

### Gideon Tabor Stewart (August 7, 1824 – 1909)

Vice-Presidential Candidate in 1876

Gideon Tabor Stewart, a lawyer and newspaperman, was born at Johnstown, New York in 1824. He attended Oberlin College, but left before graduating in order to pursue a career in law. He was admitted to the bar in Norwalk, Ohio in 1846.

He was active in the Order of Good Templars, being elected 3 times as Grand Worthy Chief Templar of the Good Templars of Ohio. He published Unionist newspapers in Iowa and in Ohio during the Civil War.

Stewart began his political life as a Whig, then switched to Republican, finally settling with the Prohibition Party. He wrote widely on Prohibition and on related matters. Throughout the 1850s, he strove to organize a prohibition party.

In 1869, Stewart was a delegate to the founding convention of the national Prohibition Party. Thereafter, he was one of our most active candidates for office, running 3 times for Governor of Ohio, 7 times for Ohio Supreme Court judge, once for circuit court judge, and once for Congress, in addition to being our Vice-Presidential candidate in 1876.

Stewart was married in 1857, to Abby N. Simmons of Greenfield, Huron County, Ohio. They had 4 children.

*Information from Wikipedia.*

I'm willing to listen to Republicans and Democrats, because, as Aristotle once said: "It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."

### Tobacco is the Worst Drug

*Ray Perkins, Jr.*

Probably, most people think alcohol is the worst drug problem. The whole story is that all of the dangerous drugs, but especially tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana, have largely the same debilitating properties: They are all mind-boggling, mind-altering, performance-lowering, personality-changing, behavior-modifying drugs. They can cause about every known illness. Their use is associated with premature disability and with excruciating death.

The use of tobacco does impair drivers to some extent, especially when combined with alcohol use. Smoke forms a vision-impairing film on cold windshields. When built up enough, it becomes translucent, even opaque when facing the sun or another bright light. Smokers can have a stroke at any time while driving. Children riding with smokers can become ill from the "second-hand" smoke, as can adults. When a drinking driver who also smokes gets into an accident, the cops always blame the accident on alcohol; they don't report any other causes of impairment.

Low-income tobaccoholics spend one-quarter to one-third of their paychecks on cigarettes, especially when both parents smoke. This leads the family into financial difficulty, the same as recreational-drug purchases do in drinking families. Many people who smoke also consume a fair amount of alcohol in addition to tobacco, multiplying the cost of addiction.

George Ormsby's statement (previous issue) that "...the use of tobacco does not cause spouse abuse or child neglect" could not be more wrong. Prolonged addiction to tobacco destroys the nervous system, causing smokers to become violent and to lash out at anyone who "gets on their nerves" when they are at the low end of a mood swing and their bodies are screaming for a fix.

If you read the newspaper, you already know how many house fires are caused by careless handling of cigarette butts and by children playing with matches or lighters, and how many pets, firemen, and other people die in those fires.

My wife and I dined at a Beverly, Massachusetts restaurant one night about 40 years ago, and after we ate, we went into their underground bar for a couple of drinks and to listen to their piano player. We might have

spent only an hour in there, but when we got up to leave, I felt a little dizzy. When we became erect, we found our heads wrapped in a cloud of cigarette smoke which had been building up in the room and was working its way down from the ceiling. We had to go through an underground corridor to get to the stairway, and the smoke in there was so thick we could not see the overhead lights until we got right under them. When we got to our car, I had an awful headache and was unsteady on my feet, so I had my wife drive us home.

This is what tobacco smoke can do to you, if you get enough of it in a short time.

### Chamber of Commerce Promotes Smoking

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and its foreign affiliates have mounted an intense worldwide lobbying campaign against any legal measures aimed at reducing the number of smokers. The targets include health warning labels, higher taxes, plain packaging, advertising restrictions, smoke-free areas, even menthol cigarettes and "slim" cigarettes.

The Chamber says it is merely safeguarding its members business interests – in plain language, it is putting profits ahead of people.

Several health organizations are members of the Chamber. One of them, CVS Pharmacies, recently resigned its membership in protest against the Chamber's pro-smoking campaign.

Major companies have also resigned from the Chamber because of its aggressively anti-consumer attitude in other areas. Apple computers quit in 2009, because the Chamber opposes global warming regulations. Skanska construction quit in 2013, because the Chamber opposes "Green" building codes.

It was not always so. David R. Palombi, a CVS senior vice-president, acknowledged that "We believe the Chamber has advocated for many important causes over the years, and we thank them for their leadership on these issues. [However,] given the leadership position we took last year in removing tobacco products from our stores ... we have decided to withdraw our membership in the Chamber."

A kind heart is a fountain of gladness, making everything in its vicinity fresher into smiles.  
– Washington Irving

# National Prohibitionist



Twenty-first Century Series

☆ Apr-May-Jun 2015

☆

Volume 5, #2

## Too few people able to come CONVENTION CANCELLED

Several Party regulars who normally would attend are on the sick list. Others have essential job-related things to do at the scheduled time. Instead of a traditional face-to-face meeting, we will hold an electronic business meeting.

**This is how it will work:** The Secretary has drawn up an agenda – these are basically the same from convention to convention. The Members are now reviewing it and suggesting changes.

The Officers have prepared written reports and have circulated them to all Members, for discussion

The Executive Committee will act as a Search Committee to identify a potential new Chairman, a potential new Treasurer, and four potential new Executive Committee members. Suggestions (and volunteers) from any Member are welcome.

The only people who have expressed an interest in receiving the nomination for President and for Vice-President are Jim Hedges, Bill Bayes, and Andrew Coon. Hedges is a long-time member, Bayes is a new member, and Coon is a non-member activist. Other recommendations are welcome.

The eventual nominees will propose a campaign strategy.

All of the above will be discussed by email until the end of July.

**The Secretary will arrange a conference call** late in July for final discussion of issues and for voting on agenda items. Any member who is in good standing (dues paid) may participate in this call. Each participant will have one vote. Proxies will be allowed. These will be roll-call votes (because the Secretary cannot recognize everyone's voice).

The tentative date and time for the call are Friday, July 31, at 8pm Eastern time.

### The Prohibition Party . . .

**A Choice not An Echo**

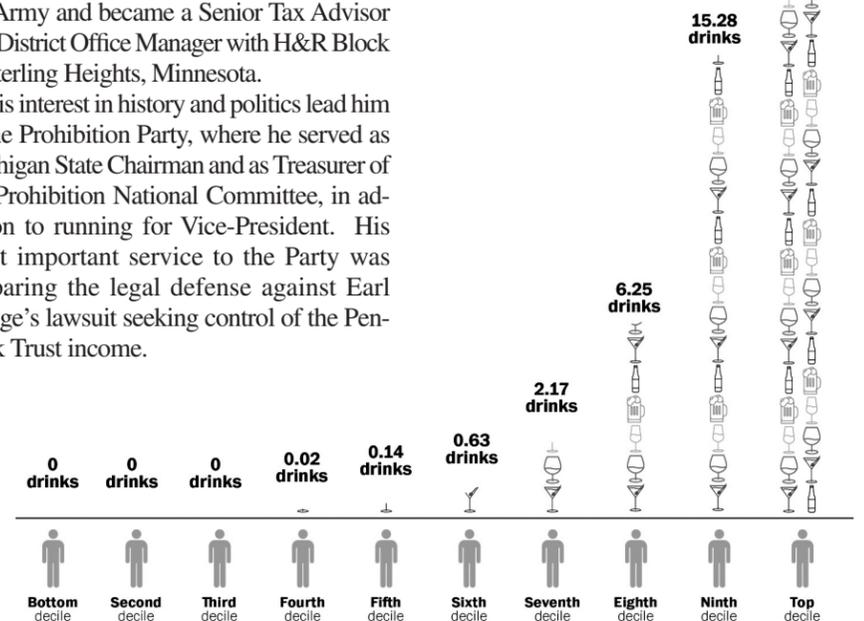
## Time for a Stiff Drink

Average number of drinks per capita consumed on the past week, by decile, among adults aged 18 and over.

Reprinted from *The Washington Post*, 25 September 2014. Written by Christopher Ingraham, artwork by Gabriela Muniz

30 percent of American adults don't drink at all. Another 30 percent consume, on average, less than one drink per week.

On the other hand, the top 10 percent of American adults - 24 million of them - consume an average of 74 drinks per week, or a little more than 10 drinks per day.



## The National Prohibitionist

ISSN 1549-9251 D

Published at Box 212, Needmore, Pennsylvania 17238  
by the Prohibition National Committee.

Editor: James Hedges  
(717-485-5807)

hedges@prohibitionists.org

Deadline: last Monday of the month

Contributed articles are welcome, but will not be acknowledged or returned unless a SASE is enclosed.

Subscription: \$5/year (12 months) – make checks out to the Prohibition National Committee, memo “National Prohibitionist Fund,” and mail to the address above.

Editing, typography, and graphic design by The Camel Press, Big Cove Tannery, Pennsylvania. Printing by The Fulton County News, McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania.

Editorial material is not copyrighted and may be reproduced by anyone, with credit.

### Alcohol Education

We’ve all heard about the beer-fueled sexual assaults and rioting on college campuses. We’ve been told that college administrations are worried about these. Now we know what they are doing to alleviate these problems: teaching the students how to brew their own beer.

This has been the response at, among others, California State Polytechnic, Colorado State, Oregon State, and the University of Wisconsin.

And these are not just classroom courses. The results of the laboratory exercises are sold on campus – with the pro forma admonition to “drink responsibly.”

This proliferation of recreational-drug courses is driven by the public demand for craft beers. The number of breweries in the United States has tripled in 10 years, to around 3000. Most of the new comers are small operations.

There is also increased demand for trained equipment operators by the large brewing companies. David Ryder, chief brewmeister for MillerCoors, cautions that the key to successful college beer programs is finding instructors who themselves know how to make high-quality beer.

Courses are taught as “fermentation studies” in chemistry departments or as part of a “hospitality studies” major.



### Shame? Yes, Shame!

Two recent books dwell on the utility of shaming public figures and corporations whose behavior is (perhaps) lawful but unethical. Environmentalists’ “Dirty Dozen” polluters come to mind, as do Hollywood personality Bill Cosby and New Jersey Governor Chris Christy.

Shaming is a tactic available to temperance groups at very low cost, both locally (alcohol retail outlets) and nationally (manufacturers). It has to stick to publicly available facts – slander and libel can backfire badly. But done right it is highly effective.

Does any reader have suggestions on whom we might target and how? Is someone interested in being the “project manager” for shaming attacks?

For background details, refer to: *Is Shame Necessary*, by Jennifer Jacquet and *So You’ve been Publically Shamed*, by Jon Ronson.

### A Moral Issue

A recent news item points out that it is very difficult to “educate” people out of deeply-ingrained viewpoints. This is true even in that stronghold of rational thought, science, where failed hypotheses sometimes have to be outgrown by a change in generations instead of being abandoned by believers after contradictory evidence is found.

This leads to a policy conclusion relevant to temperance: We can’t educate people out of drinking, we have to make it (again) a moral issue. The anti-tobacco folks are winning largely by (1) demonizing the tobacco industry (for lying) and by (2) making the point that smoking injures by-standers. We anti-alcohol folks aren’t going to win by pointing out that drinking is unhealthy. A lot of people obviously think that the risk from drinking is less than the (whatever) “benefits” of drinking and accept that risk. We have to insist that drinkers are bad people – because their drinking injures by-standers. And, we have to demonize the alcohol industry for its half-truth advertising and for its dodgy “research.”

One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors. – Plato

### Figures don’t Lie, but Liars Figure

The conventional wisdom in recent years has been that “moderate drinking is good for you.” Now, the truth has come out:

The allegedly “scientific” studies on which that assertion is based compared people who are current drinkers with people who are not current drinkers. Pay attention to the word *current*. The sample population was not composed of life-long abstainers, it was composed of reformed drunkards and other people who have stopped drinking, in addition to teetotalers.

This means that people whose bodies already have been damaged by alcohol were counted as “non-drinkers,” along with lifetime abstainers. Naturally, drunkards who have stopped drinking will not be as healthy as people who have always imbibed moderately. And thus, we get the “scientific” conclusion that current non-drinkers are less healthy than current moderate drinkers!

A recent study carefully distinguishing between drinkers and never-drinkers concluded that “Former drinkers appear to be less healthy and at a greater risk of mortality than never drinkers.... The protective effects seen among lighter drinkers may be less a consequence of a real biological relationship and more a statistical artifact arising from their comparison against people who are simply less healthy.”

Moderate drinking protects no one’s health. It only protects drug pushers’ profits.

Thanks to Diane Berlin for uncovering this piece of work.

### Freedom

Thus a people may prefer a free government; but, if from indolence, or carelessness, or cowardice, or want of public spirit, they are unequal to the exertions necessary for preserving it; if they will not fight for it when it is directly attacked; if they can be deluded by the artifice used to cheat them out of it, if by momentary discouragement, or temporary panic, or [if in] a fit of enthusiasm for an individual they can be induced to lay their liberties at the feet even of a great man, or trust him with power which enables him to subvert their institutions – in all these cases they are more or less unfit for liberty, and though it may be good to have it even for a short time, they are unlikely long to enjoy it.

– John Stuart Mill

### 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 243,00 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 activist 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 Sep-

tember, 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 cost \$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 credibility for the party. They can win.