

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE COMMITTEE
OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025
HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON ROCHESTER/GREECE
400 CENTER PLACE DRIVE,
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, 14615
AND ON THE ZOOM MEETING APP AND PORCUPINE APP**

MEMBERS PRESENT (26)

Mark N. Axinn (JD1)
Paul M. Grindle (JD2)
Justin N. Carman (JD3)^o
Evan D. Lebrecht (JD3)^o
Daniel J. Castello (JD5)
Erinn Rose Leatherman (JD5)
Mark S. Braiman (JD6)^o
Charles E. Dorgan (JD6)^o
Samuel J. Hordeski (JD6)^o
Steven G. Becker (JD7)
Justin M. Pelletier (JD7)
Sean C. Phelan (JD7)^o
Andrew M. Kolstee (JD8)
Duane J. Whitmer (JD8)
Pietro S. Geraci (JD9)
Catrina Rocco (JD9)^o
Jeffrey J. Denecke (JD10)^o
Jonathan H. Gunther (JD10)^o
Vincent O'Neill (JD10)^o
Christian L. Padgett (JD10)
Blay Tarnoff (JD10)^o
Francisco Olvera (JD11)^o
Susan B. Overeem-Cummings (JD13)^o
David B. "Chance" Haywood (ex-officio)
Richard F. Purtell (ex-officio)^o
Christopher Skelly (ex-officio)

MEMBERS ABSENT (9)

Morry C. Davis (JD1)
Gary S. Popkin (JD2)
James B. Fitch (JD5)

James M. Ziobro (JD7)
Maura E. Botsford (JD8)
Wendi E. Szabo (JD8)
William K. Schmidt (JD9)
Robert E. Schuon (JD10)
Irwin Mark Weinblatt (JD11)

OBSERVERS (21)

Patrick Corrigan, Monroe County Vice-Chair
Theresa Corrigan, Monroe County Secretary
John Curtis, Monroe County
Daniel DeRocco
Gary Donoyan
Bryan Ellis
Francis Law, Niagara County
Martin Mutka
Jennifer O'Connor, Rensselaer County Acting Chair
Christopher M. Olenski, Broome County
James Ostrowski, Candidate for LNC Chair
David Reynolds
Larry Sharpe, Candidate for Governor
Guy Sintola
Ian Spier
Jack Terran, Monroe County Treasurer
Joseph Terwilliger
Karyn Thompson, Saratoga County Treasurer
Krystal _____
Patrick Ford, LNC Region 6 Representative
Timothy "TJ" Ferreira, Porcupine Administrator

KEY

(O) Present online
(A) Advanced notice of absence given

The meeting was **called to order** at 12:40 p.m. by Duane Whitmer, Chair.

Chair Duane Whitmer issued opening remarks.

Secretary Andrew Kolstee conducted a roll. Twenty-one (21) of thirty-five (35) voting members of the State Committee present at the time of the roll call. Jeffrey Denecke, Paul Grindle, Francisco Olvera, Sean Phelan, and Blay Tarnoff later entered the meeting. The Secretary determined that a quorum was always present during the meeting.

The **agenda (Exhibit 1)** was adopted without objection.

Chair Duane Whitmer called for the filling of three (3) State Committee vacancies from Judicial District 4. No candidates were nominated.

Chair Duane Whitmer called for the filling of one (1) State Committee vacancy from Judicial District 8. No candidates were nominated.

The Chair opened nominations for Governor.

Andrew Kolstee **nominated Larry Sharpe**, and he accepted the nomination.

Mark Axinn **nominated None of the Above (NOTA)**.

Larry Sharpe addressed the convention.

Evan Lebrecht indicated that he had raised his hand to make a nomination and was not recognized, and the Chair allowed the nomination, since nominations were never closed.

Evan Lebrecht **nominated Christopher Olenski**, and he accepted the nomination.

Christopher Olenski addressed the convention.

Mark Axinn spoke on behalf of None of the Above (NOTA).

In the first round of voting for nomination of Governor, the results were as follows:

Candidate (vote for 1)	Votes	Percentage
Larry Sharpe	12	60.00%
Christopher Olenski	5	25.00%
None of the Above (NOTA)	3	15.00%
Total Votes	20	100.00%
Total Voters	20	

Larry Sharpe was nominated for Governor of New York.

Larry Sharpe addressed the convention.

The meeting recessed from 1:38 p.m. to 1:46 p.m.

Motion by Chance Haywood to **postpone the nominations of Lt. Governor, Attorney General, and Comptroller to no later than March 15, 2026** was seconded by Daniel Castello and passed without objection.

The Chair opened nominations for National Platform Committee representative.

Mark Axinn **nominated Christian Padgett** and he accepted the nomination.

Daniel Castello **nominated Rose Leatherman** and she accepted the nomination.

Vinent O'Neill **nominated himself** and he accepted the nomination.

Vincent O'Neill spoke on behalf of his candidacy.

Rose Leatherman spoke on behalf of her candidacy.

Christian Padgett spoke on behalf of his candidacy.

The Chair ruled that the candidate receiving the greatest number votes would be elected the National Platform Committee Representative while the candidate with the second greatest number of votes would be elected the National Platform Committee Alternate Representative, provided such candidates mutually agreed upon the result. In the first round of voting for nomination of National Platform Committee Representative and National Alternate Platform Committee Representative, the results were as follows:

Candidate (vote for 2)	Votes	Percentage
Rose Leatherman	16	80.00%
Christian Padgett	14	70.00%
None of the Above (NOTA)	1	5.00%
Total Votes	31	100.00%
Total Voters	20	

Rose Leatherman was elected National Platform Committee Representative and Christian Padgett was elected National Platform Committee Alternate Representative.

The Chair opened nominations for National Credentials Committee representative.

Mark Axinn **nominated Chance Haywood** and he accepted the nomination.

Pietro Geraci **nominated Andrew Kolstee** and he declined the nomination.

Chance Haywood **nominated Justin Carman** and he accepted the nomination.

Justin Pelletier **nominated Steven Becker** and he accepted the nomination.

Chance Haywood spoke on behalf of his candidacy.

Justin Carman spoke on behalf of his candidacy.

Steven Becker spoke on behalf of his candidacy.

The Chair ruled that the candidate receiving the greatest number votes would be elected the National Credentials Committee Representative while the candidate with the second greatest number of votes would be elected the National Credentials Committee Alternate Representative, provided such candidates mutually agreed upon the result. In the first round of voting for nomination of National Credentials Committee Representative and National Alternate Credentials Committee Representative, the results were as follows:

Candidate (vote for 2)	Votes	Percentage
Chance Haywood	18	90.00%
Steven Becker	12	60.00%
Justin Carman	8	40.00%
“Larry” (write-in)	1	5.00%
None of the Above (NOTA)	0	0.00%
Total Votes	39	100.00%
Total Voters	20	

Chance Haywood was elected National Credentials Committee Representative and Steven Becker was elected National Credentials Committee Alternate Representative.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **amend the Policy Manual article on the delegate rubric (Exhibit 2)** was seconded by Pietro Geraci and passed without objection.

The meeting recessed from 2:20 p.m. to 2:34 p.m.

Andrew Kolstee presented a slate of 30 delegates based on the rubric in the Policy Manual, in accordance with the Rules of the Libertarian Party. Pietro Geraci objected to the inclusion of Nicole Hewson as a Delegate. The Chair ruled that in accordance with the rubric, her inclusion as a Delegate candidate is in order. Pietro Geraci indicated that he would not appeal the ruling.

The following thirty (30) individuals were **appointed Delegates to the Libertarian National Convention in accordance with the rubric** without objection.

Duane Whitmer
Andrew Kolstee
Chance Haywood
Mark Axinn
Justin Carman
Pietro Geraci
Paul Grindle
Christopher Skelly
Catrina Rocco
Rose Leatherman

Christian Padgett
Steve Becker
Blay Tarnoff
Jonathan Gunther
Charles Dorgan
Susan Overeem-Cummings
Mark Braiman
Vincent O'Neill
Juan Ayala
Mark Weinblatt

Justin Pelletier
Patrick Corrigan
Theresa Corrigan
Nicole Hewson
Jack Terran
Larry Sharpe
James Condon
Caryn Tarnoff
James Ostrowski
Randyn Tarnoff

Chance Haywood issued a Treasurer's report.

Communications Director Christopher Skelly issued a report.

Legislative Affairs Director Richard Purtell issued a report. He is focused on messaging, especially regarding the statewide campaign.

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

Political Director Paul Grindle issued a report. He discussed several campaigns requesting support.

Fundraising Director Mark Axinn issued a report. He passed a hat to collect donations in memory of the late James "Jim" Rosenbeck. A total of \$400 was raised.

Volunteer Director Catrina Rocco issued a report in writing (**Exhibit 4**).

LNC Region 6 Representative Patrick Ford addressed the convention.

LNC Chair candidate James Ostrowski addressed the convention.

Motion by Pietro Geraci to **adopt the following resolution** was seconded by Steven Becker and passed without objection.

WHEREAS Donald Silberger, Jim Rosenbeck, and Ed Clark were dedicated activists who tirelessly worked on behalf of the Libertarian Party to advance the cause of Liberty; and

WHEREAS Mr. Silberger, Mr. Rosenbeck, and Mr. Clark passed away this year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Libertarian Party of New York expresses its utmost admiration and appreciation for the efforts of Donald Silberger, Jim Rosenbeck, and Ed Clark; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Libertarian Party of New York expresses its profound sorrow at their passings, and offers its condolences to their families and friends.

A moment of silence was held in honor of Donald Silberger, Jim Rosenbeck, and Ed Clark.

Motion by Blay Tarnoff to **reconsider the resolution in order to strike “Jim Rosenbeck”** failed due to lack of a second.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **adjourn** was seconded by Steven Becker and passed without objection.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Exhibit 1 (page 1 of 2)

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK AGENDA OF THE NOMINATING CONVENTION OF SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025

12:30 P.M. Call to Order (Duane Whitmer, Chair)

12:35 P.M. Opening Remarks (Duane Whitmer, Chair)

12:45 P.M. Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum (Andrew Kolstee, Secretary)

12:50 P.M. Adoption of Agenda

12:55 P.M. Filling of Vacancies on the State Committee

Judicial District 4 (3 vacancies)

Judicial District 8 (1 vacancy)

1:10 P.M. Nomination of Candidates for Public Office

Governor

Lt. Governor

Attorney General

Comptroller

2:00 P.M. Election of National Convention Representatives

Platform Committee Representative

Platform Committee Alternate Representative

Credentials Committee Representative

Credentials Committee Alternate Representative

2:30 P.M. Appointment of Delegates to the Libertarian National Convention

Proposed Amendments to the Policy Manual ([click here](#))

Application of the Delegate Rubric

2:45 P.M. Treasurer's Report (Chance Haywood, Treasurer)

Exhibit 1 (page 2 of 2)

2:50 P.M. Division Reports

Communications (Christopher Skelly)
Fundraising (Mark Axinn)
IT (Justin Carman)
Legislative Affairs (Richard Purtell)
Outreach (Pietro Geraci)
Political (Paul Grindle)
Volunteer (Catrina Rocco)

3:30 P.M. Old business

3:45 P.M. New business

4:00 P.M. Adjournment

Exhibit 2 (page 1 of 3)

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK POLICY MANUAL FOR THE STATE COMMITTEE MEETING OF OCTOBER 25, 2025

Article 4. Delegate Rubric

Delegates shall be selected in the following priority order. Unless otherwise specified, ties shall be broken by prioritizing the older memberships to the National Libertarian Party. Alternate Delegates shall be selected in the order of their ranking in accordance with the rubric.

4.1. Officers of the Executive Committee in the following order: Chair, Delegation Chair (if different from the Chair), 1st Vice-Chair, 2nd Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

4.2. ~~Members-At-Large~~ The remaining members of the Executive Committee: Communications Director, Fundraising Director, Information Technology (IT) Director, Legislative Affairs Director, Outreach Director, Political Director, and Volunteer Director, ranked in order of: seniority as a member of the Executive Committee, followed by seniority as a member of the State Committee, followed by the highest ranking in the next items on the rubric.

4.3. National Convention Committee members representing New York in the following order: National Platform Representative, National Credentials Representative, National Platform Alternate, National Credentials Alternate, and members of the National Convention Oversight Committee.

4.4. Members of the State Committee who Chair a state-level committee ~~or serve as a Division Director, ranked in order of appointment.~~

4.5. Members of the State Committee who are Chairs of a ~~County~~ Local Affiliate, in order of election as a ~~County~~ Local Chair.

4.6. Members of the State Committee who are a member of a state-level committee in order of appointment to the committee.

4.7. Members of the State Committee who are past officers of the Libertarian Party of New York, ranked in order from most recent election to party office, starting with each past Chair, then each past Vice-Chair, then each past Secretary, then each past Treasurer.

4.8. Non-State Committee Members who are Chairs of a ~~County~~ Local Affiliate, ranked in order of seniority.

Exhibit 2 (page 2 of 3)

- 4.9. Members of the State Committee who are Vice-Chairs of a **County Local** Affiliate, ranked in order of seniority. In counties with more than one Vice-Chair, the 1st Vice-Chair shall be ranked before the 2nd Vice-Chair.
- 4.10. Members of the State Committee who are Secretaries of a **County Local** Affiliate, ranked in order of seniority.
- 4.11. Members of the State Committee who are Treasurers of a **County Local** Affiliate, ranked in order of seniority.
- 4.12. Members of the State Committee who are Acting **County Local** Chairs or **County Local** Liaisons of unorganized counties, ranked in order of seniority by appointment, then by election to the State Committee.
- 4.13. All other members of the State Committee, ranked in order of seniority.
- 4.14. Non-State Committee Members who are a member of a state-level committee in order of appointment to the committee.
- 4.15. **County Local** Vice-Chairs not on the State Committee, ranked in order of seniority.
- 4.16. **County Local** Secretaries not on the State Committee, ranked in order of seniority.
- 4.17. **County Local** Treasurers not on the State Committee, ranked in order of seniority.
- 4.18. Acting **County Local** Chairs or **County Local** Liaisons who are not on the State Committee, ranked in order of seniority.
- 4.19. LPNY Members who are currently elected or previously served in public office by time in office.
- 4.20. Non-State Committee Members who are Past Chairs of the Libertarian Party of New York, starting from the most recent election.
- 4.21. Members of the LPNY who have run for public office and received votes on the Libertarian Party ballot line, by number of times a candidate.
- 4.22. Non-State Committee Members who are Past Vice-Chairs of the Libertarian Party of New York, starting from the most recent election.

Exhibit 2 (page 3 of 3)

4.23. Non-State Committee Members who are Past Secretaries of the Libertarian Party of New York, starting from the most recent election.

4.24. Non-State Committee Members who are Past Treasurers of the Libertarian Party of New York, starting from the most recent election.

4.25. Non-State Committee Members who are Past Members-At-Large of the Libertarian Party of New York, starting from the most recent election.

4.26. Non-State Committee Members who are Past Members of the State Committee of the Libertarian Party of New York, starting from the most recent election.

4.27. Former **County** **Local Affiliate** Chairs, ranked in order starting with the most recent election.

4.28. Former **County** **Local Affiliate** Vice-Chairs, ranked in order starting with the most recent election.

4.29. Former **County** **Local Affiliate** Secretaries, ranked in order starting with the most recent election.

4.30. Former **County** **Local Affiliate** Treasurers, ranked in order starting with the most recent election.

4.31. Former Libertarian Party National Convention delegates, by number of times a delegate.

4.32. Life Members of the Libertarian Party, ranked in order of National Libertarian Party membership, starting with the oldest.

4.33. All other LPNY Members, ranked in order of National Libertarian Party membership, starting with the oldest.

4.34. All other applicants in order of date and time of application.

Exhibit 3 (page 1 of 4)

County Affiliate Highlights

- ❖ The Orange, Dutchess, Westchester-Putnam, Ulster and Columbia County affiliates hosted the Hudson Valley Libertarian Gala in Newburgh last month, featuring:
 - Jim Turney, Past LNC Chair 1985-1988, City Commissioner Altamonte Springs FL, elected incumbent
 - Larry Sharpe, Former NYS Gubernatorial Candidate, Host of the Sharpe Way
 - Mike ter Maat, 2024 LP Nominee for Vice President
 - Lou Perez, Libertarian Comedian & Author of that Joke Isn't Funny Anymore
 - James Ostrowski, Libertarian Attorney & Distinguished Author, past NYS Gubernatorial Candidate
 - Pat Ford, LNC Region 8 Representative
 - Duane Whitmer, State Chair, Libertarian Party of New York
 - Brittany Kosin, RN, BSN Founder of Medical Freedom Caucus and PA State Director of Ladies of Liberty Alliance

- ❖ The Westchester County affiliate was defunct but recently re-affiliated by merging with the Putnam County affiliate to form a joint-county affiliate

- ❖ The Saratoga County affiliate is monitoring the Town of Greenfield as it revises its codes

- ❖ The Orange County affiliate tabled at the Port Jervis Fall Festival in September and attracted many passersby, many of whom signed up. We raffled off gift baskets; passersby could get tickets by signing up and/or taking the World's Smallest Political Quiz

- ❖ Orange County also tabled at the Town of Newburgh Community; I got drenched in the process

- ❖ OCNLYP gained a new member at its October meeting!

Exhibit 3 (page 2 of 4)

- ❖ The Ulster County affiliate tabled at the Ulster County Fair in August and attracted passersby and sign-ups by giving away water
- ❖ UCLP participated in its semiannual highway cleanup in which a lot of trash was removed.
- ❖ The Columbia and Rensselaer County affiliate and proto-affiliate tabled at their respective county fairs in August and got passersby to sign up
- ❖ The Rensselaer County proto-affiliate is active, meeting bimonthly and preparing to become official. Their inaugural convention is scheduled for April 1st. They are discussing forming a joint affiliate with Albany County.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Nathan Dingy is working on getting the Ontario County affiliate up and running. He is asking for advice on how to get set up. He is volunteering with the Sharpe campaign and coordinating a Sharpe appearance in his county next month.
- ❖ Masaon has 3 people interested in Schoharie County and just needs one more to have enough people to become official.
- ❖ Derek Jacques is building interest in Niagara County. We spoke about finding events to table at and calling people to gauge interest. He is having discussions with people, notably churchgoers, and there are high levels of interest.
- ❖ The Erie County affiliate has been busy working with Auditing Erie County to hold politicians accountable!
 - Duane Whitmer and others tried to question the Mayor of Niagara Falls for misusing taxpayer dollars among other things and got the cops called on them!
 - Duane is holding the Buffalo school district accountable for corruption and got his phone broken in doing so!
 - Duane and his crew hammered the Orchard Park Town Clerk for his failure to do his job and got him to resign!
- ❖ Matthew Morgan is running for City Council in Brooklyn!

Exhibit 3 (page 3 of 4)

What I have been up to...

- I. I went to Greenville's Planning Board meeting in September to learn more about what they're up to
- II. I reached out to our Acting County Chairs to check in with their progress
 - A. Jaime VandeWalker in Allegheny County has a nonfunctional number on file
- III. I recently emailed all local action plans on file to our County Affiliate Chairs and Acting County Affiliate Chairs
- IV. I helped UCLP with its highway cleanup.

Outstanding Tasks

- I. I need to check in with county affiliates and see how they're doing
- II. County Affiliate Chairs need to check lpny.org/affiliates to make sure the information is current. Some of the information is out of date!
- III. State Committee Representatives should be checking in with the county affiliates in their judicial districts and attending their meetings if possible. They should be helping implement any local activism plans these affiliates choose to pursue.
 - A. It's important to build relationships between the State Committee and our county affiliates!
- IV. Efforts to build College Libertarians chapters have ended in failure. If anyone could make overtures to their local colleges and universities that would be most appreciated.
 - A. I'd like to reach out to SUNY Albany and see if I can establish anything there.
 1. The school is literally up the street from my job!

From Beyond the LPNY

- I. Check uniteny.org/events for upcoming events and ways to get involved with Unite NY!
 - A. Their next statewide meeting is November 20th and 7 PM on Zoom
 1. https://www.uniteny.org/statewide_20251120
- II. [Divide NY](http://DivideNY.org) is seeking volunteers and might be worth getting involved with.
 - A. Sign up to get involved at <https://www.divideny.org/get-involved.html>.

Exhibit 3 (page 4 of 4)

Thank you for placing your faith and trust in me. I'm having a great time serving as your Outreach Director!

Exhibit 4

Libertarian Party of New York Volunteer Director Report October 25, 2025

- Joint Letter with Legislative Affairs drafted and looking to be approved and provided county affiliates. I need the LPNY letterhead if we have one to make the letter appear more formal.
Emailed to Secretary & Chair 10/19. A report on activism will be presented at the February meeting.
- In discussion with Rensselaer County in Regard to calling a convention. Refer to emailed correspondence requesting start up grant and timeline for convention.
- I attended the Brooklyn LP meeting on Tuesday October 21 to discuss the use of libertarians on the volunteer list to make scripted campaign calls to voters in Matthew Morgan's District. Result of meeting Matthew will reach out to the board of elections to obtain this information, provide it to me and I will mobilize our volunteers to make scripted calls. *Such an offer is extended to any of our cross endorsed volunteers.