

New York Prohibitionist



Think NY Vote Dry

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Arising Activity

The Prohibition Party is seeing a rise in activity in New York state and beyond. In New York, we have not only continued to expand our messaging and outreach, but have begun extending our presence into participation in physical events. Nationally, the Prohibition Party is re-upping our media communication and recruitment efforts. In addition, our organized presence is growing in various states, and is increasingly making itself known. This issue will help to illustrate this rise in activity.

In addition, the latest issue of the *National Prohibitionist* has arrived, which makes this the first issue of the *New York Prohibitionist* to be able to incorporate fresh news from the party's national publication.

Arriving on the Ground: The Living Stipend March

On April 15th, state party organizer Jonathan Makeley visited an event at the University At Buffalo, as a representative of the Prohibition Party of New York. The event was held by a group of student activists called the UB Living Stipend Movement. The group advocates for improving the pay of University At Buffalo graduate students who work as teaching assistants, research assistants, and other such jobs at the University, to a level which would be sufficient to cover the basic costs of living in the area. The event brought together various students in the area, along with members of various local groups and local politicians.

After the event, Makeley reported:

"The event fairly well. Outside of the main event, I talked with a few people, and answered some questions about our party. The students which I had spoken with were friendly in tone and tended to be curious about what the Prohibition Party was like. Also, since I had worn my Prohibition Party t-shirt at the event,

there are likely quite a few who had seen it. While time will tell how much impact showing up at this event may have, at least it's clear that marks a step in helping to spread the word of the Prohibition Party of New York."

An image of the event, including our presence in it, can be seen on the front page of the April 16th issue of *The Spectrum*, the University At Buffalo student news publication.

The UB Living Stipend group publicly thanked us for our support, and chances are they may invite us again in future event they may hold.

For those interested in learning more about the UB Living Stipend Movement, they have a Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/UBRippingUsOff/>



Online Q&A event

This month, we held an online question and answer event for the Prohibition Party of New York, through our social media accounts. During the week of April 8th to 14th, we collected questions from people online, and on April 19th, we posted our responses on Twitter and Facebook. A document of the questions and answers was also put up on our website.

Here is a fearful enemy of God and man — the liquor traffic; it makes ruthless war upon the people; it blasts and destroys their homes as with pestilence and fire; it kills savagely, cruelly, more than a hundred thousand of them every year; robbing them first and driving wives and children to rain and despair." Neal Dow



Notable Details from the National Prohibitionist

The latest issue of the of the *National Prohibitionist* provided a variety of new information and interesting commentary. There was an article on prohibitionist and prolific writer, C.L. Gammon. There was an article by Chairman Rick Knox calling for third parties to work together to fight for fairer ballot access laws, an article by Jim Hedges on considerations for planning the future of our party, and an article Bill Bayes on his ideas about the federal government and his hope to be considered for the 2020 presidential nomination. It was announced that Andrew Oliver (PNC committee member from North Carolina, party social media manager, and manager of the Young Prohibitionists) was appointed to the party's executive committee, to fill the vacancy produced by the unfortunate passing of Bill Bledsoe last year. There was an article mentioning the reestablishment of our state organization in New York and our work toward forming a full state committee. There was also a section which gave updated information on those who hold leadership positions within the party. With that additional information, we now know that the party has state chairman in 12 states. There were also articles on the negative effects of tobacco, a commentary on Climate Change, and a historical article on Ada Bittenbender.

"After fifty years as a Prohibitionist, I am more convinced than ever that we need a good party, not just good men and good women." Earl Dodge

National Chairman Calls on Third Parties to Join Together in Fight For Better Ballot Access Laws

In the latest issue of the *National Prohibitionist*, Prohibition Party national chairman Rick Knox, had made comments calling for minor parties and members of the public to join together to fight for fair ballot access laws.

The following quotes demonstrate some of the key points of his article:

“Thanks to the two-party duopoly, many citizens are denied the right to vote their consciences because preferential ballot-access laws prescribe different criteria for major party and minor party candidates. If “justice delayed is justice denied” in criminal cases, then I believe the same rule should apply to ballot access.”

“In my opinion, and I only speak for myself, the Founders would be shocked at our current political system.”

“Enough is enough! Either this is the land of the free and the home of the brave, or it is the land of political monopolies and special interests.”

“The alcohol lobby controls most of the state legislatures. This is sad, because the alcohol pushers care only about their own money-making projects and have no real concern or care for individuals and families who suffer from the use of their products. The same can be said about the tobacco lobby and about the game(b)ling industry.”

“The time has come to form working alliances with other third parties, for all of us to come together against the major-party duopoly and its unfair laws restricting ballot access. I am extending a hand of friendship to the Constitution, Libertarian, and Green parties, asking that we unite in fighting the beast that is the two-party duopoly and special interests”

“We have no royalty in America except for the two-party royalty. Let’s smash the duopoly and open up the system so that all may play. We will not have equal justice under the law for all political groups until we end the “pay-to-play” system of exorbitant filing fees and unattainable signature requirements.”

Hopefully Chairman Knox’s words will help to inspire more people to take up the cause of improving ballot access laws and hopefully they will help foster greater collaborative efforts.

Jim Hedges Calls for Consideration of the Party’s Future

In the latest issue of the *National Prohibitionist*, party treasurer and 2016 Prohibition Party presidential candidate Jim Hedges has called on us to consider our visions for the future of the Prohibition Party and to plan for our party’s future endeavors.

Hedges wrote, “As the “old guard” passes leadership of the Prohibition Party to younger generations, we are acutely aware that we are guardians of a historic movement. We have pulled the Prohibition movement back from the brink of oblivion. Now, we must ensure both that its past accomplishments are remembered and that its future influence is restored.”

Hedges proceeds to bring up a vision worksheet for self-analysis, which he had and former national chairman Rev. Toby Davis. He requests that each of us consider it in preparation for the coming national convention next year.

The Questions are as follows:

What is our vision, our desire as Prohibitionists?

What is our strategy, how do we get there?

1. What are we currently doing well, as a political party?
2. Do we wish to do anything differently?
3. What are our strengths, our gifts and abilities?
4. What are our weaknesses?
5. What are the key issues facing our party in the next decade?
6. What are we doing/ can we do to succeed?

Likewise, we’d encourage all Prohibition Party members in our state and the rest of the country, to consider these matters, and welcome constructive thoughts to help contribute to planning for our party’s future success.

Makeley For Assembly Campaign T-Shirts

As mentioned in previous issues, Prohibition Party of New York organizer Jonathan Makeley is running for state assembly in the 146th district. Recently

they have created a Makeley for State Assembly campaign t-shirt. The shirts can be purchased from Custom Ink online. A link can be found on the Makeley For Assembly Facebook page.

Schumer’s Disgrace

Recently, Senator Charles Schumer announced his misguided support for decriminalizing marijuana. In doing so, Senator Schumer has disgraced himself and shown a blatant disregard for human welfare. Companies and greedy individuals should not be allowed to profit off poisoning people. As a society we should work toward the uplift of people, not their degradation. All intoxicating drugs should be prohibited, their producers and distributors combated and stopped, their addicts treated, and their users reformed toward abstinence. That is the sensible and humane thing to do.

The comments made by Senator Schumer in his perverse attempt to justify his regressive proposal displays a grotesque moral and intellectual bankruptcy. Giving government sanction for allowing greedy people to profit off poisoning people is not the right thing to do, it’s the wrong thing to do. It’s barbaric and a violation of essential principles.

Schumer attempts to back his regressive proposal by the false claim that this would somehow help address racial disparities. It won’t. If Schumer actually wanted to address racial disparities he should actually address racism and address aspects which actually produce disparities in the legal system, rather than scapegoat a policy area for his own political agenda. If anything, his actions are a distraction to avoid having to undertake the complex task of advancing a more just and equal system.

There is a serious need to reform the criminal justice system to make it work better, to ensure equality, and to reduce the number of people of prison in a positive matter. But to achieve this, the matter needs to be approached sensibly, and done so in a manner which holds to the principles of justice and defends human welfare. What we need is a prohibitionist reformist approach, not a permissivist hack job.



Mamie White Colvin: The Dry-throated Orator

Mamie White Colvin was born in Westview, Ohio on June 12th 1883. She was the daughter of Rev. Levi White and Mary Bell Hudleson White. From a young age, she became an advocate for temperance and prohibition, and a skilled orator for the cause. She would become significantly involved in both the Prohibition Party and the W.T.C.U.. In 1906, She married fellow prohibitionist David Leigh Colvin.

Mamie White Colvin ran for several offices as a Prohibition Party candidate. In 1918, she ran for Lieutenant Governor of New York. She received 48,142 votes (2.32%) and came in 4th place. In 1920, she ran as a presidential elector for the party's ticket in New York. In 1922, she ran for the House of Representatives in New York's 21st congressional district. She received 636 votes (0.95%) and came in 4th place. In 1933, she ran as a candidate for delegate to the convention for the 21st amendment, as part of an effort to try to prevent the state from ratifying the 21st amendment (unfortunately it was unsuccessful).

She served as national president of the W.T.C.U. from 1945 to 1953. In 1950, she helped to champion support for a congressional bill to ban the interstate advertising of alcohol (which unfortunately did not pass). She also campaigned against the U.S. military giving rations of alcohol to soldiers in the Korean War, and against the promotion of alcohol in entertainment.

Mamie White Colvin passed on October 30th, 1955.

Sources: Hanson, David J. "Biography: Mrs. D. Leigh Colvin (Mamie Colvin)." Alcohol Problems & Solutions. February 19, 2014. Accessed April 24, 2018. <https://www.alcoholproblemsandsolutions.org/Controversies/Biography-Mrs-D-Leigh-Colvin.html>.
"Mamie White Colvin (1883-1955) - Find A Grave..." Find A Grave. Accessed April 24, 2018. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/38672545/mamie-colvin>.
"Other Past Candidates: New York". Partisan Prohibition Historical Society. Prohibitionists.org. Accessed March 29th, 2018. <http://www.prohibitionists.org/Candidates/candidates.html>

Mary Bargar

This month marked the 110th anniversary of the election of Mary Bargar as city clerk of Jamestown, New York. Mary Bargar was a school teacher and daughter of early leader of the Women's suffrage movement in Jamestown. She was nominated by the Prohibition Party, and became one of the earliest women elected to office in New York State (nearly a decade before women's suffrage was established in New York State).

"100 Years Ago in The Saratogian: April 6." The Saratogian. April 04, 2018. Accessed April 24, 2018. <http://www.saratogian.com/article/ST/20180406/NEWS/180409009>.

"The Prohibition Party has weathered the storms of more than half a century. It has always held up high ideals of government and influenced the reforms for righteousness in our national life. It was the first political party to declare that women were citizens and ought to vote on equal terms with men, which declaration was in its platform as early as 1872. If all the voters who in time past have voted to outlaw the liquor traffic in State and County and town would in this year of our Lord, 1924, vote to utterly destroy it by voting a national ticket composed of platform and candidates who declare for its destruction and for the enforcement of the laws of the land, there would come about a new era in our national politics and our national life..." Marie Brehm

Local Office

Have you been thinking about running for local office? Whether that be town bard, village board, school board, county legislature, or the like. Or perhaps you already are in the works for running for office. Well if you're someone who believes in positive policies and ethical government, then consider running with the support of the Prohibition Party of New York. Those interested can feel free to contact us at newyorkprohibition@aol.com

Justice Delayed

In the last issue, we had mentioned that there was an effort to pass The Child Victims Act through this year's state budget process. Unfortunately, it was not included in the final deal, and thus has still not yet passed. Though advocates are continuing their efforts, and hopefully progress will soon be made.

A Wet Wilmington: A Modern-Day Simmons

Last year the state of New York had lost one of its partially dry communities. For decades the town of Barrington, in Yates County, had a local law which restricted the sale of alcohol for on premise consumption, so not no institution other than a hotel could legally do so. While such restrictions were weaker than those of a fully dry town, they were still an action which worked to limit the ability of the alcohol industry to push their harmful products. That changed when a certain businessman (a Mr. Seth Olney), who wished to profit off the sale of alcohol for on premise consumption, launched a vicious legal and political campaign against local dry laws. Him and his supporters were able to bring about the end of the town's local dry laws and drove some of the law's supporters out of local government. Subsequently, he was able to get his on-premise liquor license from the state and proceeded to hold an asinine 3-day festival celebrating his victory against the health and wellbeing of his neighbors.

This repugnant celebration was publicly promoted by State Senator Thomas O'Mara. This is not surprising considering O'Mara's history on the issue. In the legislature, O'Mara has supported numerous bills to weaken the state's restrictions on alcohol. He publicly supported Olney's campaign against Barrington's Dry laws and celebrated when they were brought down in 2017. He perversely tries to portray his actions as promoting small business (despite the negative effects the alcohol industry brings about and despite the fact the alcohol industry actually hurts the economy). And O'Mara has indicated that he intends to continue to attack state and local restrictions against alcohol.

In response to O'Mara's latest promotion of that repugnant festival, one critical commentator responded with a historical comparison:

"Here you are O'Mara, acting like a modern day Furnifold Simmons. You may triumph in your Wilmington accomplishment today, but Selma is coming."

To provide historical context, this is referring to the Wilmington Insurrection of 1898. In the late 19th century,

Wilmington was the largest city in North Carolina and prosperous center for free African Americans after the civil war. In 1898, a group of white supremacists, led by Alfred Waddell, violently overthrew the elected leaders of the city, killed and drove out many of its African American residents, and established their own racist regime over the city. The Wilmington Insurrection received support from Furnifold Simmons, the head of the Democratic Party in North Carolina. Simmons' support for the insurrection was part of a broader campaign to advance white supremacy (which was pursued both out of racism and as a tool to advance his party's power through the suppression of political opponents). This campaign paved the way for the establishment of Jim Crow in the state.

In the 1960's, the Civil Rights movement gained traction and worked to bring an end to segregation. The 1965 Selma to Montgomery March was one of the notable events of the Civil Rights movement.

In terms of historical comparison, there is an element of similarity. Now, as far we know, the events in Barrington didn't involve any overt violence, just wet propaganda and arguably acts of verbal bullying. Though there is the similarity of community's policies being changed for the worse, in a process supported by self-interested business and political figures. And O'Mara's actions are similar to Simmons in the sense of a politician pursuing regressive social policies for the sake of his own agenda and using a locality as a part of a broader statewide assault.

Now we plan on making sure that the regressive agenda of O'Mara and other pro-alcohol figures will be put a stop to, and that one day, temperance forces and positive policies will once again hold sway in our state. The advocates of the public wellbeing will win in the end. And there will a day of reckoning where those politicians who corruptly support the alcohol industry will be held to account.

"The habit of using ardent spirits by men in public office has produced more injury to the public service and more injury to me than any other circumstance that has occurred in the internal concerns of the country during my administration"

Thomas Jefferson

21 Tobacco Effort in Allegany County

In New York State, anti-tobacco activists have been making gradual gains in advancing anti-tobacco policies and have been undertaking efforts to pass local laws restricting tobacco. This has included encouraging counties to establish laws raising the age to purchase tobacco to 21. Recently the Allegany County Legislature has been considering a 21 to buy tobacco bill. On April 9th, they held a discussion event to get public input. After hearing from dozens of commenters of various positions, the legislature agreed to table the bill. Though the bill has been tabled, the public debate continues, and the legislature can bring the bill back up for consideration in the future.

Growth in Social Media Outreach

The Prohibition Party of New York continues to use our internet and social media outreach to spread our message to more people. From available data, we can see that we have reached people in at least 94 different communities across the state. That is nearly twice the total we had a month ago. The number of followers we have on social media continues to increase, and with the recent addition of an online contact form, we hopefully will soon be able to harness that into expanding the number of new members and people on our state group email list.

Moderate Drinking and Alcoholism

Alcoholism is a widespread problem in our society (one of the numerous negative effects of alcohol). Medical figures have increasingly sought to address alcoholism through an understanding of how the brain damage created from the consumption of alcohol can lead to the development of addiction. Though efforts to encourage people with alcohol addiction are often complicated by issues of social stigma toward alcoholism.

Though where is the social stigma coming from? It's not coming from the informed teetotaling prohibitionist. The teetotaling prohibitionist recognizes that all alcohol use is harmful and problematic. Their moral objection is against the voluntary recreational use alcohol and the alcohol industry, which produces, supplies, and encourages the use of the substance.

Their sympathy is with those who been harmed as a result of the damages of alcohol and their interest is in reform.

It is the alcohol industry and its supporters who are the main proponents of improper stigma. The wets wish to perpetuate drinking for the sake of their own desires and greed. They are inclined to deny the reality of the harms of alcohol. But when faced with the overwhelming facts of alcohol's harm, they are eventually forced to move from total denial to partial denial. In response, they created the myth of moderate drinking. They deny the natural harmfulness of alcohol, claiming that alcohol is harmless in moderation, and only harmful in excess. This allows many of the wets to perpetuate a fantasy which allows many drinkers excuse their own drinking and for the alcohol industry to deny their responsibility in providing the harmful product. But it has the effect of casting the blame on the so called immoderate drinkers: those who have alcohol addictions and others whose problems with drinking are too noticeable for the wets to outright deny. Within their framework is the implication that anyone who becomes addicted is someone who failed to exercise the discipline to be a moderate drinker. It is their message which stigmatizes and blames the addicted, that treats brain damage like poor judgement, while ignoring the actual poor judgement of voluntary, non-addicted alcohol consumption, and covers up the social systems that fuel the problem of alcohol addiction.

Furthermore, the wet's myth of the safety of moderate consumption actually helps to fuel alcoholism. The consumption of alcohol is a necessary condition for developing alcoholism, and by encouraging drinking they are exposing more people to risk of developing it. The myth also encourages users and those around them to ignore early signs of developing addiction.

To better address the problem of alcoholism and reduce improper stigma, people should adopt a teetotalist understanding and combat the false message of moderation.