



Free New York

LPNY LOOKS AHEAD AFTER NATIONAL CONVENTION

by Andrew Kolstee
LPNY Secretary

This issue is intended to be a shorter update, with a more substantial newsletter planned for July as there will be some substantial updates.

National Convention Recap

The 2026 Libertarian National Convention was held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where New York was represented by 25 delegates.

At the convention, New York joined a region with New Jersey, Illinois, and Wisconsin. The region elected its representatives to the Libertarian National Committee, with Representative Tyler Danke of Wisconsin and Alternate Representative Rose Leatherman of New York selected to serve.

We thank all of New York’s delegates who attended the convention and represented the state party.

State Committee Elections

Registration for the 2026-2028 LPNY State Committee elections

has been extended to July 5. After registration closes, the Elections Oversight Committee will meet to review registrants. Once that process is complete, affiliates will vote on State Committee representatives. Affiliates will have until August 31 to complete their voting. The newly elected State Committee will convene at the 2026 LPNY State Convention to elect the next Executive Committee.

2026 State Convention

Plans are underway for the 2026 LPNY State Convention, which will be held on October 24, 2026, in Mount Kisco, New York. Additional details, including registration information, will be sent out once registration opens. Members should save the date and watch for future announcements.

Campaign and Ballot Access Update

As noted last month, the ballot access situation in New York remains extremely difficult. The current requirements continue to place a

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heavy burden on independent and third-party candidates, especially organizations made up primarily of volunteers.

The Executive Committee has continued discussing ways to move the Libertarian Party of New York in a different direction. We know what has worked, we know what has not worked, and we recognize that continuing to operate the same way is not sustainable under the current system.

Plans are being finalized for a campaign effort this year. There are no additional updates to announce yet, but more information will be shared when available.

COUNTY AFFILIATE NEWS

CHAUTAUQUA

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., July 9, 2026 @ 6:00 PM
at 14 Main
14 Main Street,
Bemus Point, NY
and on Zoom
(second Tuesdays)

CONTACT:

Andrew Kolstee, Chair
akolstee@lpny.org

LEARN MORE:

www.chautauquaLP.org
fb.com/chautauquaLP

CHEMUNG

CONTACT:

Nick Grasso, Chair
ngrasso89@yahoo.com

LEARN MORE:

lpchemung.org

COLUMBIA

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., July 15, 2026 @ 7 PM
Google Meet
(third Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

Scott Hoskins, Chair
scottdhoskins@gmail.com

DUTCHESS

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., July 18, 2026 @ 5 PM
Village Restaurant
& Pancake Factory
1540 Route 44, Pleasant Valley
(3rd Saturdays)

CONTACT:

Robert Cocomello, Chair
Catrina Rocco, Vice-Chair
info@dutchesscountylp.org

LEARN MORE:

dutchesscountylp.org

ERIE

CONTACT:

Duane Whitmer, Chair
chairman@eriecountylp.org

KINGS (BROOKLYN)

NEXT MEETING:

Tues., July 17, 2026 at 3 PM
@ Fourth Avenue Pub
76 4th Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11217
(3rd Tuesdays)

CONTACT:

Christopher Skelly, Chair
cskelly@lpny.org

MADISON

CONTACT:

Mark Braiman, Chair
mbraiman@lpny.org

MONROE

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., July 2, 2026 @ 7 PM
(first Thursdays)
Contact us for the link.

CONTACT:

Steve Becker, Chair
drsbecker@aol.com

LEARN MORE:

monroecountylp.org
Ask about the Google Group
and social meetings

NASSAU

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., July 9, 2026 at 7 PM
@ Landmark Diner
(2nd Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Jon Gunther,
Executive Committee Chair
jonguntherlibertarian@gmail.com

Blay Tarnoff,
County Committee Chair
LPNY@eblay.com

NEW YORK (MANHATTAN)

CONTACT:

Chance Haywood, Chair
chaywood@lpny.org

ONEIDA

CONTACT:

Keith Redhead, Chair
kredhead@lpny.org

ONONDAGA

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., July 15, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Liverpool Public Library
(3rd Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

Rachel Becker, Chair
reb4128@rit.edu
onondagacountylp@gmail.com

ONTARIO

CONTACT:

Nathan Dingey,
Acting County Chair

ORANGE

NEXT MEETING:

Held 4th Thursdays. Location
varies. Contact us for details.

CONTACT:

Juan Ayala, Chair
livefree@juanrayala.com

QUEENS

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., July 11, 2026 at 12 PM
Stamatis Greek
and Mediterranean Restaurant
29-09 23rd Ave., Astoria
(2nd Saturdays)

CONTACT:

Francisco Olvera, Chair
folvera@lpony.org

RENSSELAER

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., July 1, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Alexis Diner, North Greenbush
(1st Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

Jennifer O'Connor,
Acting County Chair
joconnor@lpony.org

RICHMOND (STATEN ISLAND)

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., July 16, 2026 @ 7 PM
@ Coffee and Collectibles
(3rd Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Susan Overeem Cummings,
Chair
susanovereem@gmail.com

SARATOGA

CONTACT:

Naz Garabedien, Chair
nazareth.garabedian
@lawsonproducts.com

SCHOHARIE

CONTACT:

Mason Hovack,
Acting County Chair

SUFFOLK

NEXT MEETING:

TBD
Panera Bread, Deer Park
(usually 4th Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Robert Schuon, Chair
rschuon@mindspring.com

ULSTER

NEXT MEETING:

Mon., July 13, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Hickory BBQ, Kingston, NY
(second Mondays)

CONTACT:

Sam Kniffen, Chair
samkniffen01@gmail.com

LEARN MORE:

www.UlsterLP.org

WAYNE

MONTHLY SOCIAL:

Sat., July 25, 2026 at 10 AM
Yellow Mills Diner
2534 NY-31, Palmyra, NY 14522
(last Saturdays)

CONTACT:

Jim Dayton, Chair
jdayton@lpony.org

LEARN MORE:

lpwaynecounty.org

WESTCHESTER-PUTNAM

NEXT MEETING:

TBD

CONTACT:

Rajib Maitra, Chair
rajib.maitra1@gmail.com

LPNY DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	COMMITTEE CHAIRS	
<p>Duane Whitmer Chair Daniel Castello Vice Chair Andrew Kolstee Secretary Chance Haywood Treasurer Christopher Skelly Communications Director Mark Axinn Fundraising Director Justin Carman IT Director Richard Purtell Legislative Affairs Director Pietro Geraci Outreach Director Paul Grindle Political Director Catrina Rocco Volunteer Director</p>	<p>Daniel Castello Platform Committee Chair Andrew Kolstee Rules Committee Chair Daniel Castello Strategic Planning Committee Chair Catrina Rocco Conventions Oversight Committee Chair</p>	
STATE COMMITTEE		
<p>Mark Axinn (JD1) Morry Davis (JD1) Paul Grindle (JD2) Gary Popkin (JD2) Evan Lebrecht (JD3) Justin Carman (JD3) <i>Vacant</i> (JD4) <i>Vacant</i> (JD4) <i>Vacant</i> (JD4) Daniel Castello (JD5) James Fitch (JD5) E. Rose Leatherman (JD5) Mark Braiman (JD6) Charles Dorgan (JD6) Samuel Hordeski (JD6) Steven Becker (JD7) Justin Pelletier (JD7) Sean Phelan (JD7) <i>Vacant</i> (JD7) Maura Botsford (JD8)</p>	<p>Andrew Kolstee (JD8) Wendi Szabo (JD8) Duane Whitmer (JD8) <i>Vacant</i> (JD8) Pietro Geraci (JD9) Catrina Rocco (JD9) William Schmidt (JD9) Jonathan Gunther (JD10) Vincent O'Neill (JD10) Christian Padgett (JD10) Robert Schuon (JD10) Blay Tarnoff (JD10) <i>Vacant</i> (JD10) Irwin Mark Weinblatt (JD11) <i>Vacant</i> (JD11) <i>Vacant</i> (JD12) Susan Overeem-Cummings (JD13) Chance Haywood (ex-officio) Richard Purtell (ex-officio) Christopher Skelly (ex-officio)</p>	
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