



## Our 2020 Candidates

The Third Time will be a Charm – or else!



**Phil Collins**  
Presidential Candidate 2020

Navy veteran Phil Collins of Illinois is the Prohibition Party's presidential candidate for 2020. He was born into a Navy family at Point Magu Naval Air Station, California, where his father was stationed, on 8 March 1967.

Phil himself served our country for 21 years as a Navy hospital corpsman, 11 on active duty and an additional 10 in the Reserves. During that time, he was stationed overseas in Guam, Okinawa, and Iraq, as well as stateside near Chicago and San Diego. He was attached to marine units for eight of those years.

Since leaving the Navy, Collins has worked as an account executive for a Chicago public relations company and in Las Vegas. He graduated from Siloam Springs, Arkansas high school in 1985, later earned a B.A. in political science from the University of Arkansas, and currently is working on an MA in Public Administration.

Phil considers himself a fiscal conservative. In 2013, when he lived in Mundelein, IL, he was elected a Libertyville Township trustee, in a nonpartisan race. Six candidates vied for four seats, and he defeated two incumbents. While living in Las Vegas, Nevada, in 2019, he entered a non-partisan campaign for mayor and came in second out of seven candidates.

His wife, Nicole, is a Lutheran pastor. They have no children.

The National Committee met by conference call on August 24th, to deal with the withdrawal of erstwhile presidential candidate Connie Gammon. Gammon, an author and lecturer in Tennessee, had been chosen to replace Bill Bayes as our presidential candidate when Bayes withdrew, but soon afterward he encountered a personal problem which, he felt, would prevent him from mounting an effective campaign.

Vice-Presidential candidate Phil Collins was moved up to presidential candidate. Party stalwart Billy Joe Parker was Collin's choice to be his own vice-presidential running-mate. The Committee agreed to seek ballot position only in "easy" states.

### Trust Fund Grants

Annual Grants by the Prohibition Trust Fund Association support many small but significant temperance projects around the country.

In 2018, the Fund awarded \$5000 to American Character Builders to help produce a classroom video and associated materials on opiates (ACB is the educational arm of the Alabama Council on Alcohol Problems). This was a third of the total cost of the project. Another third was provided by the Pennsylvania Prohibition Committee, and the final third was raised from other donors.

The Trust Fund also contributed \$1000 to the WCTU, to send an American representative to the World WCTU convention in Helsinki, and it made up to \$1000 available to the Illinois Council on Alcohol Problems, to support their "Teen Board" of school-program presenters.

Two thousand dollars was given to the Partisan Prohibition Historical Society, to continue developing the website [www.prohibitionists.org](http://www.prohibitionists.org). In addition, the Fund is supporting publication of a 1972-2016 supplement to Roger Storms' history of the Prohibition Party, *Partisan Prophets*.

Twenty-nineteen grants include \$3000 more to IllCAP, an additional \$3000 to PPHS, \$10,000 to the Prohibition National Committee (for ballot access field work), \$3750 to WCTU archivist Glen Madeira (to hire an assistant), and another \$15,000 to the Pennsylvania Council on Alcohol Problems (for operations).

The PPHS book project is now in page proof. Its total production cost is estimated to be \$5000. The Trust Fund will also pay for free distribution of copies, when published.

### Billy Joe Parker

Billy Joe Parker, the 2020 Prohibition candidate for Vice-President, lives near Waleska, Georgia. He was born near Blairsville, Georgia on 8 October 1939 and grew up in Blue Ridge, Georgia.

After graduating from West Fannin High School (near Blue Ridge), he studied briefly at Indiana Technical College in Fort Wayne, then enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He served four years, 1958-1962, first as an artilleryman, then in the motor pool. He was discharged with the rank of Lance Corporal.

Parker later worked at a variety of warehouse and manufacturing jobs, retiring in 2002.

Since retiring, he has kept busy as a Prohibition Party volunteer, agitating against alcohol and against abortion. He is a member of the American Legion and of the Baptist Church.

He has never married.



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## From the Chairman's Corner

Randy McNutt

### Prohibition Party Celebrates Its Sesquicentennial

For 2020, the Republicans have President Donald Trump. The Democrats have whomever. The Prohibitionists have Phil Collins.

The Prohibition Party, founded 150 years ago—on September 1, 1869, in Chicago—is the nation's third-oldest political party and its oldest third party that's still operating. Since 1872, Prohibitionists have faithfully fielded presidential and vice presidential candidates every four years. Aside from the two majors, it is the only American party to do so.

The party began just after the Civil War, when a group of disillusioned Republicans defected from the GOP. Unhappy because big business had claimed their party, the defectors decided to think big. They focused on the 19th-century's continuing alcohol problem. But the new party was also forward-thinking. It became the first to grant women equal status as convention delegates. The party also sought suffrage for women, civil service reform, and the direct election of senators. It ran a woman for vice president before any other bona fide American political party tried it.

The Prohibition Party's symbol, a camel, was drawn by the famous newspaper polit-

ical cartoonist Thomas Nast. He also drew the GOP's elephant and the Democrats' donkey. He chose the camel because the animal doesn't drink often.

For 2020, the party's presidential candidate is Phil Collins, a human resources officer from Bartlett, Illinois. The vice presidential nominee is Billy Joe Parker of Waleska, Georgia. So far, they are seeking to be on the ballot in Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Tennessee.

The two major parties make it hard for third parties to get on state ballots. For them, votes are counted in the thousands, not millions. But the small-budget Prohibition Party hopes its presence in the race will help spread its message, attract new members, and help turn back the tide of drug abuse. As Parker said, “In a hard battle when you see an opening, you must exploit it with what you have got. Plus there is a certain joy of going up against an overwhelming force and be willing to take mocking and scorn doing it.”

Jim Hedges, the 2016 presidential candidate, sees increasing support coming from the South. A veteran Prohibitionist, Hedges has held a number of party positions. “Jim provides the institutional knowledge and hard work that has held the party together,” said Randall McNutt, chairman of the party's national committee.

Today, most of the party's members realize that it can't outlaw alcohol, and probably wouldn't anyway, but it can educate Americans on the negative effects of all recreational drugs. As states rush to decriminalize the use of marijuana, several Democratic presidential hopefuls want to do the same on the federal level. Prohibitionists believe any additional tax revenue generated by the sale of marijuana would be offset by more addiction and health consequences.

Phil Collins, 52, a former Navy hospital corpsman who served in the military for 21 years, spent time near Baghdad in Iraq. Before moving to Illinois, he lived in Las Vegas, where he recently ran for mayor and came in second out of a field of seven non-partisan candidates.

He said, “The Prohibition Party's aim is to remind people about the harmful effects of drinking and smoking. I hope to remind people that our platform mentions several other issues. The party is more relevant than ever because there are more ways to smoke, compared to when the party was founded.”

The party's platform generally is conservative, but it also calls for safe-guarding the environment, protecting animals from cockfighting and other forms of “entertainment,” and encouraging states to “make compulsory disclosure on production labels if animal testing has been used in their development.”

Modern Prohibitionists are using the Internet to spread their message. The party's Web site explains: “We're interested in many problems which directly impact the home: debt, gambling, job insecurity, trivialized education, spouse and child abuse, intrusive governmental regulations, drinking, and more. We're interested in helping people help themselves by voluntary association in a private enterprise economy. We're interested in teaching personal responsibility. We're Americans . . . who love our country and what it stands for.”

The party also believes in border security, but recognizes that the government should offer “a compassionate policy of asylum for individuals facing persecution or who are living under inhumane conditions.” The party is also pro-life, and it supports Americans' right to own firearms.

But the nation's ongoing struggle against harmful drugs is what has enabled the Prohibition Party to stick around for a century and a half and has made it unique among all political parties.

### New National Officers

Participants in the 24 August conference call elected Randy McNutt of Ohio to be the new National Chairman of the Prohibition Party. He replaces Rick Knox, who died unexpectedly last summer.

James Hedges of Pennsylvania was chosen to be Vice-Chairman. (Jonathan Makeley of New York had been made Secretary at a previous meeting.) No one was willing to accept the responsibility of Treasurer, so Hedges will continue indefinitely as “provisional treasurer.”

Rachel Roberts of Mississippi was removed from the Executive Committee “for lack of communication.” Her replacement is Dr. John Das of Ohio.

The Prohibition Party . . .  
**A Choice not An Echo**

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## 2020 Campaign Outline

The Executive Committee met by conference call on the evening of September 20th to plan campaign strategy with our ballot access contractor, Paul Frankel. Also present were presidential candidate Phil Collins and new National Committee member for Tennessee Ryan Jenkins.

It was decided to seek ballot status in a cluster of four "easy" Southeastern states: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Concentrating on several adjacent states will minimize travel expenses when getting signatures and, afterward, when making campaign appearances. It will also allow us to reach voters in all four states by purchasing air time only in Memphis, Tennessee.

Focusing on this group of states, however, creates the impression that Prohibition is only a regional party. We will attempt to get on the ballot in Colorado and in New Jersey using our own labor in order to preserve our national-party image.

The Party expects to spend \$15,000 on ballot access for the 2020 election. (An additional \$5000 was spent on the abortive Bayes campaign and Gammon campaign.)

We note the passing last summer of Gary Van Horn. Van Horn was primarily a Libertarian, but he came to the 1999 Prohibition convention and challenged Earl Dodge for our presidential nomination. He came within one vote of getting it.

### COFOE meets

The Committee on Free and Open Elections, a coalition of small-parties who work together to reduce obstacles to getting their candidates on the ballot, met in Lancaster on August 18th. Local activist Hedges serves as the Prohibition Party representative.

Membership in COFOE is fluid, but in addition to Prohibitionist Hedges this meeting included persons associated with the Green Party, the Libertarian Party, the Socialist Party, the Reform Party, independent candidates, and the non-partisan lobby "Fairvote."

Hedges also is a board member of two small trust funds which support ballot-access work, the Pennsylvania Prohibition Committee and the Prohibition Trust

Fund of New York.

COFOE has a newsletter, *Ballot Access News*, which is edited by San Francisco activist Richard Winger. Winger, too, was present.

The Committee lobbies on who-can-be-a-candidate subjects, such as the number of signatures needed on small-party candidate petitions and the filing dates before elections for small-party petitions. These often are more restrictive than are the analogous requirements for major-party (Democrat & Republican) petitions and are designed to reduce competition for major-party candidates.

Who-is-allowed-to-vote problems are dealt with by civil-rights groups, problems such as disenfranchising North Dakota amerindians by requiring street addresses on voter registration cards and discouraging the poor and the elderly everywhere from voting by making it difficult to register to vote. COFOE deals only with candidate problems.

Although their candidates rarely win elections, small parties often are the source of fresh ideas later adopted by the major parties. Small-party candidates also are alternatives for voters who are disgusted with the candidates of both major parties.

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Lincoln: Alcohol has many defenders  
but no defense.

### Madison F. Larkin

Madison F. Larkin was a prominent Pennsylvania prohibitionist and a well-regarded citizen of Scranton. Born in Cincinnati, Ohio on 15 October 1855, he attended public schools there. He later attended Ohio Wesleyan University, where he was a classmate of President Taft. He was a cousin of President Wilson; he and his parents were personal friends with many leading political figures of the day.

He was offered the Prohibition nomination for President in 1912, but declined it. In 1910, Larkin ran for Governor of Pennsylvania, receiving 1.75% of the vote. In 1912, he ran for Congressional District 12 (a Democrat-majority district west of Philadelphia), where he received 4.32% of the vote, coming in third among five candidates. In 1914, he ran for the Senate,

receiving 1.59%. Pennsylvania Prohibition candidates at this time did very poorly in the cities, but did well in rural areas where "dry" sentiments were stronger. In Venango County, a Prohibition stronghold north of Pittsburgh, Larkin won 14% of the vote for Governor. He won 17% of the vote for Senator in Legislative District 28 (Venango and some adjacent counties).

At the time of his death, Larkin was Treasurer of the Scranton Life Insurance Company.

Larkin began his career as a member of the private banking house of his father, Larkin, Wright & Company. At 20 years of age, however, his health failed, and he went to Texas, where he worked in the open on a cattle ranch. Later, he went to Arizona, where he worked for the Wells Fargo Company, later becoming their state agent. He then served as clerk to the Territorial Affairs Committee of the Arizona legislature.

In 1881, he went to New York, where he secured employment with the United States National Bank. Subsequently, he became interested in the lumber business, forming the East End Lumber Company of Cincinnati. Still later, he returned to banking and became associated with the Market Street National Bank there in Cincinnati. In 1897, he removed to Kansas City, where he became representative for the National Surety Company.

The last 34 years of his life were spent in Scranton, where he was an accountant at the International Correspondence Schools, then its Assistant Treasurer, and lastly its Treasurer. He was also Treasurer of the Scranton Life Insurance Company and of the Scranton Chamber of Commerce.

He married Harriet E. Harrington of Philadelphia in 1889; the couple adopted a son of Mrs. Larkin's nephew as a baby and raised him as Curtis H. Larkin. Curtis Larkin became a well-known cornetist, although he worked for an electric utility and was not a professional musician.

The first Mrs. Larkin died in 1917, and Madison Larkin then married Elizabeth B. Childs of Brooklyn, New York. They had a son, Madison F. Larkin, jr.

Madison F. Larkin died on 26 March 1932, in Scranton.

-- Tim San Soucie located articles in Dubin's Congressional Elections, in the Bemedji Daily Pioneer, in the Wilkes-Barre Evening News, and in the Scranton Times which form the basis of this essay.

## THE CASE FOR LOCAL CANDIDATES

— Gene C. Armistead

It is helpful to the credibility of any alternative political party to be able to point to at least some successes in electing party members. The Constitution, Green and Libertarian Parties presently are able to do this with elected members to local offices in various parts of the nation. Local office elections are sadly an opportunity which the Prohibition Party has neglected for over a half century. With candidates who will actually work to win election to such offices, in addition to greater credibility, Prohis everywhere could be encouraged in their support of the party.

As Chairman of the California Prohibition Party in the late 1970's and early 1980's I found that many California Prohis were dispirited by their lack of opportunity to support and vote for Prohibition candidates in the state (ballot access restrictions were and are far too severe in the state). Therefore, in 1980, I decided to seek a local office. Not being resident in city and with no county offices up for election, I determined to run for Director of the Palomar Resource Conservation District which had three seats coming up for election. One of over 150 such districts in the state formed in 1942, at the time the district covered 243,000 acres and had a population of over 300,000. Yet it had never held an election for director with office holders continually submitting their own or friends' names for appointment to the County Board of Supervisors. It was extremely little-known though recipient of property tax monies. Like all offices in California beneath that of State Assemblyman, it was a non-partisan office. There actually seemed to be a real chance to win the election.

On July 16, 1980, I submitted to the County Registrar of Voters a filing petition signed by twenty neighbors along with a ballot statement. Three incumbents and three environmental activists also filed but the petition of one of the challengers failed to have a sufficient number of valid signatures resulting in six candidates for the three seats. As it turned out, I was the only one of the six to actually campaign. As mentioned, I filed a statement to appear in the official ballot booklet. On Saturdays, I walked nearby neighborhoods, giving out a calling card and asking for votes. In September, I sent announcements of my

candidacy to newspapers in the district which were printed by local weeklies. Letters were mailed to local clubs and labor unions. One County Supervisor actually endorsed my candidacy sending press releases of his endorsements to the newspapers which unfortunately did not print them. Additionally, I successfully challenged the occupational statements of the three incumbents causing their listing on the ballot to be "Appointed Incumbent" rather than "Incumbent."

In addition to time, there were costs. The major expense was the ballot statement which costed \$274.75. Other costs were for cards stating my candidacy (\$42.40), postage, and bank service charges for the campaign account. Fortunately, I was able to raise \$350.00 for the campaign which covered these expenses. Of the monies contributed to my campaign, two friends gave a total of \$25.00, nine family members gave \$220.00, and seven California Prohis gave a total of \$105.00.

My campaign argued that the District's directors should be more visible and active in providing input to local agencies involved in land use planning and in making its services known to its neglected urban population. The other challengers, when contacted by newspapers took a similar line. News articles reported this and also the experience of the incumbents – two who had served on the board since 1952 and the other since 1960. The incumbents' campaign was non-existent except for statements by the only paid employee of the District that the election would cost the district too much money. Unfortunately, this was the line that the major newspapers of the district area took in editorials.

The election was conducted on Tuesday, November 4, 1980. That evening, my wife and I traveled to downtown San Diego to witness the election returns reporting. We returned home just before midnight with myself in second place. The next day's newspapers announced that all three challengers – myself included as winning election. The unofficial results had me as the 3rd-place winner with 3,558 votes – a winning margin of 1,040 votes. A few days later, a letter of congratulation was received from the District's Board President.

Then, on November 10th, it was reported that a computer programming error for the race would force a recount. In a race for three seats, voters are permitted to vote for one, two or three candidates. Inexplicably, the vote counting program for the race had

been set to count only those votes which had been cast for one candidate only with all votes that were marked for two or three candidates excluded as "over votes." The final and official vote was reported on November 12th. I was a loser – in 4th place with 46,353 votes and a losing margin of 7,254 votes. Myself and one of the other challengers could say that we were among the few who had both won and lost the same election.

Analysis of the final, official vote revealed that the success of the winners was attributable to ballot order and name recognition. The incumbent listed first on the ballot was the 3rd-place winner. The other winning incumbent's surname was well known since it was also the name of a popular reservoir used for fishing in the area. The challenger who won – in 1st place – bore the same name as a popular City of San Diego Councilman.

Still, I think the race was a success. A shamefully unknown special district became known to the voters. California Prohis did have a chance to support an in-State candidate. And, Earl Dodge informed me that when it was initially reported that I had won election, he had contacted supporters of that fact and obtained additional donations for the national party. And, though a non-partisan race, I received the highest vote total of any Prohibition Party candidate since the 1960 Presidential election when Rutherford Decker received 46,193 votes. The February 1981 issue of *The National Statesman* reported this total but unfortunately did not take the opportunity to use it as an example of what members of the Prohibition Party could do in local races.

It would be just over twenty years before another Prohi would seek office in a local election. In 2001, in a partisan race, Jim Hedges won election as Tax Assessor of Thompson Township, Fulton County, Pennsylvania. This was the Prohibition Party's first election success since the election of some members to the Winona Lake, Indiana, City Council in 1959. Hedges won re-election in 2005. My 1980 race, Hedges' success in 2001 and 2005, and the local office wins by members of other "third" parties over the past twenty years serve to point the way. Local candidates (for partisan or non-partisan offices) are needed to both encourage the Prohi membership and to build creditability for the party. They can win.

NATIONAL PROHIBITIONIST