truth always conquers, always swells on, as restless as the tides of yonder sea. 'Tis weary, watching but remember: Where the vanguard rest today, the rear shall tent to-morrow." Clinton Fisk, in his 1886 acceptance speech for the Prohibition Party nomination for Governor of New Jersey.

State and National Party News

The Prohibition Party continues to move forward on the state and national level. On the national level, the Prohibition National Committee recently completed a set of votes for appointing new members to the committee. The national party has also been doing some work to try to renovate the Prohibition Party website. Some updates have been made, but the process is still ongoing. The Prohibition Trust Fund Association held its annual phone conference. A new member was selected to fill the position left by the late Paul Pearson, and allocations were made to various temperance organizations.

On the state level, the New York Prohibition Party has been active in advocating on state and local issues. On the legislative front, we have been working on a number of efforts, including advocating against Governor Hochul's misguided efforts to try to weaken state restrictions on alcohol sales and

advocating for the passage of a bill that would help to improve the state's ballot access laws by largely repealing the anti-democratic changes made to the state's ballot access laws in 2020.

Update on Ballot Access Bill

As we had reported last month, State Assemblyman Salka has put forward Bill A08683: a bill that would improve the state's ballot access laws, by largely repealing the anti-democratic changes to ballot access laws passed in 2020 and establishing standards similar to what had previously existed. The passage of this bill would be a significant step toward fixing the damage that was done to our state's electoral process in 2020, and better enabling New Yorkers to be able to vote for the candidates of their choice. Over the past month, the bill has gained a cosponsorship from assemblymember Blankenbush. Gaining supporters in the state legislature will be key to moving this bill forward. Those who are interested in helping to get the bill passed can aid by contacting their representatives in the state legislature and encouraging them to support the bill.

Sources: https://615c4beb-b241-4f4a-a6b4-a074dc02ce34.filesusr.com/ugd/2cc7be_e5ce1ee2e65b4740b481de89605f5866.pdf
<https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?bn=08683>

Update on the Addiction Prevention and Recovery Act

Years ago, Assemblymen DenDekker proposed the Addiction Prevention and Recovery Act. The bill, if it had passed would have increased state taxes on alcohol by 50% and used that money to help fund prevention and addiction recovery programs for alcohol and other drugs. This would help to mitigate alcohol and other problems by making alcohol more expensive, providing more resources for efforts to help people quit drinking and other drugs, and providing more resources to encourage people to avoid alcohol and other drugs in the first place.



For years, the Prohibition Party of New York has campaigned to try to help get the bill passed. The bill had attracted support from various members of the state assembly and senate. Though unfortunately, the bill had often ended up getting stuck in state legislative committees. Things were further set back when DenDekker lost his primary for reelection in 2020 and was replaced by someone who has not continued his efforts. But the effort to pass the Addiction Prevention and Recovery Act continues. State Senator Comrie has continued to support the bill in the state senate. An important next step in working to advance the bill will be to find someone who could reintroduce the bill in the state assembly, either by convincing a current member in the state assembly or by finding a new person in the 2022 elections.

Sources: <https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?bn=A06349&term=2019>
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"The saloon has proved itself to be the greatest foe, the most withering, blighting curse that has found lodgment in our modern civilization, and that is why I am now and always a political prohibitionist."
Abraham Lincoln





Interested in Running for Local Office

Are you interested in making a difference in your community through your local government? Then consider running as a Prohibition Party candidate for local office. The New York Prohibition Party will do what it can to help provide support for its candidates. If you are interested in running for local office, you can email newyorkprohibition@aol.com.

Governor Hochul Continues to Try to Push Pro-Alcohol Policies

Governor Kathy Hochul continues to try to push misguided pro-alcohol policies. Following her state of the state address, she decided to enact an order to temporarily resurrect the state's misguided policy of allowing bars and restaurants to sell alcohol to-go during the pandemic (which undermined public health and exacerbated problems with the pandemic). Her order has allowed for them (as well as various brewers) to sell alcohol to-go for the next several months, while she attempts to try to push for changes to state law to permanently allow them to sell alcohol to-go. She has also announced her intention to form groups to look into the state's Alcohol Beverage Control laws, so that she can attempt to fundamentally re-write them and gut the state's regulations on alcohol sales. Governor Hochul aims to give the alcohol industry an even freer rein to be able to profit off poisoning New Yorkers. What she is endeavoring to do is misguided, immoral, and an abdication of her ethical responsibilities as governor. If she is allowed to this, it will harm the lives, health, and wellbeing of many New

Yorkers. As such, all sensible and responsible New Yorkers should reject her efforts and urge the state legislature to reject her efforts.

Source: https://www.wivb.com/news/new-york/watch-governor-hochul-talks-liquor-authority-alcohol-to-go?utm_source=facebook.com&utm_medium=socialflow&utm_campaign=referral&fbclid=IwAR1XAHUjBuMjUxJa6bTepUbowxOIE5KQ1etCchokKTbunqosWmoQeP584

Russia Invades Ukraine

On February 23rd/24th, Russia launched an invasion of the nation of Ukraine. This invasion came about after years of growing tensions between the two countries following the deposing of Russian friendly Ukrainian president Victor Yanukovich. The Russian annexation of Crimea, a several-years-long war between the Ukrainian government and Russian-supported separatists in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions in Ukraine, and growing Russian concerns over NATO expansion have contributed to growing tensions. Following months of Russian military build-up near the Ukrainian border, Vladimir Putin authorized an invasion of Ukraine, with the goals of forcing Ukraine to grant independence to Donetsk and Luhansk, demilitarizing Ukraine, and altering the political trajectory of Ukraine to prevent it from joining NATO in the future.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine is the most significant European War in decades. It could end up having significant impacts for people both in Ukraine and worldwide. The Russian decision to invade Ukraine has been objected to by many people and nations throughout the world. Many nations have imposed significant sanctions on Russia and have sent aid to Ukraine.

The military conflict has gone on for several days, with the Russian military gradually capturing more territory. While Russia's stronger conventional military gives it an advantage over the Ukrainian military, it remains to be seen how the course of the war will go.

Hopefully, this war can be resolved in a manner that limits damage to human lives and allows for peace to be reestablished in the region.

Sources: <https://www.indiatoday.in/news-analysis/story/russia-ukraine-conflict-war-news-update-1917690-2022-02-25>
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Movement to Boycott Russian Vodka Following Invasion of Ukraine

Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, there has been a growing movement in the U.S. and Canada to boycott Russian Vodka and other Russian-made liquors. Various bars and liquor stores in New York, and other areas have decided to stop selling Russian Vodka and other types of Russian-made liquor. In Pennsylvania, the state liquor control board has decided to stop the sale of Russian-made liquors in Pennsylvania bars and liquor stores. This boycott movement is driven largely by a broader effort to impose economic penalties on the nation of Russia for its war with Ukraine. While Russian liquors and alcoholic beverages in general deserve to be boycotted for the harm that these products themselves cause, the boycott of them for anti-war purposes is still somewhat useful. It can help to somewhat disrupt the Russian and international alcohol industry, and hopefully, help to undermine both the alcohol industry and the length of the war.

Sources: https://www.wenyc.com/story/45966322/pennsylvania-liquor-panel-ends-sale-of-russian-made-products?fbclid=IwAR0FVcjKx5fQ1CeHkrX_S6ohu1ud5mDT7qx7LGw_S0kRs_rRgO0FR7M7seE
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State Legislators Introduce Bill Aimed at Ending State Subsidies for Horse Racing

A group of legislators headed by State Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal and State Senator Zellnor Myrie have introduced a bill to end state subsidies for New York State's horse racing industry. The bill would take \$230 million (largely drawn from state gambling revenue) currently designated to go to horse racing and divert it into funding for education and human services in the state. It would end current tax exemptions on the sales of race horses. The bill has the support of various animal rights organizations. Though it also is facing opposition from the horse racing and gambling industry, who don't like the prospect of having less profit from gambling on horse racing and claim that such a change would violate past agreements with their industry.

In regards to the bill, Assemblywoman Rosenthal stated,

"Fighting to end millions in handouts to NYS horse racing industry. \$ should be invested in education & our communities, instead of enriching uber-wealthy horse owners/trainers. I'm not a betting woman, but if I were I wouldn't bet against our coalition!"

If this bill were to be passed, it could lead to reduced state support for gambling-related industries and put more money towards social services, instead of circulating it back into the gambling industry.

Sources: <https://paulickreport.com/news/new-york-legislators-introduce-bill-to-shift-230-million-away-from-horse-racing/>
<https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/State-benefits-for-horse-racing-produce-fierce-16964297.php>
<https://twitter.com/LindaBRosenthal/status/1498354128711471107>

Study Finds Possible Link Between Vaping and Gum Disease

Researchers at the NYU College of Dentistry have put out a study that suggests that vaping could lead to gum disease. They studied a group of 80 people who vaped, smoked regular cigarettes, or didn't smoke. They found that the mouths of those who vaped tended to have a unique microbiome, with similarities and differences to the mouths of traditional cigarette smokers and non-smokers. That those who vaped tended to have significantly higher rates of several forms of bacteria that contribute to gum disease than those who did not smoke. They stated that further study was needed into the microbiomes of the mouths of those who vaped and how they affected the development of gum disease over time.

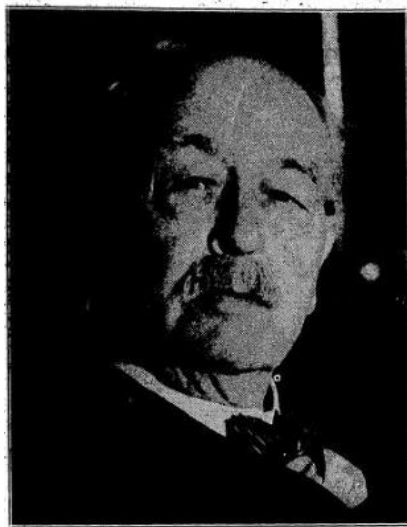
Sources: <https://wnyt.com/health/vaping-gum-disease-link/6401748/7fbclid=IwAR2vhdvEWR6v3TeBGovu4U8mVjNc6DwCRiKZM8-la2U3T3CEGEJ4z-ARQA>
<https://journals.asm.org/doi/10.1128/mBio.00075-22>

"Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost." John Quincy Adams



New York Prohibition Party History

Biography on Walter T. Bliss



Historian Jonathan Makeley has recently finished writing a biographical paper on the life of Walter T. Bliss. Walter Bliss (1860-1941) was a lawyer, businessmen, and Prohibition Party politician, who ran for numerous offices, was the Prohibition Party candidate for state Attorney General in 1914, and Prohibition Party candidate for Justice on the New York Court of Appeals in 1917. The full paper can be accessed on the historical section of the New York Prohibition Party website: <https://newyorkprohibition.wixsite.com/new-york-prohibition/historical>

And can be accessed directly from this link: https://615c4beb-b241-4f4a-a6b4-a074dc02ce34.filesusr.com/ugd/2cc7be_a69b383d60240789a062d3e39944406.pdf

James H. Rook

James Henry Rook was a banker, prohibitionist, and local politician, who spent much of his life in Angelica New York. James Rook was born in Bowen, Hancock County, Illinois. He was the son of Stephen G Rook and Mary Jane McCoy Rook. He was the oldest of six children. Shortly after being born, his family moved to Harmony, Illinois, where he grew up. His father had worked as a farmer. James Rook had worked as a farmer in his early twenties.

James Rook married his first wife, Mary Elizabeth McNeal, on March 22, 1883. They had one son, Charles Roy Rook, who was born on August 19, 1884. His first

wife died in 1885. Subsequently, James Rook moved to Angelica, New York sometime in the late 1880s.

In Angelica, James Rook joined a group of businessmen to create the State Bank of Angelica. The town of Angelica had been without a bank following the closure of the First National Bank of Angelica in 1886. In 1889, a group of men including James Rook began organizing a new bank. The bank was opened on March 15th, 1889, with G.C. Hardesty as president and James Rook as the bank's cashier, as well as a member of the bank's board of directors. The bank gained formal recognition as a state bank on January 1st, 1890. James Rook would go on to have a long career as the bank's cashier and member of its board of directors.

The State Bank of Angelica reportedly did fairly well under the leadership of Rook and his associates. The bank grew significantly in the decades following its creation. By 1904, the bank was reported to have been a "popular and well-managed institution" that "enjoys a wide patronage from the businessmen and farmers of that section". Reports from the early 1900's described the bank as extending every courtesy to customers consistent with sound banking, having sound investment practices, having ample space for businesses transactions, and sound protections against fire and robbery. By 1910, the bank was reported to have grown from its initial investment of \$25,000 into an institution with \$175,000 in deposits, \$225,000 in assets, and had generated over \$20,000 in profits. And a report from 1921, described the bank as being in excellent condition, flourishing, and one of the best banks in its part of the country. A 1904 article by the Elmira Star-Gazette described James Rook and J.H. Rutherford (bank president from 1891-1906) as "experienced financiers and give their personal attention to the management". While a 1908 article from the same newspaper stated that "Mr. Rook is an able bank manager and his colleagues represent the most substantial gentlemen in the community". Overall, the Bank of Angelica had grown significantly in its early decades under the leadership of Rook and his colleagues, and the bank, Rook, and his colleagues had attained a positive reputation in the region.

In January 1892, James Rook was involved with organizing the creation of a new bank in Corry, Pennsylvania. In October, the National Bank of Corry was organized and opened for business in December. The bank operated in Corry for several decades, until it was absorbed in a merger in 1988 and became part of the First National Bank of Pennsylvania.

In the 1890s, James Rook was an active member of the community in Angelica. In 1890, Rook was selected to be the head of the Angelica branch of the Royal Templars of Temperance. The Royal Templars were a fraternal temperance organization, created in Buffalo, New York, which admitted both men and women as equal members, and whose work included promoting temperance, engaging charitable work, and proving benefits to a member or their family following the death or disability of a member. In 1893, he was one of the vice-presidents of the local branch of the Epworth League (a Methodist young adults organization) at Angelica's Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1894, a Council of the Empire Knights of Relief (a fraternal charitable and mutual aid organization) was organized in Angelica. Rook was selected as its treasurer. In 1897, Rook was a participant in a local baseball game, in which a team of Angelica businessmen (including Rook), played against a team of Angelica professional workers, to raise money for Angelica's fire company. The businessmen team won the game 54 to 32 and the event raised over \$60 for Angelica's fire company. Overall, Rook was involved in a variety of community activities, which included temperance, religious, and charitable work.

In the early 1900s, James Rook continued his work at the bank, continued to be involved in the community, and pursued business activities. His work at the bank reportedly went well. He was involved with state banking organizations, such as the New York State Bankers' Association. In 1905, his life was somewhat disrupted when a small blood vessel in his eye burst, causing his eye to turn red. Though he recovered without any impairment to his vision. During this time, Rook also played the role of acting as a notary public for the community. Rook was included in the list of state-recognized notary publics for Allegany County as early as 1903. In 1909, James

Rook and a group of local businessmen purchased the former Angelica High School building, in order to use the building for a glove manufacturing business.

James Rook was a member of the Prohibition Party and was involved with party and local politics in the 1910s. In 1912, James Rook the Allegany County Prohibition Party selected him as county committeemen, representing the county in the state Prohibition Party organization. In the same year, Rook ran for Village Treasurer in Angelica. He had received the nominations of both the Democratic and Republican parties in the village, and was unanimously elected as the village treasurer. In 1914, the Allegany County Prohibition Party nominated Rook as its candidate for county treasurer. He ran against incumbent Republican candidate D. Sherman Burdick of Alfred, Democratic candidate James D. Parker of Willing, Progressive candidate Edwin E. Stone of Wellsville, and Socialist candidate R.A. Loop of Bolivar. Rook received 646 votes (8.54%), and came in 4th place to Burdick, Parker, and Stone. Rook had a strong performance in various towns: coming in second place in 7 towns (Allen, Bolivar, Caneadea, Genesee, Rushford, Wirt, and West Almond), outperforming the Democratic candidate in the towns of Alfred and Centerville, and coming in 3rd place in various other towns. Overall, Rook had performed decently for a candidate in his context.

After the elections, Rook continued on with his life. In 1920, Rook married his second wife, Charlotte C. Osgood, whom he would remain married to for the remainder of his life. He continued to be involved in his community. In 1923, he was part of a group of prominent figures in the county who publicly endorsed a big fundraising campaign by the Allegany County YMCA. In 1927, Rook had suffered a nervous breakdown and spent some time recovering. But Rook still continued to face health problems, which led him to retire from his position as cashier at the State Bank of Angelica. Thus, ending his 39-year career in banking. He was succeeded by his assistant cashier, Walter F. Lilly. Rook would spend the last several years of his life living in retirement.

James H. Rook died on March 5, 1936. He was buried in the Until Day Dawn Cemetery in Angelica, New York.

Throughout his life, he had been a banker, who helped to establish a successful local bank, a businessman, a temperance advocate, an involved member of his community, and local Prohibition Party politician.

Source: https://d0403165-f202-4fa7-ad0b-4adb9e4570bf.filesusr.com/ugd/ec247d_1cb411f2dc694b648c4bd53ee79fcb3.pdf



"The liquor traffic is a cancer in society, eating out its vitals and threatening destruction" Abraham Lincoln

Discerning Investment

Say you had a business where for every dollar you make you lose four and a half. And any further investment is likely to produce losses as bad or worse. Is that good business or bad business? Bad business, right.

Now you have a state government supporting a growth of an industry where for every dollar it makes, the state loses roughly four and a half dollars from the social, medical, and economic damages that its products cause. And any further support of it is likely to produce losses as bad or worse. Is that good economic policy or bad economic policy. Bad economic policy, right.

This is the case with the New York state government's support of the alcohol industry. It's a bad economic policy. Don't buy the alcohol industry's lies that its growth helps the economy. The state loses far more than it gets from it, both in terms of financial losses and loss of the lives of New Yorkers. The good economic and social policy would be to end state support of the alcohol industry.

The Prohibition Party
Anti- Alcohol
Pro- Humanity

