



Free New York

Vol. 55, No. 7

The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of New York

July 2026

SUMMER 2026 UPDATES

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.

State Committee Elections

Registration closed for the 2026-2028 LPNY State Committee elections. The Elections Oversight Committee met to review the registrants. At the present time, local affiliates are voting for their 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.

Haywood Appointed Executive Director

For the last several months, the Executive Committee has discussed the necessity of hiring a paid Executive Director. In the meantime, Treasurer Chance Haywood was appointed to the position on June 28, 2026 on a volunteer basis, while the details of the position are determined for the long term.

Candidates

Blay Tarnoff of Nassau County is on the ballot, running for Congress in New York's 4th congressional district.

Brett Yarris is running for Putnam County Executive, and has been endorsed by the Westchester-Putnam Libertarian Party.

Campaign and Ballot Access Update

The ballot access situation in New York remains extremely difficult. The current requirements continue to place a heavy burden on indepen-

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dent 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., Aug. 13, 2026 @ 6:30 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., Aug. 19, 2026 @ 7 PM
Google Meet
(third Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

Scott Hoskins, Chair
scottdhoskins@gmail.com

DUTCHESS

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., Aug. 15, 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., Aug. 18, 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., Aug. 4, 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., Aug. 13, 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., Aug. 19, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Liverpool Public Library
(3rd Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

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

ORANGE

NEXT MEETING:

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

CONTACT:

Juan Ayala, Chair
livefree@juanrayala.com

QUEENS

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., Aug. 8, 2026 at 12 PM
Stamatis Greek
and Mediterranean Restaurant
29-09 23rd Ave., Astoria
(2nd Saturdays)

CONTACT:

Francisco Olvera, Chair
folvera@lpny.org

RENSSELAER

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., Aug. 5, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Alexis Diner, North Greenbush
(1st Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

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

RICHMOND (STATEN ISLAND)

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Aug. 20, 2026 @ 7 PM
@ Coffee and Collectibles
(3rd Thursdays)

CONTACT:

**Susan Overeem Cummings,
Chair**
susanovereem@gmail.com

SARATOGA

CONTACT:

Naz Garabedian, 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., Aug. 10, 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., Aug. 29, 2026 at 10 AM
Yellow Mills Diner
2534 NY-31, Palmyra, NY 14522
(last Saturdays)

CONTACT:

Jim Dayton, Chair
jdayton@lpny.org

LEARN MORE:

lpwaynecounty.org

WESTCHESTER-PUTNAM

NEXT MEETING:

TBD

CONTACT:

Rajib Maitra, Chair
rajib.maitra1@gmail.com

LPNY DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	COMMITTEE CHAIRS
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	Daniel Castello Platform Committee Chair Andrew Kolstee Rules Committee Chair Daniel Castello Strategic Planning Committee Chair Catrina Rocco Conventions Oversight Committee Chair
STATE COMMITTEE	
Mark Axinn (JD1) Morry Davis (JD1) Paul Grindle (JD2) Gary Popkin (JD2) Evan Lebrecht (JD3) Justin Carman (JD3) Vacant (JD4) Vacant (JD4) Vacant (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) Vacant (JD7) Maura Botsford (JD8)	Andrew Kolstee (JD8) Wendi Szabo (JD8) Duane Whitmer (JD8) Vacant (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) Vacant (JD10) Irwin Mark Weinblatt (JD11) Vacant (JD11) Vacant (JD12) Susan Overeem-Cummings (JD13) Chance Haywood (ex-officio) Richard Purtell (ex-officio) Christopher Skelly (ex-officio)
info@lpny.org	www.LPNY.org 866-336-3120