

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 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
Pietro S. Geraci, Outreach Director
Paul M. Grindle, Political Director
Catrina Rocco, Volunteer Director

MEMBERS ABSENT

Justin N. Carman, IT Director
Richard F. Purtell, Legislative Affairs Director

OBSERVERS

Mark S. Braiman, Member of the State Committee (JD6)
Vincent J. O’Neill, Member of the State Committee (JD10)

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Duane Whitmer, Chair. Secretary Andrew Kolstee conducted a roll call and determined that a quorum was present.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **approve the minutes of the November 24, 2024 meeting of the Executive Committee and the December 15, 2024 meeting of the State Committee** was seconded by Christopher Skelly and passed without objection.

Motion by Mark Axinn to **reimburse Andrew Kolstee \$537.19 for costs associated with the renewal of the NameHero hosting account** was seconded by Pietro Geraci and passed without objection.

Chance Haywood issued a Treasurer’s report in writing (**Exhibit 1**). Payment processors and phasing out PayPal and Blueswipe were discussed. Motion by Mark Axinn to **accept the Treasurer’s Report** was second by Pietro Geraci and passed without objection.

Chair Duane Whitmer issued a Chair’s report. He reached out to the Coalition for Open Government about collaboration. He also reported a First Amendment Audit held in the City of Buffalo in regard to challenging property tax assessments.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **certify that the County Affiliates in Oneida and Suffolk counties have met the requirements for certification in accordance with Article 11.4.3 of the Rules of the Libertarian Party of New York** was seconded by Mark Axinn and passed without objection.

Andrew Kolstee reported that the following counties are pending certification eligibility by March 31, 2025: Chemung, Erie, Queens, Richmond, Saratoga, Schoharie, Tioga, Wayne, and Yates. Only Queens County has reported that they have scheduled a convention. Pietro Geraci reported that he spoke with the Vice-Chair of Yates County.

Communications Director Christopher Skelly issued a report. Social media activity slightly dropped. He will be working to recruit volunteers for social media. On X, there were 3,100 views and 4,100 engagements in the last month with 129 followers, bringing the total to 9,431 followers. On Facebook, there were 37,000 views (a 263% increase) and 1,900 content interactions. Six episodes of The Liberty Test podcast were published to the YouTube channel. He also said there may be a need to secure a contract for press release distribution. However, it was reported that distribution in the past had a poor return on investment and networking with other groups and reaching out to smaller media outlets are a better method for generating publicity.

Fundraising Director Mark Axinn issued a report.

Andrew Kolstee issued a report on behalf of IT Director Justin Carman. The website was down recently, but this has been resolved. Kolstee has also been reviewing the data in the Humanitru database.

Outreach Director Pietro Geraci issued a report. He is working on building communication between the State Committee and County Affiliates. He also went to LibertyCon and did some networking.

Political Director Paul Grindle issued a report. Jonathan Howe has joined the Political Committee. He is reaching out to candidates. There are plans in place to send out letters to recruit candidates. Motion by Andrew Kolstee **allocate up to \$500.00 for a mailer to recruit candidates** was seconded by Catrina Rocco and passed without objections. Petitioning was also discussed.

Registering to have a booth at the New York State Fair was discussed.

Volunteer Director Catrina Rocco issued a report. She is developing a list of volunteers. She has made progress on the volunteer guide for people to reach out to their elected officials.

There was a discussion on holding an in-person event (Empire State Freedom Summit and nominating convention) in October or November 2025. Mark Axinn reached out to Turning Stone Casino in Oneida, but they are not available in mid-October to mid-November. Chance Haywood checked venues in the Rochester area and will investigate the Albany area. He also checked venues in Rome and Syracuse.

There was a discussion on sending out calls for delegates to the 2026 Libertarian National Delegate.

The meeting **entered Executive Session** at 8:41 p.m. to discuss political strategy and potential litigation.

Executive Session was **adjourned** at 8:51 p.m.

Motion by Mark Axinn to **allocate two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) to Oliver Hall for legal challenges pertaining to petitioning** was seconded by Paul Grindle and passed without objection.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for Sunday, March 30, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Mark Axinn to **adjourn** was seconded by Paul Grindle passed without objection.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Andrew Martin Kolstee,
Secretary

Exhibit 1

[TO BE ADDED]