



# SOBRIOLOGY

## A Mature Science of Prevention with Empirical Foundation

More than a century of careful research has shown what is effective in reducing the use of alcohol (and of other recreational drugs). The many lines of evidence have existed more-or-less independently, however, rather than being drawn together as a coherent body.

Now, Russian scientists, led by Academician Alexander Mayurov, advisor to the State Duma of the Russian Federation from the City of Nizhny Novgorod, have created the multi-disciplinary field of “Sobriology” incorporating all of the data and concepts. A summary of their work, in English, was published in 2010. The cited supporting literature is mostly from Russian sources, but it has many parallels in English-language publications.

Briefly, the science of Sobriology is based on these laws:

- The alcohol traffic is unprofitable to the community – The cost of repairing the damage caused by alcohol is many times larger than the value of taxes paid by manufacturers and sellers.
- Moderate, “civilized,” drinking leads to addiction. The number of alcoholics in a community is directly proportional to the number of moderate drinkers.
- Production and consumption of homebrews and moonshine increases with the volume of legal alcohol sales.
- The use of low-alcohol beverages by young people leads to their use of higher-alcohol beverages as they age.
- Severity of drinking increases in families from one generation to the next.
- Levels of addiction in a society are proportional to the acceptance of moderate drinking by the religious leaders in that society.
- The incidence of alcohol-related problems in a society (alcoholism, morbidity, mortality, crime, accidents, and birth defects) is directly proportional to the per-capita consumption in that society.
- Beer, wine, and other “nice-tasting” forms of alcohol are the most dangerous in enticing children and women to begin drinking.
- The level of addiction in a society is proportional to governmental opposition to or acceptance of drinking.
- Alcohol use by either/both male and female parents before conception and during gestation affects the mental abilities of their offspring.
- The spectrum of alcohol harms cannot be eliminated by attacking each independently of the others.
- Drinking societies are sooner-or-later destroyed by moral collapse, corruption, and loss of respect for authority.
- Alcohol problems tend to be more severe in colder climates.

### Sober Russia

Prof. Mayurov, our diligent co-worker in Russia, has written an enlightening history of temperance in Eastern Europe. This was led by an activist Roman Catholic priest, Fr. Moteyus Valanchus in Lithuania and nearby parts of what was then western Russia.

Liquor sales at that time (mid 19th Century) were a government monopoly. Valanchus, bishop of the Diocese of Zhemantysk, urged his followers to “sign the pledge” not to drink. Many of them did. The movement was approved by Tsar Alexander II and became so strong that the government created local option laws.

But then, the state liquor monopoly was converted to a capitalist system. Landlords and businessmen complained that sobriety was reducing their income. Tax collectors complained of lower receipts. The national government reversed itself, beating and imprisoning temperance advocates. Political philosopher Karl Marx later noted that attempts to raise the moral level of the common people were punished as criminal acts (*collected works of Marx and Engels*, v. 16, p. 207).

Free-market competition forced down the price of alcoholic drinks, leading to a resurgence of alcoholism. As in our own time, “control” measures other than local option failed to stem the tide. The historical advice is clear: Maintain and strengthen state monopolies, and preserve local option!

# The National Prohibitionist

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## From the Chairman's Corner

Phil Collins

The February 16th primary election for city council in Oshkosh, Wisconsin (where I now live) featured nine candidates for three seats. The top six candidates have advanced to a run-off in April. I came in 7th, I received 791 votes (8% of the total.

Only 6% of the electorate participated.

The last-place candidate has lived in Oshkosh for some 40 years; I received 140 more votes than he did, although I've lived here for only 13 months!

## Oshkosh B'Gosh

Party Chairman Phil Collins recently participated in a non-partisan primary for city council in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. A city resident for only 13 months, he nonetheless came in seventh out of nine.

The top six candidates will go to a run-off in April. Phil didn't get that close, but he still obtained name recognition in his new community and is better positioned to win next time. Politics is a process. Anything we can do to increase our visibility to voters is worthwhile.

Wine makes a man more pleased with himself; I do not say that it makes him more pleasing to others. -- Samuel Johnson

## Gambling

Why do Christians tolerate, even participate in, gambling today, when 50 years ago it was called a sin? There have been two fundamental changes in society:

First of all, Christians, indeed people everywhere, are better off financially now than they were. They can afford to lose money. And second, people nowadays see gambling as just another means of entertainment. They see no essential difference between spending \$100 to gamble and spending \$100 for a day of SCUBA diving.

But, SCUBA diving doesn't jeopardize our personal character, addict us, and lead us into poverty. Gambling often does. SCUBA diving does not support an industry that feeds on the losses of others. Gambling does.

No matter how fashionably it may be clothed as a voluntary tax, as a painless way to obtain money for government services, gambling ruins thousands of lives every year, lives from all strata of society but especially lives of the poor. Are we really so starved for "entertainment" we'll forget that so long as we, ourselves, are having a good time? -- *Progress magazine*

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If a political party does not have its foundation in the determination to advance a cause that is right and that is moral, then it is not a political party; it is merely a conspiracy to seize power. -- *Dwight Eisenhower*

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## Fraternities Score Again in 2021

Andrew Oakes, a freshman at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, was found dead the morning of Saturday 27 February, after an off-campus party sponsored by Delta Chi.

About the same time, a student seeking membership in the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity at Bowling Green State University was so strongly poisoned with alcohol that he was taken to the hospital in critical condition and may need organ transplants.

Alcohol-related student deaths are always of White males being initiated into fraternities, but they are not unique to any specific fraternity or to any specific campus. They are a logical product of the "fraternity culture" which exists at many colleges. The precursors are alcohol-tolerant parents and alcohol-tolerant college administrations.

*Request for Nominations*

## Partisan Prohibition

Historical Society

### 2020 Award of Merit

The Partisan Prohibition Historical Society requests nominations, from anyone, for their 2020 Award of Merit. The recipient individual or organization will be someone who has materially aided in the discovery, preservation, and/or public presentation of some aspect of the history of the Prohibition Party.

Nominations should be received by the Secretary, James Hedges, at Box 212, Needmore, Pennsylvania 17238 no later than 1 September 2021.

The recipient will be determined by vote of the membership of the Society.

The award consists of a certificate and a press release.

A list of all previous awards is posted on the website [www.prohibitionists.org](http://www.prohibitionists.org), linked to the History Page. Be sure that your intended nominee has not already received an award.

There is more to life than increasing its speed. -- *Ghandi*

## We Already Knew It, and Now Science Agrees Beer Causes Crime

Restricting the sale of beer ("malt liquor") in urban neighborhoods with high crime rates is shown to reduce the number of offenses. An investigation by the Research Society on Alcoholism and published this January in the journal *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research* found that "malt liquor sales restrictions are associated with declining urban crime."

Scientific studies are always hedged about with exceptions and qualifications, but this one, as have been many others, is clear: The more alcohol that is sold, the more times the police have to be called.

When do we stop studying the problem and begin fixing the problem?

Since Repeal, hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent on research. Professors and clinicians have build careers around "study." Scientific journals filled with "studies" clutter library shelves. And yet the problem worsens.

How do we persuade our fellow citizens that "enough is enough" and inspire them to act?

NATIONAL PROHIBITIONIST

## Opioids

A news item forwarded by the American Council on Alcohol Problems states that, last year, over 47,000 of our fellow citizens died accidentally of opioid overdoses.

The Society of Actuaries has calculated that in just four years, 2015-2018, opioid abuse had a direct cost of 631 billion dollars; an additional 39 billion was spent on the families of these addicts.

Measures taken to discourage the recreational use of legal opioids, such as more restrictive prescription protocols, have resulted in users switching to heroin and fentanyl. Heroin comes mostly from poppies grown in the Middle East. It is thought that most fentanyl (and precursor chemicals) come from China via Mexico.

Intercepting and destroying opioid shipments is much more difficult than is the confiscation of alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco, because of their high potency in small volumes: Instead of dealing in barrels and tons, opioid smugglers handle only pounds.

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## Painkiller Wars

The feds are going after chain stores which promote drug addiction! Using the “know or should have known” approach which was partially successful in shutting down the tobacco trade, the national Department of Justice and its Drug Enforcement

Administration are now going after the big corporations which fuel opiate abuse.

Companies which engage in the manufacture, distribution, and sale of opiates are being accused of supplying grossly unreasonable volumes of opiate pain-killers to neighborhood pharmacies, which then fill virtually limitless numbers of prescriptions written by complicit doctors. The resulting flood of pills has caused the epidemic of addiction which plagues poor communities in Appalachia and elsewhere.

Several manufacturers have been fined. The largest have absorbed the fines as a cost of doing business, but several smaller ones have quit.

So far, so good. However, the trial lawyers are objecting that their cut of the settlements is too small. The legal maneuver is a good treatment, but it won't be a cure until the ink is dry.

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## That Vile Habit

The Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems points out....

- Over their lifetimes, male smokers have about \$16,500 higher health costs than do non-smokers .
- For female smokers, that fee is \$19,500.
- Smoking employees claim about 35% more sick days and do non-smokers.



## Editor's Musings

The “Debunking SUD Myths” advocacy statement in last week's Fulton County (Pa.) NEWS illustrates the basic incompatibility of the “recovery” approach to recreational drugs versus the “prevention” approach. Those of us who believe that preventing harm in the first place is more important than fixing harm after it happens understand the importance of “stigma” in prevention.

By “stigma” I mean re-inforcing community disapproval of recreational drugs and criticizing individual drug users. When drug use is acceptable behavior, lots of drugs will be used (and there will be no shortage of work for rehabilitation specialists).

The anti-smoking movement has made striking gains by attaching a stigma to tobacco use: “It's bad for you personally, it's bad for our community, it's wrong, don't do it.” We should apply the same approach to other recreational drugs.

Helping addicts reform their behavior (treatment of addiction) is important. Drug addiction costs the community more than does dug treatment; therefore, treatment, such as methadone maintenance, should be free of charge, and treatment locations should be convenient. Many addicts have small incomes and limited ability to travel to appointments. Co-pays and long distances work against success in treating their addictions.

But early prevention is more effective than later cure, and effective prevention includes stigma. Drug use is not cool, guys. If you do it, you're a bad actor.



## Hymns for Everyone

Catholics have patron saints for just about any occupation you might think of. Less well known is it that Protestants have hymns dedicated to each of life's paths:

Weatherman's hymn – *There Shall be Showers of Blessings*

Optometrist's hymn – *Open My Eyes that I Might See*

Contractor's hymn – *The Church's One Foundation*

Dentist's hymn – *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Politician's hymn – *Standing on the Promises*

Tax Collector's hymn – *I Surrender All*

Shopper's hymn – *Sweet Bye and Bye*

Gossip's hymn – *Pass It on*

Tailor's hymn – *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Masseur's hymn – *He Touched Me*

Electrician's hymn – *Send the Light*

Boatman's hymn – *Pull for the Shore*

Golfer's hymn – *There's a Green Hill Far Away*

Saloon Keeper's hymn – *De Brewer's Big Hosses*

Musician's hymn – *In My Heart there Rings a Melody*

Realtor's hymn – *I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop*



**Alcohol Destroys...  
Lives  
Families  
Communities**

## Not Our Best

Arthur N. Roe of Branchville, New Jersey, a Prohibition candidate who won the office of Sussex County Coroner in 1911, was horrified to learn the duties of his office and resigned as soon as elected. This is his story, as set forth in the (New York) *Buffalo Times* on 21 December 1911:

“Resigns as Coroner when told the Duties – Man Who Won as Water Wagon Nominee Pales when Warned of ‘Bloody Work’ Ahead:

“Arthur N. Roe, the only Prohibitionist ever elected to office in Sussex County, N.J., was at his home in Branchville when county clerk Hopkins, who makes his home at Newton, called to officially notify Mr. Roe that he was chosen coroner at the November election.

“The Prohibitionist knew he had been elected but the official notification, with the accompanying papers, had not reached him. When he saw the county clerk enter his yard he went forth to meet him, smiling and happy. His wife was with him.

“‘Glad to see you, Mr. Hopkins,’ began Roe.

“‘Same to you, Mr. Roe – I mean Coroner,’ replied the county clerk. ‘I have your official papers here, and want to give them to you.’

“‘What do you have to do as coroner,’ asked Roe.

“‘Well, you have to investigate violent deaths; look over mangled bodies, pass on suicides and murders, and be a general investigator of crime,’ answered Hopkins.

“The newly elected coroner is more than six feet tall, spare built, and 60. A look of horror spread over his face, and he enquired:

“‘Can’t I get someone else to look at ‘em?’

“‘It’s the coroner’s duty to attend to such matters first hand,’ answered the clerk. “‘You can’t do this thing by proxy any more than you can take a drink by proxy. No substitute goes here, when there’s bloody work to do and bloody things to see.’

“Roe whispered, ‘I haven’t seen a dead body in 40 years. I don’t mean ever to lay eyes on the dead. It’s too much for me. I resign this office as coroner right now. Take your official papers and give ‘em to someone who wants the job. Good-bye,’ and Mr. Roe and Mrs. Roe went back into the house.”

*Thanks to Adam Seaman for locating this gem!*

## Leadership

Small public-interest organizations, such as those in today’s temperance movement, have governing boards to oversee and guide their leaders, just as do national and international organizations. A guidebook for board members, “On Board: The Insider’s Guide to Surviving Life in the Boardroom,” is a useful primer.

Quoting from a recent review in *The Economist* magazine:

“Bad [board] chairmen tend to impose their views, fail to respond to ideas, and refuse to alter their approach. Often, they place their favorites on the board, creating factions and causing destruction.

“...board members ... should ask questions of the executive and be careful about accepting the answers too easily. They should also remember that there is no such thing as a ‘stupid question.’

“Trustees should be chosen with a view that any one of them is capable of chairing the board in due course.

“Most [board members are handicapped by] not know[ing] enough to challenge the executives properly. But if they push their questions too far, they will not be re-appointed. Above all, trustees and non-executive directors cannot do their job unless the management wants their input. Wise bosses should know their limitations and rely on boards for advice.

## Profiting from Prohibition

There is a watering-hole in Savannah, Georgia which bills itself as America’s only Prohibition Museum. It’s an interesting scene, according to people who have been there, and it has a glossy, well-designed website.

Keep in mind, however, that this is a for-profit, chain-owned, tourist attraction, not a scholarly museum. It emphasizes the sensational negatives of the Prohibition Era. Some of the website artwork is from the wrong period, and, most egregiously, it says that the 18th Amendment prohibited drinking (it did not).

Visit [www.americanprohibitionmuseum.com](http://www.americanprohibitionmuseum.com) and, if you’re in the area, go see it. Just remember, as you walk through the door, that you will be seeing entertainment, not history.

## Revival in Ohio

A great shout-out to Carl Moore and his co-workers in Ohio! They are building a thoroughly modern organization there, one of professional quality. They have a website, a business office with a “downtown” address and telephone service, a “facebook group,” and an internet marketing program to drive traffic to their media.

Ohio, along with its neighboring Upper Midwest states, was once a Prohibition Party stronghold. A strong manager and adequate financial support are going to make it a leader once again.

## [www.prohibitionists.org](http://www.prohibitionists.org)

Our history website has just been completely reviewed and up-dated. Many additional candidate biographies have been added. If you haven’t been there for a while, go have a look-see.

The Prohibition Trust Fund Association provides about \$2000/year to pay for programming this site. We appreciate their confidence and generosity!

Those who profess to favor Freedom and yet deprecate agitation are men who want rain without Thunder and Lightning, who want the Ocean without the Roar of its many waters. — *Frederick Douglass*

## Atheist vs Bear

An atheist was walking through the woods one foggy morning, admiring nature’s beauty, when a bear appeared. The bear charges, catches the atheist, and knocks him down.

As the bear rises, claws extended, to make the kill, the atheist yells “Jesus, save me!”

Time freezes, and out of the fog, Jesus appears. “All your life, you have denied my existence, but now you call on me to rescue you?”

The atheist ponders the point for a few moments, then replies: “If you can’t save me, could you at least make the bear into a Christian?”

Jesus agrees to do so and fades from view. Time resumes.

The bear drops to his knees, bows his head, puts his paws together, and says: “Lord, bless this food which I am about to receive.”