



Hale Johnson, our 1896 Vice-Presidential Candidate

Hale Johnson was born in Tippecanoe County, Indiana on 21 August 1824. His father, John B. Johnson, was a surgeon. Hale Johnson as a young man farmed and taught school. He enlisted in the Union Army in 1864 as a private. In 1875, he was admitted to the Illinois bar and became one of the more prominent lawyers in Jasper County.

He married Mary E. Loofbrough in 187; the couple had 6 children: Jesse, Frank, May Bell, Fannie, Ruby, and Hale, Jr.

Johnson was murdered at the village of Bogota, in Jasper County, on 4 November 1902. He was practicing law in Newton, the county seat, at the time, and had gone to Bogota to collect an account which had been rendered against one Harry Harris.

An altercation ensued. Harris obtained a shotgun and fired at Johnson, at close range. Johnson died on the spot. Harris immediately jumped into Johnson's buggy and attempted to flee, but was apprehended by a deputy who had witnessed the shooting.

Johnson's body was taken to his home in Newton. Harris was placed in jail, where he committed suicide a few days later by taking poison.

Johnson had been nominated by the Prohibition Party in 1896 to be its candidate for Governor of Illinois, but he later withdrew and, instead, accepted his Party's nomination for Vice-President.

Information from the website "Find-A-Grave" and from the Decatur (Illinois) Herald of 7 November 1902. Photos by "BiJ." Thanks to Chuck Foland for bringing this to the Editor's attention.



Lee Kennicutt

Lee has gone missing. His Post Office mail began being returned last year, and his apartment manager said that he had gone to live with friends. His friends do not answer letter mail, and Lee did not have working email.

Lee's first Prohibition Convention was the 1972 meeting at Wichita, Kansas, when he was only 17 years old. He was severely asthmatic, finally being confined to his own apartment, but he hunted down facts and figures useful to the Editor, discovered new contacts, and hoped someday to arrange a convention near his home. He was 1/64th Cherokee Indian and was legally recognized to be a member of that tribe.

More Guns, Less Crime

Author John Lott argues that widespread possession of firearms by the general public significantly reduces crime. His research demonstrates that increasing gun control is associated with rising crime rates, not with falling crime rates.

Lott makes a compelling argument that factors such as the breakdown of the traditional family and other social structures are far more significant in determining the rate of violent crime than is gun ownership. For example, the Swiss are one of the most heavily armed societies on Earth, yet Switzerland has an extremely low rate of violent crime.

Lott also discusses the deterrent potential of an armed populace, showing how criminals are (understandably) reluctant to attack potential victims who might be armed.

More Guns, Less Crime is available from Liberty Tree Publishers for \$12.00.

www.prohibitionparty.org

www.prohibitionists.org

A Prohibitionist Supreme Court

Chuck Foland

The Judiciary: We support limiting U.S. Supreme Court justices to one 9-year term; new justices shall be chosen from among the Chief Justices of the several state supreme courts who are willing to serve.

As I explored the Prohibition Party as a

possible new home for this disgruntled Conservative, this plank of the platform caught my attention, and the possibilities began percolating in my brain. This has great possibilities to take politics out of the Supreme Court and to eliminate the ridiculous display of party warfare we see when it comes to putting a new justice on the Court. I don't know about you, but I think our "representatives" on Capitol Hill have better things to do than spend months fighting over a seat on the High Court.

But, how would this be done? How could we take politics out of this? How do we choose which states? How do we choose which judges? The questions are endless. However, I think there is a simple way to solve this problem.

As you may (or may not) know, there are 11 District Courts in the United States. Each District includes a certain number of states. If each District were to put forth the justice on the various state supreme courts in that District who had the most experience, we would have 11 judges to choose from. The 9 judges with the most experience would get first choice to serve or refuse.

No District would be allowed more than one judge at a time on the Supreme Court so, once a District has a justice serving, it would be ineligible to propose another judge until its serving justice retires.

An example: The 3d District covers the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. If a judge on the New Jersey State Supreme Court were the one in the 3d District with the most experience, then that person would get first choice of an open seat on the U.S. Supreme Court. Were he to decline the opportunity, then one of the two districts with least-experienced judges would be allowed to propose a candidate. If that person also declines, then the next-most-experienced judge would be offered the open seat (so long as his district was not already represented).

No more endless meetings. No more political fighting over the next Justice. No more waste of time, money, and effort in finding a Justice who will vote in a certain way. New Justices would go into the job with no strings attached, no Presidential power expanded, and no uproar in Congress. It would put the political maneuvering back where it belongs — at the local and state levels where common people like you and I have a greater say. What are your thoughts?

National Prohibitionist



Twenty-first Century Series



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Some thoughts as a candidate:

by Greg Seltzer

Yes, I believe most folks know that I have submitted my name as candidate for President of the United States as the nominee of our Party. I humbly ask for your support. But this Party is not about me...or yee. However, let me move to a different topic. First, while I enjoy reading all of the internet dialogue going back & forth on many topics...sadly, I find a bit of consternation in some of the vitriolic comments flowing back & forth. It seems as some of these emails have become a religious debating society. All is well & good. Hmm...save that for religious debating clubs or society's.

Years ago there was a comic strip called, "Pogo". In which it was stated, "we have met the enemy and he is us!" My friends, I believe we have met the enemy. We know he is from the beginning. Right there back in the Garden of Eden. He seeks to divide and conquer us. Please friends, don't let us divide and conquer ourselves. Simply, it is sin! United we stand and divided we fall!

As an aside, my father served in the Pacific WWII. Married my mother in 1943, (she was a WAVE) home on leave, went back to the war zone. They did not see each for almost 2 years. I cherish to this day their war letters they wrote every day to each other, sometimes 6 weeks apart. She told me at that time it was hard to be pure; but she always had the church and other "war brides" to support her. As such, she bought War Bonds and served at the San Diego Medical Center. How did they do it ? My mother, other women, young men, in Europe & the Pacific. Praise God, for, "The Greatest Generation". My dad came home. Used his GI rights to get a college education. He got a degree in aeronautical engineering and started working for the Glenn L. Martin Company in Middle River, Md.

Which is why I am in Maryland), well you, are born where your mother is! Well...I love her very dearly: we recently celebrated her 90th birthday in April. She lives in Florida. Here is a story my father recalled when

I was in the Boy Scouts as a Senior Patrol Leader and was having problems with some of the other boys in my troop: He said, "Son, sometimes, I had to call men in my office and reprimand them for a mistake made. Many times I had to step on their shoes without taking the shine shine off their shoes". I said, "Dad, as a 14 year old Boy Scout Troop Leader, I don't know what you mean?" He said, "Always admonish in private & give praise & recognition in public". They were words from my Dad I will always cherish...and so my friends, let us keep this internet dialogue civil. I appreciate the dialogue. However, remember, united we stand & divided we fall.

Finally, as an announced candidate for our party's nomination for President, I will refrain from policy & position articles in the National Prohibitionist. I will continue to write my column as Party Chair, but will not discourage others from stepping up to candidacy and engaging in a real dialogue prior to taking our nomination and platform to the country.

I do not think this is fair as Party Chairman. It would be unfair to those men & women who may have much to offer our Party.

It can only be a blessing to our Party if we keep it civil and always: "keep a shine remaining on our shoes". Thanks to you ALL, Greg.

Tobacco, a Relentless Killer

Smoking tobacco killed 100,000,000 people during the 20th Century. It now takes 6,000,000 lives each year — one person every 6 seconds. It is 100% preventable, but if present trends continue, it will have claimed 1,000,000,000 victims by the end of this century.

As of August 2012, some 175 nations had agreed to take measures to curb tobacco use. However, economic and social pressures keep the tobacco pandemic raging. The tobacco industry spends billions of dollars each year on advertising to ensnare new customers, especially women, young adults, and citizens of countries in Asia and Africa.

Tobacco industry's victims include surviving family members, who suffer emotional and financial loss, as well as the 600,000 non-smokers who die each year from breathing second-hand smoke. The financial burden falls on everyone, smoker and non-smoker alike, in the form of rising health-care costs.

The addictive nature of nicotine ensures that casualties will remain high among the billion smokers already hooked. Unless current users can be persuaded to quit, the death toll from tobacco will climb sharply over the next 4 decades. Advertizing and addiction keep many trapped in a habit they know they should break.

Paraphrased from Watchtower Magazine, 1 June 2014.

All Things Polish

Pójdźże, kiń tę chmurność w głąb flaszki, which in English means Come on and drop your sadness into the depth of a bottle.

This alcohol-related sentence contains all 32 characters of the Polish alphabet and every character is used only once. *Thanks to Stanislaus W. Pekala for calling it to the Editor's attention.*

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Commerce Clause

Boston University law professor Randy Barnett, author of *Restoring the Lost Constitution*, argues that the re-interpretation of the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution by FDR and later presidents to include anything that “affects” interstate commerce is incorrect. The Commerce Clause gives the federal government power only to regulate activities that actually are interstate commerce, not anything and everything that in some way “affects” interstate commerce.

Small government advocates will want to study his reasoning.

Inserts

The inserted leaflets and folders last month, this month, and for the next several months are the remainder of Earl Dodge’s stock of literature. The small quantities of many mean that not everyone is receiving the same items

Most of these include “dated” artwork and/or obsolete statistics. The National Committee intends to replace them with contemporary materials better suited to convey our message to the modern world.

Meanwhile, please enjoy the historical quaintness of these left-overs.

Financial Summary

None of the recent nominal Prohibition National Committee treasurers have actually done the work of “treasurer;” the bank account has been managed by PNC Secretary James Hedges. The PNC Executive Committee recently appointed Leroy Pletten to be Treasurer, pending confirmation by the next National Convention.

Pletten is a Senior Tax Advisor and Office Manager employed by H&R Block. He will henceforth keep the books and counter-sign the checks.

In lieu of proper treasurers’ reports, Hedges has prepared the following summary of our checking account, 2011-current. Any reader wanting to see a month-by-month breakdown of these figures may request same from the Editor:

2011	starting balance		\$ 905.39	2013	starting balance		\$1712.67
	dues & donations	664.50			dues & donations	\$ 195.00	
	in-kind donations	465.03			Pennock*	1845.97	
	Pennock*	2881.63			Trust Fund†	<u>750.00</u>	
	Trust Fund‡	<u>1000.00</u>				2790.97	
		5011.16					
					PO Box	\$ 54.00	
	PO Box	\$ 46.00			Seltzer**	500.00	
	stamps	46.00			stamps	116.00	
	convention	<u>294.50</u>			printing	75.00	
		386.50			envelopes	45.00	
	ending balance		\$4624.66		labels	<u>7.63</u>	
						797.63	
					ending balance		\$4503.64
2012	starting balance		\$4624.66	2014	starting balance		\$4503.64
	dues & donations	\$ 930.00			dues & donations	\$ 315.00	
	Pennock*	<u>2079.41</u>			Pennock*	<u>978.15</u>	
		3009.41				1293.00	
					stamps	\$ 269.09	
	PO Box	\$ 48.00			printing	68.90	
	stamps	199.30			paper	105.00	
	printing	154.50			labels	20.03	
	envelopes	40.00			notary	<u>10.00</u>	
	xeroxing	7.60				473.02	
	Knox‡	<u>5520.00</u>			ending balance (Jan/Jun only)		\$5323.62
		5921.40					
	ending balance		\$1712.67				

* Pennock Trust income

† Prohibition Trust Fund grant

‡ Rick Knox, ballot access field worker

** Greg Seltzer, Maryland ballot petition drive



From the
Chairman’s
Corner
Greg Seltzer

During the course of my research for the book I am writing entitled: “Dry Runs: A History of the Prohibition Party in American Presidential Politics from 1872 to the present”, I was struck by the fact that our nominees in 1892, (John Bidwell & James Cranfill), received over 270,000 votes- the most ever receive by our Party. Well, no big deal until I researched and found that we were on the ballot in 44 States (we did not have 50 States back then). So what? Well.....Let’s look at a few things: The Census of the U.S. in 1890, 65 million. Today it is over 309 million.

In 1892, there were many political parties on the ballot. (Republican, Democrat, Populist/Peoples Party, Socialist-Labor, Prohibitionist, and many splinter/parties). How did we get over 270,000 votes? Think for a moment & remember, -women & children could not vote. And, blacks in the southern States were dis-enfranchised because of the Black Codes enacted by the Democrat Party after Reconstruction in 1877.

Here is my take-away; a simple correlation. WE achieved those 270,000 votes through ballot access! By simply being on the ballot in all 44 States people could consider our candidates and vote for them. Since 1892, our ballot access has receded.

I believe Rick Knox in the last edition of the National Prohibitionist spelled this out in his 8 points. We now have income from the Pennock Trust We must employ Rick to work on obtaining ballot access in every State possible. We must file all necessary paperwork for our candidates when & where required on time. And, campaign for our Party, its Principles, & its Purpose! In addition, our Executive Secretary must have every Secretary of State in all 50 States as election officials, count, record, & report all write-in votes for our candidates.

And that means YOU! My Gentleman & Gentle Lady friends. We must file for every possible office from the proverbial “dog catcher”, to school board, tax asses-

sor, mayor, State Representative, Congressman, Senator, & even yes, President. (Pray that you will consider to run).

Ballot access is not easy. I am not naïve or foolish. We know that the 2 major parties are against to ensure their duopoly. I say, look to a good resource, “Ballot Access News on the internet. If the Greens & the Libertarians can do it.....why can’t we? Perhaps we can join some of their challenges for ballot access.

After all.....WE are America’s third oldest political party. WE have a story tell and a heritage to follow. WE have cause that is just! I say,.....pray and get in that fight! Blessing to All, Greg.

Can Our Party Grow?

*The Rev. Dr. James Walter Clifton**

The growth of third parties in America has faced and will continue to face major challenges. The Prohibition Party is no exception. From its inception in 1869 to the present, the Party has continued to dwindle in membership and vote in presidential elections, with minor exceptions.

How can our Party grow and move forward into a viable alternative to America’s two major parties that are more similar than different? What needs to happen to keep our Party from becoming relegated to the history books as a “dead Party”? In my estimation, the Prohibition Party needs a complete overhaul.

First, the Party needs to nominate presidential candidates who are serious about running for President, rather than basking in the glory of having their names on ballots, so that they can tell their grandchildren and great-grandchildren “I ran for President.” These candidates must be willing to vigorously campaign, listen to those who have expertise in running campaigns, and be willing periodically to release statements to the press on the issues of the day.

Second, the Prohibition Party must be willing to “act” like a political Party, not an historical entity. The Party must issue statements each and every year about the major

issues of the day, Supreme Court rulings, and bills passed in Congress that are anathema to the principles of the Party.

Third, the Party must give Party regular updates to sites like <http://thirdpartypolitics.us> and <http://www.independentpoliticalreport.com>. The Party must submit reports and updates to magazines such as Campaigns and Elections, as well. The Party must actually “use” its Facebook page, providing updates and commentary on the issues of the day. The nominee of our Party must fight to be included in the Third Party debates that occur every four years.

Fourth, the Party must stop being narrowly focused and broaden its scope. It has to stop being seen as a “single issue” Party. Rather than stating what the Party is against, it needs to state what the Party is for. We can still discuss our opposition to the sale and distribution of alcohol but do it in more palatable ways. How? By stating we are for highway safety, for an end to child abuse, domestic violence, poor health, for an end to the increase of rape of our women, for an end to college campus sexual assault, for an end to gun violence, etc. Then, and only then, we can show the connection between alcohol and these social problems. Education is the key to any campaign. We need to show we are pro-family, pro-women, pro-health, pro-highway safety, etc.

And finally, playing the devil’s advocate here: Should we change our focus to being for the decrease in alcohol use in this country or continue with advocating an end to the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages? I offer this in light of the facts that billions of dollars drive the alcohol industry and that our society is becoming more and more libertarian, viz the recent legalization of marijuana in several states.

**Clifton is a clinical therapist and pastor of two small Evangelical Lutheran congregations. He had been active with us during the Dodge years, including as a candidate, but lost contact after Dodge died. He recently rediscovered us through Rev. Davis’ website and renewed his membership.*

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