

# National Prohibitionist



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## Prolific Prohibitionist

C.L. "Connie" Gammon has had a long association with the Prohibition Party as a campaign worker, advisor, and publicist. We can claim Connie as "one of us," but his political interests range widely. He is a politics "junkie," and this has become evident in his rapidly lengthening catalog of books on political subjects.

Gammon studied Political Science at Tennessee Technological University and History and Government at Hillsdale College. He has written more than a score of books, educating and entertaining readers for more than a decade. The State University of New York, the University of Akron, and others have used his books as course materials. In addition, articles written by Gammon have appeared in more than a dozen publications. He is a native of Lafayette, Tennessee and lives there with his family.

All of Connie Gammon's books can be purchased through Amazon: enter [www.amazon.com/author/clgammon](http://www.amazon.com/author/clgammon) to see his entire list. The most recent titles are available in hard copy; out-of-print titles can be obtained as e-books.

The one we all should have is his 2011 summary of Prohibition Party history, *America's Other Party: A Brief History of the Prohibition Party* (\$15.99).

Other books with political subjects include: *McGovern-Eagleton: A Crazy*

*Train Wreck* (\$10.99), *Seven Candidates for President in 1972* (\$5.99), *Jefferson Davis Rallies the Rebels* (\$6.99), *Why Johnson Created the Warren Commission* (\$5.99), *The Philosophy of the Confederate Constitution* (99¢), and *The Great Mormon War of 1857 and 1858* (99¢).

Gammon has 29 titles available on an encyclopedic range of subjects. There is something here for every taste, from religious novels to local history to show biz. All are carefully researched and accessibly written. Need a sure-to-please gift for that difficult relative? Right here it is!

## Climate Change vs Religion

*(excerpts from an interview with Texas Tech professor Katharine Hayhoe, reported by the Union of Concerned Scientists)*

I'm a Christian, and my husband pastors an Evangelical church. Only about a third of Evangelicals (and a similar proportion of white Roman Catholics) agree with the science of climate change. The Bible doesn't mention climate change, but it has a lot to say about our responsibility for this world that we live in. Every major world religion's core values include care for Creation, for nature.

Disbelief in climate science doesn't have anything to do with people's faith, or what they believe about the Bible or God. It's the fact that in the United States, faith and politics have become so intertwined that for some people, their statement of belief is dictated first by their politics, and only second by the Bible. And if the two come into conflict, they'll go with their political ideology over what the Bible says.

The situation in the United States is radically different from the situation in almost any other country around the world. When I went to Paris, for talks

leading up to the Paris climate agreement, I went as a scientist, but I also met with the head of the World Evangelical Alliance (who was an official delegate for his country, the Philippines). I met with other evangelicals – from Europe, from Africa, from around the world – who were all there in Paris because their faith compelled them to attend. This situation where, somehow, being a white Evangelical or a white Roman Catholic means you can't agree with the science of climate change, that is unique to the United States. And it is entirely because we have confused our faith with our politics. We are allowing our political thought leaders to dictate our position on issues on which the Bible is very clear.

Science can tell us that climate change is real, it is serious, it caused by us, and depending on choices the choices we make, this is what the most probable outcomes look like. But science can't tell us what to do. That comes from our heart, from our values, from what's important to us, from what we love, from what we fear. And so, for many of us – for more than 70% of us in the United States – many of our values come from our faith.

After the previous issue was distributed, someone out there left the Editor a voice mail, asking to be removed from the mailing list. He did not give me his name. Whoever you are, please contact me again, and this time identify yourself, so that I may comply with your request.

## The Butts Have It

A lobbying group, Keep America Beautiful, has found that cigarette butts and related materials comprise nearly 38% of individual items in litter. They are concentrated near the boundaries between smoking and non-smoking areas.

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**From the  
Chairman's  
Corner**  
*Rick Knox*

The Constitution grants to all of us equal protection under the law (Yes! And No!). Do “third parties” have equal access to the ballot? No! Thanks to the two-party duopoly, many citizens are denied the right to vote their consciences because preferential ballot-access laws prescribe different criteria for major-party and minor-party candidates. If “justice delayed is justice denied” in criminal cases, then I believe the same rule should apply to ballot access.

Let us also consider the filing fees required of candidates for election. In Georgia, the filing fee is three percent of the salary paid that official; self-financed candidates of modest means usually blow most of their campaign budgets just in paying the filing fee. I think modest and reasonable filing fees would be fine, but such outlandish fees are, in my opinion, unconstitutional.

It is possible, in Georgia, to file a pauper's oath and then in lieu of paying the fee collect signatures: For statewide offices, about 42,000 would be needed; for Congressional candidates, around 10,000; for county offices, around 5000. In some other states, the ballot-access requirements are easy (or so they may appear), but every detail on candidates' papers are nit-picked. In my opinion,

Page 2

and I speak only for myself, the Founders would be shocked at our current political system.

We do not have a constitutional right to hold public office or to be appointed to public office, but as Americans we do have the right to seek office and to come before the voters regardless of our political views. The First Amendment applies to elections: If we are denied any of our rights, then we have a cause for action not only in a court of law but, also, in the court of public opinion. Running for office is a way of stating our grievances against the government.

Laws cannot be enforced in an arbitrary and capricious manner. All citizens must receive equal justice under the law. Consider this: Poll taxes were declared unconstitutional, and they amounted to only a few dollars. How, then, can we abide big filing fees in order to run for office? Enough is enough! Either this is the land of the free and the home of the brave, or it is the land of political monopolies and special interests.

*Be at war with your vices, at peace  
with your neighbors, and let every  
year find you a better man.*

*- Ben Franklin*

The alcohol lobby controls most state legislatures. This is sad, because the alcohol pushers care only about their own money-making projects and have no real concern or care for the individuals and families who suffer from the use of their products. The same can be said about the tobacco lobby and about the gam(bl)ing industry. Who rules this country? We the people, or the special interests? Until ordinary citizens have equal access to the electoral system at all levels, the First Amendment guarantee of equal treatment will remain an empty promise.

The time has come to form working alliances with other third parties, for all of us to come together against the major-party duopoly and its unfair laws restricting ballot access. I am extending a hand of friendship to the Constitution, Libertarian, and Green parties, asking that we unite in fighting the beast that is the

two-party duopoly and special interests. The year 2018 makes 50 years in politics for me, and I'm still kicking butt, taking names, and inflicting punishment on the political establishment.

We have no royalty in America except for the two-party royalty. Let's smash the duopoly and open up the system so that all may play. We will not have equal justice under the law for all political groups until we end this “pay-to-play” system of exorbitant filing fees and unattainable signature requirements.

## Oliver replaces Bledsoe

National Committee Chairman Rick Knox has appointed Andrew Oliver to the Executive Committee, replacing the late Bill Bledsoe. Oliver lives in Greensboro, North Carolina. He also serves as our Social Media Manager and our Young Prohibitionists Manager. He is computer savvy and speaks the language of youth.

Oliver is a student at the University of North Carolina, where he is pursuing a double major in English and in Media Studies. Additionally, he writes for his local paper, *The Carolinian*, is a shift manager at a store, is an outreach coordinator for a film festival, and does free-lance filming and writing.

## Tobacco

Smoking kills more Americans each year than do motor vehicle accidents, murder, and illegal drugs combined. The United States is the world's second-largest tobacco market (after China).

Most cigarette brands are now owned by one of two international corporations, Philip Morris International and British American Tobacco. Both are becoming involved in the development and sale of what their advertising flacks are pleased to call “safer” alternatives – e-smokes and heat-not-burn products. Note the grammatical implication that smoking is “safe,” but these alternative methods of nicotine delivery are “safer.” That's of a piece with the booze pushers saying that “moderate” use of alcohol is safe, just don't drink “too much.” Purify the sales pitch, but protect the product!



## Limited Government

Bill Bayes

As you are probably aware, I am against all federal encroachment on the constitutional prerogatives of the 50 states. I firmly believe that the only jurisdiction the federal government can claim is over the 10 square miles of land that Maryland donated for the site of our nation's capital. The \_\_\_\_ court recently affirmed/denied this viewpoint in its decision (\_\_\_\_) regarding a tract claimed by the BLM on the Texas/Oklahoma border.

I also firmly believe that the majority of federal agencies are in direct violation of the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which was written to control the federal government. What exists at the state level cannot also exist at the federal level.

I would like to abolish the Federal Reserve Bank, repeal the federal income tax, and end the direct election of senators. From 1787 until 1913, senators were chosen by the legislatures of the several states and could be removed from office by those legislatures at any time. After all, senators were intended to represent their states (and congressmen their districts). I don't see that happening today. Senators (and congressmen) pretty much do as they please and dictate to the citizens whatever they please. This is not representative government, this is tyranny.

Democrat governors recently were elected in Virginia and in New Jersey. As in so many recent elections, there wasn't much of a choice between the "Republican establishment" candidate and the "Democrat establishment" candidate. Establishment Republicans are for the most part liberals, therefore basically Democrats. That's why the term "RINO" has been applied to them – "Republican In Name Only." I think the people in the states of

Virginia and New Jersey, who this time came out in droves to vote, were sending an opinion to establishment Republicans "No, we are not going to vote for your simply because you put an 'R' after your name."

I hope to become the Prohibition Party candidate for president in the 2020 election. I'm going to continue to talk about states' rights and limited government, about the rights of the individual and about following the Constitution to the letter. That's what I'm about, and that is what I have always been about. We have way too much government and definitely way too many taxes. It all needs to go away. We can't even own property, because there are property taxes. If you don't pay your property tax, the government will steal your property from you. (And Heaven forbid you should stand up for your property rights!)



## Editor's Musings

### Have We A Vision?

*"Where there is no vision, the people perish...." (Prov. 29:18).*

As the "old guard" passes leadership of the Prohibition Party to younger generations, we are acutely aware that we are guardians of a historic social movement. We have pulled the Prohibition movement back from the brink of oblivion. Now, we must ensure both that its past accomplishments are remembered and that its future influence is restored. How....?

Several years ago, Rev. Davis and I discussed this, and Davis prepared a "Vision Worksheet" for self-analysis. My responses are given below; each of us needs to give some thought to Davis' questions, and then let's have a real convention next year, instead of a telephone call, so we can spend some time in a face-to-face discussion.

**What is our vision, our desire as Prohibitionists?** We hope to create an America which allows each citizen to realize his potential – an equal opportunity America, a color-blind America, an independent and prosperous America. A safe, sound, and sober America, free from the burden of all recreational drugs.

**What is our strategy, how do we get there?**

1. *What are we currently doing well, as a political party?* We're using the internet to spread the word and draw the interest of young people. We're counter-acting years of bad press by endorsing plausible candidates. We're forging alliances with like-minded organizations. We're having greater success with ballot access. We're getting our records and artefacts preserved in libraries and museums.

2. *Do we wish to do anything differently?* Let's become more visible, so we can do more effective education, so we can attract additional supporters and get them involved. We need to become more adept at using social media, and we need to develop publicity materials written in contemporary language.

3. *What are our strengths, our gifts and abilities?* We have (a small) guaranteed income from trust funds, so we need never starve. We are dedicated and persevering. We have a message relevant to many social problems.

4. *What are our weaknesses?* We have no strong state parties or local organizations. We are poor as church mice (the trust fund monies are but a token amount, in terms of political action). We have too few people available to fill leadership positions. We have no charismatic spokesman to represent us before the public.

5. *What are the key issues facing our Party in the next decade?* We absolutely must increase our membership. And these new members should be in their 20s and 30s, so that they will be around long enough to learn our traditions and how to preserve them. We must vigorously counter-act the "failure" image nurtured by pro-drug popular media. We must identify and support knowledgeable candidates.

6. *What are we doing/can we do to succeed?* We have dipped our toe into the waters of the internet. We have a more welcoming attitude toward potential new members.

Do we want to become large enough again to threaten the two major parties at the polls, to have some influence over public affairs? Or, are we satisfied with keeping a warm corpse on life support, with seeing our name on the ballot once every four years?

I'm tired of haranguing people, of being the interpreter of an historical exhibit. Let's each incubate a vision and next year get together to assemble the parts into a living organization.



## Ada M. Bittenbender

Nebraska lawyer Ada Bittenbender (3 September 1848 – 15 December 1925) was a Prohibition candidate for the Nebraska supreme court in 1891 and again in 1893. But, as were many Prohibition candidates, she was also active in a wide range of Progressive causes.

Born in Pennsylvania, she graduated from the Pennsylvania State Normal School in Bloomsburg and was at first a school teacher and administrator. She and lawyer husband Henry emigrated to Nebraska in 1878, where Henry purchased the *Osceola Record* and set up a law practice. Ada was made Editor of the *Record*.

Mrs. Bittenbender subsequently read law in her husband's office and became the first female lawyer to practice in Nebraska. The two established the Polk County Agricultural Association, and Ada became Editor of the first Farmers' Alliance newspaper in Nebraska.

She was active in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and was counsel for the National WCTU as well as being its lobbyist in Washington, DC.

Mrs. Bittenbender was an influential actor in the fight for woman suffrage in Nebraska. One of the main opponents of woman suffrage was the liquor traffic, which feared that, if women were allowed to vote, they would vote for prohibition.

She was driven by social idealism, by a conviction that women were responsible for creating a better society as the American West was being settled. Along with other Progressives, they held the distinct view that their mission was to build a good society, not to take profit from it.

• *Data from an article in Nebraska History, "Striving for Equal Rights for All: Woman Suffrage in Nebraska 1855-1882," v. 90, pp. 84-103 (2009) by K.M.*



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*Bloomberg and from Wikipedia.*

One thing that made the Prohibition Party stand out from its contemporary parties in the 19th Century was the huge role in it played by women. Women helped found the Party, took part in its debates, voted in its internal elections, and held many Party offices.

One such woman was Ada Bittenbender. Born in 1848, Mrs. Bittenbender attended Lowell's Commercial College, the Pennsylvania State Normal School, and Freebel Normal Institute. In addition to teaching school, she was active in her church (Presbyterian), in agricultural movements, and in the temperance and woman suffrage movements.

She joined the Prohibition Party in 1884. In 1891, she ran as a Party prohibitionist for the Nebraska Supreme Court and won nearly 5% of the vote, an exceptionally good return for any Prohibition Party candidate.

Mrs. Bittenbender was Superintendent of Legislation and Petitions of the National WCTU for four years, then acted as its counsel for another four years. She was authoress of the *National Prohibitory Guide*, published by her own company,

"Uncle Sam's Drunkard Factories."

• *Additional material contributed by Chuck Foland.*

## Organizing New York

Many years ago, New York was a strong state for Prohibition, with ballot access and many state and local candidates. This came to an end in 1934, although we did run our national slate in New York as recently as 1940.

Jonathan Makeley hopes to restore the Prohibition Party in New York. He is forming a state committee, has created a state website ([www.newyorkprohibition.wixsite.com/new-york-prohibition](http://www.newyorkprohibition.wixsite.com/new-york-prohibition)), and has opened accounts on facebook and on twitter; there is a dedicated email address: [newyorkprohibition@aol.com](mailto:newyorkprohibition@aol.com). Local publicity includes a very nicely done article in the Hornell Evening Tribune last December 3rd.

**"Do illiterate people get the full benefit of alphabet soup?"**