

New York Prohibitionist



Think NY Vote Dry

November 2018

Volume 1 #11

Pressing Forward

Earlier this month, we had an election day. One in which many people in our state and nation exercised their civic role and expressed their wills as to the governing of our society. The particularities of the election brought both achievements and disappointments. Though it is part of a sequence of events in which change can occur, and going forward we will have the opportunity to advance positive change. The work of building a better future continues.

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"I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."
Original pledge of allegiance by Francis Bellamy

Election Day Congratulations

Now that election day is passed, we would like to extend some congratulations.

We congratulate all those who voted in the elections for participating in the democratic process and for expressing your political will.

We congratulate Jonathan Makeley, Prohibition Party candidate for the 146th district of the state assembly, for running a dedicated campaign. We are still waiting find out the official vote total. Though he has set a precedent as the first Prohibition Party candidate to run for office in New York state in the 21st century.

We congratulate Prohibition Party member Phil Collins, for his run for treasurer of Clark County, Nevada. Unofficial results indicate that Collins received over 42% of the vote.

We congratulate Howie Hawkins and the Green Party of New York for winning enough votes to retain their statewide ballot access.

We congratulate Larry Sharpe of the Libertarian Party and Stephanie Miner of the Serve America Movement for getting enough votes for their parties to win statewide ballot access.

We congratulate state assembly member Charles Barron (who has been the assembly's strongest opponent of state support for the alcohol industry) for his landslide reelection.

Election Results: Some Wets Driven Out of Office

This election has seen the defeat of some of the wet politicians in this state. Based on reports from the New York Times, six members of the state assembly, who consistently voted for pro-alcohol bills have lost reelection. These are Pellegrino (district 9), Curran (district 21), Jenne (district 116), Magee (district 121), Bohen (district 142), and Walter (district 146). Notably, the 146th district is the same district that Prohibition Party candidate Jonathan Makeley ran in. Meanwhile, none of the assembly members who opposed pro-alcohol bills lost reelection.

Three members of the state senate, who consistently voted for pro-alcohol bills appear to have lost reelection. Those are Hannon (district 6), Philips (district 7), and Murphy (district 40). In addition, assembly member Luis Sepulveda, who had in some cases voted against pro-alcohol bills, has been elected to represent the 32nd senate district.

Some of the New York congressmembers who supported a bill giving special tax breaks to the alcohol industry and weakening federal restrictions on the alcohol industry, have lost reelection. Congressmen Donovan (district 11), Faso (district 19), and Tenney (district 22nd) are reported have lost reelection. This election has removed some of the pro-alcohol politicians from office in our state.

We hope that the representatives that will replace them will have decide to support an end to government support for the alcohol industry and support addressing alcohol as a social and public health problem.

"A lie doesn't become truth, wrong doesn't become right, and evil doesn't become good, just because it is accepted by the majority."
Booker T. Washington



2018 National Prohibition Party Conference

On November 13th, the Prohibition Party held a national conference. The conference was convened to consider the nomination for the party's 2020 presidential ticket and platform. Now, according to party convention roles, the decisions of this conference are provisional and would need to be confirmed in next year's party convention.

The conference selected a provisional ticket of Bill Bayes and C.L. Gammon. The 2018 provisional national platform can be viewed on the national party website <https://www.prohibitionparty.org/platform>

New York Party Leading the Way

In the process for the 2018 national convention, the members of the Prohibition Party of New York sought to have a positive influence in helping to advance the party nationally. We had a representative on the committee that produced a draft platform for the committee (which was read and amended at conference). We advocated for several changes to help strengthen the national platform, with mixed success.

We proposed adding a plank recognizing the principles of human equality and equal justice. The following statement was added to the platform,

"We believe that all people are endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights. We support justice and equality under the law for all Americans."

We advocated for a plank calling for stronger efforts to combat sexual assault and

Continued on page 2

abuse. The following statement was added,

"We support stronger efforts to combat sexual assault and abuse."

We had sought to include in this a statement calling for the abolition of the statute of limitations for sex crimes (similar to our position in the state platform). Unfortunately, one person on the platform committee, who did not understand the issue, objected to it and browbeat others on the platform committee into not including it. Though, we intend to continue proposing this in future conferences and conventions until the national party does the right thing and adopts it.

We advocated for a plank supporting opportunities for those with disabilities. Unfortunately, an editing error had accidentally cut it from the proposed draft and wasn't returned in time for the conference. Hopefully, it will be added in next year's convention.

We advocated for a plank supporting a holistic approach to economic development. The following statement was included,

"Economic development projects should be designed to improve the life of all citizens, rather than as "trickle down" projects primarily benefitting the rich and influential. The Prohibition Party supports economic models of production and distribution that are local, responsible, sustainable, and transparent. We support the establishment of family businesses and worker co-operatives, as well as policies which encourage local farming and production."

We advocated for a plank for improving infrastructure. The following statement was included,

"Well-maintained roads, railways, waterways, and electrical grid are vital to America's economic health. We would spend more on maintaining and improving our national infrastructure."

Opportunity to Pass The Child Victims Act

For years, advocates for advancing justice for the victims of childhood sexual abuse have been seeking pass the Child Victims Act. They have been able to get it passed in the state assembly in past sessions, but it has been blocked by leading figures in the state senate. Though, this year's state senate election results will change the leadership in the state senate. A number of state senators in the new majority had promised that they would work to pass the Child Victims Act. Hopefully, this means that the Child Victims Act will be passed in this coming session. But we should continue to advocate for it, to help make sure that the legislators follow through with their promises.



John McKee and the Value of Immigration

New York state and the United States of America have in large part been built by immigrants. Nearly all of us either immigrated or are descendent from people who had immigrated this country. Whether it be the immigrants who established the American colonies that became the United States, the immigrants who labored to build the Erie Canal, prominent immigrants like Andrew Carnegie, Nikola Tesla, and Albert Einstein, or many others, immigrants have made and continue to make many contributions to our society.

In our July issue of the New York Prohibitionist, we had an article on John McKee. McKee was a prominent figure in the New York Prohibition Party, who was the Prohibition Party's 1904 candidate for governor of New York. John McKee was born and grew up in Ireland. In 1851, at the age of 18, McKee immigrated the United States and made his home in New York City. Back in the 19th and early 20th century, there were people in this country who disliked Irish immigrants, who said Irish immigrants were drunks, were criminals, that they were disrupting society, that they were too poor, that they would drain services to help the poor, that they were unpatriotic, that they were too different, that they would not assimilate, and so on. And similar things were said about Italians, Eastern Europeans, Chinese immigrants, and others. After John McKee arrived in the U.S., he started off as a low-paid worker, and he worked his way up to become a successful real estate businessman. He was active in his community, donated generously to charity, and worked hard to help advance the prohibition party and the cause of prohibition. While becoming an engaged and respected American citizen, he remained connected to his Irish heritage. He would hold an annual St. Patrick's Day party, which gathered many of New York City's prohibitionists.

While not every Irish Immigrant was as economically or politically prominent as McKee, the Irish Immigrants of that time pursued lives in the United States and were integrated over time. These days, Americans of Irish descent make up an integral part of the U.S. population, and are by and large seen as quintessentially American. Every significant addition of immigrants to this country has always been met with concern and controversy by some,

yet the United States has always handled this and grown from it.

Social Regression in Sports

In recent years, a number of sports venues have moved toward selling alcohol at their events. Recently, the University at Buffalo made the poor decision to begin selling alcohol at their stadium. The reason's why this is a bad decision were well stated in a letter to the editor of The Spectrum (the University at Buffalo student newspaper). Here is what the letter said:

Recently, the Spectrum carried an article informing us that UB is seeking a state liquor license to sell alcohol at sporting events in the UB Stadium. I am writing this letter to state that this is an incredibly misguided decision on the part of UB and that they should abandon this effort.

Not everyone is going to like hearing this, but alcohol is a toxic substance, that is damaging to the mental and physical health of its users. Any level of alcohol use is on some level damaging. It produces a variety of illnesses, with its more extreme results including brain damage, organ failure, and several forms of cancer. It would be irresponsible of the university to sanction the sale of harmful substances at its events.

If the university begins selling alcohol at sporting events, it would contribute to the growth of a drinking culture (which serves to normalize and promote drinking, and brings a variety of social, medical, and economic damages to our communities). The university should strive to promote the positive development of its students and community members, not practices that harm and destroy of far too many. Alcohol sales would invite of increased public disturbance, drunk driving, and crime. Scientific studies have shown that alcohol consumption impairs the part of the brain that control violent impulses and that areas that sell alcohol statistically see higher rates of violent crime. In addition, alcohol is also the number one drug involved in sexual assaults. In a time when the Kavanagh hearings have brought increased attention to the dark elements of drinking culture, the need for public institutions to disassociate themselves with the drinking culture is even clearer.

With this stated, I would call on the University of Buffalo to reverse its misguided decision. The administration should withdraw its liquor license application and commit to alcohol free sporting events. The administration may think that allowing alcohol sales may attract more people to their events. But I will say that if they do so, they will alienate people who appreciate the alcohol-free environment, and will likely lose some of its attendance. In fact, I myself intend to not attend any sporting

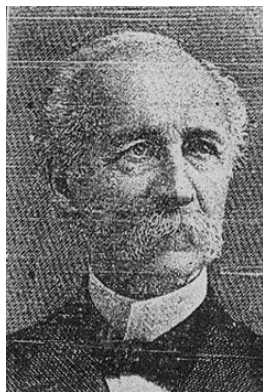
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event at the UB stadium, until UB reverses its decision and commits to alcohol-free sporting events. And I would encourage members of the UB community to contact the administration and encourage them the UB stadium to keep its previous policy against alcohol sales.

<https://www.ubspectrum.com/article/2018/11/letter-to-the-editor-5be90ea46628e>

Hopefully, the people who run these sports venues will soon wise up and realize that it's better to go alcohol free. Though, it is important for us to inform the public on the issue, so ha we can help make such changes occur.

"Honest and earnest criticism from those whose interests are most nearly touched,- criticism of writers by readers, of government by those governed, of leaders by those led, - this is the soul of democracy and the safeguard of modern society" W.E.B. DuBois



John W. Stebbins: A Forerunner for Prohibition

John Wesley Stebbins was born on October 22nd, 1819, at Farmers Settlement, Herkimer County New York. He was the youngest of the two sons of Rev. John Stebbins and Achsah Fairbanks Stebbins. His father was a preacher in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and died in 1827. His mother was a businesswoman and after the death of her husband had spent years running a farm and raising their sons. She would remarry in 1835 with Rev. Eleazer Whipple.

John W. Stebbins grew up in Herkimer County. He was educated at a local district school. He studied at Union College in Schenectady, and graduated in 1846. He spent 3 years as principle of Macedon Academy, in Wayne County New York. In 1849, he married Louise J. Osband. They would have two children: Sarah Louise Stebbins, who died at the age of eleven, and J. Ward Stebbins, who would become merchant and banker.

In 1851, he entered the practice of law and moved to Rochester (where he would live for the remainder of his life). In addition to practicing law, Stebbins was involved with benevolent associations, was an active member of the order of Odd Fellows, taught bible classes for 15 years, and was a superintendent of a Sabbath school for 20 years.

Stebbins reputation as a lawyer and involved community member, led others around him to encourage him to serv in public office, and eventually he gave in to their calls. In 1854, he accepted the Whig party nomination for state assembly and was elected. In 1855, he served in a single term in the New York State Assembly. Stebbins was a strong advocate for

temperance and prohibition. He had arrived at a time where the movement for establishing statewide prohibition in New York was in ascendance. In 1854, the state legislature had passed a state prohibition law, only for it to be vetoed by then Governor Horatio Seymore. In the 1854 election, state senator Myron Clark (a key champion of the state prohibition bill) ran against Seymore, and was elected governor. With Clark as governor, there was a clear path to passing statewide prohibition, but it would require the passage of a new prohibition bill through the legislature. Stebbins submitted and led the effort to get the state prohibition law, "An Act for the Suppression of Intemperance, Pauperism, and Crime", passed in the state assembly. In doing so, h played an important role in establishing the first period of statewide prohibition in New York State.

In addition, Stebbins also played a role in helping to secure the reelection of Senator William Seward by the state legislature (at the time U.S. Senators were picked by state legislatures rather than voters). In a sense, Stebbins' time in the legislature represented that old ideal of a citizen taking some time away from their profession to engage spend some time serving their community in public office.

After his time office, Stebbins returned to his legal career, remained engaged in the community, and at times was involved in politics. He spent four years as a probate court judge. He was an elector for Abraham Lincoln in the 1864 election. He was postmaster for Rochester from 1865-1869. And he held several leading positions in the International Order of Odd Fellows in the 1870's and 1890's. His wife died in 1899. Throughout all of this, Stebbins continued to work as a lawyer and did so until he died.

John W. Stebbins died on July 30th, 1905. While he may not have spent much time in office, he was able to help produce a more advancement for the cause of prohibition in the state of New York. Available information doesn't show whether he had any involvement with the Prohibition when it later came into existence. Though it is clear that he was part of the broader prohibition movement, and was a forerunner of the effort that the Prohibition Party would come to champion.

Sources: Clubb, Henry S. *The Maine liquor law; its origin, history, and results, including a life of Hon. Neal Dow*. New York: Pub. for the Maine Law Statistical Society, by Fowler and Wells, 1856.
<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc2.ark:/13960/t3fx760v>
"HON. JOHN W. STEBBINS Herkimer County, N.Y.," Nancy Van Alstine Revolutionary War Herkimer NY. Accessed November 28, 2018.
<https://herkimer.nygenweb.net/herktown/johnstebbins.html>.
"John W. Stebbins." Prabook.com. Accessed November 28, 2018.
https://prabook.com/web/john_w.stebbins/1067915.

"The shepherd drives the wolf from the sheep's throat, for which the sheep thanks the shepherd as his liberator, while the wolf denounces him for the same act as the destroyer of liberty. Plainly, the sheep and the wolf are not agreed upon a definition of liberty." Abraham Lincoln

Topics In the News

Here is a recap on some of the news over the past month.

New York State Authorities lunched an operation to crack down the sale of alcohol to minors. 141 bars, liquor stress, and other alcohol establishments were caught and fined.

<https://www.syracuse.com/news/2018/11/06/7331d1184/mys-crackdown-catches-141-bars.html?fbclid=IwAR3o3A9c12e1eNkyW0c-dG8Ruvaw5wevPCPX2ie226Fh2QlpsM2JemD0>

A new study confirms what those of us in the teetotal movement have long known, that there is no safe level of drinking. Any level of drinking is in some form harmful.

<https://cebuladailynews.inquirer.net/195479/safest-level-drinking-none?fbclid=IwAR0b1QxLM120V8-jrebcSHN9GQf2Mc4HqOxd56AZQ544JP5IA6mk>

New York might become the first state to ban flavored E-cigarettes. Governor Cuomo is looking to establish regulations that would do, and may able to achieve this as early as next year.

http://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/news/2018/11/09/new-york-may-become-first-state-to-ban-flavored-e-cigs?cid=facebook_Spectrum_News_NY1&fbclid=IwAR2977NtPkKs7WrrDsOTCCR1K-QGpaH0B5O5eImKPLN54dpsNQWvNIM

The World Cancer Research Fund has released a ten-point plan that they estimate could reduce an individual's cancer risk by 40%. These points include avoiding alcohol consumption, avoiding tobacco use, healthy diet, and exercise.

https://www.businessinsider.com/cutting-out-bacon-and-booze-could-dramatically-reduce-risk-of-cancer-2018-5?utm_content=bufferfc748&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer-t8&fbclid=IwAR207Nfvsqz_hu8aqwZnIEvDMYtE5Db1Mb0vRjGCVNp-mpl1vNP6Vc_s

Officials involved with New York's stop DWI reports that state STOP-DWI education efforts have been having some success in reducing drunk driving. Since 2009, the number of drunk driving accidents has decreased by 10%.

<https://www.uticaad.com/news/20181117/official-says-stop-dwi-education-driving-incident-numbers-down>

On November 13th, dozens of people, involved in the No Mas Campaign, formed a human chain in the North Clinton Neighborhood of Rochester, to send a message for addressing the opioid epidemic.

<http://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester/news/2018/11/14/no-mas-human-chain>

The New York League of Women Voters has filed a lawsuit against the state board of elections, alleging that the current state deadline for registering to vote in election is unnecessarily restrictive, and is trying to pressure the state into changing the deadline to allow New Yorkers to register to vote closer to election day.

<https://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/ny-pot-vote-lawsuit-midterms-registration-20181105-story.html?fbclid=IwAR0rPnkdy8FAdolS8or05W0V1AGb3TGd8Wca0RCU5P2bb8eSagwXue4DM>

Dozens of students from Binghamton University participated in the 5th annual Sleep-Out challenge. The event has participants spend a night camping outside in order to help raise awareness of the experiences of those who are homeless and to help spread information about services to help those who are homeless.

https://wbnw.com/news/local-news/2018/11/16/inghamton-university-students-sleep-in-50816e-homesless?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook_WBNW_12_News&fbclid=IwAR2r95Yi-Sweky5Kge2eGorGMCKIG1KHGvASQ-nmrcrbMKtbn7QW1MwMA

For the 20th year, Pastor Eric Johns of Buffalo spent Thanksgiving week living among the homeless. This is part of a larger effort by Johns and local charities to provide charitable aid.

<https://www.wivb.com/news/local-news/local-pastor-prepares-to-live-among-homeless-week-of-thanksgiving-for-20th-year/1606021818>

Deaths from alcohol are increasing. The institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation of the University of Washington reports that from 2007 to 2017, deaths attributed to alcohol has increased 35%, with the largest increases among women.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2018/11/16/alcohol-deaths-emergency-room-increase-midlife-aged-women-addiction-opsoids/1593347002/?fbclid=IwAR1nH5h4aeuGhK1nMuJlRThRvQoQTP528IP83iUeyv2N16Q5G5W1>

The AMC Market Arcade movie theater made the unfortunate decision to sell alcohol, and the state liquor authority made the unfortunate decision to grant them a liquor license. Local prohibitionists and concerned citizens had tried to convince them otherwise, but unfortunately weren't given any significant attention by the theater, the state liquor authority, or the media.

<https://www.wivb.com/news/local-news/it-s-showtime-alcoholic-drinks-now-available-at-amc-market-arcade/1602866319>