



Why do people support a 19th-Century political party in the 21st Century?

New member Dean Gunderson explains:

Our Place in History

I joined the Prohibition Party this year because...

I believe the Temperance movement remains one of the three great social movements in the history of the United States and all three are connected.

The first major social movement was Abolition. Slavery was morally reprehensible and it took the Civil War and the deaths of hundreds of thousand of soldiers to finally eliminate it. Anyone who says that the Civil War was about States rights ignores the fact that the federal government passed the Fugitive Slave Act to compel Northern States to aid in the recovery of escaped slaves. Now the idea of slavery seems repugnant but until the passage of the 13th Amendment it was legal.

The second great movement which followed the abolition was suffrage. Women not only did not have the right to vote but also married women could not own property along with many other restrictions of the rights afforded men. It is no great mystery that the suffrage and temperance movement existed side by side given what alcohol did to destroy families and cause women to live lives of destitution because their husbands drank.

Alcoholism reached epidemic proportions by the end of the 19th century. The dreaded saloon was where both single and married men destroyed their lives and the lives of their families. Alcohol was and remains a toxin that ingested does nothing

but harm to the minds and bodies of those who consume it. The passage of the 18th Amendment finally brought the end to the saloon which working men were basically fed and drank until they ran out of money and then thrown out on the street. The consumption of alcohol per capita has never returned to the level it was prior to the passage of the 18th Amendment so to say Prohibition was a failure denies history. Had it not been for the Federal government going broke in the beginning of the Great Depression and desperate need of revenue from the tax on alcohol, I believe there never would have been a 21st Amendment. The federal government's lack of enforcement of prohibition was also a reason it was not as successful as it should have been.

The Prohibition Party represents a noble cause which still exists today. Laws that expand the availability of alcohol have to be opposed. The truth that alcohol is a toxin has to be told over and over again.

Editor's comment: Women in poor Muslim societies suffer less domestic abuse than do women in poor Christian societies. That may be because few Muslim men are boozers, and men who drink are more likely to abuse their wives.

Our ancestors 150 years ago understood the link between alcohol and wife-beating. They organized the Prohibition Party in part as a way to promote women's rights. It is a sad commentary on America that today's women's-lib groups promote drinking.

Who Are They?

Project Vote Smart now offers background information on all major-party office-holders and candidates down to the county level. To find out what your guy has said and done, go to www.votesmart.org, then enter your ZIP code.

Project Vote Smart is the most reliable source available for information about our elected leaders and their challengers.

What God requires of us is that we not stop trying. – *Bayard Rustin*

It is not the actual physical exertion that counts towards one's progress, not the nature of the task, but by the spirit of faith with which it is undertaken.

– *St. Francis Xavier*

Arkansas already!

The Arkansas legislature has made it much more difficult to get on the ballot in that state, but the new rules won't take effect until this fall. A quirk in the current law makes it possible for potential 2024 candidates to qualify for the ballot this spring, under the old rules. A petitioning company in Arkansas contacted us last spring, offering to get us on for '24 before the rules change. And so... we did. We can name our candidates later.

The paperwork was done by Evans Political Consulting, a ten-year-old company based in Arkansas which has done Arkansas ballot work for us before. Their fee was \$6000 – a little more than we have been paying for individual states, but worth it for a job well done.

There is no more independence in politics than there is in jail. – *Will Rogers*

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From the Chairman's Corner

Phil Collins

In March 2021, the Arkansas legislature passed a law that increased the number of petition signatures, for 3rd party presidential candidates, from 1,000 to 5,000. Governor Hutchinson signed the bill. It will affect 2024 candidates, but, since it didn't take effect, yet, some parties can get on the 2024 ballot, by, this year, filing at least 1,000 signatures. We paid someone to get signatures, for us. He got 1335 signatures and filed them on June 24. Three of the electors, he found, said they want to be more involved in our party. I emailed them and asked them to join. Someone, who lives in East Hollywood, emailed us and said he wants to join the party. I asked him if, in California, someone can register to vote as a member of the Prohibition Party. He said he'll check on that and, if not, he'll try to change that. He joined our party and joined our facebook group.

Prohibition Party Social Media

facebook.com/ProhibitionPartyUSA

facebook.com/groups/ProhibitionPartyUSA

twitter.com/ProhibitionUS

OxyContin

Prescription pain pills are thought to be causing some 50,000 overdose deaths each year. Much of the blame for those is assigned to OxyContin (Percoset), an opioid introduced to the trade in 1996 by Purdue Pharma.

Purdue was owned by three brothers, skillful merchants who already had profited immensely from the reckless promotion of sedatives Librium and Valium. The Sacklers aggressively promoted their new drug while down-playing its side-effects and potential for addiction. OxyContin achieved \$35 billion-worth of sales, and the Sackler brothers were rewarded with some \$13,000,000,000 of profits.

When confronted with growing evidence of OxyContin being addictive and being a gateway to the later use of illegal hard drugs, the Sacklers salved their consciences by using their wealth to patronize the arts.

Their company, Purdue Pharma, is being successfully prosecuted for misleading advertizing and has declared bankruptcy. The Sackler family and their billions, though, appear to be untouchable, hiding behind the corporate structure of their drug-dealing empire. Crime does pay – when you can afford good lawyers!

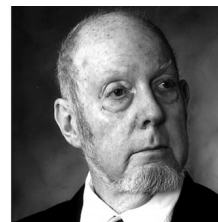
Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it. --Mark Twain

Inspired Publicity

We all have circular files dedicated to receiving “junk mail” advertising. Most promotional literature is forgettable, even though it often comes from organizations we know and like.

Once in a while, though something lands on the desk which grips your attention and won't let go. Americans United for Separation of Church and State recently sent me one such. It said, simply: “See Religious Freedom Clearly,” but it was printed on one of those chemically treated cloths used to wipe eye glasses. It's a practical item. People will keep it, and use it, for months, and each time they use it they will receive the message about religious freedom.

What practical item could the Prohibition Party distribute, which would be saved, would last a long time and would bring our message over and over again?



Editor's Musings

Balanced Budget

Fiscal responsibility has long been a part of the Prohibition Party platform. We recognize the burden placed on future generations by limitless borrowing and the inflationary threat to savers caused by printing money.

Very few economists today buy into the idea that government should live within their means. One notable exception was the recently deceased Harvard economist Alberto Alesina. Alesina pointed out that democracies usually accumulate public debt: When the voters understand that they can award themselves “free money” from the public treasury, it is difficult for fiscally responsible politicians to win elections. Presidents of both parties have increased the national debt; in the last 50 years, the only “balanced budget” years were those of Bill Clinton's second term (1998-2001). And those surpluses weren't planned – they happened when a bubble on Wall Street led to unexpectedly higher income-tax receipts. (It is depressingly instructive to note that the surplus years led, not to paying down the deficit, but to inventing new ways to spend money.)

My model – one of my models – is George Washington. Washington's idea of leadership was that first you listen, then you learn, then you help, and only then do you lead. It is a somewhat boring progression, but it's useful. What you do in the learning phase is find common ground.

—General Jim Mattis

“The most vocal Christians among us never mention the Beatitudes (Matthew 5). But, often with tears in their eyes, they demand that the Ten Commandments be posted in public buildings. And of course, that's Moses, not Jesus. I haven't heard one of them demand that the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, be posted anywhere. “Blessed are the merciful” in a courtroom? “Blessed are the peacemakers, in the Pentagon?”
-- Kurt Vonnegut

Back by Popular Request: Earl Dodge's Favorite Quotations

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Alcohol is a poison men take into the mouth to steal away the brain.

WILLIAM GLADSTONE

[Strong drink is] more destructive than war, pestilence, and famine.

WILFRED LAWSON

The devil in solution.

CARDINAL MANNING

[A] public, permanent agency of degradation.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

A cancer in human society, eating out its vitals and threatening its destruction.

ROBERT HALL

Distilled Damnation.

LORD CHESTERFIELD

An artist in human slaughter.

JOHN RUSKIN

The most criminal and artistic method of assassination ever invented by the bravos of any age or nation.

GENERAL PERSHING

Drunkenness has killed more men than all of history's wars.

GENERAL LEE

My experience through life has convinced me that abstinence from spirituous liquors is the best safeguard to morals and health.

PRESIDENT TAFT

He who drinks is deliberately disqualifying himself for advancement.

PRESIDENT TEDDY ROOSEVELT

[The beverage alcohol business] tends to lawlessness on the part of those who conduct it and to criminality on the part of those who patronize it.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY

The most ruinous and degrading of all human pursuits.

SCOTUS

[Alcohol] tends to produce idleness, disease, pauperism, and crime.

OLD TESTAMENT

Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler; and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

NEW TESTAMENT

Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery.

Sochi Conference Postponed Again

The XXIX International Forum on Sobriology, originally planned to be held in Sochi, Russia last fall but postponed because of the Covid-19 epidemic, has been postponed again. Academician Alexander Mayurov, President of the International Academy of Sobriety at Nizhny Novgorod, tells us that the epidemic is not yet sufficiently controlled for an in-person conference to be held.

A necessary business meeting, only, will be conducted via the internet on August 15th.

Academician Mayurov reports that an on-line "International Conference on Sobriety and Drug Abuse" was held on-line

at the end of June. American information was presented there by Prof. Mark Schrad of Villanova University.

His organization has an ambitious publications schedule this year. In addition to the International Journal of Sobriology, there are to be:

In August, the scientific and practical International Yearbook on Sobriology.

In September, the International Temperance Calendar.

In November, a collection of Billy Joe Parker's internet commentary (translated into Russian).

In December, a world-wide collection of sober-themed poetry.

Less is Better

For decades, alcohol has been depicted as part of a healthy diet, with any ill effects being limited to binge drinkers and confirmed alcoholics. The booze industry spends more than \$27 million each year, promoting that impression. For the sake of our collective health, that attitude needs to change.

The "healthy" misperception has been supported by federal dietary guidelines promoting moderate consumption of alcohol, but last year an advisory committee of 20 nationally-recognized scientific experts recommended cutting back, because even moderate imbibing is associated with significant health risks.

US researchers now estimate that drinking alcohol is the third-most-significant cause of cancer that is with a person's control, outranked only by smoking and obesity. Drinking alcohol increases the risk of at least six types of cancer.

Cancer risk increases as the level of consumption increases, but an established and growing body of research shows that even "light" alcohol consumption causes a significant increase in tumors. Drinkers have significantly higher rates of cancers in the alimentary system: mouth, pharynx, esophagus, stomach, and bowel, and of the liver, as well as (in women) breast cancer.

These cancers (except os the breast) are much more common in men – aligning with men's higher rates of drinking.

Death by a Thousand Cuts

Sweden, like other Nordic countries, has a state monopoly on selling alcoholic drinks (other than beer). This means than vineyards cannot sell their own wine on-premises.

Growers are now seeking to have the law changed to permit growers to sell their own products. The IOGT, which in Scandinavia is an influential organization, is opposing this, anticipating that once the barrier to sales is cracked open it will become less and less effective.

It is especially feared that European Union free-trade rules would force all-or-none alcohol sales – that growers' shops could not be restricted to just their own and would be required to sell drinks from everywhere in the EU.

James Johnston

Pittsburgh-area resident James R. Johnston was the Prohibition candidate for Treasurer of Pennsylvania in 1889. Born in Armstrong County on 16 March 1846, he was the eldest of the six children of John and Susan (Wissinger) Johnston. He died on 9 October 1934 and is buried in the Homewood Cemetery at Armstrong. James Johnston was a well-known oil man, having been one of the pioneers in the Greene County oil field, an oil broker, and treasurer of the Pittsburgh Oil Exchange.

He married Mary N. Hollobaugh, of Brady's Bend (Armstrong County), in 1873. She preceded him in death. They had a daughter, Emma Johnston Witherspoon, a son, Cyrus, and a second daughter, Ruth. He was a Presbyterian and a member of the Masons.

Johnston was not much involved in politics, but in 1888, he was persuaded to run for state treasurer. A family genealogist, Jonathan Johnston, has accumulated several newspaper clippings and other references, from which this notice has been constructed:

The 1888 state Prohibition convention was held in Harrisburg on October 17th. (Pennsylvania elected its treasurer in the off-year, so the 1888 convention also selected 1889 candidates.) Johnston was recruited to run as a Prohibitionist by Republicans opposed to the corrupt "Boss Quay" Republican machine which controlled politics in the state capital, the goal being to capture enough machine votes to throw the election to the Democrat candidate. The strategy failed. Johnston received a large vote (21,308 – 3.31%), but only about a third of what would have been needed to throw the election.

Upon receiving the nomination, Johnston issued a lengthy campaign statement to the press:

"In reply to your notification of my nomination to the office of State Treasurer by the Prohibition Party, I take this opportunity to express to your committee and through the committee to the Prohibitionists of Pennsylvania my gratitude and sincere thanks for the honor conferred in choosing me as their standard bearer in the coming campaign.

"In replying to the nomination thus tendered, permit me to re-affirm my adherence to the principles of the Prohibition Party believing they will prevail.

"In the progress of civilization and the development of advanced of liberal forms of government, whereby the people are accorded the greatest possible liberties consistent with safety, questions of vital importance arise, and which must of necessity be solved.

"The suppression of the liquor traffic evil being a question of great prominence before the people of this State and nation of the present time, affecting, as it does, all social, political and moral reforms, demands at the hands of the law-making power, the people, careful consideration as to the best means to secure the same.

"Our system of government is wrought out through political organizations or parties, which adopt and advocate certain methods for the settlement of pending questions, such as the suppression of the liquor traffic.

"Three political parties exist in Pennsylvania, and submit in their platforms methods which, if successful in securing through the ballot box the control of State government, they will put in force for the settlement of all pending questions. It will scarcely be denied by any thinking person that the most pressing question for practical solution at the present time is that of the suppression of the drink traffic.

"The Democratic party defends the liquor traffic by its opposition to prohibitory, which it calls sumptuary, laws, and favors its perpetuation by license laws. The Republican party in the past had no policy for or against the liquor traffic until by official declaration at its recent State Convention it declared that it 'heartily indorse the Brooks high license law,' thereby adopting as its method for the suppression of the liquor traffic restricted legalization by high license laws, thus repudiating prohibition as a means for correcting the evils arising therefrom.

"The Prohibition Party was organized and exists for the purpose of securing the suppression of the liquor traffic by prohibitory enactments. It repudiates any policy or plan that tends to legalize or license the same. At the same time it takes hold of other political questions, such as the protection of the Sabbath, trusts, labor problems, foreign emigration, etc., and clearly defines its policy toward the same, as a reading of its declaration of principles will disclose; and being a party of sobriety is more eminently fitted for handling the affairs of the Government, as sobriety in public officials, as in individuals, is always available.

"It may be said by some earnest conscientious persons who desire the abolition of the drink traffic that it is not properly a question for political solution, and should be left with moralists rather than with statesmen to solve.

"Webster defines politics to be 'the science of government, that part of ethics which has to do with the regulation of a State or nation, the preservation of its safety, peace and prosperity, the defense of its existence and rights against foreign control and conquest, the augmentation of its strength and resources, and the protections of its citizens in their rights, with the preservation and improvement of their morals.' This clearly indicates that any question affecting the people in their moral or material rights as does the suppression of the liquor traffic, is a proper one for political agitation and political action, and, therefore, most certainly proper as a basis of principles on which to establish political parties.

"The nominee, in becoming the candidate, loses his individuality and as such I accept the nomination so generously tendered."

-- (source unknown)

Booze Industry

The booze industry and its skills have worked hard to portray people advocating restrictions on beverage alcohol as a horde of Bible-brandishing cavemen, zealots seeking to impose their own morality on everyone else. The Prohibition Party has had its share of those. But, most of our activists have been progressive reformers, community leaders motivated by their personal religious convictions to adapt Christian principles to the changing needs of American society.

Influencing Congress

The League of Women Voters offers this advice for dealing with your elected representatives at the state and, especially, the national level:

If you are not a constituent of the person, don't bother him. Elected officials care only about people who may vote for them. If you are a constituent, say so, and give your location.

Discuss only one topic in one message. State your concern, and focus his attention on just that one thing. You will receive a quicker and more helpful response.

NATIONAL PROHIBITIONIST