

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 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
Mark N. Axinn, Fundraising Director
Richard F. Purtell, Legislative Affairs Director
Pietro S. Geraci, Outreach Director
Paul M. Grindle, Political Director
Catrina Rocco, Volunteer Director

MEMBERS ABSENT

Justin N. Carman, IT Director

OBSERVERS

Larry Sharpe, Candidate for Governor of New York
Karyn Thompson, Saratoga County Treasurer
Joseph Amoroso
Jerome Bell

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Duane Whitmer, Chair. Secretary Andrew Kolstee conducted a roll call and determined that a quorum was present.

Larry Sharpe, candidate for Governor of New York, addressed the committee.

Andrew Kolstee issued a Secretary’s report.

Chance Haywood issued a Treasurer’s report in writing (**Exhibit 1**).

Duane Whitmer issued a Chair’s report. He summarized activist work in Western New York.

Communications Director Christopher Skelly issued a report in writing (**Exhibit 2**).

Fundraising Director Mark Axinn issued a report. He has written two fundraising letters recently.

Legislative Affairs Director Richard Purtell issued a report. Depending on the outcome of the convention, he may be shifting focus toward party visibility.

Outreach Director Pietro Geraci issued a report in writing (**Exhibit 3**).

Motion by Pietro Geraci to **retroactively renew the appointment of Kim Antonio as Acting County Chair of Bronx County on September 30, 2025, which will expire on March 30, 2026** was seconded by Andrew Kolstee and passed without objection.

Volunteer Director Catrina Rocco issued a report.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **endorse Tanya Barone for Niagara Falls City Council At-Large and allocate two hundred dollars (\$200) to her campaign; endorse Vincent Cauley for Niagara Falls City Council At-Large and allocate two hundred dollars (\$200) to his campaign, and endorse Charlotte Patterson for Cambria Town Board and allocate one hundred dollars (\$100) to her campaign** was seconded by Mark Axinn, debated. Motion by Chance Haywood to lay the motion on the table was seconded by Pietro Geraci and failed by voice vote. The **original motion** passed by voice vote.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **endorse Donta Myles for Niagara Falls City Council At-Large** was seconded by Catrina Rocco, debated, and passed by voice vote.

There was a discussion about fundraising for the 2026 petition drive.

Motion by Mark Axinn to **authorize Chance Haywood to open bank account for funds reserved for ballot access** was seconded by Pietro Geraci and passed without objection.

Motion by Mark Axinn to **adjourn** was seconded by Paul Grindle.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Andrew M. Kolstee
Secretary

Exhibit 1 (page 1 of 2)

LIBERTARIAN PARTY NEW YORK
September 2025 Treasurer's Report
October 1, 2025

Beginning Balance as of September 1, 2025 :		\$35,057.77
Income :	Donations	
	Anedot	\$ 284.00
	Stripe	\$ 10,174.34
	Checks	\$ 1,725.00
	Total Income	<u>\$ 12,183.34</u>
Total Balance & Income :		\$47,241.11
Expenses :	Monthly Reoccurring Expenses	\$ 213.93
	Yearly Reoccurring Expenses	\$ 0.00
	Credit Card Processing Fees	\$ 365.69
	Refunds	\$ 0.00
	Contractor	\$ 6531.15
	Total Expenses :	<u>\$ 7,110.77</u>
Ending Balance September 30, 2025:		\$40,130.34
Key Bank		
	General Fund (Acct #2305)	\$ 12,851.08
	Receiving (Acct #1763)	\$ 752.06
Chase Bank		
	Primary (Acct #9007)	<u>\$ 26,491.35</u>
Cash On Hand September 30, 2025		\$40,094.49

Chance Haywood, Treasurer

Exhibit 1 (page 2 of 2)

October 2025 LPNY Treasurer Notes

Debt : \$0.00

Fundraising Note : Contractor Kohlhaas raised \$11,817.90 from September 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025. He has raised 15,817.90 in total.

Ballot Access Reserve : \$7908.95

Reoccurring Donors : 12 Monthly for \$474.82

1 Yearly for \$25

One new reoccurring donor who is a returning donor.

Exhibit 2 (page 1 of 3)

Libertarian Party of New York Communications Report – October 2025

Social Media Overview

The past month has shown mixed results in our social media performance. While Facebook numbers are on the rise, X has seen a decline. Efforts are underway to expand our presence on additional platforms, including TikTok and Instagram, in order to broaden outreach and strengthen engagement.

Followers (as of October 2025)

- **Facebook:** 17,801
 - **X:** 10,605
 - **Instagram:** 1,879
 - **TikTok:** 125
 - **YouTube (subscribers):** 187
-

Engagement (Past Month)

- **Facebook:** 717.3K
- **X:** 52K
- **Instagram:** 1.2K
- **TikTok:** 156
- **YouTube:** (views) 27

Key Insight: Facebook continues to be our strongest platform in both reach and engagement, followed by X. Moving forward, we should continue to prioritize these platforms while also building momentum on Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube.

Exhibit 2 (page 2 of 3)

Newsletter & Website Strategy

A new initiative is underway to strengthen the monthly newsletter and website content. This strategy will emphasize coverage of **governmental overreach throughout New York State**, particularly in smaller towns and villages that often go unnoticed in mainstream reporting.

Goals:

- Publish **1–2 in-depth articles per month** on local/state overreach issues.
- Cross-publish content on both the newsletter and LPNY website.
- Expand output depending on audience reception and available support.

Upcoming Featured Topics

1. **Stop Hiding Hate Act (effective October 1, 2025)**
 - Requires social media platforms to submit reports to the Attorney General detailing definitions of “hate speech,” “misinformation,” “harassment,” and “extremism.”
 - Platforms must disclose statistics on flagged content, removals, and moderation actions.
 - Noncompliance may result in fines of **\$15,000 per violation per day**.
2. **Fort Edward Solar Project**
 - A large-scale solar development sparking local controversy over land use and government involvement.
3. **Monticello “Laundry Ban”**
 - Local leaders in Sullivan County proposing restrictions on residents hanging laundry outdoors in public view, raising questions about property rights and individual freedoms.

Exhibit 2 (page 3 of 3)

Summary

- **Strongest Platforms:** Facebook and X (priority for continued growth).
- **Emerging Platforms:** TikTok, Instagram, YouTube (opportunity for expansion).
- **Newsletter Focus:** Government overreach in New York, highlighting overlooked local issues.
- **Next Steps:** Continue building Facebook/X engagement while investing in growth on other platforms, and ensure consistent, impactful newsletter and website content.

Prepared by: **LPNY Communications Team**
October 2025

Exhibit 3 (page 1 of 2)

Apologies for the delay in reports. I've been very busy with teaching a new curriculum and parades. Here's what I have:

August Outreach Report

- I. I tabled at the Ulster, Rensselaer and Columbia County Fairs
 - A. I identified a youth member at Rensselaer who is very interested in getting involved. He is in touch with two other youth Libertarians from Dutchess and Westchester Counties
 - B. New sign-ups tend not to show up to affiliate meetings - I suggested social events to Orange and Rensselaer as a better way to get people in the door but I'm open to other ideas.
- II. I have not heard from Edmund Green in Rockland, so it seems like there will be no progress there. Orange County LP Chair Juan Ayala also reached out to him regarding a potential joint affiliate but to no avail.
- III. Rensselaer County is mulling a joint affiliate with Albany County, but I'm unsure of the buy-in from the known activists in Albany and more discussion is required.
- IV. Nathan Diny of Ontario County has that proto-affiliate's Facebook page up and running and stated in an email, "I have reached out to Michael [Gibson, secondary contact] and I am hoping to get him and other Libertarians from Ontario County together soon. If I can get the few who responded to me previously, plus Michael, that would get us to quorum and we could officially get this affiliate back up off the ground!" He said he'd do more the first week of October so I'll reach out to him this month (October) for updates.
- V. I need to reach out to Masaon Hovick of Schoharie County for updates as I have not contacted him since July.
- VI. I have tried to contact Jame VanDewalker of Allegheny County to no avail.
- VII. Paul Mulligan has been connected with the Orange County LP.
- VIII. Someone called the LPNY and I believe Catrina Rocco said she's follow up. Did that happen?
- IX. I called Jacob Rodriquez of Oswego County three times in July with no answer.

Exhibit 3 (page 2 of 2)

September Outreach Report

This month was a bust as I was very busy with parades, teaching, a wedding, a birthday party - I still have boxes to unpack in my apartment! Anyway this month wasn't a total failure - see below:

- I. I tabled at the Port Jervis Fall Festival with the Orange County affiliate. Engagement was high so hopefully we see new members there.
- II. I spoke with Kim Antonio of the Bronx: She is holding **weekly** meetings and discussing community issues. Attendees are not enrolled Libertarians; I asked her to nudge them in that direction and reach out to enrolled Libertarians. I need to link her with the other borough affiliates.
 - A. *I move to reappoint her to a six month term, expiring on April 5, 2026.*
- III. I attended a Greenville Planning Board meeting regarding something about farming. They said they're re-examining the entire code so Greenfield is worth targeting for lobbying and advocacy efforts. I reported this in Discord so the party, particularly that county affiliate, is aware.
- IV. Derek Jacques said he'd reach out to Duane Whitmer regarding establishing a presence in Niagara County; I do not know if he did. I need to reach back out to him for updates.
- V. Monticello in Sullivan County wants to ban hanging laundry. We should keep tabs on this and try to wrangle folks to travel there and speak out if any legislation appears. This could be a launchpoint for an affiliate there!
 - A. I asked Gary Triestman to forward me his contacts from this county but he never responded.
- VI. I am working connections with Unite NY and Divide NY. Check the former's website for upcoming events, including regional ones.