

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK  
HELD ON SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2025 ON THE ZOOM MEETING APP**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Duane J. Whitmer, Chair  
Daniel J. Castello, Vice-Chair  
Andrew M. Kolstee, Secretary  
David B. “Chance” Haywood, Treasurer  
Christopher Skelly, Communications Director  
Justin N. Carman, IT Director  
Richard F. Purtell, Legislative Affairs Director  
Pietro S. Geraci, Outreach Director  
Paul M. Grindle, Political Director  
Catrina Rocco, Volunteer Director

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mark N. Axinn, Fundraising Director

**OBSERVERS**

Erinn Rose Leatherman, Member of the State Committee (JD5)  
Mark S. Braiman, Member of the State Committee (JD6)  
Steven G. Becker, Member of the State Committee (JD7)  
Sean C. Phelan, Member of the State Committee (JD7)  
Vincent J. O’Neill, Member of the State Committee (JD10)  
Jennifer L. O’Connor, Rensselaer County Acting Chair  
Christopher M. Olenski, Broome County

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Duane Whitmer, Chair. Secretary Andrew Kolstee conducted a roll call and determined that a quorum was present.

Chance Haywood issued a Treasurer’s report in writing (**Exhibit 1**). He reported that donations are down.

Chair Duane Whitmer issued a Chair’s report. The Elise Stefanik campaign reached out to him. Several media outlets published an editorial that Whitmer signed off on. He is continuing to work on the issues with the Buffalo Public Schools. Erie County has local candidates on other lines, and one is in court. Discussion ensued on the 2026 statewide campaign in 2026.

Communications Director Christopher Skelly issued a report in writing (**Exhibit 2**). Social media engagement strategies and *The Liberty Test* were discussed.

The Chair called for fundraising ideas due to issues with a decrease in income.

IT Director Justin Carman issued a report. He has a list of projects he is looking to set priorities. There was a discussion on improving communication within the party administration.

Legislative Affairs Director Richard Purtell issued a report. He highlighted that there are several competing bills regarding qualified immunity, resulting in little traction. There has been no traction on any ballot access legislation. He needs volunteers to help call legislators.

Outreach Director Pietro Geraci issued reports in writing for May 2025 (**Exhibit 3**) and June 2025 (**Exhibit 4**).

Motion by Pietro Geraci to **appoint Mason Hovack as Acting County Chair of Schoharie County for a six-month term set to expire on December 29, 2025** was seconded by Andrew Kolstee and passed without objection.

Motion by Pietro Geraci to **appoint Nathan Dingy as Acting County Chair of Ontario County for a six-month term set to expire on December 29, 2025** was seconded by Andrew Kolstee and passed without objection.

Motion by Pietro Geraci to **request a hearing to be held by the State Committee for the purpose of removing Keith Redhead as Chair of the Oneida County Libertarian Party and Nicholas Grasso as Chair of the Chemung County Libertarian Party due to failure to maintain continuous enrollment in the Libertarian Party in accordance with Article 12.3.8 of the Rules of the Libertarian Party.** Chance Haywood raised a point of order that the motion was not pertinent to the Outreach Division report. The motion was withdrawn, and the rest of the Outreach Division report was issued.

Political Director Paul Grindle issued a report. There are five candidates: three candidates in Erie County, Thomas Babilon, and Matthew Morgan. Regarding village candidate outreach, there are potential candidates for next year. There are also other developments.

Volunteer Director Catrina Rocco issued a report. There are currently only three volunteers signed up to staff the State Fair booth.

Chance Haywood issued a report on the planning of the in-person meeting to be held at Homewood Suites in Greece, New York on October 24-26, 2025. The cost of the meeting space is \$0, and the rooms are slightly cheaper at \$169 per night. 40 rooms were set aside for reservation. Monroe County Chair Steven Becker spoke about the affiliate's plan to help the planning of the event.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to hold an **in-person meeting on October 24-26, 2025 at the Homewood Suites in Greece, New York and authorize the Treasurer to sign the contract to reserve the meeting room and hotel rooms** was seconded by Chance Haywood and passed without objection.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **constitute a 2025 Empire State Freedom Summit Planning Committee and appoint Chance Haywood as chair** passed without objection.

Andrew Kolstee reported that Zachary Remain is not seeking reappointment as Acting County Chair of Clinton County. He also reported that Wendi Szabo did not completed the form nor provided indication that there is any activity in Niagara County, in which she would be ineligible for reappointment as Acting County Chair of Niagara County.

Andrew Kolstee issued a report on the Westchester-Putnam Libertarian Party's application for affiliation (**Exhibit 5**) and concluded that not all the affiliation requirements have been completed.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **renew the appointment of Jennifer O'Connor as Acting County Chair of Rensselaer County on July 1, 2025, which will expire on December 31, 2025** was seconded by Pietro Geraci and passed without objection.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **renew the appointment of Rajib Maitra as Acting County Chair of Westchester County on July 1, 2025, which will expire on December 31, 2025** was seconded by Pietro Geraci and passed without objection.

Motion by Pietro Geraci to **request a hearing to be held by the State Committee for the purpose of removing Keith Redhead as Chair of the Oneida County Libertarian Party due to failure to maintain continuous enrollment in the Libertarian Party in accordance with Article 12.3.8 of the Rules of the Libertarian Party** failed due to lack of a second.

Motion by Pietro Geraci to **hold hearings to be held by the State Committee for the purpose of directing the Chair to call for a vote of the State Chairs of Region 6 to recall Patrick Ford as Region 6 Representative to the Libertarian National Committee and Benjamin Weir as Region 6 Alternate Representative to the Libertarian National Committee** was seconded by Daniel Castello. Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **divide the question** was seconded by Pietro Geraci and passed without objection.

The motion to **hold a hearing to be held by the State Committee for the purpose of directing the Chair to call for a vote of the State Chairs of Region 6 to recall Patrick Ford as Region 6 Representative to the Libertarian National Committee** was objected to by Justin Carman

and debated. The motion passed 4-3 after a roll call vote, with Daniel Castello, Pietro Geraci, Paul Grindle, and Christopher Skelly voting in favor; Justin Carman, Richard Purtell, and Catrina Rocco voting against; and Chance Haywood and Andrew Kolstee abstaining.

The motion to **hold a hearing to be held by the State Committee for the purpose of directing the Chair to call for a vote of the State Chairs of Region 6 to recall Benjamin Weir as Region 6 Alternate Representative to the Libertarian National Committee** was debated. The motion failed 4-4 after a roll call vote, with Daniel Castello, Pietro Geraci, Paul Grindle, and Andrew Kolstee voting in favor; Justin Carman, Richard Purtell, Christopher Skelly, and Catrina Rocco voting against; and Chance Haywood abstaining.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **reconsider the motion to hold a hearing to be held by the State Committee for the purpose of directing the Chair to call for a vote of the State Chairs of Region 6 to recall Patrick Ford as Region 6 Representative to the Libertarian National Committee** was seconded by Justin Carman. Pietro Geraci raised a point of order, stating that only a member of the prevailing side may move to reconsider. The Chair, citing Andrew Kolstee's abstention from the original vote, ruled the motion in order. The motion to reconsider passed 6-3, thereby meeting the two-thirds majority required for passage, with Justin Carman, Daniel Castello, Andrew Kolstee, Richard Purtell, Catrina Rocco, Christopher Skelly voting in favor and Chance Haywood, Pietro Geraci, and Paul Grindle voting against.

The motion to **hold a hearing to be held by the State Committee for the purpose of directing the Chair to call for a vote of the State Chairs of Region 6 to recall Patrick Ford as Region 6 Representative to the Libertarian National Committee** failed 4-4, with Pietro Geraci, Paul Grindle, Chance Haywood, and Christopher Skelly voting in favor; Justin Carman, Andrew Kolstee, Richard Purtell, and Catrina Rocco voting against; and Daniel Castello abstaining.

Chance Haywood reported that the New York State Fair application has not yet been approved.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee **authorize the Treasurer to gift \$25 memberships to the National Libertarian Party to any donor who has donated \$50 or more to the Libertarian Party of New York** was seconded by Daniel Castello and passed without objection.

Motion by Chance Haywood to **adjourn** was seconded by Andrew Kolstee.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 10:08 p.m. without objection.

Andrew Martin Kolstee,  
Secretary

# Exhibit 1

## LIBERTARIAN PARTY NEW YORK

Treasurer's Report

June 1, 2025

Beginning Balance as of May 1, 2025 : \$35,282.71

Income :	Donations		
		Anedot	\$ 309.00
		Stripe	\$ 149.39
		Cash	\$ 0.00
		Total Income	\$ 458.39

Total Balance & Income : \$35,741.10

Expenses :	Monthly Reoccurring Expenses	\$ 195.53
	Yearly Reoccurring Expenses	\$ 34.32
	Credit Card Processing Fees	\$ 77.71
	Refunds	\$ 0.00
	Miscellaneous	\$ 0.00

Total Expenses : \$ 307.56

Ending Balance May 31, 2025: \$35,433.54

### Key Bank

Account #2305	\$ 731.82
Account #1763	\$ 29694.80

### Chase Bank

Account #9007	\$ 5000.00
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Cash On Hand April 30, 2025 \$35,426.62

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Chance Haywood, Treasurer

## Exhibit 2 (page 1 of 2)

### LPNY Communications Report (June 2025)

The Creator Fund Project that I have implemented on X has been a major success thus far. For clarity, to qualify for the "Creator Revenue Share" you must have the following metrics:

1. Verification via Premium Subscription
2. Have at least five million impressions on posts within the last three months.
3. Have 500 Premium followers.

As of this writing, here are the current metrics within the past three months

Impressions- 3,845,769 (76.9% of goal)

An increase of over 1,000% over the previous three months

Engagements- 201,817

An increase of over 1,000% over the previous three months

Profile Visits- 11,961

An increase of over 1,000% over the previous three months

Replies- 6,026

An increase of over 1,000% over the previous three months

Reposts- 6,144

An increase of over 499% over the previous three months

We have also surpassed 10,000 followers on the account, for a current total of 10,265.

If this current upward trend continues, I expect that I will be able to announce at the next EXCOM meeting that we have fully met the qualifications for access to Creator Revenue Share.

In contrast, our metrics on Facebook have seen a downward trend over the previous three months, due to an increased focus on access to X's Creator Revenue Share. To remedy this, the Communications Division will begin to cross-post more content between social media platforms.

The Liberty Test Podcast has put out 14 episodes thus far. The latest episode, entitled "The Mamdani Moment" has already received 87 views on Youtube, which is the most of any video thus far on that platform. On X, the same episode has received 250 views.

### Regarding NY State Senate Bill S227A

Legislative Affairs Director Rich Purtell requested an op-ed be written for publication to Informed NY magazine in opposition to State Senate Bill S227A, which relates to the regulation of three-dimensional printed firearms. The op-ed, entitled "NY's S227A; When Code Becomes Contraband and Freedom Gets a Timeout" was delivered to Rich and we are currently waiting on updates regarding either editing needing done or publication.

## Exhibit 2 (page 2 of 2)

An episode of The Liberty Test, entitled "The Right to Print Arms" was done on this specific legislation. One egregious part of this bill would make it illegal to share digital files that can be used to print 3D firearms with recipients who are not properly licensed.

With that in mind, Vice Chair Dan Castello and myself came up with the idea to fight this measure by creating merchandise with an example image of one of these files, printing the image on t-shirts and other merchandise, and selling to the general public as a means of advocacy against the bill. The website for this measure has been created at [www.lpnyshop.creator-spring.com](http://www.lpnyshop.creator-spring.com) (but not shared with the public as of yet, due to potential for using a clearer image to print on merchandise). I am awaiting any update on a better image and/or any further edits needed before I announce the website to the public.

## Exhibit 3

### May 2025 Outreach Report

It's been a busy month for me between new contacts, lobbying, choir concerts and bagpiping.  
Here are the latest updates:

- I. I went to Unite New York's Lobby Day and met with legislators and staff regarding open primaries, term limits, restoring our ballot access, and ballot initiatives. I thought it was productive; I identified two legislators sympathetic towards restoring ballot access: Assemblyman Steven Raga (D-30) and Senator Kevin S. Parker (D-21). I forwarded their contact info to Leg. Aff. Director Rich Purtell. Unite NY is an org we should consider working with.
- II. The Bronx County Acting Chair delayed their first meeting until June 1st. Hopefully I will have more to report next month.
  - A. Had a discussion with her regarding activism projects she's interested in, including to "address the gang violence crisis in our County. In addition, to the two-face criminal justice system, where too many of our youths are living in isolation and confinement spaces in federal prisons." She also wants to advocate for A.5293 (AM Walker) / S.4330 (Sen. Myrie) – Relates to [granting certain individuals youthful offender status](#); adds a new category of individuals eligible for young adult offender status; provides for process and sentencing requirements related to such statuses (NYS 2025-26).
    1. I suggested IJ, FAMM, and the Green Party as potential collaborators, especially the first two for lobbying efforts.
- III. Westchester is calling a convention in June. Putnam County seeks to merge affiliates.
- IV. Mason Hovick of Schoharie County expressed interest in becoming an Acting County Chair. I had a good conversation with him and set him up with what he needs to get started.
- V. I emailed the summaries of the plans approved by the Strategic Planning Committee to the County Affiliate Chairs. This email was sent later than I intended, so momentum will be slow to start. We shall see what next month brings.
- VI. Please contact Chance Haywood at [treasurer@lpny.org](mailto:treasurer@lpny.org) if you need an insurance rider for tabling events.

#### To-Do List

- I. Reach out to Acting County Chairs and check in with their progress
- II. Check in with County Affiliates, especially regarding the local action plans
- III. Figure out which days I'll be tabling at the State Fair

## Exhibit 4 (page 1 of 2)

### June 2025 Outreach Report

- I. Mason Hovack of Schoharie County and Nathan Dingy of Ontario County have been trying to recruit new members. Hovack is going to try recruiting Elks Lodge members while Dingy has already found two other interested people.
  - A. I move to appoint Mason Hovack as Acting County Chair of Schoharie County, for a six-month period ending on December 31, 2025.
  - B. I move to appoint Nathan Dingy as Acting County Chair of Ontario County for a six-month period ending on December 31, 2025.
- II. I move to request hearings by the full state committee for the purposes of removing Keith Redhead as Chair of the Oneida County Libertarian Party and Nick Grasso as Chair of the Chemung County Libertarian Party under Rule 12.3.8.: failure to maintain continuous enrollment in the Libertarian Party
- III. The Orange County Libertarian Party will be tabling at the Town of Newburgh Community Day at Cronomer Hill Park on July 3rd from 3:30 - 10. Assistance from the Volunteer Director is requested to help us find volunteers to staff the table.
- IV. Spoke with Rensselaer Acting County Chair Jennifer O'Connor: Next meeting is Wed 7/2; motivation for organizing officially is low: reluctance to take on county leadership roles and send mailers, functioning more as a social club atm. I mentioned the possibility of merging with CoCoCom or Saratoga, she will bring it up in meeting.
- V. I got some advice from Jacob Bradley, the National Affiliate Development Committee Chair. I will pass that advice along to the county affiliates and stay in touch with him.
- VI. I have been unable to get in touch with the Acting County Chairs from Niagara or Bronx Counties, though I was in touch with the Bronx Acting

## Exhibit 4 (page 2 of 2)

Chair earlier this month. I likewise have not been able to get in touch with our recent sign-up from Rockland County

- VII. Only Ulster and New York Counties have requested direct action plans, which I sent.
- VIII. I move to certify the Westchester-Putnam Affiliate.

To do list:

- I. Contact the Alleghany and Ontario Acting County Chairs (assuming above motion to appoint Mr. Dingy Acting County Chair passes) and check in with progress and continue to reach out to aforementioned Acting County Chairs
- II. Reach out to County Affiliate Chairs regarding progress and interest in Direct Action Plans
- III. Stay in touch with Mr. Bradley
- IV. Get in touch with Tony D'Orazio, my counterpart in Pennsylvania
- V. Contact Robert Cocomello regarding College Libertarians and how we can get that spooled up. I will also reach out to Mr. Bradley about this.
- VI. Find out if the folks in Rensselaer want to merge with another affiliate.
- VII. Figure out when I'm tabling at the State Fair

Special thanks to Catrina Rocco for her work organizing the Putnam-Westchester affiliate and for visiting the Rensselaer proto-affiliate!

Don't forget to register for our Hudson Valley Libertarian gala! \$5 discount ends June 30th! Register [here](#)!

## Exhibit 5 (page 1 of 4)

### REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK REGARDING THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE AFFILIATION OF THE WESTCHESTER-PUTNAM LIBERTARIAN PARTY JUNE 29, 2025

#### INTRODUCTION

On June 8, 2025, Libertarians in Westchester and Putnam Counties held a convention in order to form a Multi-County Affiliate, the Westchester-Putnam Libertarian Party.

#### SUMMARY

- 1. DISSOLUTION OF PUTNAM COUNTY – CRITERIA NOT MET.**
- 2. QUORUM - CRITERIA MET.**
- 3. CONVENTION - CRITERIA MET.**
- 4. COUNTY RULES - CRITERIA NOT MET.**
- 5. ELECTIONS - CRITERIA MET.**
- 6. NOTIFICATION - CRITERIA MET.**
- 7. PROVIDED DOCUMENTATION - CRITERIA PARTIALL MET.**

#### QUALIFICATIONS

Article 1 of the Rules of the Libertarian Party of New York cover provisions for Local Affiliates and their qualifications for affiliation.

##### **1. DISSOLUTION OF PUTNAM COUNTY**

Libertarians in Westchester and Putnam Counties intended to establish a multi-county affiliate. The Putnam County affiliate is a current affiliate, which must be dissolved before the Westchester-Putnam Libertarian Party can be recognized. The LPNY Rules prohibit Putnam County to be an both its own affiliate and part of a Westchester-Putnam Libertarian Party Affiliate according to Article 11.1:

11.1. **GENERAL PROVISIONS.** A Local Affiliate shall represent either a single county or multiple counties within a single Judicial District. No more than one (1) Local Affiliate shall be recognized by and affiliated with the Libertarian Party for each county or group of counties. The recognized Local Affiliate shall officially represent the LPNY Members in the county or counties it encompasses and shall exercise all of the powers of the County Committees as set forth herein and not prohibited by applicable law.

## Exhibit 5 (page 2 of 4)

The procedure for dissolution is as follows, in Article 11.6:

11.6. **DISSOLUTION.** A Local Affiliate may vote to dissolve itself. In such a case, the vote to dissolve must occur at a properly called meeting. The minutes of such meeting must be submitted to the State Committee. The State Committee shall certify the dissolution by majority vote to revoke the affiliation of the Local Affiliate, bypassing requirements to hold a hearing in Article 12.

**Review:** In this case, a properly called meeting of the Putnam County Libertarian Party was not held in accordance with Article 11.6 to dissolve Putnam County. A meeting of the Westchester-Putnam Libertarian Party was held in which Libertarians in Putnam County were in attendance to vote on dissolution, but the Rules require that a properly called meeting be held of the Putnam County Libertarian Party. It was reported that the Putnam County Libertarian Party voted on dissolution in April 2025, and so those minutes would need to be submitted, as that would have been the properly called meeting.

### 2. QUORUM

Article 11.4 states:

11.4. **LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.** A Local Organization may be formed and affiliated when a convention is held to adopt rules and elect officers. Quorum at the convention shall be four (4) LPNY Members residing in the county or counties.

**Review:** According to documents provided by the Westchester County Libertarian Party, 6 enrolled Libertarians were in attendance; Westchester-Putnam thus meets this requirement.

### 3. CONVENTION

Article 11.4 states, specifically highlighted:

11.4. **LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.** A Local Organization may be formed and affiliated when a **convention is held** to adopt rules and elect officers. Quorum at the convention shall be four (4) LPNY Members residing in the county or counties.

**Review:** The minutes of the June 8, 2024 convention among Libertarians in Westchester and Putnam Counties were provided; Westchester-Putnam Libertarian Party meets this requirement.

## Exhibit 5 (page 3 of 4)

### 4. COUNTY RULES

Article 11.4 states, specifically highlighted:

11.4. **LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.** A Local Organization may be formed and affiliated when a convention is held to **adopt rules** and elect officers. Quorum at the convention shall be four (4) LPNY Members residing in the county or counties.

**Review:** The convention held on June 8, 2025 did not adopt a set of Rules, which does not meet this requirement. The minutes indicate that Rules were amended, but not adopted.

### 5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Article 11.4 states, specifically highlighted:

11.4. **LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.** A Local Organization may be formed and affiliated when a convention is held to adopt rules and **elect officers**. Quorum at the convention shall be four (4) LPNY Members residing in the county or counties.

**Review:** The convention held on June 8, 2025 elected, which meets this requirement.

### 6. NOTIFICATION

Article 11.4.2 states:

11.4.2. **NOTIFICATION.** Notice of the convention must be made to all LPNY Members in the county or counties as follows. The first notice is to be sent to the mailing address, email address, and/or telephone number of the LPNY member on record at the Board of Elections or the LPNY. The first notice must also include a clear statement of how notice of subsequent meetings will be provided. Subsequent notification shall be sufficient if it is posted on the Local Organization's website or Facebook page.

**Review:** The minutes do not indicate that proper notice was given to all Libertarians in Westchester and Putnam Counties, which does not meet this requirement. Notice to Libertarians in Putnam County regarding dissolution does not constitute notice the Libertarians in both counties of holding a convention.

### 7. DOCUMENTATION

- **SUBMITTED - Minutes of the Convention.**
- **NOT SUBMITTED - List of convention attendees and addresses**
- **SUBMITTED - Copy of the adopted County Rules. The minutes do not explicitly indicate that they were adopted.**
- **NOT SUBMITTED - List of elected officers and their contact information (email/phone)**

## Exhibit 5 (page 4 of 4)

### SUMMARY

Not all requirements for affiliation have been met by the enrolled Libertarians in Westchester and Putnam Counties that met in a convention on June 8, 2025 for the purpose of forming a Local Affiliate.

#### The following will need to be submitted:

- Minutes of the April 2025 meeting of the Putnam County Libertarian Party in which there was a vote to dissolve.
- Amended convention minutes to indicate that notice was given to Libertarians in Westchester and Putnam Counties; furthermore, the minutes will need to be amended to indicate that rules were adopted and not amended.
- List of convention attendees and addresses.
- List of elected officers and their contact information (email/phone).

Review by Andrew M. Kolstee  
Secretary, Libertarian Party of New York