

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE
AUGUST 30, 2023
VIA ZOOM



PREPARED BY **CARYN ANN HARLOS**, LNC SECRETARY

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LEGEND: text to be inserted, ~~text to be deleted~~, unchanged existing text, *substantive final main motions*.

All main substantive motions will be set off by *bold and italics in green font* (with related subsidiary and incidental motions *set off by highlighted italics*) and will be assigned a motion number comprising the date and a sequential number to be recorded in the Secretary's Main Motion/Ballot Tally record located at <https://tinyurl.com/LNCVotes2023>

Points of Order and substantive objections will be indicated in **BOLD RED TEXT**.

All vote results, challenges, and rulings will be set off by **BOLD ITALICS**.

The Secretary produces an electronic One Note notebook for each meeting that contains all reports submitted as well as supplementary information. The notebook for this meeting can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/August2023Special>

The LPedia article for this meeting can be found at:
https://lpedia.org/wiki/LNC_Meeting_30_August_2023#Recording.28s.29

Recordings for this meeting can be found at the LPedia link.

The QR codes lead to the video portion of the meeting being discussed.

OPENING CEREMONY

CALL TO ORDER AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Angela McArdle called the meeting to order at 8:04 p.m. (all times Eastern).

HOUSEKEEPING

ATTENDANCE

The following were in attendance:¹

Officers: Angela McArdle (Chair), Andrew Watkins (Vice-Chair), Caryn Ann Harlos (Secretary), Todd Hagopian (Treasurer)

At-Large Representatives: Dustin Blankenship, Rich Bowen, Steven Nekhaila, Mike Rufo, Kathy Yeniscavich

Regional Representatives: Adam Haman (Region 1), Dustin Nanna (Region 3), Adrian F Malagon (Region 4), Otto Dassing (Region 5), Mark Tuniewicz (Region 6), Donovan Pantke (Region 7), Pat Ford (Region 8)

Regional Alternates: Vacant (Region 1), Martin Cowen (Region 2), Greg Hertzsch (Region 3), Meredith Hays (Region 4), Will Hyman (Region 5), Bill Redpath (Region 6), Beth Vest (Region 7), Robley Hall (Region 8)

Absent: Dave Benner (Region 2 Representative)

Staff: None

Additional Attendees: Carrie Eiler (National Volunteer)

The gallery contained many attendees as noted in the Registration Roster attached hereto as **Appendix A** comprising person who registered in advance, though not all of the registrants attended.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The following persons spoke during public comment:

- Donovan Pantke (LNC)

¹ Mr. Ford, Mr. Hagopian, Mr. Hall, and Ms. Vest arrived after the roll-call attendance.

PURPOSE OF SPECIAL MEETING

The Chair previously submitted an agenda as follows:

1.	Welcome and Opening Ceremony	
	a.	Call to Order and Attendance Roll Call 8:00 PM Eastern
	b.	Opportunity for Public Comment <i>Maximum of 2 minutes per commenter</i> 10 minutes
2.	Noticed Business	
	a.	Next LNC meeting date and location 10 minutes
3.	Regional Reports (supplements to printed reports)	
	a.	Region 2 (Mr. Benner and/or Mr. Cowen) AL, FL, GA, MS, TN 5 minutes
	b.	Region 3 (Mr. Nanna and/or Mr. Hertzsch) IN, KY, MI, OH 5 minutes
	c.	Region 4 (Mr. Malagon and/or Ms. Hays) CA 5 minutes
	d.	Region 5 (Mr. Dassing and/or Mr. Hyman) DE, DC, MD, NC, PA, VA, WV 5 minutes
	e.	Region 6 (Mr. Tuniewicz and/or Mr. Redpath) IA, IL, MN, MT, ND, SC, SD, UT, WI 5 minutes
	f.	Region 7 (Mr. Pantke) AR, LA, MO, OK, TX 5 minutes
	g.	Region 8 (Mr. Ford and/or Mr. Hall) CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, VT 5 minutes
	h.	Regionless (Mr. Watkins) AK, HI, ID, WY 5 minutes
4.	Committee Reports	
	a.	Reports of Standing Committees
	i.	Advertising & Publication Review (Harlos) 2 minutes
	ii.	Affiliate Support Committee (Ford) 10 minutes
	iii.	Audit Committee (TBD) 5 minutes
	iv.	Awards Committee (TBD) 5 minutes
	v.	Ballot Access Committee (Nanna) 30 minutes
	vi.	Candidate Support Committee (TBD) 10 minutes
	vii.	Convention Oversight Committee (Bowen) 10 minutes
	viii.	Employment Policy & Compensation (Nekhaila) 10 minutes
	ix.	Historical Preservation (Harlos) 5 minutes
	x.	Information Services (DeSignore) 5 minutes
5.	Noticed Business Cont'd	
	a.	MI legal update and injunction bond (portions may be in Executive Session) 15 minutes
	b.	Motion to take from the table termination of contract of Austin Padgett (portions may be in Executive Session) 15 minutes
6.	Adjourn TBD	

NEW BUSINESS WITH PREVIOUS NOTICE

NEXT LNC MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

Mr. Malagon moved that the next in-person LNC meeting be held at the Renaissance ClubSpot in Aliso Viejo, California on December 2-3, 2023.

A roll call vote was conducted with the following results:

Member / Alternate	Yes	No	Abstain
Absent/Cowen	X		
Blankenship	X		
Bowen	X		
Dassing/Hyman	X		
Haman/Vacant	X		
Harlos	X		
Malagon/Hays	X		
Nanna/Hertzsch	X		
Nekhaila	X		
Pantke/Vest	X		
Rufo	X		
Tuniewicz/Redpath	X		
Watkins	X		
Yeniscavich	X		
McArdle			X
TOTALS	14	0	1

This motion PASSED with a roll call vote of 14-0-1. [2023-830-01]

REGIONAL REPORTS

REGION 1 – AZ, CO, KS, NE, NV, OR, WA

There was no report given due to recent change of regional representation. Adam Haman was welcomed unto the LNC as Region 1 Representative. The Regional Alternate seat will be filled shortly.

The LNC took no action.

REGION 2 – AL, FL, GA, MS, TN

Regional Representative David Benner had previous submitted a written report attached hereto as **Appendix B**.

The LNC took no action.

REGION 3 – IN, KY, MI, OH

Regional Representative Dustin Nanna had previous submitted a written report attached hereto as **Appendix C**.

The LNC took no action.

REGION 4 - CA

Regional Representative Adrian Malagon had previous submitted a written report attached hereto as **Appendix D**. He also gave a brief oral update.

The LNC took no action.

REGION 5 – DC, DE, MD, NC, PA, VA, WV

Regional Representative Otto Dassing had previous submitted a written report attached hereto as **Appendix E**.

The LNC took no action.

REGION 6 – IA, IL, MN, MT, ND, SC, SD, UT, WI

Regional Representative Mark Tuniewicz had previous submitted a written report attached hereto as **Appendix F**. He also gave a brief oral update.

The LNC took no action.

REGION 7 – AR, LA, MO, OK, TX

Regional Representative Donovan Pantke had previous submitted a written report attached hereto as **Appendix G**. He also gave a brief oral update.

The LNC took no action.

REGION 8 – CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VT

Regional Representative Pat Ford was running late, and ***WITHOUT OBJECTION***, his report was postponed until his arrival.

REGION 0 – AK, HI, ID, NM, WY

Vice-Chair Andrew Watkins had previous submitted a written report attached hereto as **Appendix I**.

The LNC took no action.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADVERTISING AND PUBLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Caryn Ann Harlos , as Chair of the Advertising and Publication Review Committee, informed the LNC that there was nothing to report.

The LNC took no action.

AFFILIATE SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Jacob Bradley, on behalf of the Affiliate Support Committee, presented a PowerPoint attached hereto as **Appendix J** and supplement with an oral report. He also fielded questions and comments.

WITHOUT OBJECTION, Mr. Malagon moved to extend time for five (5) minutes.

The LNC took no action.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Rich Bowen, on behalf of the Audit Committee, presented the previously submitted written report which is attached hereto as **Appendix K**. He also fielded questions and comments.

The LNC took no action.

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Andrew Watkins, on behalf of the Awards Committee, informed the LNC that there was nothing to report.

The LNC took no action.

BALLOT ACCESS COMMITTEE

Dustin Nanna, as Chair of the Ballot Access Committee, had submitted a report in advance attached hereto as **Appendix L** and supplemented with an oral report in conjunction with Bill Redpath. They both fielded questions and answers.

The LNC took no action.

CANDIDATE SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Dustin Blankenship, on behalf of the Candidate Support Committee, presented the previously submitted written report which is attached hereto as **Appendix M**. He also fielded questions and comments. Chair McArdle informed the LNC that an agreement has been entered into with Voter Gravity.

The LNC took no action.

CONVENTION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Rich Bowen, as Chair of the Convention Oversight Committee, had submitted a report in advance which was previously presented at the in-person Washington DC meeting and attached again hereto as **Appendix N**. He supplemented with a brief oral report and informed the LNC that we are in contract review process with Grand Rapids for 2026. He also fielded questions and comments.

The LNC took no action.

EMPLOYMENT POLICY AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Steven Nekhaila, as Chair of the Employment Policy and Compensation Committee, gave a brief oral update.

The LNC took no action.

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Caryn Ann Harlos, as Chair of the Historical Preservation Committee, presented the previously submitted written report which is attached hereto as **Appendix O**. She supplemented with a brief oral update.

The LNC took no action.

INFORMATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

Liz DelSignore, as Chair of the IS Committee, gave a brief oral update.

The LNC took no action.

REGIONAL REPORTS (CONT'D)

REGION 8 – CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VT

Regional Representative Pat Ford gave an oral report which was later submitted in writing and attached hereto as **Appendix H**.

The LNC took no action.

WITHOUT OBJECTION, Mr. Nanna moved for a five-minute recess to give Ms. Vest time to sign an NDA to participate in Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

WITHOUT OBJECTION, the LNC went into Executive Session at 9:27 p.m. for purposes of staff matters and ongoing litigation. The LNC arose out of Executive at 10:31 p.m. and stood at ease for a few minutes.

NEW BUSINESS WITH PREVIOUS NOTICE (CONT'D)

MI INJUNCTION BOND

Secretary Harlos moved to authorize securing of the \$20K bond required by the Michigan Trademark court in a method as approved by the Chair and the Treasurer as they deem most advantageous to the Party.

A roll call vote was conducted with the following results:²

Member / Alternate	Yes	No	Abstain
Absent/Cowen	X		
Blankenship	X		
Bowen	X		
Dassing/Hyman	X		
Ford/Hall	X		
Hagopian	X		
Haman/Vacant	X		
Harlos	X		
Malagon/Hays	X		
Nanna/Hertzsch	X		
Nekhaila	X		
Pantke/Vest	X		
Rufo	X		
Tuniewicz/Redpath	X		
Watkins	X		
Yeniscavich	X		
McArdle			X
TOTALS	16	0	1

This motion PASSED with a roll call vote of 16-0-1. [2023-830-02]

² A copy of the Judge's Order and a transcript of the hearing are attached hereto as composite **Appendix P**.

CONTRACT OF AUSTIN PADGETT

WITHOUT OBJECTION, Mr. Malagon moved to take from the table the motion to terminate the contract of Austin Padgett.

WITHOUT OBJECTION, Mr. Malagon moved to substitute the motion to terminate the contract of Austin Padgett with the following motion:

Approve, post hoc, the contract of Austin Padgett; however, the contract shall not be renewed past the already agreed on expiration date of 10/26/23. Further, the Policy Manual Review Committee is directed to craft policy manual language to address hiring of related persons for the LNC's consideration by its October e-meeting.

A roll call vote was conducted with the following results:

Member / Alternate	Yes	No	Abstain
Absent/Cowen	X		
Blankenship	X		
Bowen		X	
Dassing/Hyman			X
Ford/Hall	X		
Hagopian			X
Haman/Vacant	X		
Harlos	X		
Malagon/Hays	X		
Nanna/Hertzsch			X
Nekhaila	X		
Pantke/Vest			X
Rufo	X		
Tuniewicz/Redpath		X	
Watkins	X		
Yeniscavich			X
McArdle			X
TOTALS	9	2	6

This motion PASSED with a roll call vote of 9-2-6. [2023-830-03]

ADJOURNMENT

The LNC adjourned for the day **WITHOUT OBJECTION** at 10:43 p.m.

TABLE OF NUMBERED MOTIONS/BALLOTS

*Note that the master log of motions in 2023 can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/LNCVotes2023>

ID#	Motion/Ballot	Result
20230830-01	Set next LNC meeting date and location	PASSED
20230830-02	Procedure for MI litigation bond	PASSED
20230830-03	Approve contract of Austin Padgett	PASSED

TABLE OF APPENDICES

Appendix	Title	Author
A	Log of Registrants	Zoom
B	Region 2 Report	Dave Benner
C	Region 3 Report	Dustin Nanna
D	Region 4 Report	Adrian Malagon
E	Region 5 Report	Otto Dassing
F	Region 6 Report	Mark Tuniewicz
G	Region 7 Report	Donovan Pantke
H	Region 8 Report	Pat Ford
I	Region 0 Report	Andrew Watkins
J	Affiliate Support Committee PowerPoint	Jacob Bradley
K	Audit Committee Report	Laura Hackenburg
L	Ballot Access Committee Report	Dustin Nanna
M	Candidate Support Committee	Dustin Blankenship
N	Convention Oversight Committee	Rich Bowen
O	Historical Preservation Committee	Caryn Ann Harlos
P	Order in MI trademark case and transcript of hearing	Judge Judith Levy

Respectfully submitted,



LNC Secretary ~ Secretary@LP.org ~ 561.523.2250

APPENDIX A – LOG OF REGISTRANTS

REGISTRANTS SHEET³

NAME
Sylvia Arrowwood
Travis Bost
Jacob Bradley
Liz DelSignore
Tim Hagan
Susan Hogarth
Jonathan M. Jacobs
Andrew Jacobs
Harrison Kemp
Colin Morgan
Maya Ojalehto
Brandy Paulson
George Phillies
Hector Roos
Larry Silver

³ The Zoom link required registration. This list comprises all persons who registered (with the exception of LNC members, staff, and other national Party representatives) but not everyone necessarily attended.

APPENDIX B – REGION 2 REPORT

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Libertarian National Committee Region 2 Report

For August 2023, Submitted August 3, 2023 by Dave Benner, Region 2 Representative

Tennessee – submitted by Josiah Baker, LPTN Chair

- We are working with TNTA (Tennessee Taking Action) for a pro-gun rally in Nashville January 20th as a strong rebuke for red flag laws that the current governor Bill Lee is pushing for
- We are suing the state of Tennessee for ballot access (Chris Darnell is pointman on this initiative)
- We are proactively pushing for membership drive for state/national leading ongoing until end of year
- We are sizing up multiple candidates to run in specific local races with nullifying powers (city council, county commission, school board, Judge, Sheriff and evaluating all elections in these type seats that were unopposed/had winning thresholds of 50 votes or less as the prime targets)

Georgia – submitted by Gerred Bell, LPGA Chair

- Focusing on Banish Big Brother Project, banishbigbrother.com
 - Local affiliates are finding out what kinds of surveillance and data collection is already being done in their counties and cities, then speaking to the county commissioners privately and publicly to attempt to "stop the spread", so to speak
 - We are creating coalitions within our communities and educating people on the dangers of smart cities using a free e-book posted on the website and by using local information we've gathered
- Legal Tender Project - Working toward legislation creating a Gold/Silver Depository at the state level and also allowing gold and silver to be accepted as legal tender per Article I, Section 10 of the US Constitution. Working with other lobbying groups and working on finding a rep to sponsor the bill
- We hope to use these initiatives to become known and trusted in our communities so we have a platform when it comes time to run for office
- Sammy Baker, LP Cherokee County, is running for City Council this year
- LPGa convention in the works for January 26th

Florida – submitted by Josh Hlavka, LPF Chair

- 2024 LPF Convention scheduled for Jan 19-21 in Jacksonville, FL
- LPF has secured vendor table the 2023 Florida Cannabis Festival in Mt. Dora, FL
- LPF currently have the following candidates running for public office:
 - Re-Elect Jim Turney, City of Altamonte Springs, Nov. 7, 2023
 - Juana de la Cruz, City of Minneola Council, Seat 5, Nov. 7, 2023
 - David Agosta, City of Callaway Commission, Ward 4, April 2024
 - Nathan Slusher, Brevard County Commission, District 1, Aug. 27, 2024
 - Ralph Groves, US House District 11, Nov. 5, 2024

- Ronald Tracy Robison, Florida House District 14, Nov. 5, 2024
- Grover Bentley, Florida House District 33, Nov. 5, 2024
- Joshua Krakow, Florida House District 77, Nov. 5, 2024

Alabama – submitted by Samuel Bohler, LPAL Chair

- In Progress: Redeveloping policy manual for the state to aid the EC, volunteers, and members in their roles and responsibilities, regulatory compliance, and knowledge transfer/transition during changes of leadership
- In Progress: Membership portal to allow members the ability to join, recruit with "affiliate" links to recognize members who help increase membership, update and see their status as members and in challenges or fundraisers
- In Progress: Video content with high production value detailing the history and state of Ballot Access in Alabama and how it has affected 3rd parties

Mississippi – submitted by Chris Giannini, LPMS Chair

- Cleaning up LPMS website and establishing vetting process for endorsing Libertarian candidates
- Planning for the 2023 LPMS convention

APPENDIX C – REGION 3 REPORT

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Region 3 Report

Saturday, August 19th, 2023 by Dustin Nanna

Region 3 Representative

Dustin Nanna
dustin.nanna@lp.org

Region 3 Alternate

Greg Hertzsch
greg.hertzsch@lp.org

This report details the recent activities of each state in Region 3.

Following are the reports for Region 3:

INDIANA

The chair of LPIN is Evan McMahon (chair@lpin.org).

Tonya Hudson (formerly Tonya Millis) stepped down in July as the LPIN Vice-Chair after she publicly announced her intention to seek the LPIN nomination for Lt Governor. While it is not a requirement to step down, it is the right thing to do, as members of the State Central Committee have access to data and resources that other candidates for the same office might not have. Kristin Alexander, Membership Director, was appointed by unanimous vote of the SCC to serve as the Vice-Chair of the LPIN. Mrs. Alexander will also continue the duties of Membership Director, until a replacement is appointed.

The LPIN, and their county affiliates, have expressed significant frustration with the broken nature of CiviCRM. Several users have reported ongoing issues and have significantly reduced their usage of the database. The LPIN has been working with HQ staff to correct the ongoing errors in the reported number of national members in Indiana.

The LPIN has been engaging in protests and actions over eminent domain actions, restricting public comments at municipal board meetings, skyrocketing property taxes, library book bans, anti-trans legislation, and bans on backyard chickens. The annual state convention will be the first weekend in March with events for candidates (State, Pres, and LNC) on Friday and Saturday. Reach out to the LPIN if you would like to be included.



KENTUCKY

The chair of LPKY is Charles Altendorf (chair@lpky.org).

Mr. Altendorf will begin conducting a radio show on a college radio station (WRFL) in a couple of weeks. The LPKY is working on their 2024 convention which will be in Louisville and they're hoping to see as many presidential candidates as want to come. They currently have 9 active county affiliates.

MICHIGAN

The chair of LPMI is Andrew Chadderdon (chair@lpmi.org)

The LPMI had its regular convention and elected new leadership on July 15, and held our first board meeting of the term last Sunday evening, and had a great meeting with introductions between members and planning for our upcoming term. They have been busy at work investigating opportunities for local campaigns, participating in campaign training, developing relationships with potential donors, and working on growing membership engagement. The legislative committee has been hard at work lobbying representatives on issues such as Defend the Guard and in defense of 2A rights in Michigan. Such outreach is building connections with other liberty organizations along the way that we look to work with in the future.

The LPMI is deeply grateful for the support of the LNC in the ongoing turmoil over the actions of disgruntled members and their instigation of multiple lawsuits after their refusal to act within the bylaws, and their continuing impersonation of the party. While the actions of that group have greatly hindered the capability of the LPMI to operate and have cost them the chance to field candidates this year, we hope that the legal matters can be brought to a swift close, and we can proceed with our full focus on our political activities as we prepare for the 2024 campaign season.

OHIO

The chair of LPO is Dustin Nanna (chair@lpo.org).



The Libertarian Party of Ohio hosted a Region 3 Conference July 28-30th. Richard Burke of Western Liberty Network came out to conduct eight training sessions that lasted all day Saturday and into Sunday afternoon. The LPO also hosted several coalition partners including Americans for Prosperity, Decriminalize Nature, Firearms Policy Coalition, Free Cities Foundation, Gun Owners of America, & The Ohio Coalition to End Qualified Immunity. Also in attendance were several speakers highlighted by Don Rainwater and Jeff Maurer. A Presidential candidate forum was conducted including the two candidates who showed up Chase Oliver and Mike Ter Maat.

In other news The LPO's bank accounts were unexpectedly closed. Thankfully, we were able to get them reopened and all has returned to normalcy in that regard. We also recently discovered that our office building was closing and that we had until the end of August to vacate so The LPO will unfortunately need to move our items into storage and conduct a search for a new home, which is already underway.

APPENDIX D – REGION 4 REPORT

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Libertarian National Committee Region Four Representative Report

Report Date: August 19, 2023
Meeting Location: Washington, D.C.
Region: Four (California)
Website: ca.lp.org
Representative: Mr. Adrian F Malagon
Alternate: Mr. Joshua Clark
Email: adrian.malagon@lp.org

Position Purpose

Bylaws, Article 7: National Committee (Relevant Citations)

Section 1

The National Committee shall have control and management of all the affairs, properties and funds of the Party consistent with these bylaws. The Libertarian National Committee shall establish and oversee an organizational structure to implement the purposes of the Party as stated in Article 2. The National Committee shall adopt rules of procedure for the conduct of its meetings and the carrying out of its duties and responsibilities. The National Committee may delegate its authority in any manner it deems necessary.

Section 2

The National Committee shall be composed of the following members:

- a. the officers of the Party;
- b. five members elected at large by the delegates at a regular convention; and
- c. any additional members as specified below:

Any affiliate party with 10% or more of the total national party sustaining membership within affiliate parties (as determined for delegate allocation) shall be entitled to one National Committee representative and one alternate for each 10% of national sustaining membership. Affiliate parties may, by mutual consent, band together to form "representative regions," and each such "region" with an aggregate national party sustaining membership of 10% or more shall be entitled to one National Committee representative and one alternate for each 10% of national party sustaining membership. "Representative regions" may be formed or dissolved once every two years during a period beginning 90 days before the beginning of and ending on the second day of the national convention, and notice of new formations or dissolutions must be given in writing to the national Secretary prior to the close of the convention at which they take place.

Mission Statement

To represent the interests of Region Four (i.e., the Libertarian Party of California (LPCA)) on the Libertarian National Committee (LNC).

Representative Goals

- To communicate with LPCA leadership and members about official LNC business as necessary.
- To keep open lines of communication with members of the LPCA regarding the business of the LNC.
- To serve on ad hoc and sub-committees, as necessary, to support the goals of the Libertarian Party (LP).
- To uphold, promote, and disseminate the philosophy and principles of Libertarianism.

LNC Region Four Representative Resignation, Appointment, & Transition

On May 18, 2023, at 2:30 PM PDT, the elected LNC Region Four Representative, Ms. Carrie Eiler, tendered her resignation to the LNC. That resignation was forwarded to the LPCA Public Reflector List by the Chair later that day and read as follows:

To the Libertarian National Committee and all Lovers of Liberty:

My name is Carrie Eiler and I hail from the state of California, a place so oppressed by tyranny during the Covid era that a new crop of highly-motivated libertarian activists were born; a primary example being our LNC Chair, who rose to become an inspiring leader in Los Angeles, then California, and now should rightfully be directing strategy at the national level. The state of California is proud of the national Chair and believes in her capabilities and vision. I came to this board to proudly support our Chair in her efforts to grow the Libertarian Party and bring it to prominence within the political sphere.

My desire in serving on the LNC was to use my marketing acumen, of which I have 30+ years experience, and for a time I was able to do so. I have been serving dutifully, seven days a week, a minimum of four hours per day on average, since I was elected in February of 2022, in addition to homeschooling my children and helping grow a family business. It has been my great pleasure to offer this service in the pursuit of liberty, which will always remain my number one goal in activism. My motivation to be effective for liberty is also the reason why I am submitting my resignation today.

In recent months, an ever-larger proportion of my time and attention has been required, not to serve the Libertarian Party in the ways I am most qualified to benefit the organization, but instead, to mediate and attempt to help heal dysfunction amongst board members and staff. After last night's executive session, I now have little hope that the majority of this board desires to properly resolve problems that prevent me from returning to optimal productivity. Instead, it appears that many are leaning toward making changes that would render my goals impossible.

I will not be thwarted from my mission to make an impact for liberty in this critical time in history, which is why I have decided to focus my efforts on my roles within the Libertarian Party of California. I am excited to collaborate with my supportive colleagues there, who serve with me on the Strategic Planning, Legislative, and Communications and Media committees. Even though my role on this board is at an end, I will continue to finish out the projects for national to which I have already committed. I am not leaving you in the lurch.

It should be clear to everyone on this board that the Libertarian Party of California has reached its breaking point regarding the treatment of its LNC representative, the LNC Chair, and the ongoing undermining of our mission and the LNC Chair's vision to achieve it. That is why I am recommending to the LPCA Operations Committee and their Executive Committee at large to appoint Adrian F Malagon in my stead. It is my belief that he will be far more effective in addressing the problems plaguing the LNC board at this time, given his effectiveness when encountering similar issues in California.

Thank you for all of the good things we were able to accomplish together. Please wish me great success in my ongoing work for LP Commiefornia.

That same evening, the LPCA Operations Committee (OpsCom) convened and unanimously voted to appoint the Chair of the LPCA, Mr. Adrian F Malagon, to serve as the new LNC Region Four Representative. The appointment was ratified by the LPCA Executive Committee (ExCom) on June 1, 2023, by a vote of 14-1-0-0 (Yes/No/Express Abstention/Not Voting).

Ms. Eiler has been nothing short of phenomenal during her tenure and this transition. Region Four owes her a debt it cannot repay and thanks her for her service on the LNC. It likewise thanks her for her continued service to the LPCA and the LP via her retained positions on the LNC Advertising and Publication Review Subcommittee (APRC) and the Social Media Advisory Committee. Servants as qualified and dedicated to the advancement of liberty as Ms. Eiler are few and far between.

Executive Overview

Vision

If the LPCA has a purpose, it isn't to be unserious, to do things only for shock value, or to put people to sleep—it's to invigorate them. Libertarians love liberty and hate injustice; the biggest perpetrator of injustice here in California and across the country is the State. The role of the Party is to help as many people see that as possible—to pull them out of the allegorical cave and introduce them to the most brilliant, beautiful political philosophy known to man. In order to accomplish this, it is imperative that the Party overcome the negative stereotypes often associated with it and libertarianism as a whole. This will require a significant amount of effort, which is why it should be accomplished in stages.

If the Party seeks to grow, it needs to deepen its commitment to excellence on virtually every level. Establishing proper organizational structure and setting expectations (specifically surrounding the image projected both within and outside of the Party) will help it gain traction

over time. Strong, unapologetic libertarian messaging that demonstrates the superiority of libertarian political philosophy can overshadow the distracting negative stereotypes libertarians seek to overcome. This approach will open the door to recruiting new, enthusiastic participants in the Party, including those from minority communities, the politically homeless, and others disillusioned by the two legacy parties.

Registered Libertarians

According to the most recent data available from the California Secretary of State, the percentage of active registered Libertarians stands at 1.073%, which comes out to approximately 231,645 individuals. This is the highest number of registered Libertarians in the State of California's history.

Candidates

The LPCA Candidate Support Committee (CSC) is currently in the process of vetting candidates for the upcoming 2024 election cycle. No candidate (officially announced or otherwise) has been endorsed by the Party in any capacity as of the writing of this report.

Membership (State & National)

LPCA membership (both State and National) has been in significant decline (~20%) for the last couple of years. Much of the public and private conversation surrounding this topic has been mired in wild speculation, with some even crafting malicious narratives. The reality of the situation is much more complex and multifaceted, and it would be wise to take note of the basic realities that are likely contributing to this downward trend in membership.

First, a significant number of liberty-minded people fled the State of California (and continue to do so) as a result of the government's tyrannical response to COVID-19.

Second, many members were embarrassed by both the LPCA and LNC's messaging and actions (or lack thereof) during the government's response to COVID-19. While assurances have been given to many of these disillusioned former members that both parties are now "under new management," trust doesn't manifest overnight. It will take time for them to see that it is not "business as usual" and that such totalitarianism will be repudiated in the future instead of tolerated or complied with.

Third, a fair number of people have recently had to reallocate their formerly disposable income due to recent increases in taxes and inflation, job losses and transitions, or, in some cases, more than one of these factors. Many expired members contacted have cited those as reasons why they could not renew their membership at this time. That those experiencing economic hardship would prioritize necessities over luxuries should not come as a huge shock. Furthermore, the key benefit of County or State Central Committee Membership is the ability to vote for leadership positions and/or business at either level. If an individual isn't involved in their local affiliate or doesn't believe they'll be able to attend the Annual Convention due to budgetary constraints, it stands to reason that they likewise couldn't justify the cost of keeping any particular level of membership active.

Fourth, while Libertarians are known to disagree, often vociferously, Libertarian Party Mises Caucus (LPMC) members never imagined their libertarian kin would rather walk away from the Party they helped build than serve alongside them after they gained power. Instead of supporting a new wave of involved and often highly qualified activists, many withheld (and continue to withhold) their financial and volunteer support from the Party they claim to love.

Fifth, after the success the LPMC experienced in electing their preferred national Party leadership at Reno in 2022, a fair number of them incorrectly believed that the work was done instead of realizing that the work had merely begun. Actions taken at the national level shortly thereafter didn't help disprove this narrative. The California Libertarian Party Mises Caucus (CA-LPMC), however, has continued to stress the work that still needs doing, and as a result, a majority of members currently renewing or joining have come by way of that recruitment pipeline. While more can, of course, still be done to grow the membership, it's a brilliant start.

Sixth, many "neutral" members (i.e., those who don't belong to caucuses and don't understand or care about recent infighting) grew tired of being bombarded with public emails designed to manufacture outrage under the guise of "transparency," instead of serving their intended function of relaying Party business. This led to them (correctly) viewing the Party as disorganized or even childish and thus unworthy of their support. (This is not speculative; leadership received a fair number of messages citing this as a reason for individuals' withdrawal of support.) While assurances have again been made on this front, and since February, appropriate steps have been taken to demonstrate to all that those unprofessional practices are at an end, it is undoubtedly going to take a fair amount of time to regain their trust.

Recruitment (State & National)

As previously noted, Libertarian voter registration in California is at an all-time high (just under a quarter of a million residents). While it is doubtful that all of them are actually libertarian (people register under a particular banner for any number of reasons), statistically, thousands of them should be, begging the question, "Why are so many registered Libertarians not dues-paying members?" Speculation (well-intentioned or not) pales in comparison to actionable solutions, which is why a Recruitment Committee was formed, and the Chair's focus has been, and will continue to be, promoting the Party and its message to anyone willing to listen.

Single-Issue Coalitions

On June 1, 2023, the LPCA created an ad hoc committee with the purpose of exploring the viability of bringing a lawsuit against the State of California to end the so-called "top-two party system." This ad hoc committee is tasked with working with alternative parties and activists seeking to achieve the same goal.

On July 20, 2023, the LPCA officially joined the [ProRep Coalition](#). The organization consists of other alternative parties and activists looking to bring about electoral reform in the State of California. An ad hoc committee was formed to represent the Party's interests on their Board. The arrangement will stand as long as the Party's and ProRep's interests remain aligned.

LPCA Adopted Resolutions

April 19, 2023

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE TAXPAYER PROTECTION AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

California has one of the nation's highest costs of living, due in large part to the excessive tax burden the state places on its residents. In spite of some of the highest income, sales, gas, property, and utility taxes in the country, the State legislature and local officials continue to enact billions in new general and special taxes.

Given that government authority is derived only from the consent of the governed, the LPCA expresses its support for the Act's requirement that any new general taxes be approved by a simple majority of the electorate and any new special taxes be approved by a two-thirds majority of the electorate.

July 20, 2023

WHEREAS, the Libertarian Party of California condemns the addition of any Constitutional Amendment that is designed to infringe on Life and Liberty;

WHEREAS, such infringements upon civil liberties are undoubtedly precursors to future oppression and the degradation of human life;

THEREFORE, BE IT NOW RESOLVED THAT the Libertarian Party of California calls for the mass condemnation of Gavin Newsom's proposed 28th Amendment;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT we support the abolition of all laws that infringe on the individual liberties of peaceful people.

Official LPCA Program

On July 20, 2023, the LPCA adopted a new Official Program consisting of five planks as drafted and recommended by the Program Committee. The planks in their entirety can be found in both PDF and text format here: <https://ca.lp.org/about/program/>

Open Letter From The Office Of The Chair

Several prospects, members, donors, and volunteers (both at state and county levels) expressed varying degrees of concern over the way the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire (LPNH) has, at times, embarrassed the Libertarian Party on a national scale and hurt its overall brand with its conduct on social media. The direct impact on the LPCA resulted in the Chair releasing a statement on August 8, 2023, highlighting the differences between the two affiliates and assuring the LPCA of its commitment to its own brand of messaging. (The statement is attached below.)

2024 Annual Convention

The 2024 LPCA Annual Convention will be February 23-25, 2024, at The Hilton Costa Mesa in Orange County, California. The first confirmed speaker is the Chair of the LNC, Ms. Angela

McArdle. For Convention packages and more Convention information please visit the website:
<https://ca.lp.org/2024-convention/>

LPCA Executive Committee/Officer/Operations Committee Meetings

- Executive Committee Meeting, Virtual, March 26, 2023
- Executive Committee Meeting, San Diego, CA, April 1, 2023
- Executive Committee Meeting, Virtual, April 19, 2023
- Officer's Meeting, Virtual, April 27, 2023
- Operations Committee Meeting, Virtual, May 18, 2023
- Executive Committee Meeting, Virtual, June 1, 2023
- Executive Committee Meeting, Virtual, July 10, 2023
- Officer's Meeting, Virtual, July 10, 2023
- Executive Committee Meeting, Virtual, July 20, 2023
- Executive Committee Meeting, Virtual, August 7, 2023

LPCA Chair Press & Media Appearances/Interviews

- *People We Love Podcast*, [Episode 138: Adrian F Malagon Loves Tom Woods, Angela McArdle, His Grandparents](#), March 12, 2023
- *The SDLP Podcast*, [Talking to the New LPCA Chair](#), April 3, 2023
- *The Liberty Blues Network*, [Episode 45 : Libertarian Messaging for Latinos](#), April 4, 2023
- *Larry Sharpe*, [Adrian F Malagon & Larry Sharpe—FreedomFest 2022, Las Vegas](#), April 10, 2023
- *The Epoch Times*, [California Lawmakers Propose \\$1.1 Billion Transit Bailout Amid Declining Ridership, Rising Crime](#), June 15, 2023
- *CaliBased*, [Episode 34: with Guest Adrian F Malagon](#), June 21, 2023
- *AG News Show*, [Adrian F Malagon](#), June 29, 2023
- *Twitter Livestream*, [State Led Membership Drive in California, Colorado & Nebraska](#), June 30, 2023
- *Free For All*, [REVEALED: Practical Libertarian Solutions!](#), July 5, 2023
- *Lassen County Times*, [Libertarian Party of California Condemns Newsom's Proposed 28th Amendment](#), July 25, 2023
- *FirearmsNews.com*, [Libertarian Party of California Condemns Gov. Newsom's Proposed 28th Amendment](#), August 1, 2023

In Libertatem,



Mr. Adrian F Malagon
Region Four Representative
Libertarian National Committee



428 J Street, Suite 400, Sacramento, CA 95814 • chair@ca.lp.org • 916.446.1776

From The Office Of The Chair

Fellow Libertarians,

I believe the messaging of the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire (LPNH) is well-intentioned, but the strategy is misguided and counterproductive to growing the movement. While we should never avoid discussing sensitive topics, we must have clear and concise messaging, leaving very little, if any, room for misinterpretation.

Additionally, we should never use intentional vagueness as a means to increase engagement and followers. Increasing engagement and followers, while valuable, is ultimately meaningless if it doesn't convert into new members, donors, and volunteers. In fact, it's fundamentally detrimental if it causes us to lose those we already have.

One of the reasons the great Dr. Ron Paul had such a significant impact is that he never shied away from expressing his views. He was likewise able to explain complex and sensitive topics in such a way that people of all political persuasions easily understood and found inoffensive. *This* is the strategy that should be emulated.

Currently, the messaging of LPNH resonates primarily with devout libertarians who understand the meaning behind their "edgy" tweets. Our goal however, should be to appeal to a broader audience. If our revolution is to succeed, we must work to increase the number of libertarians in our movement. There is no other option. Repulsive, off-putting messaging is severely distracting and counterproductive to this end.

The Libertarian Party of California, the largest state affiliate in the country, is committed to projecting an image that will help our Party continue to gain ground. We seek to illustrate why libertarianism is the most beautiful, brilliant, political philosophy ever devised by man through strong, unapologetic messaging in the tradition of Dr. Paul. We will overshadow distracting, negative conversations by opening the door to libertarian novitiates eager to leave the legacy parties behind. We urge state affiliates to join us.

In Libertatem,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian F Malagon', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Adrian F Malagon
Chair, Libertarian Party of California (LPCA)

APPENDIX E – REGION 5 REPORT

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Region 5 Quarterly Report - August 2023

Otto Dassing: Representative
Will Hyman: Alternate Representative

Pennsylvania

Chair: Rob Cowburn

Candidates: [website](#)

Events:

-
-

Initiatives:

-
-

Other:

-

Maryland

Chair: Kyle O'Donnell

Candidates:

- 3-5 candidates for office: [website](#)

Events:

- Held their summer picnic on June 24
- Annual Crab Feast likely to be held in September
- Nomination Convention likely to be held in October

West Virginia

Chair: Taylor Richmond

Candidates:

- 1 candidate for office

Events:

- Nomination Convention held in July

District of Columbia

Candidates:

- : [website](#)

Other:

-

Delaware

Chair: Carter Hill

Candidates:

-

Events:

-

Initiatives:

- Defend the guard
- Coalition work (2nd Amendment, ATF and police harassing homeowners)
-

Virginia

Chair: Jennifer Leatherbury

Candidates:

- 3 candidates for office

Other:

- We are in the process of preparing a 50th anniversary for next summer.

North Carolina

Chair: Ryan Brown

Candidates:

- 14 candidates for office: [website](#)

Initiatives:

- Their podcast is in the middle of our 3rd season and our newsletter readership is up.

- Working with local organizations to lobby the General Assembly and influence the outcome of votes.

APPENDIX F – REGION 6 REPORT

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August 6, 2023 Libertarian National Committee, Inc. Region 6 Report.

Mark A. Tuniewicz, Region 6 Representative

Region 6 currently includes: Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, South Carolina, & Utah.

States which are invited to participate informally in the Region, per vote of the chairs, include all currently “regionless” states, i.e.: Idaho, New Mexico, Wyoming, Alaska & Hawaii.

States choosing not to submit a report to the National Committee at this time include: Montana, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, & South Carolina.

Utah, Barry Short, Chair

LPUT Candidates:

The Utah Libertarian Party held a special Nominating Convention on June 24th to nominate a candidate in the Special Election to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Congressman Chris Stewart in the 2nd District.

Brad Green was nominated. Brad is the Chair of our Iron County affiliate, and the founder of Advocates for a Prosperous Community. APC is a local nonpartisan citizens group which has been active and successful in recruiting and electing people to local offices – city councils, school boards, and mayors, including Brad's father, Cedar City mayor Garth Green.

We expect to put significant resources into Brad's campaign. As one of the few federal races in the entire country this year and with all other elections in Utah being municipal, it will get significant media attention. His opponent will be decided in a Republican primary, but we consider both of the likely nominees to be weak candidates – a former aide to Stewart who has no name recognition prior to this campaign, and a former state senator who was beaten soundly by Mike Lee in the 2022 Republican Senate primary.

With this campaign, we hope to 1) elect Brad and end the notion that Libertarians don't win; 2) grow Libertarian voter registration; and 3) recruit Libertarian candidates for our 2024 election cycle.

On a related note, we are gratified to see that, based on recent data provided, Utah has moved into the number 2 ranking for percentage of registered Libertarian voters (in states which have partisan registration), now trailing only Nebraska. In a time with no elections taking place (other than the special election that is just starting), our voter registration is increasing at an 8% annual pace. While Libertarians represent about 1.2% of total registered voters in Utah, we represent 3.3% of new voter registrations in the past three months.

North Dakota, Taylor J. Bakken, Chair

In May the LPND held our annual state convention, with the full slate of officers re-elected. We did some cleanup work relative to our bylaws.

The LPND is currently in the middle of a Ballot Drive. we've collected about 100 signatures, needing a total of 7000 signatures, but hope to collect 8000-9000 in total. They have raised almost \$40,000 with the help of Scott Kohlhaas, we will use this to fund the Ballot Drive.

The state party in conjunction with local affiliates plan on having a presence at certain state fairs and other local events, both for publicity and to further the ballot drive.

(NB: Subsequent to this report being submitted by chair Bakken, the Executive Committee of the LNC voted to encumber \$17,500 to support this drive, to be paid \$3,500 each at the 20%/40%/60%/80%/Conclusion of the petition drive.)

Illinois, Bill Redpath, Chair, reports:

We are working to recruit candidates for 2024 elections, particularly in the eight counties (including Cook County, which contains all of the City of Chicago) in which the LPIL is a recognized political party and, therefore, can run candidates in the March 2024 primary. The petitioning period for next year's primaries starts in September, so we are working hard to line up candidates.

Candidates not in those eight counties will need to petition to get on the ballot during the General Election petitioning period, which will be 90 days in length from late March to late June 2024.

The LPIL 2024 Convention will be Fri-Sat, March 8-9, 2024 at the Clarion Inn, Elmhurst, IL (a Chicago suburb). All convention business will occur on Sat, March 9. Jo Jorgensen, an Illinois native, will be the Keynote Speaker.

As many of you know, ballot access is a constant concern for the LPIL. The Land of Lincoln has some of the worst ballot access laws in the US. We have made at least a little progress is lobbying for ballot access reform. In particular, I have made contact with my state representative, plus the Chair of the Ethics & Elections Committee of the Illinois House. I am trying to get LPIL members to contact their state representative and state senator on this issue. I have also been in contact with the Green and Constitution parties of Illinois, asking them to activate their membership on this issue.

On July 10, the Chicago Tribune published my op-ed on Illinois ballot access laws. Just Google "Chicago Tribune Redpath" to read it.

We will need to petition to place the LP presidential ticket on the ballot in Illinois in 2024. We will have 90 days from late March to late June. I think the deadline will be Monday, June 24. 25,000 valid signatures of Illinois voters will be needed. We will probably have to bring in Libertarian petitioners from outside Illinois, as each petitioner can only petition for one party (one of many laws meant to make it difficult to make the ballot here), and I anticipate competition for petitioners from No Labels. POTUS/VP would be the only candidates on the petition, as there are no other statewide races here in 2024. All down ticket candidates must have their own, separate petition.

I must report that there is not a lot of enthusiasm for doing the presidential petition in the LPIL. Even with a strong volunteer effort, paid petitioning will easily cost at least \$100,000. The LPIL currently has about \$30,000. I don't know that a motion to allocate some of that to a 2024 presidential petition drive will pass the State Central Committee.

Also, as many of you know, Richard Winger has bequeathed to me the position of Editor of Ballot Access news and its website, ballot-access.org. Richard, is, fortunately, staying involved as Editor Emeritus. On personal notes re: Richard, his husband, Jerry Kunz, passed away on July 8, at the age of 90 years, 6 days. And, Richard celebrates his 80th birthday on August 27, so please send birthday wishes his way at richardwinger@yahoo.com, or to PO Box 470296, San Francisco, CA 94147.

Wisconsin, Stephen Ecker, chair

Over the last 90 days, the LPWI has had some difficulty maintaining individuals in leadership positions. The roles of Membership Coordinator and Affiliate Coordinator were both filled in July, but the Treasurer's position has been unfilled since June 25th and a notice has been sent to the membership seeking willing volunteers. Prior to the Treasurer's resignation, the board authorized the Secretary to serve as Assistant Treasurer, so that they can serve as an authorized representative if the chair were to become incapacitated. As it stands today, only the chair is authorized to have access to the treasurer, and to perform basic tasks such as bill paying.

LPWI Candidates:

Mr. Kevin Kangas was elected as the Town of Newark (Rock County) supervisor. Kevin ran on a platform of government transparency, lower property taxes and personal property rights. He was very active in Town governance in the year running up to the election, participating on the Town EMS/Fire Advisory Committee and in efforts to defeat three tax referendums. Name recognition resulting from activism was a key part of his campaign. Kevin had the second highest vote total thus taking one of the two available nonpartisan seats.

Mr. Phillip Anderson (Candidate for U.S. Senate) Mr. Anderson announced his candidacy at the Libertarian Party of Wisconsin Annual Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on April 15, 2023, with a campaign slogan of "Disrupt the Corruption." For more information about Mr. Anderson's Senate campaign, visit <https://www.andersonforussenate.com/>.

LPWI Events:

The Energy Fair (June 23 – 25)

Custer, WI, a few miles east of Stevens Point, WI, is the location of the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA.) This year marked the 32nd Annual MREA Energy Fair. LPWI has been registering as an exhibitor at the event for many years. This year, LPWI returned to The Energy Fair. The last fair we participated in was in June 2019. MREA held no fair in 2020 nor 2021 due to the pandemic. LPWI bought a booth for 2022, but there were insufficient volunteers to staff a booth.

This year we scored a booth, had sufficient volunteers, and enjoyed heavy traffic at our booth. We always speak to booth visitors about the Libertarian Party, both National and State. It is common to engage in conversations about the Libertarian approach to renewable energy. Generally speaking, stating that we want the government out of the business of energy and would prefer the free market choose the winners and losers rather than having a corrupt Federal government support only those technologies that line their own pockets is well received.

Members who volunteered included Chair Stephen Ecker, Secretary Tyler Danke, Alternate 2nd Congressional District Representative Chris Nass, and Affiliate Chair Jason Jaquith of the Waupaca County Libertarians. For more information about MREA and The Energy Fair, visit <https://www.theenergyfair.org/>

The Kickapoo River Cleanup (July 7 – 8)

In 2018, record-breaking floods hit the Viola, WI area, leaving tons of debris in the Kickapoo River. While the cleanup itself is not an official LPWI-sponsored event, there is a small but committed and energetic group of LPWI members who participate in the cleanup every year, using canoes or kayaks to gather river trash. In the past, items that have been pulled from the river by LPWI members and other participants in the cleanup include an old refrigerator, a 55 gallon plastic drum, multiple large water soaked fiberglass doors, ravaged farm fencing, household garbage, intact (but flat) big rig wheels, school bus seats, and all sorts of other types of debris, large and small. (How on Earth does one get a school bus seat into a canoe?!?)

This year, once again. At Large Executive Committee Member Nate Gall and Alternate 2nd Congressional District Representative Chris Nass organized and participated in the Kickapoo River Cleanup. I have not yet heard a report on the event, but I anticipate those details will be revealed at the next Executive Committee Meeting on August 20.

The Cepia Club's Candidate and Campaigns Conference (July 15)

The Cepia Club, a Libertarian organization founded and operated for many years by Tim Krenz, the current LPWI Vice-Chair, held a Candidate and Campaigns Conference in Dresser, WI. This

may become an annual event where individuals running for office or serving on campaign committees may trade ideas, attend seminars, and participate in other activities to help build successful campaigns. Heard through the grapevine that the event was a success. Also heard through the grapevine that Phillip Anderson, Candidate for Senate, attended the Conference.

APPENDIX G – REGION 7 REPORT

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Libertarian National Committee Region 7 Quarterly Report



Art by Cherise Norton, Oklahoma

Prepared by:
Linnea Gabbard, Representative (AR), in her last role as rep
Donavan Pantke, Alternate (TX), to succeed the role

A Note from Linnea: Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve with you all, I am pleased to usher Donovan Pantke into this new role. Good luck everyone!

Arkansas

Chair Dr. Michael Pakko

- Leadership
 - Officer Elections held in April; new officers as follows: *Chair: Michael Pakko, Vice Chair: Dakota Logan, Secretary: Zach Lachowsky, Treasurer: Miranda Corwin, At Large: Linnea Gabbard, D1 Rep: Garrett Sheeks, D2 Rep: Caleb Bryan, D3 Rep: Michael Kalagias, D4: Adam Smith*

- Affiliates
 - As with their membership growth, their strategy for affiliate growth has been to leverage the success of their candidate recruiting campaign to build affiliates around candidates running in areas that were previously not formally organized. They have appointed ‘provisional chairs’ in five counties recently, increasing their total of counties that are fully organized or in progress to over one-third of the state (26/75 counties).
- Ballot Access
 - Entering the last leg of petitioning, As of 8/4, we need about 1,250 more volunteer signatures.
- Events
 - N/A
- Finance/Fundraising
 - N/A

Louisiana

Chair Heide Alejandro-Smith

- Leadership/Organization
 - LA has a new media officer: Keith Thompson, and a new CD6 rep: Donna Waggoner
- Elections
 - Chair Heide Alejandro-Smith running for State Representative-District 90; winning number is 6K votes.
- Events
 - LPL convention April 6-7 at Galleria Sheraton in Metairie, LA
- IT/Tech
 - LPL X page with rising traffic since media officer change
- Asks
 - Any help promoting the Heide Alejandro-Smith campaign would be appreciated.

Missouri

Chair Dustin Coffell

- Leadership/Organization
 - Welcome to the new LPMO chair, Dustin Coffell! This is his first report as chair, and the rest of the new board as follows: At the 2023 MOLP

Convention, held May 20, 2023, we turned over all of our four officer positions, with three being new faces - Chair (Dustin Coffell, replacing Bill Slantz); Randy Langkraehr (Vice Chair, formerly Secretary, replacing Catherine Dreher); Shelley Brandt (Secretary, replacing Randy Langkraehr), and Nick Kasoff (Treasurer, replacing Sean O'Toole). Additionally, a new Executive Committee was elected, and a significant revision to our bylaws was made, setting ourselves on a path toward a brighter future organizationally.

- Ballot Access
 - By virtue of our candidate for State Auditor exceeding 2% statewide in 2022, we have solidified our ballot access through 2026!
- Events
 - Preparations are complete for the MO State Fair, where we will be hosting a booth, from August 10-20, 2023.
- IT/Tech
 - Significant increases in traffic on the MOLP Facebook page, with our monthly engagements hitting near all-time highs. New officers are still needing access to CRM, but this concern has been made known to staff and LNC. At our July Executive Committee meeting, the decision was made to plan a migration of our website by year-end to a new host and format that LPMO will directly control.

Oklahoma

Chair Chris Powell

- Leadership/Membership
 - We had a CRM training and are now better equipped to utilize the program to increase membership.
- Elections
 - Clint Rapp is in a special election for Cleveland County Commissioner. We have direct voter outreach planned. The election is Sept. 12th.
- Events
 - OKLP participated in two Pride parades in OKC in June as well as the Warr Acres multicultural festival. Vice-chair Dillon Feazel and the convention committee are well into plans for a big, and profitable, convention next spring.
- Finance/Fundraising

- I am working on a fundraising campaign focused on supporting our 2024 presidential race and general election legislature campaigns.
- Information Tech/IT
 - At-large executive committee member Lynda Steele continues to develop her newsletter with the goal to use it for direct voter contact with registered Libertarians.
- Extra Note
 - This is not an official party effort but volunteers are gathering signatures to ensure we have some of our presidential candidates on the presidential primary ballot, which will be the first time we've had a presidential primary here. Because those signatures will have to be from Libertarian affiliated voters, we have candidate recruitment literature to leave with them which we hope and expect will result in significantly more races that we will contest.

Texas

Chair Whitney Bilyeu

- Ballot Access
 - Oliver's (LNC Counsel) report should cover the latest in one of our (LPTexas) current lawsuits. There is nothing new to report on our other one at this time.

APPENDIX H – REGION 8 REPORT

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REGION 8 State Report! - Libertarian National Committee Meeting - Washington DC

New Hampshire

Defend the guard phone banking events held with volunteers calling reps around the country in stars with DTG initiatives.

Sites at Porcfest hosting libertarian presidential roundtables and outreach

Police service revolver buyback offering gift cards and donuts but unfortunately no police officers took advantage.

Membership growing, up 10% from spring

Vermont

Members of the party have been active with the Vermont Peace Anti War Coalition (VPAC), formed directly after the 2/19/2023 Rage Against the War Machine event in Montpelier VT. The coalition has robust representation from local grassroots anti nuclear war organizations and local concerned groups that focus on the F35 fighter jets currently stationed in residential areas in South Burlington.

We also have the addition of Representative Jarrod Sammis, Rutland 3, who is a sitting state representative who left the VTGOP and joined the LPVT in late April. He has agreed to sponsor the Defend the Guard bill and together with members of the Vermont Peace Anti War Coalition, we have formed a Defend the Guard Working group, coordinating closely with Diego Rivera and Derek Proulx (NH) meeting regularly and working on this process.

The LPVT in conjunction with Regional Representative Pat Ford, have begun a Mutual Aid Initiative working closely with a local organization ([Jenna's Promise](#), [Johnson Health Center](#)) to help in the recovery efforts in Johnson, Vt which was affected greatly by the recent rain storms and flooding. We raised money and Pat Ford was able to drive up several times with needed items like water, cleaning supplies, fans, food, and more. We have established a positive relationship with the local organization that is at the forefront of local activities in the area. Here is a recent article on the organization we are working with <https://www.cnn.com/2023/08/12/us/johnson-health-center-vermont-floods-clinic-substance-use/index.html>.

Individual members are also involved in creating activities to introduce folks to libertarian ideas, Suzan Seymour, chair of the Franklin County party has hosted a series of monthly events throughout the state geared toward liberty minded people and the curious; monthly social meetups, karaoke nights and even salsa dancing at local businesses. Lamoille County party Vice Chair, Andrea Altman, hosts many local freedom events and is also active in medical freedom organizations. In July, state Secretary Anne Lepeltier organized a festival which hosted Zuby as a headliner. In September, State chair Olga Maria, is producing the [Libertystock](#) Freedom Festival & Benefit will offer a venue for freedom minded speakers and is also supported by local grassroots organizations like; VPAC, Vermont Stands Up, Ethan Allen Institute and People's Party among others.

This September the LPVT will be involved in the (reorganization) caucus process which is how we have ballot access in the state. In November the statewide caucus happens with elections for executive committee, in early 2024 we will have our state Convention for national delegates.

Maine

The Libertarian Party of Maine achieved a significant legislative victory by successfully reforming ballot access laws, halving the required registered voters for permanent status. Guided by an adept fundraiser and skilled registration drive manager, we're positioned to break the duopoly in Maine this year. However, your support is crucial. With the campaign's end approaching, we're \$7,000 away from our goal to reach 5,000 registered Libertarians. Join us in this pivotal moment and contribute to our success. Victory means eliminating the need to petition for our Presidential Candidate's ballot access, saving our Party at least \$80,000 every election cycle. Together, we'll challenge the status quo and amplify the voice of liberty. Towards Freedom, Harrison Kemp Chair, Libertarian Party of Maine

New York

Our lawsuit is pending review by the Supreme Court. A conference is scheduled for September 26. We have 19 candidates running for local office throughout the state. We are currently planning an in-person event for November 2023, but we have no details yet. Our focus is building the party from the grassroots. We hope to have a Presidential debate and speakers focused on practical topics to get activists talking to the average voter to get our message out in a more effective way.

To fund these, we are in the middle of an infrastructure overhaul and it is progressing. We launched a fundraising campaign to cover our new CRM and purchasing literature for this year. Our revived newsletter, Free New York, continues with the eighth issue to be released this month.

On a sad note, on July 22, 2023, Chris Garvey passed away. He was our 1998 candidate for Governor and 2006 and 2018 candidate for Attorney General, past LPNY Vice-Chair and held numerous other party offices and ran for office many times since he became involved in the mid-1990s. He joined the National Libertarian Party in 1980.

Rhode Island

Hosted Maj Toure at the Rhode Island House of Representatives to speak as an expert witness testifying against racist gun legislation.

Testified at The Rhode Island House of Representatives Ranked Choice Voting Commission

Sponsored Earth Day Cleanup at a Rhode Island Liberty sponsored highway site.

Arranged for elevation to the Rhode Island House of Representatives for active consideration

Defend The Guard Legislation. Testified.

Massachusetts

Janel Holmes is Libertarian Candidate for Worcester/ Hampshire Senate District Special Election 2023. She can be found at Janel Holmes for State Senate on Facebook.

New Jersey

As the Chair of NJLP, I wanted to provide you with an update on our current activities and progress here in New Jersey.

****Candidates:**** We have secured candidates on the ballot for several legislative districts and localities. njlp.org/candidates

We are focusing on party governance and infrastructure (to prepare for anticipated growth (2024), fundraising and coalition building to support candidates and various other projects (alternate voting, political crimes, local ordinance repeals).

****Picnic:**** Our annual picnic went last weekend at the minor league ballpark in Bridgewater. Turnout was lower than hoped and opportunities to conduct community relations and/or fundraise were not as prevalent as anticipated. Next year May start earlier at regular cadence with the ballpark to get signatures for local and LD candidates.

****General Meeting (GM):**** Our state board meets this week and we have a regular member GM on Sunday August 27 in North Jersey. Should be no trouble getting quorum and main agenda items include codifying some business rules around fiscal policies and candidate approvals by the State Board. As we discussed there's a Sheriff candidate who we thought petitioned as libertarian party but actually petitioned "Only Constitutional Sheriff " and the county clerk is supposedly putting Endorsed by LP on the ballot. Could create an interesting perspective going forward as we also watch the fusion voting developments within NJ. Question is: can I navigate this in a smart way and avoid backlash from certain members? We shall see.

I will ensure to keep you posted on our progress and would appreciate any feedback or suggestions you may have. Looking forward to catching up soon.

Best regards,

James Ripley

Note: wife is 34 weeks and we are due to have fourth child (3rd boy) on 28 Sep.

APPENDIX I – REGION 0 REPORT

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“Region 0” Report

August 2023

Prepared by: Andrew Watkins

Alaska:

- *Still no responses.*

Idaho:

Chair: Jayson Sorensen

- *They have been having difficulty connecting with the IT team regarding data.*
- *Working on building relationships with the pro-gun movement in the state.*
- *Searching for candidates to throw support behind*

Wyoming:

- *Still no responses.*

New Mexico:

Chair: Dereck Scott

- *Two chairs had resigned causing things to slow down.*
- *Dereck Scott is the new chair.*
- *The board has been deliberating on a new party name for ballot access purposes but have not officially decided on one as of the writing of this report.*

Hawaii:

Chair: Brady Stewert

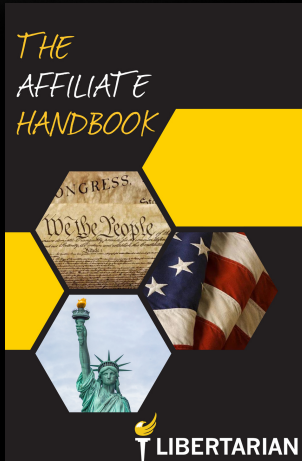
- *Had been dealing with some internal struggles.*
 - o *Several board members had either resigned, moved away, or, unfortunately, passed away.*
 - o *There had not been much movement by the board for quite some time, but a state convention was held on August 5th to elect a new board that hopes to start getting things moving again.*
- *Asked Brady how things were going with the wildfire, and he reports that all of their people appear to be safe.*

APPENDIX J– AFFILIATE SUPPORT COMMITTEE POWERPOINT

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WHAT'S INSIDE



- OFFICER TIPS
- GETTING STARTED
- SOCIAL MEDIA
- TEMPLATES
- CAMPAIGNING

ABOUT THE BOOK

- 77 TOTAL PAGES
- CURRENT STATE AND COUNTY CHAIRS WERE ASKED WHAT THEY WISH THEY KNEW AND WE ADDRESSED THOSE ISSUES
- SOCIAL MEDIA EXPERTS WROTE THE HOW TO'S FOR TWITTER, FACEBOOK, AND TIKTOK
- HOW TO RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE WRITTEN BY SEASONED LIBERTARIAN CANDIDATES

Exciting Aspects

- **TWITTER BOT HOW TO**

EVEN IF YOU CAN'T BE ACTIVE THE BOT CAN AUTOMATICALLY POST FOR YOU AND KEEP USERS ENGAGED

- **IN DEPTH FUNDRAISING**

WE ALL NEED MONEY, BUT NOT EVERYONE KNOWS HOW TO FUNDRAISE. NOW WE HAVE GIVEN THEM THE TOOLS TO DO IT EFFICIENTLY

- **CANIDATE RESOURCES**

EVERYTHING FROM HOW TO'S TO GRAPHIC TEMPLATES. WE WANT TO MAKE OUR CANIDATES AS SUCESSFUL AS POSSIBLE

COLLEGE AFFILIATE PROJECT

Finding the next generation of libertarians

WHAT IS IT?

THE COLLEGE AFFILIATE PROGRAM IS A JOINT PROJECT BETWEEN THE AFFILIATE COMMITTEE AND THE YOUTH WING OF THE LP, THE LIBERTARIAN YOUTH CAUCUS. IT'S PRIMARY GOAL IS TO CREATE A SERIES OF LOCAL COLLEGE AFFILIATES IN UNIVERSITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY, WHO CAN ONBOARD YOUNG PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED IN LIBERTARIAN POLITICS AND THE BROADER LP. IT WAS STARTED IN LATE 2022, AND HAS SINCE HAD SOME MODERATE SUCCESS. WE PLAN TO START OUR FIRST LARGE ROUND OF RECRUITMENT STARTING IN THE 2023-2024 TERM.

LIBERTARIAN YOUTH CAUCUS

- **CURRENT CHAIR: THEODORE GERCKEN**
- **THANKS TO LINNEA GABBARD, THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS IS THE LARGEST CHAPTER**
- **PRESENTATION TO START A NEW CHAPTER AT HENDRIX UNIVERSITY WILL BE MADE IN TWO WEEKS**
- **CURRENT GOAL: 10 NEW CHAPTERS THIS SCHOOL YEAR**

APPENDIX JK– AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

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Audit Committee Report to the LNC
Washington, DC Meeting, August 19-20, 2023

Audit Committee Members: Laura Hackenburg (Chair), Amity Pickeral, Rich Bowen. The auditing firm is Frye & Company CPA's of Manassas, VA.

1. The 2022 Independent Financial Audit is currently in its final stages.
2. The 2022 Draft Report was delivered to the Chair, the Treasurer, and the Audit Committee this past Friday morning.
3. The Audit Committee has not yet reviewed the draft, but I can report that the Audit has resulted in an unqualified opinion. An unqualified opinion means an independent auditor has judged a company's financial statements to be fair and appropriately represented.
4. Once the report is reviewed by the Audit Committee, Chair and Treasurer, and a few necessary documents are signed by the officers, the report will be made public.

APPENDIX L – BALLOT ACCESS COMMITTEE REPORT

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LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

BALLOT ACCESS COMMITTEE

AUGUST 2023 REPORT

Presented at the LNC meeting on AUGUST 20, 2023.

POTENTIAL BUDGET REQUESTS

STATE	TOTAL COST	NOTES
Alabama	\$339,700 Or \$40,000	3% of votes cast for Governor in the previous election (2022): (42,459) A candidate for a state office receives at least 20 percent of the total votes cast for that office to retain 5,000 for Independent
Arkansas	\$21,000 in LNC funds	10,000 signatures ending Feb '24. 3% Governor or President to retain.
DC	\$42,000	Approximately 5,200
Illinois	\$200,000	1% of all voters in last statewide or 25,000 (lower amount)
Kentucky (early 2024)	\$40,000	5,000 signatures, earliest start 11/2023, and 2% to retain
Maine	\$???	5,000 voter registrations in one full year. 4,000 for independent once a candidate is nominated, there is no substitution. (New party must hold caucuses in at least 1 municipality in 14 state counties during election year. These are held every 2 years.)
Massachusetts	\$80,000	Requires 50 people to sign a form after 12/1 in the year preceding and 10,000 signatures for presidential; 3% to retain or 1% of registered voters
Minnesota	\$208,000	Of all of votes cast, 1% minor party access or 5% for major party access 1% will probably be about 26,000; retention 1% of total voters
New Hampshire	\$24,000	1,500 per congressional district (3,000 total); 4% for governor or senator or petition of 3% of all votes cast

**APPENDIX L
BALLOT ACCESS COMMITTEE REPORT**

New Jersey	\$6,400	800 signatures; retain with legislative races totaling 10% votes cast in all legislative races
New Mexico	\$28,500	0.5% of gubernatorial votes cast 3,562; 0.5% to retain
New York	\$360,000	45,000 signatures with 500 from each of half of the congressional districts; 130,000 votes or 2% statewide (whichever is higher) to retain
North Dakota	\$17,500 in LNC funds	4,000 signatures for independent; or 7,000 signatures for Libertarian label and 5% to retain
Ohio	\$40,000	5,000 signatures for independent; or 1% of gubernatorial for party access (currently 59,223) and 3% to retain
Pennsylvania	\$40,000	5,000 signatures; retain with 2% of vote cast for winning candidate in 10+ counties and 2% statewide
Rhode Island	\$8,000	1,000 signatures; 5% for governor to retain
Tennessee	\$2,200	275 signatures for independent or 2.5% of gubernatorial votes for party access; 5% to retain
Virginia	\$40,000	Statewide 5,000 with 200 from each of the 11 congressional districts; 10% retention
Washington (2024)	\$8,000	1,000 valid signatures required; 5% for major party status
Incidentals/Overruns	\$120,560	Assume 10% cost overruns for budgeting purposes
TOTAL	\$1,326,160	Total with no help plus already allocated funds

OVERVIEW

This report is the status of ballot access as of August 20th, 2023.

Report Contributors

Voting Committee Members

Rich Bowen • rich.bowen[at]lp.org

Layla Bush

Eric Cordova

Todd Hagopian • treasurer[at]lp.org

Caryn Ann Harlos • secretary[at]lp.org

Andy Jacobs

Dustin Nanna • dustin.nanna[at]lp.org

Ballot Access Coordinator

Bill Redpath

Summary of Update

States without access at this time are: Alabama, Arkansas, DC, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, & Washington.

States in green are states we have or may conduct a drive in the near future.

States in red are either extremely cost prohibitive or where we do not anticipate having to assist.

The new Committee has met 8 times since the last report and continues to discuss overall strategy for Ballot Access.

- Arkansas - Since the last report the Committee recommended we allocate \$21,000 to Arkansas in 3 installments, with the state matching those funds. We have made all 3 payments and the paid portion of the drive is finished. Arkansas has over 10,000 raw

signatures in hand and will be finishing the drive with volunteers. If we need to circle back to give them a cash boost we will revisit later this term.

- Maine – The Maine Party is doing a voter registration drive independent of the LNC. Pat Ford assisted me in brokering a meeting with their Chair and VC and they expressed a frustration with national and turned down my offer to help. I am told this may be changing and I will stay on top of the situation. They currently have roughly 2,000 voter registrations. A bill passed lowering the registration requirement to 5,000 signatures. This leaves a gap of 3,000 or so to close the gap. Maine has an internal plan to gather these registrations and is raising money for the effort currently.
- New Mexico – The Committee anticipates that we will need to run a petition drive here based on how the SoS treats the line in regard to our newly formed affiliate. This drive would not be extremely cost prohibitive and I am confident we will succeed. When we are ready, we can interface with the Affiliate to determine their contributions and develop a realistic budget. With their relative size and experience we may need to nearly fully fund this drive.
- North Dakota – The North Dakota drive is currently underway. The Committee recommended we allocate \$17,500 to the Affiliate in 5 installments and subsequently the LNC approved it. The LPND is committed to also match this or more. The volunteer effort is minimal, but the State is committed to making it work and the Committee will make sure we are successful.
- Ohio – The Ohio Party currently has a petition and the drive is newly underway from a volunteer perspective. Bill Redpath came to Ohio during the August special election and collected 350 signatures. Andrew Chadderdon and one of the LPMI Vice Chairs and a few members including Ohio's Michael Lopez collected as well. Currently we have just a bit under 500 raw signatures. We have until August of 2024 to finish the drive, but there is a desire to wrap this up early to avoid adding to the petitioning rush that will take place next year.
- Tennessee – The Committee recommended \$4,000 towards a ballot access lawsuit with the State matching those funds. Mr. Linger is the attorney we are working with in tandem with the state to drive this forward. We are in the very early stages, so I do not have a comprehensive update on the status.

The next Ballot Access Committee meeting is scheduled for August 22nd.

**APPENDIX L
BALLOT ACCESS COMMITTEE REPORT**

State	On the Ballot?	Candidate Substitutions?	First Day to Petition	Petitions Due	Signatures Needed	Special Rules	Link to Document with Info	Voters Can Only Sign one Petition	Notes
Alabama	No - start later	No	When we know the Nominee	82 days before the election	5,000	This is for independent candidates	Alabama	?	
Alaska	Yes						Alaska	?	
Arizona	Yes						Arizona	?	
Arkansas	No - start now	Yes	January 1st of any odd numbered year	3 weeks prior to primary (March in presidential years, May in midterm years)	10,000	Party Ballot Access	Arkansas	?	
California	Yes						California	?	
Colorado	Yes						Colorado	?	
Connecticut	Yes						Connecticut	?	
Delaware	Yes						Delaware	?	
DC*	No - start later	No	? Ask Winger	144 days before election	about 5,200		DC	?	
Florida	Yes						Florida	?	
Georgia	Yes						Georgia	?	
Hawaii	Yes						Hawaii	?	
Idaho	Yes						Idaho	?	
Illinois	No - start later		90 days prior to when petitions are due	134 prior to the election	25,000	Party ballot access	Illinois	?	
Indiana	Yes						Indiana	?	
Iowa	Yes	Yes					Iowa	?	

**APPENDIX L
BALLOT ACCESS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Kansas	Yes						Kansas	?	
Kentucky	No - start later	Yes	11/8/2023	9/6/2024 (60 days before election ?)	5,000	Petitions should be turned in as early as possible because 60 days is not sufficient	Kentucky	Yes - Confirm	
Louisiana	Yes						Louisiana	?	
Maine	No - start now	No	When we know the nominee	July 25th local, August 1st state	4,000	Petitions turned in to local city to be validated before being turned into secretary of state. Or, 5000 Voter Registrations (currently 942)	Maine	?	
Maryland	Yes						Maryland	?	
Massachusetts*	?	?			10,000	Petitions turned in to city/town before turned into state	Massachusetts	?	Signatures may need to be independent party?
Michigan	Yes						Michigan	?	
Minnesota	No - start later	No	When we know the nominee/ May 21st 2024	77 days prior to election, Aug 20th	2,000		Minnesota	Yes - Confirm	
Mississippi	Yes						Mississippi	?	
Missouri	Yes						Missouri	?	
Montana	Yes						Montana	?	
Nebraska	Yes						Nebraska	?	
Nevada	Yes						Nevada	?	

**APPENDIX L
BALLOT ACCESS COMMITTEE REPORT**

New Hampshire	No - start later	No	When we know the nominee	August 6th local, September 3rd Secretary of state	3,000	Petitions turned into city/town. 1500 signatures in each Congressional district	New Hampshire	Yes - Confirm	
New Jersey	No - start later	No	When we know the nominee	99 days before general election (late July)	800		New Jersey	Yes - Confirm	
New Mexico	No - start later	No	no earlier than 30 days after organizing convention	6/27/23(4?) (but due to way law worded, best this year)	3,562 (Party Petition)		New Mexico	Yes	
New York	No - start later	Yes	April 12th?	End of May?	45,000	500 signatures or 1% (whichever is less) need to come from 1/2 of all congressional districts	New York	Yes - Confirm	
North Carolina	Yes						North Carolina	?	
North Dakota	No - start now	No	4/1/2023	Mid April 2024?	7,000	Party Petition - 7000 signatures	North Dakota	?	This number of signatures if for a Party access petition. Presidential access is 4,000 but allows no candidate substitutions.

**APPENDIX L
BALLOT ACCESS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ohio	No - start now	Yes	one year from first signature until the day you file (not written in law) Aug 7th, 2023	90 days prior to election, Aug 7th, 2024	5,000	Independent	Ohio	?	Only turn in 15,000 raw signatures
Oklahoma	Yes						Oklahoma	?	
Oregon	Yes						Oregon	?	
Pennsylvania	No - start later	Yes	Mid-February (day after major party candidates petitioning finishes)	Early August 1-5th?	5,000		Pennsylvania	?	
Rhode Island	No - start later	No	When we know the nominee	54 days before the election, Early September?	1,000	Petitions turned into city/town and then turned into secretary of state	Rhode Island	?	
South Carolina	Yes						South Carolina	?	
South Dakota	Yes						South Dakota	?	
Tennessee	No - start later	No	When we know the nominee, May 17th	Noon, 8/15/2024	56000 for party, 275 for independent	For independent 275 signatures	Tennessee	?	
Texas	Yes						Texas	?	
Utah	Yes						Utah	?	
Vermont	Yes						Vermont	?	
Virginia	No - start later	Yes	January?	Mid-late August	5,000	200 from each congressional district?	Virginia	?	
Washington	No - start later	No	May 4th	July 27th	1,000	"conventions" for gathering signatures must be	Washington	Yes	

**APPENDIX L
BALLOT ACCESS COMMITTEE REPORT**

						posted in local newspape rs			
West Virginia	Yes						West Virginia	?	
Wisconsin	Yes						Wisconsin	Yes - Confir m	
Wyoming	Yes						Wyoming	?	

APPENDIX M – CANDIDATE SUPPORT COMMITTEE REPORT

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8/28/23, 10:52 PM

The Libertarian Party Mail - Committee report - candidate support



Secretary LNC <secretary@lp.org>

Committee report - candidate support

1 message

Dustin Blankenship <dustin.blankenship@lp.org>
To: Secretary LNC <secretary@lp.org>

Mon, Aug 28, 2023 at 8:02 PM

The Candidate Support Committee continues to meet twice monthly. We are actively working to assist candidates directly. Additionally, we have taken on the task of assisting the Chair with the rollout of Voter Gravity. We recently added Evan McMahon of Indiana to the committee and hope to have the Chair fill our open LNC member position shortly. The committee continues to work hard and looks forward to continuing to support the party and our candidates over the coming year.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ik=8eeefd4fa3&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f:1775527096984973834&simpl=msg-f:1775527096984973834>

1/1

APPENDIX N – CONVENTION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT

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Convention Oversight Committee (COC) Report to the LNC
Washington, DC Meeting, August 19-20, 2023

Convention Oversight Committee Members: Rich Bowen (Chair), Miguel Duque (Vice Chair), Dustin Blankenship, Greg Hertzsch, Chris Childs, Jeinay LeBlanc, one vacancy. LNC Chair Angela McArdle and LNC Secretary Caryn Ann Harlos are non-voting ex-officio members of this committee.

1. The COC currently meets every other Wednesday evening at 9pm eastern. The next scheduled meeting is August 30, 2023.
2. The 2024 convention is to be held Memorial Day Weekend at the Washington D.C. Hilton.
3. Current plans are for the business portion of the Convention to take place over 4 days, Friday May 24, 2024 through Monday May 27, 2024. The tentative business agenda has been added to the convention website.
4. The current budget for the 2024 convention is direct revenue in the amount of \$375,000 and direct expenses in the amount of \$253,000, resulting in a surplus of \$122,000.
5. Hotel room reservations can now be made via the convention website at <https://www.lp.org/libertarian-national-convention-2024/>
6. The COC has recommended three cities to host the 2026 National Convention to the LNC Board. They are Chicago IL, Denver CO, and Grand Rapids, MI. Representatives from each city will be at the August DC meeting either in person or virtually to pitch their cities and answer board member questions.
7. COC members will be having a working session all day Friday at the DC Hilton in the Monroe Room.
8. Items still to be added to the website include: remaining registration packages, vendor table registrations, speaker events and ticket purchase,
9. There is one non LNC member vacancy on the COC. Applications have been received and the LNC will need to fill this vacancy.

APPENDIX O – HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

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HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT LNC MEETING AUGUST 2023 V1

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

Policy Manual Section 2.02.11 SCOPE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Historical Preservation Committee

The HPC shall be responsible for directing the preservation and publication of Party historical documents and the administration of LPedia.org. A report of its decisions and activities shall be delivered at each LNC meeting.

Committee Members

- Caryn Ann Harlos (Chair)
- Joe Dehn (Secretary)
- Samuel Bohler
- Ed Fochler
- Lisa Gansky
- James Gholston
- Andrew Kolstee

Reports, Meetings, and Communications

The Committee is committed to transparency and conducts open meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month via Zoom. The agendas are posted and updated here: http://lpedia.org/LPedia:LPHPC_Agenda. Committee discussion is also conducted via email with a read-only subscription option available to all Party members here: <https://groups.google.com/u/1/a/lp.org/g/historical-preservation-committee>. The minutes and other records from its proceedings are preserved on LPedia¹ (links noted below for member review):

Minutes Prepared Since Last LNC Meeting:²

- Feb 21 2023 https://lpedia.org/w/images/3/30/Minutes_2023-02-21_HPC.pdf
- Mar 7 2023 https://lpedia.org/w/images/a/ab/Minutes_2023-03-07_HPC.pdf
- Mar 21 2023 https://lpedia.org/w/images/b/b9/Minutes_2023-03-21_HPC.pdf
- Apr 4 2023 https://lpedia.org/w/images/0/04/Minutes_2023-04-04_HPC.pdf
- Apr 18 2023 https://lpedia.org/w/images/a/af/Minutes_2023-04-18_HPC.pdf
- May 2 2023 https://lpedia.org/w/images/3/3c/Minutes_2023-05-02_HPC.pdf

¹ The complete history of minutes and reports can be found at: http://lpedia.org/wiki/National_Historical_Preservation_Committee

² As per the requirements of the Policy Manual Section 2.02.1, the above-linked minutes contain the dates and attendance rosters for each of the Committee's meetings since the previous regular LNC Meeting.

- May 16 2023 https://lpedia.org/w/images/c/ca/Minutes_2023-05-16_HPC.pdf
- June 6 2023 https://lpedia.org/w/images/c/cf/Minutes_2023-06-06_HPC.pdf
- June 20 2023 https://lpedia.org/w/images/f/ff/Minutes_2023-06-20_HPC.pdf

Prior Committee Reports this Term:

- July 2022 https://lpedia.org/w/images/6/6b/LPHPC_Report_2022-07_V1.pdf
- Nov 2022 https://lpedia.org/w/images/c/c4/LPHPC_Report_2022-11_V1.pdf
- Mar 2023 https://lpedia.org/w/images/d/d0/LPHPC_Report_2023-03.pdf

Motions Considered

Motions to approve up to \$1,000 on digitizing the remaining 2-inch broadcast reels and remaining VHS tapes, which was amended upward to \$1,910.00 to cover actual costs after conversion.³

Motion to create a 2024 Convention Memorial Committee, having up to seven members, with Lisa Gansky as chair and authorized to appoint the additional members." Passed without objection. Caryn Ann said she will work on getting a national e-mail announcement sent inviting people to join it.

STATUS OF DOCUMENT PRESERVATION

Storage Unit and Digitization

Documents and Papers:

Last term, an LNC member had volunteered to assist with the scanning of records and taken dozens of boxes. Unfortunately, these boxes were returned in a state of disorganization and the hundreds of hours of organization work are having to be redone, which is proceeding. The scans were also done somewhat haphazardly but the committee is working with them the best they can. More volunteers are always gratefully received and needed. A Colorado volunteer has been coming to work periodically.

Library of Congress

Nolan Collection:

The receipt of a scan of all the items was confirmed to have been received when the collection was received. However, the Library is many years behind, and it can still be at least several more years until this collection can ever be viewed by any Libertarian. Past requests to Party members who have a copy of the scan (or believed to have a copy of a scan) have gone unanswered. The Committee will continue to follow-up with the Library of Congress, and the Chair personally will make a trip there if necessary.

³ Pursuant to the Committee's commitment to raise its own budget it will not have any further expenditures until it has raised at least the amounts already spent which will be covered in December report.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We have both YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@phistory>) and Odysee (<https://odysee.com/@phistoricalpreservation>) channels as well as a Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/LPediaOfficial>)

WORK WITH CONVENTION COMMITTEE

The subordinate 2024 Convention Memorial Committee is fully at work being chaired by LPHPC member Lisa Gansky. They have been collecting names of recently departed Libertarians and conducting the background research. Attached is a recent announcement posted on the main Party website.

STATUS OF LPEDIA

Search Engine Optimization

There was some concern that we are losing page ranking due to suboptimal mobile configuration. This is still a work in progress. Some of the ranking drop also appeared to be due to changes in Google reporting policies as well as having both an http and https version of the site.

General Statistics⁴

- 6,091 Articles
- 28 Active Editors
- 9,083 Document/Image Uploads

ACCOUNTING FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023

This information is still being collated by the accountant and was not available for this report. The Committee receives around \$175 on average of dedicated donations each month.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caryn Ann Harlos, Committee Chair

⁴ Figures from last report:

- 5,894 Articles
- 29 Active Editors
- 8,612 Document/Image Uploads

8/30/23, 4:48 PM

Help Us Honor Libertarians Who Are No Longer With Us | Libertarian Party

Navigation



help us honor libertarians who are no longer with us

by LP Secretary on August 29, 2023 in News



Dear Fellow Libertarians,

As Chair of the Memorial Subcommittee for the 2024 National Libertarian Convention, our committee's purpose is to pay tribute to the remarkable lives of those libertarian activists who have left us 2022 to the present.

We invite you to join us in this honorable undertaking by sharing your memories, photos, videos, affiliate obituaries, or stories of these cherished individuals to vicechair@lpmiamidade.org. By doing so, you contribute to the tapestry of their lives and help preserve their dedication for generations to come.

Becky Akers
Bob Bowman
Bob Roddis

<https://www.lp.org/help-us-honor-libertarians-who-are-no-longer-with-us/>

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Brian Wright

Navigation



- marc goddard
- Mark Gailey
- Marty Swinney
- Michael Badnarik
- Mike Riley
- Nancy Lord
- Patrick Michaels
- Paul Allen
- Randall Garlington
- Ron Vandevender
- Ross Lowe
- Steven Wynn "Steve" Kubby
- Steven Winter
- Tracy Ahn Ryan
- Walter Grinder
- Yvonne White Bagwell

If there is anyone else you believe we should consider for inclusion, please do not hesitate to inform us. Your input is essential, and we value your support in commemorating these individuals who embraced liberty with passion and shared its principles wherever they went. You can send submissions to lpedia@lp.org or secretary@lp.org

Finally, we extend our sincere appreciation to all those who have shared their heartfelt stories so far. Your participation adds depth and meaning to our memorial, capturing the essence of these influential individuals.

Sincerely,

Lisa Gansky
Vice Chair, Libertarian Party of Miami-Dade
LPF Region Rep, Region 14

< Notice of National Bylaws and Rules Committee Meeting September 7, 2023 at 8:45pm Eastern

<https://www.lp.org/help-us-honor-libertarians-who-are-no-longer-with-us/>

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APPENDIX P – COURT DOCUMENTS

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

Libertarian National Committee,
Inc.,

Plaintiff,

v.

Michael J. Saliba, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 23-cv-11074

Judith E. Levy
United States District Judge

Mag. Judge Elizabeth A. Stafford

PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

Before the Court is Plaintiff Libertarian National Committee, Inc.'s Motion for Preliminary Injunction. (ECF No. 12.) On August 23, 2023, the Court held a hearing on the motion and heard oral argument. For the reasons set forth on the record, Plaintiff's motion is GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a Preliminary Injunction is ISSUED, hereby ENJOINING Defendants from using the Plaintiff's federally registered trademark "Libertarian Party" Reg No. 2,423,459. Plaintiff shall post an injunction bond in the amount of \$20,000.00 for the payment of such costs and damages as may be incurred or suffered

by Defendants if Defendants are found to have been wrongfully enjoined or restrained.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: August 24, 2023
Ann Arbor, Michigan

s/Judith E. Levy
JUDITH E. LEVY
United States District Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing document was served upon counsel of record and any unrepresented parties via the Court's ECF System to their respective email or first-class U.S. mail addresses disclosed on the Notice of Electronic Filing on August 24, 2023.

s/William Barkholz
WILLIAM BARKHOLZ
Case Manager

1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
3 SOUTHERN DIVISION
4 LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL)
5 COMMITTEE, INC.)
6)
7 Plaintiff,)
8)
9)
10 Civil Case No.
11)
12)
13 - vs -)
14)
15)
16 5:23-cv-11074-JEL
17 MICHAEL SALIBA,)
18 RAFAEL WOLF,)
19 GREG STEMPFLE,)
20 ANGELA THORNTON-CANNY,)
21 JAMI VAN ALSTINE,)
22 MARY BUZUMA, and)
23 DAVID CANNY,)
24 JOSEPH BRUNGARDT,)
25)
 Defendants.)
 _____/

13 PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION HEARING
14 BEFORE THE HONORABLE JUDITH E. LEVY
15 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
16 Ann Arbor, Michigan - Wednesday, August 23, 2023

16 APPEARANCES:
17 FOR THE PLAINTIFF: JOSEPH J. ZITO, ESQ.
18 Devlin Law Firm, LLC
19 1526 Gilpin Avenue
20 Wilmington, Delaware 19806
21 (302) 449-9010
22 and OSCAR A. RODRIGUEZ, ESQ.,
23 Hooper Hathaway (Ann Arbor)
24 126 S. Main Street
25 Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
 (734) 662-4426

1 APPEARANCES (Continued):

2 FOR THE DEFENDANT: C. NICHOLAS CURCIO, ESQ.
3 Curcio Law Firm, PLC
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5 Nunica, Michigan 49448
6 (616) 430-2201
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17
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19
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21 REPORTED BY: Darlene K. May, CSR, RPR, CRR, RMR
22 231 W. Lafayette Boulevard
23 Detroit, Michigan 48226
24 (313) 234-2605
25

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20		
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23		
24		
25		

1 Wednesday, August 23, 2023

2 1:01 p.m.

3 -- --- --

4 THE LAW CLERK OF THE COURT: All rise. The United
5 States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan is
6 now in session. The Honorable Judith E. Levy presiding.

7 Calling Libertarian National Committee versus Saliba,
8 et al.

9 THE COURT: Please be seated. Could I have
10 appearances, starting with the plaintiff. And I'll ask that
11 you just remain seated while you're speaking so that you can
12 speak into the microphone.

13 MR. ZITO: Good afternoon, Your Honor. This is Joseph
14 Zito, lead counsel for the plaintiff.

15 THE COURT: Good. Thank you, Mr. Zito.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And, Your Honor, good afternoon.
17 Oscar Rodriguez, local counsel for the plaintiff.

18 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you very much.

19 MR. CURCIO: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Nick Curcio
20 appearing on behalf of the defendants.

21 THE COURT: Curcio. I'm glad you told me that.

22 That's not what I would have come up with. So thank
23 you very much.

24 All right. Well, this is the date and time that we
25 set for a hearing on plaintiff's motion for preliminary

1 injunction. And I should indicate to you before we get started
2 that I had an opportunity to read the briefs that both sides
3 submitted, the attachments. And there then was a supplemental
4 authority, I think, filed just the other day regarding
5 confusion.

6 So, Mr. Zito, if you want to get started.

7 MR. ZITO: Yes. Certainly, Your Honor. Do you want
8 me ...

9 THE COURT: Why don't you speak from there so that you
10 can be heard through the microphone.

11 MR. ZITO: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor.

12 Well, this is a very straightforward trademark case.

13 THE COURT: Um-hmm. I saw. You say that right there
14 in your brief.

15 MR. ZITO: Okay. We have an incontestable mark.
16 There are only a couple of defenses. None of those have been
17 raised. There aren't any disputed facts as to who is saying
18 what or doing which. The defendant doesn't dispute that they
19 used the exact same mark. It seems to me that a preliminary
20 injunction is warranted in this case. The defendants have
21 indicated they're not going to stop using the mark.

22 There's obvious confusion, as we pointed out in the
23 briefs. And --

24 THE COURT: And you cut and pasted the marks
25 themselves and, lo and behold, they -- I mean, just to

1 the -- well, I'm using glasses so I won't say to the naked eye.

2 But to my eyes, I understand what you're saying intuitively.

3 MR. ZITO: And they raise in their brief some
4 discussion of the rise and fall of Mr. Chadderdon which has
5 nothing to do with the trademark case. My client is the owners
6 of the trademark and they can license and recognize who they
7 choose.

8 THE COURT: Yeah. And one interesting thing about
9 this job as a federal judge is that it's in some way such a
10 privilege to be outside of the political arena. There's
11 certainly some political arena that leads to an appointment,
12 perhaps. I don't really know because I wasn't much a part of
13 that.

14 But lo and behold, I got appointed, nominated and
15 confirmed and ever since then, just so that you're aware of
16 this, Mr. Curcio, I had no reason to weigh in on who should be
17 an elected official or who shouldn't be an elected official.
18 So I guess I'm saying that I won't start today with that.

19 Well, why don't we do this: Why don't we see what the
20 defendants have to say in addition to what they've put in their
21 papers. And then I'll certainly give you another chance to
22 speak, Mr. Zito.

23 Because it surely looks to me, Mr. Curcio, that what
24 you're asking me to do is weigh in on a dispute, an interparty
25 or interpersonal dispute that has been taking place between

1 your group and the National Libertarian Party.

2 MR. CURCIO: Your Honor, we actually think we're
3 asking you to do exactly the opposite of that. We have a
4 number of -- again, as Mr. Zito said, we don't dispute that we
5 are using the name Libertarian Party. Our position is that our
6 clients have the right to use that name for a number of
7 reasons. The first, as we started out our brief, is the First
8 Amendment claim, that the trademark, the Lanham Act, simply
9 doesn't stretch to cover this type of conduct; that being
10 political fundraising, political activities and the other
11 things that are alleged in the complaint.

12 As the Sixth Circuit has held in the *Taubman* case, the
13 Lanham Act is only Constitutional to the extent that it's
14 covering only commercial speech. We see that -- our view is
15 that --

16 THE COURT: What about the *Washington State Republican*
17 *party versus Washington State Grange*, the Ninth Circuit, 2012
18 case, that just says in no uncertain terms that offering
19 services as a political party counts as operating quote/unquote
20 in commerce?

21 Isn't that just exactly what is going on here is this
22 is a political party that is operating in the stream of
23 commerce?

24 MR. CURCIO: This is a political party and it is
25 engaging in fund-raising activities. We do not believe that

1 case would be controlling. I'm not certain whether the Ninth
2 Circuit is one of the circuits which has held consistent with
3 the *Taubman* case that the Lanham Act only applies to commercial
4 speech. I certainly know the Second Circuit is not a circuit
5 in line with that and that's where the principle case on this
6 point comes from, the *United We Stand* case.

7 The Fifth Circuit -- and the two opinions that we've
8 quoted in our brief. As specifically noted, the circuits split
9 and indicated that the Sixth Circuit falls in the line where
10 noncommercial speech is not projected under the Lanham Act, and
11 makes the further jump, which no court in the Sixth Circuit has
12 to date, that political speech, including political services,
13 like those in this case, are pure political speech that falls
14 outside of the Lanham Act's protection.

15 So that's our position on that, Your Honor. We
16 believe that the *United We Stand* case from the Sixth
17 Circuit -- sorry.

18 From the Second Circuit as well as the -- I believe
19 it's *Contaga* (phonetic) case, the district court case out of
20 the Virgin Islands that the LNC relies on, I believe those are
21 distinguishable just because they don't arise under Sixth
22 Circuit law and the Sixth Circuit law is different on these
23 points.

24 Moving to our second argument, we have a contractual
25 claim that the -- because our -- my clients, the defendants in

1 this case, are members of the Libertarian Party of Michigan,
2 they have the right to call themselves -- to use the term
3 Libertarian Party.

4 I would note that Defendant Buzuma was the
5 gubernatorial candidate just less than a year ago for the
6 Libertarian Party. There have been no formal action to remove
7 her or any of the other defendants from the party. There's
8 been no formal disaffiliation of any of the defendants. I
9 would note under the Libertarian Party national bylaws
10 disaffiliation requires a two-thirds vote --

11 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry.

12 THE COURT: Can you slow down?

13 MR. CURCIO: I apologize.

14 THE COURT: Thank you.

15 MR. CURCIO: I would note that under the Libertarian
16 Party national bylaws disaffiliation --

17 THE COURT: I don't think you slowed down.

18 Usually what happens is people speed up after I ask
19 them to show down.

20 MR. CURCIO: Under the Libertarian Party national
21 bylaws disaffiliation requires a two-thirds vote of the LNC for
22 cause and as we read it only applies to groups -- it only
23 applies to the party itself as opposed to groups or
24 individuals.

25 There's a further provision in the LNC bylaws -- I'm

1 sorry. In the Libertarian Party national bylaws that states
2 that the autonomy of state level affiliates shall not be
3 abridged. And as we read that provision, it means that --

4 THE COURT: See, I am not in a position to read the
5 Libertarian Party bylaws and then enforce the bylaws or
6 interpret the bylaws. I'm not a master libertarian official
7 who has any knowledge of those bylaws.

8 I mean, you've certainly referenced them and I think
9 attached certain portions. But for your arg- -- the way in
10 which you're arguing your case is implying that what my job is
11 here is to determine who the real libertarians are. And from
12 my childhood it's, you know, "Will the real libertarians step
13 forward."

14 I can't do that. I'm not qualified to do it. I don't
15 have jurisdiction to do it. What I have to look at is from my
16 reading of the law your argument that you've started out with
17 that this is not commercial speech, that it's political speech,
18 and it doesn't relate. That argument I think it has -- is not
19 an issue in our case. And that, as far as I understand the
20 law, the Washington State Republican Party case and others,
21 that this is -- it is Lanham Act -- the trademark does come
22 under the Lanham Act.

23 And so the idea that -- so we're starting with that.

24 But let me just see if Mr. Zito has anything further
25 you want to say just on that point on whether the Lanham Act

1 covers this mark because it's a political -- representing a
2 political party.

3 MR. ZITO: Well, yes, the Lanham Act does apply
4 because it's a registerable mark. What opposing counsel is
5 doing is conflating the issue of political speech --

6 THE COURT: He is.

7 MR. ZITO: -- versus the use of a trademark. You can
8 talk about a political party and that's free political speech.
9 You can't pretend to be that political party. That's protected
10 under the Lanham Act, and that's where the division is. This
11 case is about pretending to be not saying things about. So ...

12 THE COURT: Yeah. And I don't think that the *Taubman*
13 case -- point to me in the *Taubman* case where it says anything
14 about whether a political party's activities are commercial.

15 MR. CURCIO: So the *Taubman* case, it doesn't address
16 political parties.

17 THE COURT: Oh.

18 MR. CURCIO: It addresses the application of the
19 Lanham Act in noncommercial speech and says the Lanham Act
20 can't be extended to noncommercial speech.

21 THE COURT: Well, then, show me a Sixth Circuit case
22 that says this is not commercial speech.

23 MR. CURCIO: There is no Sixth Circuit case on that
24 point, Your Honor. I don't believe the Sixth Circuit or any
25 district courts within the Sixth Circuit have had the

1 opportunity to address that question since *Taubman*. I would
2 point just through the Sixth Circuit cases discussing that
3 question.

4 THE COURT: Okay.

5 MR. CURCIO: Back to -- if I may?

6 THE COURT: Yes.

7 MR. CURCIO: Back to the point about the bylaws. We
8 are, again, not asking the Court to determine who the rightful
9 leadership of the Libertarian Party of Michigan is. I've
10 actually expressly asked the Court not to decide that question.
11 We believe that question is, first off, best left to the
12 members of the party.

13 THE COURT: Definitely.

14 MR. CURCIO: And secondly, to the extent it needs to
15 be decided by a court, we would think it's a matter of state
16 law that could be addressed in the Comerica Bank declaratory
17 action case.

18 So I know the brief provided a lot of factual
19 background about the dispute, but that was really just for
20 context. That information for the most part does not show up
21 in our argument section of the brief.

22 Our argument on the Libertarian Party bylaws is that
23 they are a contract between the party and its members. Our
24 clients are still members of the Libertarian Party of Michigan
25 and we believe that as such they have the right to call

1 themselves members of the Libertarian Party of Michigan until
2 they're removed as members of the party, if that, you know,
3 could feasibly occur.

4 THE COURT: I'm just not in a position to say who is a
5 libertarian and who is not a libertarian. That's for your
6 members. I think you had some members come with you today.
7 That's for them to decide if they want to be in the Libertarian
8 Party or not.

9 So I have such a limited role here today and it's just
10 to look as this trademark. Do you agree that it's considered
11 what is an uncontestable mark?

12 MR. CURCIO: We do agree with that, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Incontestable. Okay. So we've got that
14 much agreement. So that means that the registration shall be
15 conclusive evidence of the validity of the registered mark and
16 of the registrant's ownership of the mark.

17 So you agree that plaintiff owns the mark?

18 MR. CURCIO: Yes, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Okay. And do you agree that plaintiff has
20 sent a cease and desist letter to your clients to stop using
21 the mark?

22 MR. CURCIO: Yes, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: And then you agree that they continued to
24 use the mark?

25 MR. CURCIO: Yes, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: And you agree that they continued to
2 collect money and that people thought that they were -- are the
3 rightful users of that mark? You think they are and they think
4 they are.

5 MR. CURCIO: Yes.

6 THE COURT: They may be. I don't know anything about
7 that. But I just want to know if after getting the cease and
8 desist letter they continued to use the mark.

9 MR. CURCIO: Yes, they have. Our position is that the
10 permission to use the mark has not been properly revoked under
11 the Libertarian Party's governing documents, which in this case
12 are the bylaws.

13 THE COURT: See, my governing document is the Lanham
14 Act. And I can't enforce the Libertarian Party's bylaws. I
15 can enforce the Lanham Act.

16 MR. CURCIO: To the extent it's a contract, we would
17 argue that the Court can enforce it.

18 THE COURT: Well, you're the defendant in the case and
19 it wasn't brought as a contract case. Do you have a
20 counterclaim for a contract enforcement?

21 MR. CURCIO: No. My understanding is that in
22 proper -- or authorization to use a trademark is a proper
23 defense in a trademark case without any need for a
24 counterclaim. Perhaps, I'm wrong about that.

25 THE COURT: Well, I don't know the answer to that, but

1 in this case I do know that you have a cease and desist letter
2 that you acknowledge -- your clients acknowledge receipt of and
3 they didn't cease and desist. And I guess I could look at
4 those letters and see exactly what the words were used in
5 response.

6 And, yeah, I mean, plaintiff says you're not
7 authorized. They're telling the Court through their filing
8 that your clients are not authorized to use that mark.

9 Now, on the free speech issue, they can talk all they
10 want about this injustice from the National Libertarian Party
11 and they can hold themselves out as libertarians and talk about
12 the libertarian ideology, bring people into the fold, promote
13 their candidates, talk about their candidates. It's just the
14 use of the mark. There's nothing limiting their political
15 speech at all.

16 And, in fact, I encourage everybody I know to engage
17 in their political speech of whatever their views are. So ...

18 But do you agree that your client has since the cease
19 and desist letter, which I think was this past January of 2023,
20 has your client continued to collect donations as the
21 Libertarian Party?

22 MR. CURCIO: Yes, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: And would you agree that there's been
24 confusion among the public about whether your client is the
25 duly authorized Michigan chapter of the Libertarian Party?

1 MR. CURCIO: No, I don't believe there is confusion
2 about that. Our clients have been very upfront with donors and
3 everyone through communications to the party listener, which
4 they have, because they were the previously elected leadership
5 of the party prior to the June 22 convention. There's been
6 numerous communications to the full membership of the party
7 regarding the nature of the leadership dispute indicating that
8 the LNC supports the Chadderdon faction over the Saliba
9 faction, and then soliciting donations specifically for the
10 defense of this lawsuit and other legal proceedings pertaining
11 to that dispute.

12 And if you look -- I believe it's the very last
13 exhibit attached to our response brief, we've provided a full
14 accounting of all monies received from the date the cease and
15 desist letter was sent to the date that our response brief was
16 filed and the reasons for those donations. Most of them are to
17 what is called the legal defense fund, which is to defend this
18 suit as well as to prosecute the declaratory judgment action
19 that's pending in Washtenaw County Circuit Court.

20 We've also attached affidavits about the social media
21 campaigns that were used to induce that fundraising and believe
22 we've been very transparent with the membership of the party
23 about what the funds are being used for and why they're being
24 solicited. So we don't believe there's confusion to that
25 regard.

1 THE COURT: Well, I just opened up your website.

2 "Peace, Prosperity and Freedom. All of your freedoms.
3 All of the time. Common sense on the issues."

4 How would I know that this is not the National
5 Libertarian Party's authorized affiliate?

6 MR. CURCIO: If you go to the Donate tab, there's
7 a disclaimer that will pop up. And that's in evidence
8 at -- let's see.

9 I believe it's Exhibit 14.

10 THE COURT: I see a notice of ongoing governance
11 dispute.

12 MR. CURCIO: Yes.

13 THE COURT: What about the submission of new evidence
14 of confusion that was filed on August 17th?

15 MR. CURCIO: That has to do with filings to state
16 election authorities. We don't believe that that's use in
17 commerce. There's similar cases about the registration of
18 entity names is not a violation of the Lanham Act from the
19 district court in the Sixth Circuit. One of them may be cited
20 in our brief. I can't recall.

21 But we would rely on that line of cases to say that
22 submitting filings to authorities is not use in commerce that's
23 covered by the Lanham Act. If my clients, in fact, don't have
24 the legal authority to do that, they're perhaps violating
25 election laws or those types of things.

1 And in fact, this LNC chair, McArdle, has filed an FEC
2 complaint about federal -- similar federal campaign filing
3 that's pending with the FEC. We would argue those are the
4 appropriate forms to address that type of conduct if it is,
5 in fact, illegal as the plaintiff's allege, and that
6 trademark -- it doesn't amount to a trademark violation.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else?

8 MR. CURCIO: No, Your Honor. I think I'll stand on my
9 briefs for the remaining points.

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 MR. CURCIO: I'm sorry. One more point that was not
12 addressed in the briefs.

13 THE COURT: Sure.

14 MR. CURCIO: If this Court is inclined to issue an
15 injunction, and it seems like that may be, we would ask for
16 a -- again, we don't believe that's appropriate for the reasons
17 stated in the brief.

18 THE COURT: I understand.

19 MR. CURCIO: But if you are so inclined, we would ask
20 that a bond be set. Under Federal Rule of Procedure 65(c), we
21 believe that our fundraising totals as indicated in Exhibit 23
22 of our response brief showed that, basically, a four-month
23 window of fundraising where \$20,000 approximately was raised,
24 somewhere between 19,000 and 20,000. This case could go on
25 quite awhile if it's appealed or just further proceedings in

1 this court far beyond four months. We would ask for a bond of
2 at least 20,000 be set based on those figures.

3 THE COURT: Okay. Well, let me -- we'll get back to
4 that.

5 Mr. Zito, is there anything you want to say in
6 response to what's been argued?

7 MR. ZITO: For want of going ahead and repeating some
8 of the things we've already said, I believe their website
9 itself shows the confusion. The website says we are the
10 Libertarian Party. But if you read the note, we're not the
11 Libertarian Party, and there's a different Libertarian Party
12 that might be the Libertarian Party, but we're the Libertarian
13 Party.

14 The website itself confuses everyone who reads it. We
15 also showed you an excerpt from a video that's on their website
16 where one of their members came up and said, "I'm very
17 confused."

18 And also they're not looking at the right people.
19 It's not the people that you reach out to donate, it's the
20 voter on the street that you never met who then goes to the
21 voting booth and sees two Libertarian Party candidates. He's
22 confused as to which one is actually the Libertarian Party
23 candidate. So, no. There's confusion. I don't think -- and
24 we don't even need to show that level of confusion because of
25 the incontestability, but there's confusion anyway.

1 I also think the fact that the registrar of the state
2 board of elections was confused into thinking they were the --
3 that's confusion. It is an FEC violation in addition, but it's
4 confusion under the Lanham Act. So I don't think that's an
5 issue.

6 Regarding the bond, we expect to post a bond when you
7 have a preliminary injunction. So that's not a problem. I
8 believe he asked for 20,000.

9 THE COURT: 20,000, he asked for.

10 MR. ZITO: I think that's reasonable. I don't think
11 that there will be that cost because I'm assuming they're not
12 going to stop fundraising for their legal defense. So in the
13 end, we're not agreeing that --

14 THE COURT: No, you don't have to agree.

15 MR. ZITO: There would be a loss.

16 THE COURT: Right.

17 MR. ZITO: They would have to show that some other
18 time. We're not agreeing that there's ever going to be any
19 loss, but we anticipated a bond, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: The exhibit that you have drawn my
21 attention to that I'm looking at with the donations, are they
22 all to the defense? Most of -- everything I see -- well,
23 there's a lot of defense fund but then there's some convention
24 registrations.

25 MR. CURCIO: Yes, Your Honor. They're not all to the

1 defense fund.

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 MR. CURCIO: And the 20,000 total -- first off, it's
4 not quite 20,000. It's somewhere between 19 and 20. That's
5 the total number including both the convention registrations
6 and legal defense fund.

7 THE COURT: Okay.

8 MR. CURCIO: And there may be a few other
9 miscellaneous categories as well.

10 THE COURT: There are a few other miscellaneous.
11 You've got a couple of donations directly to you, it looks
12 like, as the lawyer.

13 MR. CURCIO: Yes. The affidavit of Defendant Thornton
14 explains what each of these items means. Most of them, even if
15 they don't say legal defense fund are things that are -- well,
16 that Anedot slash Legal Fund Page, that's also going into the
17 legal defense fund, just through a different channel.

18 THE COURT: And that's A-n-e-d-o-t slash legal defense
19 fund?

20 MR. CURCIO: Yes.

21 THE COURT: Well, having had a chance to read the
22 briefs and to hear the argument today, in terms of a
23 preliminary injunction, I am required by Sixth Circuit law, the
24 *ACLU Fund of Michigan versus Livingston County* case from 2015
25 sets it out very clearly. I'm to balance four factors in

1 deciding whether to grant a preliminary injunction.

2 First, whether the movant has a strong likelihood of
3 of success on the merits.

4 Second, whether the movant would suffer irreparable
5 injury absent the injunction.

6 Third, whether the injunction would cause substantial
7 harm to others.

8 And fourth, whether the public interest would be
9 served by issuance of an injunction. And I'm reminded by that
10 case that preliminary injunctions are extraordinary and drastic
11 remedies, never awarded as of right and that the parties
12 seeking the injunction bears the burden of justifying that
13 relief.

14 And I believe that in this case all four factors weigh
15 in favor of granting the requested relief and entering a
16 preliminary injunction.

17 And that's specifically because in the trademark
18 context, the likelihood of success on the merits is a factor
19 that the Court -- the Sixth Circuit has referred to as often
20 decisive.

21 And I'll say this about preliminary injunctions:
22 Often, even a modest likelihood of success on the merits or
23 even very small, can be outweighed by irreparable injury and so
24 an injunction might be entered if there's irreparable injury
25 with very low likelihood of success on the merits but in this

1 particular type of case I'm required to look first at the
2 likelihood of success on the merits.

3 And, specifically, in the *PGP, LLC versus TB* -- I
4 think it's two. *LLC*, Sixth Circuit in 2018, the Court held in
5 that trademark case that: "If the movant is likely to succeed
6 on an infringement claim, irreparable injury is ordinarily
7 presumed and the public interest will usually favor injunctive
8 relief."

9 So, specifically, I'm to look at -- to prove a
10 trademark infringement action, the plaintiff is required to
11 show that it owns a trademark.

12 It has shown that. The defendant agrees with that.

13 Two, that the infringer used the mark in commerce
14 without authorization. Here, you agree you used the mark. You
15 don't believe it's in commerce, but you understand you're using
16 it after a cease and desist letter has been sent. Now, as I
17 understand the argument, you say this isn't commerce and you
18 say look to the bylaws to determine if it's authorized. But
19 what I'm looking at is what's filed as evidence here.

20 I know I have the bylaws, but -- which is that there
21 is a registered mark. It's being used by the defendant. I
22 believe in commerce, in the sense of that word as it applies in
23 a political party situation. And it's being used without
24 authorization.

25 Three, that the use of the alleged infringing

1 trademark is likely to cause confusion among consumers
2 regarding the origin of the goods or services offered by the
3 parties.

4 And so looking at this, we've already discussed that
5 it's undisputed. That plaintiff owns the Libertarian Party
6 trademark and it's -- we've already discussed that.

7 I've already reviewed the *Washington State Republican*
8 *Party versus Washington State Grange*, which holds that the
9 Lanham Act does cover this type of service offered by a
10 political party.

11 And I guess I -- even though the Sixth Circuit hasn't
12 had the occasion to address this -- and maybe this will be the
13 case where they do get to address this, from my perspective it
14 only makes sense to follow what the Ninth Circuit said. If
15 you're -- as you are, you're using a mark that looks exactly
16 like the plaintiff's mark and you're holding yourself out on a
17 ballot -- well, let's leave the ballot out.

18 But in terms of fundraising and promoting ideas on the
19 website. And the website -- setting aside the fundraising part
20 of the website, it just talks about Peace, Prosperity and
21 Freedom. Now, if that -- and the common sense approach to
22 issues that the libertarians have.

23 And it's got this interesting VIN diagram that has
24 left wing positions such as government regulated economy, using
25 imminent domain for private gain, high taxes. And then it

1 has -- and that's got the donkey.

2 And then it's got the right wing positions. War on
3 drugs, surveillance state. And then it's got the libertarian
4 positions.

5 This is really important information. And if those
6 aren't the libertarian positions from the National Libertarian
7 Party's perspective, this would be chaos. If everybody could
8 claim -- if somebody could claim to be the Republican Party and
9 say we are for women's right to choose, we are for transgender
10 treatment of minors, we are for -- when, in fact, the
11 Republican Party isn't for that. It just seems to me that it
12 would create chaos and that there's a good reason for the
13 Lanham Act to protect these marks so that the public can
14 know -- have confidence when they look at a website and it says
15 it's the Libertarian Party and looks just like the National
16 Libertarian Party, that those really are the positions of that
17 party.

18 So -- okay, where was I? I got carried away. In
19 terms of irreparable harm, in trademark infringement cases --
20 and this is a quote from *Lucky's Detroit versus Double L*. And
21 it's a Sixth Circuit 2013 case.

22 "A likelihood of confusion or possible risk to the
23 requesting party's representation satisfies the irreparable
24 injury requirement."

25 And here I do find that there's both a likelihood of

1 confusion and risk to the plaintiff's reputation. The National
2 Libertarian Party the plaintiff points out that we're coming up
3 to a big election in our country and I guess my job is to not
4 be a part of any of that, but they argue that that makes it
5 sort of more urgent and that the harm could be more irreparable
6 if votes are lost for their candidates because your -- I don't
7 know what -- we'll call it the knockoff Libertarian Party. I
8 don't know what to call it exactly.

9 What am I supposed -- the defendant. Because the
10 defendant is running your own candidates. If they aren't
11 really the candidates of the Libertarian Party, that could be a
12 problem. But I don't think I even have to get involved in
13 whether there's an election coming up or not to reach this
14 irreparable harm factor

15 Harm to others and the public interest, I think weighs
16 in favor of plaintiff in this case. They argue that you will
17 not be harmed if you can no longer identify yourself as the
18 Libertarian Party of Michigan because you can still present the
19 valuable opinions that you have and voters will decide whether
20 they prefer those opinions, want to vote for those opinions,
21 donate to those opinions or donate to the Libertarian Party.
22 So in terms of the public interest, I think that also weighs in
23 favor of the plaintiff.

24 In the *Lorillard Tobacco, Company versus Amouri's*
25 *Grand Foods* case, Sixth Circuit in 2006 -- and that's

1 L-o-r-i-l-l-a-r-d versus A-m-o-u-r-i. There the Court held
2 that preventing consumer confusion and deception in protecting
3 the trademark holder's property interest in the mark is in the
4 public interest.

5 So for those reasons I am granting plaintiff's motion
6 for a preliminary injunction. And there's no opposition to a
7 \$20,000 bond being posted. I believe you pay that to the clerk
8 of court. Is that who you pay that to?

9 MR. ZITO: Yes, typically. Either the percentage of
10 the bond or the full bond to the clerk of the Court, yes.

11 THE COURT: We have -- let me look at the proposed
12 order right now that you sent. The order will be for the
13 reasons set forth -- I will not type this all up into an
14 opinion but let me look -- hold on -- at the proposed order.

15 The bond needs to be added to this so we will -- can
16 you submit this to us in a Word document through utilities on
17 CM/ECF?

18 Mr. Zito or Mr. Rodriguez?

19 MR. ZITO: Say again. I'm sorry.

20 THE COURT: Ordinarily, proposed orders -- I'm glad
21 you included it as an exhibit. But before they're entered,
22 they're submitted as a Word document under utilities in CM/ECF
23 so that we can doctor it up.

24 Because I want to put that we held a hearing today and
25 oral argument was heard from both sides and that an oral

1 decision was set forth on the record and that a bond is
2 ordered.

3 MR. ZITO: We'll get that to you shortly after the
4 hearing.

5 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Is there anything else
6 from the plaintiff?

7 MR. ZITO: Nothing further.

8 THE COURT: Anything else from the defendant?

9 MR. CURCIO: Nothing further, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Well, thank you for the opportunity to
11 work on this case so far. And the case will continue.

12 And we have an answer to the complaint that was filed
13 July 31st. So what we'll do is set up a scheduling conference.

14 And in light of the fact that you're here from out of
15 town, Mr. Zito?

16 MR. ZITO: Yes.

17 THE COURT: From Washington D.C., we'll do that by
18 Zoom so no one has to travel for a 20-minute discussion of
19 setting dates in the case.

20 MR. ZITO: Thank you, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: All right. Well, thank you very much.

22 THE LAW CLERK OF THE COURT: All rise.

23 Court is adjourned.

24 (At 1:39 p.m., matter concluded.)

25 - - -

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Darlene K. May, Official Court Reporter for the United States District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript, to the best of my ability, from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter. I further certify that the transcript fees and format comply with those prescribed by the Court and the Judicial Conference of the United States.

August 28, 2023
Date

/s/ Darlene K. May
Darlene K. May, CSR, RPR, CRR, RMR
Federal Official Court Reporter
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