



## Mentholated Cigarettes Are Killing Our Children

Tobacco, primarily as cigarettes, remains the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. Bans on smoking in public places has done little to reduce the toll.

Menthol added to many brands of cigarettes masks the harshness and irritation of tobacco smoke and reduces sensations of pain in the mouth and throat, encouraging deeper inhalation, which in turn increases exposure to nicotine and other damaging chemicals in the lungs. Menthol makes it more comfortable to begin smoking and more difficult to stop smoking.

For these reasons, menthol has not been included in the 2009 “Family Smoking Prevention and Control Act” and more recent legislation: The cancer industry has allowed its tobacco weapon to be superficially regulated but has successfully resisted having its business model destroyed.

Although cigarette sales in the United States today are only a third of what they were 50 years ago, the industry has been able to maintain its profitability by raising prices and by diversification into other addictive smokes.

Churn in the tobacco industry, its international scope, and the presence of conglomerates makes it difficult to separate cigarette income from other income, but, generally speaking, half of the US cigarette market belongs to Altria (*Marlboro, etc.*), with annual profits of \$25 billion. Another third belongs to R.J. Reynolds (*Camel, etc.*), a subsidiary of British American, with annual profits of \$12 billion. This is wealth obtained by selling sickness and death – 500,000 American deaths each year versus industry profits of \$50 billion, or \$400,000 of profit from each American killed.

As does the alcohol industry, also, big tobacco sees its best opportunities for growth in low-income, poorly educated communi-

ties. It has a disproportionate presence in urban slums and in rural back-waters, measured both by frequency of advertising and by frequency of retail outlets.

Non-whites suffer especially from this predation. Black Americans, 12% of our population, account for 41% of smoking-related premature deaths and 50% of the life-years lost because of smoking – Blacks die oftener and die younger than do the rest of us.

The underlying cultural causes include poorer education, lower incomes (less access to medical care), and less trust in “authorities.” But none of that would matter, if we were to prevent smoking. An FDA ban on mentholated cigarettes would be a major step toward the prohibition of smoking. It has the power to do so. Let’s give the FDA the backbone to act!

*For a detailed analysis of race vs smoking, see the article “What More Evidence is Needed?” by Prof. Valerie Yerger of the UC/San Francisco, available on the website of the African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council.*

---

### The Devil We Know

The annual death toll from tobacco is roughly equal to the annual death toll from Covid-19, and yet there’s no panic about to-

bacco. Dying from emphysema and cancer is lengthy and excruciating, just as is death from Covid, and yet we stoically accept tobacco deaths while coming unglued about the daily number of Covid deaths.

It is truly said that “The devil we know is not as fearful as the devil we don’t.”

---

### National Committee

National Committee members held a brain-storming conference call the evening of October 16th. Six members were present; two others attempted to participate but experienced technical difficulties.

There is one vacancy on the National Committee. Anyone interested in filling that position should contact the Secretary, Jon Makeley ([mrhistory956@aol.com](mailto:mrhistory956@aol.com)). You must be a paid-up member of the Prohibition Party in order to serve on the National Committee.

We need a “Press Secretary” – someone to write and distribute news releases about the Prohibition Party. Who might be interested in filling this position? The person should be a good writer and, ideally, should have some experience in writing publicity and/or advertising copy.

Jon Makeley and Phil Collins intend to run for their local school boards. These are non-partisan offices, but they provide opportunities to get publicity and to influence public policies. Ballot-access obstacles for school-board candidates are minimal.

One member is interested in running for the US Senate in his state. However, getting on the ballot there would require about 40,000 petition signatures at a cost of about \$5 per signature.

The “Headquarters Commission” was dissolved by unanimous vote. The Headquarters Commission was established several years ago, when there was a possibility of acquiring a building at little or no cost to use for storing archives and for clerical operations. That opportunity did not pan out, and the Commission had done nothing else.

# 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](mailto: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 Mercersburg Printing, Mercersburg, Pennsylvania.

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

## Conflicted Government

We all know that government spends money on "job creation." Most of this work is done openly, by giving tax breaks and other favors to specific employers.

Less obvious is tax money spent on cleaning up after businessmen who have taken their profits and left - jobs created to restore strip mines, plug abandoned oil wells, and remedy other environmental damage.

Least obvious is tax money spent to cause harm directly, thereby creating a need for workers to repair the damage.

Pennsylvania, for example, has a state "Liquor Control Board" dedicated to "increas[ing the] production, promotion, and marketing" of alcoholic beverages. The LCB this year gave \$1.9 million to the Malt and Brewed Beverages Industry Promotion Board and to the Wine Marketing and Research Board.

Pennsylvania and its local governments also spend a great deal of tax money on alcoholic rehabilitation services, medical services, and public safety services, attempting to counter-act the effects of subsidizing the booze industry.

It's a win-win situation: more jobs for business, more jobs for public servants. The only losers are the public - the people who endure the sickness, death, and property loss stemming from the traffic in alcohol.

Christmas is not a time or a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good will, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.

-Calvin Coolidge



## From the Chairman's Corner

Phil Collins

Before the October conference call, Jonathan said that we can have more members of the PNC. He said each state can have up to two members and that 47 states can have at least one more member. In October, I emailed about 20 party members, and I asked if they want to join the PNC. I asked them to send me their biographies, if they want to join it. I haven't received any replies, yet. As soon as that happens, I'll tell the other officers.

We have nothing else with which to build the future except the lumber of the past, and the loss of historical consciousness cheats us of our inheritance.

- Lewis Lapham

## Misleading Statistics

Alcohol consumption figures usually are given as national and state-wide averages, not in "per drinker" averages. About a third of Americans drink little or no alcohol.

Our national average consumption is 2.38 gallons/year, but that includes non-drinkers as well as alcoholics. The two-thirds of people who do all the drinking are putting down quite a lot more than that.

State-wide averages run from 4.74 gallons in New Hampshire to 1.33 gallons in Utah. Probably, more than 1/3 of Utahns are teetotalers, while more than 2/3 of New Hampshirites are drinkers. The state-wide averages are interesting, but they don't tell us much about individual behavior. No one seems to have stated the alcohol problem in terms of state-wide variations in individual consumption: We don't know, if the state-level variations in total consumption are caused by variations in the percentage of alcoholics or by variations in the percentage of teetotalers. The relatively few people who drink in Utah could, individually, be just as drunk as the many people who drink in New Hampshire.

Knowing that matters in terms of how we deal with the alcohol problem in each state.

## Kudos to Jonathan Makeley



National Secretary Jon Makeley is a rising star in the Prohibition Party firmament. He is the founder and editor of the monthly *New York Prohibitionist*, the largest Prohibition journal to be published in many years.

He is also editor of the New York Prohibition Party's website.

Makeley lives in Amherst, in western New York State. He holds a bachelor's degree in History from Alfred University (2017) and a master's degree, also in History, from the University of Buffalo (2019). Earlier this year, he earned a second MA from Buffalo, this one in Library and Information Science.

Makeley has served as the town historian of Angelica, New York since 2017. His historical writings include "Enlightenment and Sure Remedy: The Development of Ethics, Thought, and Activism of the 19th Century Temperance Movement in the Western New York", "Claiming the State for the Public Welfare: The Establishment of the First Period of Statewide Prohibition in New York State", the introduction to the 2017 reprint of *Temperance Facts* by W.G. Calderwood, numerous biographic articles on prohibition party figures, and various papers on local history, temperance, and abolitionism.

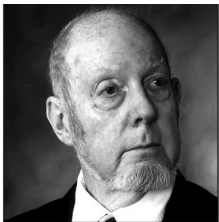
Jon intends to make a career in history. He's off to a good start!

## Prohibition Party Social Media

[facebook.com/ProhibitionPartyUSA](https://facebook.com/ProhibitionPartyUSA)

[facebook.com/groups/ProhibitionPartyUSA](https://facebook.com/groups/ProhibitionPartyUSA)

[twitter.com/ProhibitionUS](https://twitter.com/ProhibitionUS)



## Editor's Musings

### Homeless

The homeless people cluttering our cities are a national disgrace. America has the ability to solve this problem, if it can find the will to do so.

Some of the homeless are veterans. The least we could do, in penance for the bi-partisan "endless wars" which broke them, would be to require the Veterans Administration to shelter and rehabilitate all of our defeated veterans.

Other homeless have mental problems. America used to have poor houses, "insane asylums," which cared for these unfortunates. During the Reagan era, poor houses were closed and the inmates forced out onto the street as a cost-cutting measure (disingenuously promoted as a way of increasing their individual liberty). Many mental illnesses are treatable these days, if the sufferers are given close supervision and a sheltering environment. We need to rebuild our system of asylums.

The working poor are a substantial fraction of the homeless, industrious people who, because of some misfortune, have become unable to afford housing. The provision of basic social services – subsidized apartments, child care, public transport, universal health care, and vocational training – would enable them to return to the work force.

Shiftless poor, people who are able to work but who reject the jobs on offer, should be encouraged to experience an attitude adjustment, perhaps by being put in work camps similar to the CCC camps of the 1930s. Our country has many opportunities for public service.

Homelessness is not a problem of resources, it is a problem of will. Put your shoulder to the wheel, America, and get us out of this morass!

---

### Abused Women

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.

---

### The Bell Tolls For Connie Gammon

Third-party activist and historian C.L. "Connie" Gammon may have died last summer. Mail has been returned marked "deceased," but no obituary has been found, and the family did not respond to a request for information.

Gammon was, momentarily, our 2020 presidential candidate before being forced out by health problems.

He wrote several books on history and politics, which he sold on Amazon. We hope these will continue to be available. See: [amazon.com/author/clgammon](https://amazon.com/author/clgammon).

---

### Alcohol Incest

Johns Hopkins University recommends that temperance workers adopt successful tactics used by anti-smoking groups against the tobacco industry. It also says:

Here as elsewhere in government, there is an incestuous relationship between booze industry officials and government officials – a so-called "revolving door" of cycling staff between regulators and the regulated. A recent press release from the University calls for more transparency in who from where is doing what.

"The global alcohol industry enjoys billions of dollars in tax breaks, marketing subsidies, and other "perverse incentives" that belie the immense harms alcohol causes – including its link to one death every ten seconds worldwide.

"The industry cozies up to governments, infiltrating policies intended to actually reduce alcohol consumption, often packaging their influence as 'economic development.'"

Ref.: <https://vitalstrategies.org/resources/the-sobering-truth-incentivizing-alcohol-death-and-disability/v>

### Media Drug Pushers

A recent *Economist* magazine article describes how bootleggers in Colombia buy bulk alcohol, mix it with water and flavorings, then sell it to addicts at prices lower than those at which branded drinks are sold in state stores. Casually prepared black-market booze causes many deaths. Governmental agencies receive dedicated income streams from state-store sales. Illicit drinks provide dark money with which to bribe police and other officials.

*The Economist* says: Lower the price of good booze until the bad booze is no longer profitable. Reducing prices would promote consumption and increase the ancillary costs of health and safety problems caused by drinking.

*The Economist* infers that lowering official prices would shrink revenue streams dedicated to essential governmental functions. Using "sin taxes" to support the government makes promotion of sin governmental policy.

*The Economist* suggests that cheaper legitimate booze would reduce the sickness and death directly resulting from moonshine. That is true, but alcohol causes many health problems at a distance from the act of drinking, and increased consumption due to lower prices would lead to more secondary illnesses.

The *Economist* states that the alcohol trade in Columbia is uncontrolled because the police are bribed to ignore it. That, also, is true, and the solution to poor policing is better-paid and better-trained police.

The use of recreational drugs is older than humanity. It cannot be eliminated – but it can be minimized by education and enforcement. Cutting the price of legal booze is not confronting the problem, it is just diverting the profits from "criminals" to "respectable businessmen."

---

### Covid with Alcohol

Changes in law and in personal behavior associated with the Covid-19 epidemic have resulted in an increase in alcohol consumption and in fatal traffic accidents. That should surprise no one! After all, state and local governments have forgiven taxes on alcohol (lowering its price), have extended the legal hours of service, and have allowed carry-out mixed drinks.



### Tompkins Sq. Temperance Fountain, Manhattan, NY

In 1888, the lower east side's Moderation Society was very pleased to make the acquaintance of the deep-pocketed Dr. Henry Cogswell of San Francisco.

The Moderation Society had been formed in 1877 to address the health conditions plaguing this particularly dirty, crowded segment of New York City. Top of mind for these reformers was the prohibition of alcohol, which they considered top of list in troublemaking. Temperance groups like the Moderation Society and the National Women's Christian Temperance Union (which is still active today) blamed alcohol for the bulk of society's woes, including crime, violence, and disease.

After the Civil War, these groups supplemented their political lobbying with the construction of public drinking fountains, believing that part of boozing prevention was providing a free, clean, and readily available alternative. (At least some of the alcohol consumption around this time can be attributed to the fact that given the option between dirty city water and a beer, it's easy to pick the beer.) And this is where the Californian dentist comes in.

Henry Cogswell made a fortune in the California gold rush and then made temperance his hobbyhorse. His dream was to erect one temperance fountain for every 100 saloons in the country. He served as the Moderation Society's honorary president in 1890 and their partnership produced two temperance fountains in New York City: this one in Tompkins Square Park and another at the post office at 34th Street and Eighth Avenue.

Not only did Cogswell bankroll his fountains, he also personally designed them, with varying degrees of success.

This one is entirely typical of his style, and—comparatively—not too bad. It's a pillared stone canopy, topped by a somewhat-demoted figure of Hebe, the Greek goddess of youth. On Mount Olympus, she served nectar and ambrosia to the gods. In Tompkins Square Park, she serves water to the unwashed masses. Cogswell's favorite virtues—Faith, Hope, Charity, and Temperance—are embossed on the sides of her canopy.

The Tompkins Square fountain was better received than several of Cogswell's creations. His gift to the nation's capital was famously called "Washington's ugliest statue" and spurred the creation of fine arts commissions in many American cities, so that officials would have a mechanism to refuse unwanted gifts of public art. The vast majority of Cogswell's fountains have disappeared over time, but this one seems destined to stay where it is—a hangover, if you will, from another time.

The fountain is located nearest to Avenue A, below 9th Street.

~ Reprinted from *Atlas Obscura*

### Ethical Basis of Prohibition

A common objection to prohibition derives from the principle of individual liberty. This is easily disposed of by pointing out the difference between "private behavior" and "public behavior:"

One of the purposes of government is to prevent some people from harming other people. "Your freedom to act stops at the end of my nose," as it is commonly phrased.

For example, you may drive any old bucket of bolts on your own land, because if it were to crash, no one would be injured except yourself. But when you take it out on the road, the government insists that your brakes work – because, if they don't, you could run into another vehicle and injure someone else.

Drinking alcohol in any amount is always harmful. If you drink at home (and stay home until you are sober again), you have the inviolable right to do so. But if you sell it (or even make a gift of it) to another person, you are harming that person, and the government has an obligation to prevent your doing so.

Prohibition has never said "You can't drink." It says that you can't traffic in alcohol – you can't manufacture it commercially, or distribute it to retail merchants, or furnish it to other people. You may drink it yourself (private behavior), but you may not traffic in it (public behavior).

And even though you may drink privately, that private behavior may have public consequences. For example, when pregnant women drink, they run a significant risk of causing Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder in their fetuses. FASD is an irreversible birth defect with life-long consequences.

### Trust Fund Meets

The Prohibition Trust Fund Association awarded \$34,400 in grants to six applicants at its 2021 meeting. The Trust Fund consists of seven individuals who distribute the income from an 1897 bequest.

In-person meetings are held each summer in Binghamton, New York; there is also a wintertime conference call which deals with any urgent matters. Grants are made for purposes related to total abstinence from alcoholic beverages, and at each summer meeting grantees are expected to present reports on their use of the previous year's funds.

This year's awardees included the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the Illinois Council on Alcohol Problems, the Pennsylvania Council on Alcohol Problems, the Prohibition National Committee, and the Partisan Prohibition Historical Society. In addition, Jim Hedges was re-imbursed for money spent on a promotional item.

The Trust Fund urges everyone to contact their state legislators and oppose the legalization of carry-out cocktails. This practice was widely authorized during the Covid-19 closure of bars and restaurants. It encourages drinking-and-driving, increasing risk to the travelling public.

### Frats Score Another

University of Kentucky student Thomas Hazelewood died of alcohol poisoning in his room at the Farmhouse Fraternity on October 18th. The 18-year old was the first fatality from fraternity life in this semester.

Farmhouse is a nationwide "Greek" organization with 48 campus chapters and 30,000 members. It was organized in 1905.

Two days later, a fraternity member at the University of Missouri was found unresponsive in his room.