

# New York Prohibitionist



*Think NY Vote Dry*

*June 2018*

*Volume 1 #6*

## The Grassroots Sprouting

Our state is beset by a variety of challenges. A growing alcohol industry backed by officials in the state government, corruption within state government, the failure of the state legislature to pass basic legislation to protect the wellbeing of its citizens; just to new a few. There is also tremendous potential to change things for the better. But to make significant changes, we will need to build a network of grassroots activism and engaged citizens across the state. As more New Yorkers are taking actions to advocate for a better future for their communities, the Prohibition Party of New York is working to form connections with people and groups in the state.

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## Prohibition Trust Fund Association Meets in Binghamton

The Prohibition Trust Fund Association held its annual meeting this year on Jun 13<sup>th</sup>, in Binghamton, New York. The event was well attended, with six out of even board members present (Wert, Hedges, Hallock, Emery, Robinson, and Pearson were present, and Makeley was unable to attend). The board formalized the appointment of Emery and Makeley as new members of the board, and renewed Wert and Robinson to new terms.

The board established plans to allocate \$32,000, for funding several groups and projects for the coming year. The recipients of allocations include the IICAP, the Partisan Prohibition Historical Society, the WWCTU, the PCAP, the ACAP, and the project for the new printing of Roger Storm's Partisan Prophets.

Plans for the new edition of Partisan Prophets have been altered slightly. Previously it was planned to have the new edition include an added section on the party's history up to the 2016 election. Instead, the text of the original Partisan Prophets and the section of the Party's history from the 1970's to the 2016 election will be printed in two separate volumes, and will be distributed together.

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"The status quo needs to be spoiled and ended" Stephanie Miner

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## North Tonawanda Event

The Prohibition Party of New York is working to reach out to community groups in the state. On June 11<sup>th</sup>, the Community Health Alliance of North Tonawanda held a public event at Spruce Elementary. The event brought together a panel of local figures to answer questions on the drug crisis in our communities, state, and nation. Prohibition Party of New York organizer, Jonathan Makeley, attended the event to represent our group.

Makeley reported, "The main informational part of the event consisted of a question and answer session with a panel of local figures (a representative from the CHANT - Community Health Alliance of North Tonawanda - organization, the Superintendent of the North Tonawanda School District, the Eire County Commissioner of Public Health, a member of the Niagara County Legislature, and a local sports star). First, they answered some prepared questions and then proceeded to take questions



from the audience. During the question section I made mention of the problem of alcohol and asked them to speak on that matter. They proceeded to give their responses. One notable response came from Gale Burstein, the Eire County Commission of Public Health, who stated that while opioids are getting a lot of attention for their harms that alcohol is actually the leading form of drug addiction and kills more people than opioids. Hopefully that statement will help to spread awareness of that fact. After the main informational section was over, people proceeded to go on to a more informal interaction outside of the auditorium. Several people gave praise for me bringing up a question on the issue of alcohol."

This is a positive step for helping our organization to develop a presence in the community. The more that we are able to form connections with local groups, the more can establish our presence in communities throughout the state, and the better chances we have at increasing our membership and support.

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"The whole story is that all of the dangerous drugs, but especially tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana, have largely the same debilitating properties: They are all mind-boggling, mind-altering, performance-lowering, personality-changing, behavior-modifying drugs." Ray Perkins Jr.



## Masten Residents Rise Up Against Attempt to Open Liquor Store in Their Neighborhood

Residents in the Mastin Neighborhood of Buffalo have taken action to oppose an attempt to try to open a new liquor store in their neighborhood. Gigi's Restaurant on East Ferry Street in the neighborhood of Masten had closed down after a fire in 2015. Earlier this year, the property was bought up by a man who intended to turn it into a liquor store. Many residents did not the property to be turned into another liquor store and took action to seek to convince the City and the State Liquor Authority to deny the application for the liquor license.

Community messaged their elected officials, wrote letters to the state liquor authority, signed petitions, and attended community meetings.

One notable activist in this effort is Jaylah Bell. Bell is a member of Girl Scout Troop 30294. Bell was concerned over the possibility of her neighborhood being negatively impacted by the proposed liquor store. She had began taking action against it after her mother had asked her why she was against it. Recounting it at a community meeting Bell said "I told her because it's considered the ghetto, and we don't want it to build down. We want it to build up, so my mom asked me if I wanted to do a petition for people who also agreed with me".

Jaylah Bell created a petition against the proposed liquor store. The petition was spread among community members and made available at various local businesses. Within weeks it had acquired hundreds of signatures, spanning 18 pages, and it continued growing.

Buffalo City Council member Ulysses Wingo, who represents Masten, invited State Liquor Authority Deputy Commissioner David Edmunds to a

community meeting, which was held on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Edmunds spoke as to the process for the liquor license application. Edmunds stated that the state liquor authority's decision on whether or not a license would be granted was centered on whether the community was "adequately served" by existing stores, and that they would take into consideration the letters and petitions it had received from the community. Residents quickly pointed out that there were already several places that sold alcohol in the neighborhood.

Community members went further to speak out against the idea of the proposed liquor store.

In addition, Jaylah Bell was at the meeting to present the community petition. In presenting it she stated, "We don't want people building businesses in our neighborhood that don't care about what's good for us."

Community members further contended that the space should be put to some other use, that fits the needs and interests of the neighborhood (such as another restaurant, a coffee shop, a bakery, housing, and various other suggestions).

The activism of these people has gained attention from both local media and elected officials. From what we have seen, local media had tended to give fair and detailed coverage of the community members speaking out against the propose liquor store. Editorial opinions have tended to side with them. For instance, Rod Watson writes in the Buffalo News, "this is the community that is fed up, period, and not willing to take it anymore. This is the community that wants a business that will benefit residents, not contribute to health disparities that plague their neighborhoods".

In recognition of the wishes of many in Masten, Buffalo City Council member Ulysses Wingo declared his opposition to the proposed liquor store. State Senator Timothy Kennedy, State Assemblywomen Kristal Peoples-Stokes, and former Erie County Legislator Betty Jean Grant also followed the lead of community members and came out in opposition. Wingo, Kennedy and Peoples-Stokes urged the state liquor authority to reject the proposal.

While it currently remains to be seen whether the state liquor authority will reject the license or not, the activism of community members, with supportive media coverage, and the support of various city and state officials gives hope that it will be rejected by the State Liquor Authority and/or by the Buffalo City government.

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"Local candidates (for partisan or non-partisan offices) are needed to both encourage the Prohi membership and to build credibility for the party. They can win." Gene C. Armistead

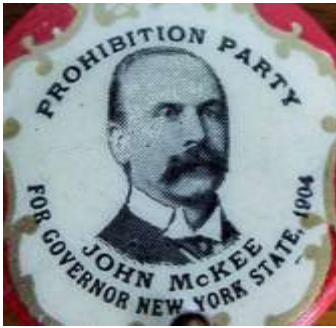
## Makeley For Assembly Campaign

Prohibition Party of New York organizer, Jonathan Makeley, continues his campaign for the 146<sup>th</sup> district of New York State Assembly. His campaign has managed to get some coverage in newspapers. There was an article on his campaign in the June 13<sup>th</sup> issue of the Amherst Bee, and it also received mention in the June issue of the Angelica Booster News.

Makeley is working to prepare for the petition signature gathering period, where he will try to get the 1,500 signatures from district voters in order to be able to appear on the ballot. The petition signature gathering period starts on July 10<sup>th</sup> and the deadline for turning in petitions is August 21<sup>st</sup>. Anyone who is a registered voter in Amherst, Pendleton, or Williamsville and who has not signed a petition for any other state assembly candidate this year, can sign the petition. Anyone who is a registered voter in New York State can volunteer as a petition signature gatherer.

Those interested in helping can contact the campaign at [makeleyforassembly@outlook.com](mailto:makeleyforassembly@outlook.com)

"The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, a football field, in an army, or in an office." Dwight Eisenhower



## John McKee: The Key To The Situation

John McKee was born on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 1851 in Belfast County, Ireland. At 18, McKee immigrated to the United States and came to New York City (and would spend most of his life in Brooklyn and Manhattan). He started off working in jobs, including a brickyard laborer, a store clerk, and a store night watchman. He became a clerk at the linen counter of A.T. Stewart's company. Stewart was a prominent New York City businessman, who had also originated from Ireland, and was admired by many of the city's ambitious young men. While working at the company McKee caught the attention of Stewart, and they connected over their common origins. Stewart mentored him and McKee became friends with Stewart and his family. Stewart's nieces, the Misses Morrow, had made McKee the inheritor in their will, and McKee received \$200,000 when they passed. McKee used this money and his savings to enter into the real estate business. He was able to make a fortune buying and selling properties in Manhattan and Long Island City, and at the end of his life had produced an estate worth an estimated 1 to 3 million dollars. He had been briefly married to Mary McKee. They had married in 1918, and separated in 1922 after a fight over whether to

John McKee was highly involved in the activities of the Prohibition Party in New York City and New York state for much of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. In his life he had donated over \$50,000 in support of the Party. In 1894, he ran as the Prohibition Party candidate for U.S. congress in the 12<sup>th</sup> district. He received 93 (0.4%) votes and came in 6<sup>th</sup> place. In 1897, he ran for Manhattan Borough President. He received 655 (0.24%) votes and came in 6<sup>th</sup> place. In 1898, he ran for congress in the 13<sup>th</sup> district. He received 58 (0.19%) votes and came in 4<sup>th</sup> place. In 1903, he ran for mayor of New York City. He received 869 (0.15%) votes and came in 6<sup>th</sup> place. In this period, he was also one of the Prohibition Party's presidential electors for their candidates in 1896, 1900, and 1908.

In 1904, McKee ran for governor of New York. He competed against Alfred L. Manierre (who had been the party's 1902 candidate for governor) for the Prohibition Party nomination,

and was able to win at the party's convention in Oswego. With the party's nomination, he proceeded to campaign for governor. He received 20,568 (1.27%) votes and came in 4<sup>th</sup> place.

In 1906, McKee had been county chairman of the Prohibition Party in Kings County. In 1907, he had served on the board of directors of the National Temperance Society and Publishing House. He served on Committee of Promotion for planning the World Temperance Centennial Congress, which was held in Saratoga Springs in June 1908.

John McKee would hold an annual St. Patrick's Day Rally for the party at his home in Brooklyn. For instance, it was reported that his 1911 St. Patrick's Day celebration was attended by hundreds of prohibitionists, and Dr. C.H. Mead penned a poem on McKee's good Irish spirit (of hard work, wit, and politeness) and support for women's suffrage.

In 1912, McKee ran for congress in the 7<sup>th</sup> district. He received 66 (0.24%) votes and came in 5<sup>th</sup> place. In 1916, he ran again in the 7<sup>th</sup> district. He received 112 (0.46%) votes and came in 4<sup>th</sup> place. In 1918, McKee worked to help Eugene M. Travis (who was the Republican and Prohibition Party candidate) get on ballot for state comptroller. An affidavit by McKee to the state Court of Appeals, when Travis's petition to the ballot was challenged, interestingly points out that in 1918 that there were 58,393 New York voters registered as Prohibition Party members.

In 1920, McKee ran as the Prohibition Party candidate for New York State Treasurer. He received his largest single electoral performance out of all his runs for office. He received 30,095 (1.10%) votes, and came in 4<sup>th</sup> place. In 1921, he made his last run for office, as the Prohibition Party candidate for New York City Comptroller. He received 1,840 (0.16%) votes and came in 5<sup>th</sup> place.

Though McKee continued to be involved in Prohibition Party efforts. During the period of National Prohibition, McKee engaged in public commentary, defending National Prohibition, opposing wets, and criticizing the Anti-Saloon League (the Anti-Saloon League was a major prohibitionist organization, which sought to advance national prohibition through lobbying public officials, which sometimes cooperated with the Prohibition Party, and at times clashed over differences in approach). In 1922, he had been treasurer of the Prohibition Trust Fund Association.

McKee served as state party chairman in 1922-1924. He also served as state chairman in 1928. As Chairman, he worked to invigorate the party and worked on efforts to elect dry politicians to the state legislature and congress. The party both ran its own candidates, and at times did fusion tickets with certain major party

candidates, who were committed dry politicians. In 1928, he supported the effort to petition to get Alfred Manierre on ballot as the Prohibition Party candidate for governor. Although the effort proved unsuccessful.

McKee died on December 25<sup>th</sup>, 1931 at Brooklyn hospital, from an intestinal ailment. In his life, John McKee came to this county and gained personal success. But he went beyond this, to put his efforts towards participating in civic society and encouraging social reform. Though he never won elected office himself, he worked to advance the Prohibition Party and, to paraphrase McKee, not let the foxes take the position of guarding the geese.

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"Our aim is not to set the fox to guard the geese. The man who likes beer isn't fit to enforce the dry law. It is the real prohibitionist who drinks dry as well as talks dry who deserves to enforce it." John McKee

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## Congressional Performances

Throughout our history, the Prohibition Party has run hundreds of congressional candidates in New York. Some of which were able to get some significant results.

In 1890, Prohibition Party Candidate William W. Smith, in the 16<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> district, and Jesse Rogers received 10.30% of the vote in 34<sup>th</sup> district.

In 1892, George Hand received 11.48% of the vote in the 26<sup>th</sup> district.

In 1918, Julius Rogers received 9.48% of the vote in the 34<sup>th</sup> district.

In 1922, H. Westlake Coons received 8.99% of the vote in the 27<sup>th</sup> district.

In 1932, Earnest Clark received 18.76% of the vote in 39<sup>th</sup> district, and Arthur Rathjen received 8.73% of the vote in 38<sup>th</sup> district.



## State Senate Website Updated

The New York State Senate has updated its website and expanded its field for allowing citizen interaction. People can create an account for the State Senate website to be able to follow bills, issues, and committees, and express support or opposition for bills.

<https://www.nysenate.gov/>

## Albany Bans Sale of Tobacco at Pharmacies

As reported by Hudson Valley 360, Albany County Executive Daniel McCoy signed a bill passed by the Albany County Legislature, which bans pharmacies from selling cigarettes. The move received praise from the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association, and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, for helping to advance public health.

Source: <https://www.hudsonvalley360.com/article/albany-county-bans-tobacco-sales-pharmacies>

## State Legislative Disappointments

The New York State Legislature ended its regular session for the year on June 20<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, the state legislature ended off with many important tasks unfinished. The legislature has continued to largely side with the alcohol industry and as such did not take any significant actions to restrengthen state restrictions, stopping state agencies and taxpayer dollars from being used to promote the alcohol industry, or advancing the promotion of temperance. Assemblymen Ortiz had attempted to advance a bill to combat drunk driving, but it never advanced out of the transportation committee. The legislature failed to take significant actions to improve state ethics laws or to improve accountability for state economic development programs. The legislature has once again not taken significant action to fix the systemic underfunding of many of our state schools. They also did not take significant steps to reduce the burden of property taxes or end the state's misguided policies of forced consolidation for local government services. The state senate once again failed to pass the Child Victims Act and the State Assembly once again failed to pass Britany's Law. So, there are plenty of important and unresolved matters to try

to advance when the next legislative session happens.



## Expanding Outreach

Our online messaging efforts continue to reach more people. Our most recent data shows that content from our Facebook page has been viewed by people in at least 144 communities across the state, in 50 out of 62 counties. Beyond our state, we've also reached people in 42 other states and 38 countries.

## The Growing Blight

As we have covered before, our state faces the problem of a growing alcohol industry, which is being supported by the policies of the state government. The Governor and most members of the legislature have sanctioned the use of state agencies and taxpayer money to support the growth of the alcohol industry, at the expense of the health, safety, and wellbeing of New Yorkers. The more that the state government weakens state restrictions on the alcohol industry and the longer they are able to use state policies to support the alcohol industry, the worse the situation becomes.

Recently, the State Liquor Authority had reported the state now has over 1,000 craft alcohol manufacturers: more than double what there was in 2012, and with some sectors and regions seeing massive increases (such as a 600% increase in craft breweries in Central New York, a 600% increase in hard cider producers in the southern tier, a 1000% increase in off-site tasting rooms in the Capital Region, and a 1700% increase in craft distilleries in Western New York). This is a horrific trend. But what does the governor do in response? He welcomes the news and brags about his role in making it happen. In doing so, he once again displays that he has abandoned his ethical responsibilities as a public servant. He has shown his moral bankruptcy and

utter indifference (if not contempt) towards the lives and wellbeing of the people he is supposed to serve. But he is not alone in this. Every state legislator who voted in favor of supporting the alcohol industry shares in the blame.

Here is a recent example of one of the many ways in which the state has been misused to support the growth of the alcohol industry. Earlier this month a brewery in Cooperstown opened its new visitor center. This center was funded with a \$525,000 grant from the State Economic Development Council. While there are people who are losing their homes to high property taxes, while there are people moving out of the state from the high costs of living, while there are schools that are persistently underfunded, and while there are so many other needs that are underserved; the state sees fit to take over half a million dollars of our taxpayer money, and give it to an industry whose products poison and kill New Yorkers, causes vast social damages, and produces a net loss for our economy. Our tax dollars are supposed to go towards providing important government services which benefit the people of the state. They should not be used to grow and enrich those who are harming the people of our state.

This needs to be fixed. The people of New York must rise up to take action. We must defeat the alcohol industry and its political lackies. We must build a statewide movement to change policy and to elevate principled people into state government, so that we can set things right.

Here is a message from the Prohibition Party of New York, to the community groups, to the public health groups, to the student groups, to the commerce chambers, to the grassroots activists, and to any New Yorker who cares about advancing the wellbeing of people; across the state, from the small towns and villages to the cities; to people of every social position; join together with us, so that we can end state support for the alcohol industry, so that we can end the corrupt order which backed it, so that we can improve public health and wellbeing, and so that we can move our state in the direction of ethical government for the people.