

New York Prohibitionist



Think NY Vote Dry

2018 Anniversary Issue

September 1st 2018

The Anniversaries

Welcome to our special anniversary issue of the New York Prohibitionist. This issue commemorates two special anniversaries which are happening in September. The first is the 149th 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 1st anniversary of the reestablishment 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 for the future.

A Brief History of the Prohibition Party in New York

Temperance and prohibitionism has 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 of 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 Seymour. State Senator Myron Clark, a key advocate for the New York state prohibition law, ran against Seymour 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 through explicitly establish 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 1967, 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 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

candidates for president, when they are able to get on 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 state federal offices. Some candidates managed to win elections. For instance, in 1908, Mary Barger was elected city clerk of Jamestown. She was one of the first women to hold elected office in New York. 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 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 39th district, and Arthur Rathjen received 8.73% of the vote in 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 an 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 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 reestablishment 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.

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 we have found, 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 Sultzer, '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 mistake in the governor's list. Alfred Manierre was a governor's candidate in 1902 and John McKee was the candidate in 1904. Also, McKee had been state chairman in 1926. So, it is likely that he returned to the chairmanship at some point between 1924 and 1926.

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.39015071647940;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.

Finally, 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>

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.

There is also the paper, *The Continuing History of the Prohibition Party, 1933-2018*, by Jonathan Makeley, which provide an overview of the party's history after national prohibition. https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/2cc7be_05fb2a92e40144e7b928acce497ebc2b.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.

The Fountain Symbol

From historical research, we found out that the New York Prohibition Party had used a water fountain for its symbol in the early 20th century. Here is a picture of one from an old ballot.



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 both engage New Yorkers who were already affiliated with the Prohibition Party and to encourage others to join.

We have worked to gain formal recognition as a state party organization within the party, and have achieved this. In January, National Chairman Rick Knox appointed Jonathan Makeley to act as state chairman in New York. We are 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.

We established a state party email address to communicate with members and to others interested in communicating with us. The email is newyorkprohibition@aol.com

We established a website for the Prohibition Party of New York. <https://newyorkprohibition.wixsite.com/new-york-prohibition>

On September 8th, 2017, we had started using Twitter and Facebook as a means of public messaging.

On Twitter, we currently have over 160 followers, and have reached over 500,000 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 47 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 175 communities across the state, in 52 out of 62 counties. We also reached people in 46 other states, and 49 countries.

Our Facebook Page is also titled New York Prohibition Party and the link is <https://www.facebook.com/New-York-Prohibition-Party-1864593657192574/>

On December 31st, 2017, we established the New York Prohibition Party YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtuWVvdwFLrLPvpYK5sVijQ>



The YouTube channel currently has 3 videos. The first is a promotional video for the Prohibition Party of New York, the second is an informational video on how a community in New York can become legally dry, and the third is a video on the Prohibition Party's presidential and vice-presidential candidates from 1872-2016.

In January, we created an online state party newsletter, the New York Prohibitionist. Aka, the thing you're currently reading. The New York Prohibitionist is a monthly publication, that comes out near the end of each month. It is available online, at our website, and people can sign up to have it emailed to them when it comes out, by emailing newyorkprohibitionist@aol.com. This issue is our first special issue of the New York Prohibitionist.

In addition to our online promotion, we have also worked to promote the party through other means of messaging. This has included targeted letter mailing, some flyers, and writing letters to the editor to some newspapers. It has also included having state party organizers attend some public events. For instance, attending an event the University at Buffalo held by the UB Living Stipend Movement in April and attending a community forum held by the Community Health Alliance of North Tonawanda in June.



News Coverage

The Prohibition Party of New York as managed to get some news coverage over the past year. We've had several online articles covering us and our activities. Mostly they were either written by members and or by websites that cover third party politics. We did get some coverage in traditional local news. In December, there was an article covering us in the Hornell Evening Tribune. <http://www.eveningtribune.com/news/20171203/prohibition-party-like-its-1920>

In August there was a letter to the editor article on us in the Amherst Bee. <https://www.amherstbee.com/news/2018-08-15/Letters-to-the-Editor/Prohibition-Party-an-alternative-to-Democrats-GOP.html>

Prohibition Trust Fund Association

The Prohibition Trust Fund Association held its annual meeting this year on Jun 13th, 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.

Campaigning

This past year saw the return of Prohibition Party candidates in New York state. In February, Jonathan Makeley announced his run for the 146th district of the New York state assembly. This marks the first time in decades that a Prohibition Party candidate has run for elected office in New York state. He first sought to get on ballot via Independent Nominating Petition, but unfortunately was not able to get the 1,500 signatures required to do so. He is now running as a write-in candidate. This represents a first step toward regularly running candidates for state and local offices, and toward eventually electing them.



Policy Advocacy and State Trends

Over the past year we have worked to promote positive policies in the state. We have advocated on issues including ending state support for the alcohol industry and addressing alcohol as a public health problem, stronger ethic laws for public officials, passing the child victims act, improving education, holistic economic development, and various other things. A general outline of issues we've advocated can be found on our website (<https://newyorkprohibition.wixsite.com/new-york-prohibition/issues>), and details about our issue advocacy can be seen in our newsletter and social media accounts.

Here are some of the significant developments and trends that have occurred in state policy over the past year in relations to our issue advocacy.

The state government generally continues to go in the wrong direction on alcohol issues. The Governor and most members of the state legislature continue to support the alcohol industry at the expense of the health, safety, and wellbeing of the public. They continue to weaken state restrictions on the alcohol industry, to use state agencies and taxpayer dollars to promote the alcohol industry, and to give special tax breaks to the alcohol industry.

Though there were some positive efforts in the state legislature. Assembly member Felix Ortiz had introduced a bill that would have strengthened state laws against drunk driving. We had worked to help promote the bill and encourage members of the legislature to support it. It had managed to get 10 sponsors in the assembly, but it got caught up in the transportation committee, and the bill wasn't able to progress to a vote.

Last year saw the unfortunate loss of one of the state's partially dry towns. A referendum vote was held in the town of Barrington. While a significant number of voters had voted to keep the town's local dry towns, the wets had managed to get enough votes to remove the town's local restrictions on the sale of alcohol. Though this is not over. We will work to promote local dry laws, and one day Barrington and many other towns will become dry again.

There were some local victors against the alcohol industry. In New York City, a coalition of community groups campaigned against the presence of alcohol advertising on the city's public transportation. In October, 2017, the New York City M.T.A announced that it was removing alcohol advertising from its buses, trains, and subway stations. It was implemented at the end of 2017. In the Mastin neighborhood of Buffalo, hundreds of residents rose up against a proposed liquor store. After months of activism, the company gave up in July and withdrew its liquor license application.



There has been progress on the matter of tobacco. Over the past year, several counties have passed laws increasing restrictions on the sale of tobacco. In addition, a nationwide ban on smoking in public housing took effect on July 31st.

This year saw strong efforts by advocates of the Child Victims act to get it passed. It was included in a 2018 budget proposal, but was not passed in the final budget.

This past year has seen several high-profile figures in state government convicted of

corruption. In the 2017 election, there was a statewide vote on an amendment that would allow for the state to revoke the pensions of officials convicted of felonies related to their conduct in office. We had supported this change and helped encourage its passage. It passed in a landslide. In addition, the recent string of corruption convictions has helped convince more of the public of the need for stronger ethics laws in the state, and hopefully it will pave the way for passing such laws in the future.

Overall

Overall, we have made 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.



Members Comment on the 149th Anniversary

As part of commemorating the 149th anniversary of the founding of the Prohibition Party, we asked various members of the party to comment on their thoughts regarding the 149th anniversary. Here are the responses we had gotten.

First there is the response from James Hedges. James Hedges was our 2016 candidate for president and current party treasurer. Hedges stated,

"The Prohibition Party is now just one year short of its sesquicentennial, September, 2019. We are the longest-surviving "third party" in the United States!

Prohibition nominally is a "broad gauge" party which takes platform positions on many domestic issues, but in practice we are a pressure group focusing on one issue: beverage alcohol. Individual Party members have widely varying opinions about other issues but are united in their opposition to strong drink.

We have lasted while other minor parties have fallen partly because we address a perennial problem in society rather than being enthralled by the lure of charming personalities. Partly, also, we have survived because our basic operations are supported by the income from two trust funds -- individual

supporters and their donations come and go, but the trust fund money is always there.

To continue existing, we must obey two practical requirements: First of all, we have to continue being a "big tent" under which everyone who believes in Prohibition may gather; shunning potential members because they disagree with some of us about other issues will prevent growth. Secondly, we have to continuously re-package our message so that it remains relevant to coming generations; talking about things young people don't care about will prevent renewal and continued existence.

Next year, in September of 2019, there will be a grand celebration of our sesquicentennial. I hope to see all of you there!"

Next there is Adam Seaman. Adam Seaman is a member of the Prohibition National Committee in Massachusetts. Seaman stated,

"It's a milestone for any party in American history to be around for almost 150 years let alone a third party. Through perseverance, strong will and conviction to the cause the Prohibition party continues to this day. This party has overcome many obstacles in its history and we reached our bottom in 2012. In 2016 we had our highest vote total since 1988 and with the influx of a new generation of Prohibitionists comes renewed strength and vision to see the party continue well into the future. Congratulations everyone."

Next there is Robert Emery. Robert Emery is a member of the Prohibition National Committee in New York and board member of the Prohibition Trust Fund Association. Emery stated,

"My views on the Prohibition Party (PP) are, I imagine, very different from most other members. I think that the PP has no future as a political organization; obviously it hasn't for many years. I do think, however, that the PP has real potential as an educational, propagandistic, and agitational movement, educating the public on the real problems of alcohol abuse and promoting measures, largely at the grassroots, to oppose the alcohol industry and its political enablers. The PP has the dedicated membership and the resources to do this; it is a question of reorienting its aims and purposes to do so."

Next there is Eric Grisham; a member is Arkansas. Grisham stated,

"I am not much of an orator I'm afraid. I will just say when you realize the incredible destruction alcohol does the only sane response is to campaign for Prohibition."

Lastly, there is Jonathan Makeley. Jonathan Makeley is an organizer and acting stat chairman for the Prohibition Party of New York. Makeley states,

“Our party has a long and great history of advocating for positive policies to improve the condition of our country. It worked for 149 years to promote good government based in moral principle, ethical public service, and advancing the public wellbeing. Our party has the potential to become a strong and positive force in our nation’s politics and social condition, and if we put the proper effort in building our party it can do just that. We may be relatively small right now, and it may look like we are fighting an uphill battle. But many of the greatest accomplishments in political and social reform started with a few dedicated individuals acting for the cause they believed in, and through their work they built the basis for great progress. Through education, issue advocacy, community action, organizing, and political activity, we can advance forward. In reflecting upon our history and our present condition, let us have the vision and resolve to move forward.”



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.

We are working to establish a fully operating state party executive committee. Then we can seek 501c4 status for the group, so that we can collectively raise and spend money for the operations and growth of our group. Then we could form a political action committee to raise and spend money to support the campaign of Prohibition Party candidates in the state. With those things in place we would have the key legal organization for operating as a non-state recognized minor party in New York. Then over a period of long term efforts, we can build up our party, and hopefully one day be 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 work to form 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 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 ballot for president any time soon. But we can still help get votes through write-in efforts. We can file the paperwork to get write-in ballot certification for our presidential and vice-presidential candidates in future elections, and then work to encourage voters to write them in on election day. In doing so, we can help contribute to the total number of votes and help produce stronger results for our party.

Overall, we plan to grow our party and its impact on our states 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.



The 150th Anniversary Coming Up

Next year, September 1st, 2019, will be the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Prohibition Party. It will be a great milestone in our party’s continuing history. The Prohibition Party is planning a celebration for it. We currently don’t have much details about what the celebration will specifically be like. But once we do, we will report them. Anyways, get ready for the party’s 150th anniversary next 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