

Constitution Party seeks foothold in Northern Tier

BY NATALIE KENNEDY
-Wellsboro Gazette

The Constitution Party is planning to get organized in Tioga County.

To do that, they need more members. To get new members, the party is planning to hold a meeting to explain their position on a number of issues.

Brian Tevlin, a Constitution Party member and a party organizer, said the organizational meeting for the Constitution Party is being held on Thursday, March 4, at 6 p.m. in the Wellsboro Community Center on Queen Street. Meetings will continue on the first Thursday of each month.

"Our government has grown way beyond our means at all levels," said Tevlin. "We feel the Constitution is being trampled upon. We believe that what our

Founding Fathers created is being ruined. Our goal is to fix that."

The Constitution Party has its roots in the U.S. Taxpayers Party, founded in 1992. The name

changed to Constitution Party in 1999. In 2008, presidential and VP candidates Chuck Baldwin and Darrell Castle garnered 199,314 votes.

The Constitution Party is the third largest political party in terms of voter registration, said Tevlin. There are 367,000 reg-

istered Constitution Party voters, probably more since not all states tally voters by party affiliation.

The party has adopted a platform. Tevlin added that it is the only party that is completely:

- Pro-life.
- Pro-states' rights.
- Pro Second Amendment (the right to keep and bear arms).
- Pro-Constitutional limited government.

The Constitution Party opposes: illegal immigration and open borders, U.S. policy being dictated by the United Nations, undeclared unconstitutional wars (such as Iraq and Afghanistan), and free trade and all international trade agreements (such as North American Free Trade

Agreement and General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade).

A former Republican, Tevlin switched parties after dissatisfaction with the action of government officials.

"We've heard about change, but it's not the right change," said Tevlin. "We need to get back to the basics and beliefs that founded this country. If we go much further, there will be no turning back."

The Constitution Party is a grassroots organization. Many of the party's beliefs and platforms are similar to those expressed at TEA Parties across the nation.

The meeting on March 6 is the first step toward organizing a county chapter of the Constitution Party. There are currently 15-20 registered Constitution Party members in Tioga County, said Tevlin. Representatives from the county will attend a state convention on March 27 in Carlisle.

"Our goal is not to be in politics; our goal is to defend the Constitution and the people," Tevlin added. "I don't think a lot of us understand what our rights are or all of our freedoms. If you don't know what your rights are, it's hard to realize when they are being taken away from you."

For more information on the Constitution Party, visit the state party's Web site at www.constitutionpartypa.com, the national party Web site at www.constitutionparty.com or e-mail Tevlin at btevlin@live.com.



Brian Tevlin

Italian Dinner

Sunday, Feb. 28
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Knoxville Community Center
Adults, \$7; 10 and under, \$4;
Pre-school, free
Benefits the Northern Tier
Recreation Authority

Lake Country Motorsports

FEATURED

2009 Polaris 4-stroke

Osceola adopts

BY DONNA BLEND

Osceola Township Supervisors adopted an ordinance to protect the township's roads when they met in regular session February 11. The ordinance