



LNC MEETING MINUTES

LAS VEGAS, NV

JULY 14, 2013

CURRENT STATUS: **APPROVED JUNE 26, 2014**

ATTENDANCE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Geoff Neale.

Attending the meeting were:

Officers: Geoff Neale (Chair), Lee Wrights (Vice-Chair), David Blau (Secretary), Tim Hagan (Treasurer)

At-Large Representatives: Michael Cloud, Mark Hinkle, Starchild, Arvin Vohra

Region Representatives: Vicki Kirkland (Region 2), Jillian Mack (Region 3), Brett Pojunis (Region 4 - arrived 16 minutes after meeting started), Rich Tomasso (Region 5N), Jim Lark (Region 5S), Dan Wiener (Region 4), Dianna Visek (Region 6), Gary Johnson (Region 7)

Region Alternates: Tony Ryan (Region 1), Scott Lieberman (Region 4), Scott Spencer (Region 5S), Paul Frankel (Region 7)

Staff: Carla Howell, Robert Kraus, Wes Benedict (Hired as Executive Director effective August 1.)

Not attending the meeting were: Norm Olsen, Bill Redpath

LNC Counsel Gary Sinawski was not present.

The gallery contained other attendees in addition to those listed above.

CREDENTIALS REPORT

Secretary Blau reported that since the last meeting, Ms. Kirkland's alternate had stepped down, and Doug Craig (GA) was named as a replacement. Mr. Blau noted that the Bylaws require sustaining membership for service on the LNC, and Mr. Craig's membership had expired at the end of 2012 and has not yet been renewed. Ms. Kirkland had spoken with Mr. Craig about that at the time of his election and was under the impression he would take care of it. Mr. Neale reported that staff has sent Mr. Craig multiple renewal emails within the past couple of weeks, but they have received no response, so the LNC could not recognize Mr. Craig as being the regional alternate at this time.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Starting from an implied motion to adopt the Chair's proposed agenda:

Ms. Visek moved to reposition the Audit Committee report after the officer reports, and then go into executive session for both the Executive Director's contract review and the portion of the Audit Committee report that requires executive session. The motion failed 7-8 on a show of hands.

Mr. Ryan moved to add an item to the agenda to discuss matching funds to fight recent legislative action in Arizona. Without objection the motion was withdrawn and Mr. Ryan agreed to address it during his regional report.

Mr. Pojunis joined the meeting.

Ms. Visek moved to increase the time for the Audit Committee report to 25 minutes. The motion passed.

Mr. Blau requested a 5-minute agenda item to adopt minutes from the prior LNC meeting. Without objection the motion was withdrawn, and Mr. Blau agreed to address it during the Secretary's report.

Starchild moved to allow public comment after each agenda item, rather than just at the start and close of the meeting. The motion failed.

The agenda as amended was adopted by voice vote, resulting in the following agenda:

Adoption of Agenda	10 minutes
Report of Potential Conflicts of Interest	5 minutes
Executive Session to review ED contract	
Officer Reports	
Chair's Report	15 minutes
Treasurer's Report	15 minutes
Secretary's Report	15 minutes
Building Committee Report	15 minutes
Staff Reports	30 minutes
Counsel's Report (11:00 AM)	15 minutes
Reports of Standing Committees	
Advertising & Publication Review Committee (Wrights)	5 minutes
Affiliate Support Committee (Wrights)	5 minutes
Convention Oversight Committee (Goldstein)	5 minutes
Convention Management Committee (N. Neale)	10 minutes
Executive Committee (Neale)	5 minutes

Reports of Special Committees

Audit Committee (Starr)	25 minutes
Membership Level Review Committee (Lark)	30 minutes

Report of Libertarian State Leadership Alliance	5 minutes
Unfinished Business and Items Postponed from Previous Meeting	

Regional Reports (supplements to printed reports)

Region 1 - AK,AZ,CO,HI,ID,KS,MT,UT,WA,WY (Olsen/Ryan)	5 Minutes
Region 2 - FL,GA,TN (Kirkland/Craig)	5 Minutes
Region 3 - IN,KY,OH,MI (Mack/Goldstein)	5 Minutes
Region 4 - AR,CA,NV,NM,NY (Wiener/Pojunis/Lieberman/Capozzi)	10 Minutes
Region 5n - CT,MA,ME,NH,NJ,RI,VT (Tomasso)	5 Minutes
Region 5s - DC,DE,MD,NC,PA,VA,WV (Lark/Spencer)	5 Minutes
Region 6 - IL,IA,MN,MO,NE,ND,SD,WI (Visek/Knebel)	5 Minutes
Region 7 - AL,LA,MS,OK,TX (Johnson/Frankel)	5 Minutes

New Business with Previous Notice

Discussion of LNCC Oversight (Vohra)	10 Minutes
Discussion of LP Nevada (Pojunis)	20 Minutes

New Business without Previous Notice

Closing Ceremony

Announcements	5 Minutes
Opportunity for Public Comment	5 Minutes

REPORT OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Dr. Lark reported he has joined the Board of Directors of the Freedom and Entrepreneurship Foundation (Fundacja Wolnosci Przedsiębiorczosci) in Poland.

Mr. Blau reported that since the last LNC meeting he has received an updated listing of potential conflicts of interest from Ms. Mack, that she is Central Committee member and Executive Committee member of the Libertarian Party of Ohio and is the owner of Libertas Services, LLC.

Without objection, other LNC members provided verbal reports of changes to their potential conflicts of interest.

Starchild reported that he is no longer an at-large representative for the Libertarian Party of California. Starchild asked the Chair if he would reconsider his ruling from the previous meeting that the following submission from Starchild was not a conflict of interest statement:

In any event of any conflict between the interests of the larger libertarian movement and the cause of freedom and the Libertarian Party, he would side with the cause of freedom.

Mr. Neale declined to rule it out of order.

Mr. Vohra reported that he is no longer on the Executive Board of the Libertarian Party of Maryland.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO REVIEW ED CONTRACT

Without objection the LNC entered executive session to discuss the proposed contract to hire Wes Benedict as the new Executive Director.

Following the executive session, Mr. Hinkle moved to approve the Executive Director contract that was reviewed in executive session, which will have the effect of hiring Wes Benedict as Executive Director effective as of August 1, 2013.

Following debate, the roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

Voting "aye": Blau, Cloud, Hagan, Hinkle, Johnson, Kirkland, Lark, Mack, Neale, Ryan, Tomasso, Visek, Vohra, Wiener, Wrights

Voting "nay": Pojunis, Starchild

The motion was adopted by a 15-2 vote.

OFFICER REPORTS

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chairman Neale delivered a verbal report and fielded related questions. He noted that the budget adopted for this year had allowed extra for hiring an additional staff member, and for seven months we haven't done so. The hiring of Wes Benedict for the last 5 months of the year should make payroll expenses for the year be almost exactly the budgeted amount. Mr. Benedict will craft a job description for the new Political Director.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Hagan discussed the treasurer's report which had been distributed, and he explained some budget overages. The FEC lawsuit regarding the Barrington estate was over budget (budgeted \$4,500, actual cost \$5,900); changes in postal regulations mean *LP News* has to be mailed in an envelope now, and postage rates have also increased, leading to budget overages for *LP News*; with Ms. Howell's now working as Political Director, staff requested an increase in the affiliate support budget category. However, we are running under budget for fundraising costs and administrative costs.

Therefore, Mr. Hagan moved to amend the budget to:

- Reduce fundraising costs by \$5,700,
- Reduce administrative costs by \$7,500,
- Increase affiliate support by \$5,000,
- Increase litigation by \$1,200, and
- Increase member communications by \$7,000.

Following debate, the roll call vote was as follows:

Voting "aye": Blau, Hagan, Hinkle, Johnson, Lark, Lieberman, Mack, Ryan, Tomasso, Visek, Vohra, Wiener, Wrights

Voting "nay": (none)

Abstaining: Kirkland, Starchild

The motion was adopted by a 13-0 vote.

Mr. Hagan additionally reported that general fundraising was running low because staff had skipped two months of general fundraising letters so as to not compete with building fundraising efforts.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Blau indicated that during the previous week, he had circulated to the Executive Committee a number of unapproved drafts of Executive Committee minutes from Ms. Bennett's tenure as secretary. Dr. Lark had prepared the final drafts of most of these from Ms. Bennett's first drafts. However, there had been no first draft from Ms. Bennett of the May 31, 2012 meeting, and Mr. Blau was able to produce those minutes with assistance from Chairman Neale and Dr. Lark's records from that meeting.

Without objection from the LNC for the Executive Committee to approve their own minutes during the LNC meeting, Executive Committee members were individually polled to see if they had objection to approving these minutes.

There was no objection from: Blau, Hagan, Lark, Neale, Wiener

Mr. Redpath was not in attendance at this meeting, and Mr. Wrights was not present in the room during this item. With no objection from 5 of the 7 members of the Executive Committee, the minutes were approved.

(Post-adjournment note by Alicia Mattson: Though it was not specified during the meeting which minutes were so approved, as best as I can determine after the fact, this motion approved Executive Committee minutes for meetings on the following dates 5/31/12, 6/3/12, 6/6/12, 7/2/12, 8/2/12, and 8/17/12.)

Ms. Visek requested that the LNC approve the March 16-17, 2013 LNC minutes from Chicago. Dr. Lark indicated he had requested corrections that had not yet been incorporated. Without objection the LNC agreed to revisit this subject later during the meeting to give Dr. Lark and Mr. Blau time to consult during a recess.

Mr. Blau previously distributed to the LNC a written Secretary's report, which is included in the appendices.

Mr. Blau reported that he has recently sent to the state chairs the partial delegate counts for 2014, the portion based on presidential vote totals from 2012.

Ms. Visek asked about the remaining backlog from Ms. Bennett. Secretary Blau indicated he was still working on the unapproved LNC minutes from 5/6/12, 7/15/12, and 11/17/12. He would work with staff to get the website updated with the Executive Committee minutes just approved. Mr. Blau said there was one additional set of Executive Committee meeting minutes from 5/1/13 which are not yet approved due to some changes requested by Mr. Neale.

COUNSEL'S REPORT

At 11:00am the LNC took up the Counsel's Report, as it was set for a time certain.

Gary Sinawski, LNC legal counsel, had submitted a written report in advance. Mr. Sinawski joined the meeting via speakerphone and fielded questions regarding his written report.

Mr. Sinawski confirmed that everything was completed regarding purchase of the LibertarianPartyNews domain name for \$1000.

Mr. Sinawski recommended that the LNC proceed with legal action regarding the refusal by the Secretary of State of Michigan to place the Libertarian Party Presidential nominee Gary Johnson on the 2012 general

election ballot due to so-called "sore loser" laws, and regarding the recent ruling of the appeals court which upheld that refusal. He recommended the LNC file a petition for discretionary review with the U.S. Supreme Court. The printing costs and filing fees for the petition would likely be \$3,000 to \$3,500, and if the court accepts the case, additional travel and lodging costs would be incurred later. The LNC discussed in general terms the potential results and the statistical probabilities that they would take the case (maybe 1 in 100). A decision on this question would have to be made by mid-to-late August, as the petition filing deadline is September 28, 2013.

Ms. Visek asked for clarification about the nature of the contract with Northwest Territorial Mint, referenced in the counsel's report. Mr. Sinawski clarified that the contract gives the mint permission to use the Libertarian Party logo for very limited purposes to create stamps or dies for creating minted coins for either the national party or for state affiliates to purchase and resell. Michael Pickens of the Washington affiliate had requested that such an arrangement be made.

Mr. Hinkle moved to enter Executive Session to discuss with Mr. Sinawski the question of what portions of an Executive Director's contract could or should be publicly disclosed. Starchild requested a roll-call vote, which was as follows:

Voting "aye": Blau, Cloud, Hagan, Hinkle, Kirkland, Mack, Neale, Pojunis, Ryan, Tomasso, Wiener, Wrights

Voting "nay": Johnson, Starchild, Visek, Vohra

Abstaining: Lark

The motion passed with a vote of 12-4, and the LNC entered executive session.

Following executive session, Mr. Wiener moved that the information that was discussed in the just-concluded Executive Session be made public. The motion was adopted without objection.

Ms. Visek moved that the LNC pursue the appeal in the Supreme Court against the "sore-loser" laws applied to minor parties in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Starchild moved to amend the motion to add a requirement that the preliminary costs would be raised using crowd-funding. During debate, the intent was clarified that if the funds were not raised in sufficient time to meet the filing dates, the project would be cancelled.

The roll-call vote on the amendment was as follows:

Voting "aye": Johnson, Starchild, Wiener

Voting "nay": Blau, Cloud, Hagan, Hinkle, Kirkland, Lark, Mack, Pojunis, Ryan, Tomasso, Visek, Vohra, Wrights

The amendment failed by a vote of 3-13.

The roll call vote on the main motion was as follows:

Voting "aye": Cloud, Hagan, Hinkle, Johnson, Kirkland, Mack, Neale, Pojunis, Ryan, Starchild, Tomasso, Visek, Vohra

Voting "nay": Blau, Lark, Wiener, Wrights

The main motion was adopted by a vote of 13-4.

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Hinkle moved to rename the Building Committee to be the Office Acquisition Committee. Following debate, the motion was adopted without objection.

Mr. Blau delivered a verbal report, as no written report was submitted. The fund to purchase an office currently has \$250,000 in cash and about \$50,000 in pledges. A letter of intent has been finalized except for price on 1101 King Street in Alexandria, VA. Once the letter of intent is signed, that will be delivered to our current landlords to start our 6-month time frame to move out. It would also start a 60-day clock to investigate the property in detail and back out of the deal if desired. Though we have been in contact with a number of lenders and have received terms from them, no money for commitment letters will be spent until we are in the 60-day window. After the 60-day period, a closing date within 90 days would be set, leaving us with 1 month to move from the Watergate before our 6-month notice period ends. The interest rate on a mortgage will likely be between 4.5% and 5%. No action was taken on this item.

STAFF REPORTS

Executive Director Carla Howell presented the staff report which is in the appendices. Additionally, she has been in contact with several organizations recently to discuss demographic-based prospecting options in hopes of reviving something like Project Archimedes. Ms. Howell noted that the annual report is usually our best performing fundraising appeal of the year, but it didn't do as well as usual this year, possibly because it was sent too close to a building fundraising appeal.

No action was taken on this item.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

ADVERTISING & PUBLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE (APRC)

The chair of the APMC, Mr. Wrights, was not present in the room at the time for this agenda item, but he had indicated to the Chair in advance that he didn't need to make a report. Instead the LNC discussed questions about APMC policies and operations. No action was taken on this item.

AFFILIATE SUPPORT COMMITTEE

The chair of the Affiliate Support Committee, Mr. Wrights, was not present in the room at the time for this agenda item. Mr. Neale read aloud Mr. Wrights' submitted report, which read, "There was a vacancy created by the resignation of J. J. Myers, filled by appointment - Scott Spencer from Maryland, Regional Alternate, Region 5 South." No action was taken on this item.

CONVENTION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The chair of the Convention Oversight Committee, Sam Goldstein, is an alternate from Region 3 and was not in attendance at this meeting to give a report. The other members are Vicki Kirkland and Tim Hagan.

Ms. Visek noted that the LNC has not yet received from staff any financial reports from the 2012 convention. Mr. Kraus committed that he would assemble them for the LNC. Mr. Neale also requested that Mr. Kraus do the same for as many of the past off-presidential-year conventions as he could and provide that to the Convention Management Committee.

CONVENTION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The chair of the Convention Management Committee is Nancy Neale. The other members are BetteRose Ryan, Michael Cloud, Kevin Knedler, and Nick Clayton. Mr. Neale reported his sense that promotion is the key to the success of a convention, thus a schedule of all the major milestones for convention planning will be available and distributed no later than September 1st. Ms. Neale and Ms. Ryan were present and fielded questions regarding timelines and various planning elements. No action was taken on this item.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Neale offered to field any questions about the Executive Committee, but there were none, and thus there was no objection to moving on to the next item.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Aaron Starr, chair of the Audit Committee, distributed various reports, including a management letter from the outside auditing firm, draft financial statements for 2012, and recommendations from the Audit Committee for LNC action. He discussed these items in a verbal report.

The auditing firm did not notice any departures from accounting standards during the audit; however, they found a number of procedural deficiencies that they recommend be addressed. The Audit Committee has crafted and presented to the LNC several proposed amendments for the Policy Manual to do that. The Audit Committee recommended that these policy manual amendments be voted on by email ballot following this meeting, but they discussed with the LNC the details of the deficiencies. The auditing firm also recommends that the LNC adopt document destruction and whistleblower policies, and the Audit Committee will work to craft such proposals.

Mr. Starr drew attention to a note in the draft-audited financial statements regarding related party transactions with board members. For most such transactions they found sufficient documentation to report in the note the details of the work performed in exchange for the payment, but for one of the related party transactions they had no such details. The purpose of reporting these transactions in the notes is so that party members can discern to some degree whether the transaction was fair to the party. The Audit Committee needs sufficient documentation from staff to complete that note in the financial statements, but the information provided so far was not detailed enough. Mr. Kraus and Ms. Howell agreed that within 7 days they would work with the related party to gather and provide the requested level of details to the Audit Committee.

Without objection, a motion was adopted to enter executive session with the Audit Committee and staff to discuss one particular other financial detail within the audit report.

Following the executive session, the LNC proceeded to the next agenda item.

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL REVIEW COMMITTEE

The chair of the Membership Level Review Committee, Dr. Lark, fielded questions regarding the written report the committee had submitted in advance. The report is included in the appendices. Dr. Lark indicated his sense that the report should merely be viewed as a starting template, but that amendments would be appropriate before it would be ready for the LNC to adopt. The LNC discussed potential donor premiums and ways to do market testing of membership levels.

Mr. Wiener moved to adopt the resolution on the first page of the report of the Membership Level Review Committee, which is as follows:

Resolved, That the Libertarian National Committee recommends that the 2014 Bylaws and Rules Committee propose an amendment to Article 5 of the Bylaws.

Such amendment would authorize the LNC to establish the minimum sustaining membership donation level by a 3/4th vote of the entire LNC. It would further require that changes to that donation level must be approved by the LNC by the same vote threshold.

Following debate, the roll-call vote on the motion was as follows:

Voting "aye": Blau, Cloud, Hinkle, Kirkland, Lark, Lieberman, Mack, Ryan, Visek, Wiener

Voting "nay": Hagan, Johnson, Starchild, Tomasso, Vohra

The motion was adopted by a 10-5 vote.

REPORT OF LIBERTARIAN STATE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

As secretary of the Libertarian State Leadership Alliance, Aaron Starr delivered a verbal report about the organization's recent annual meeting in Colorado.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Mr. Ryan, as the regional alternate from Region 1 delivered a verbal report to supplement the written report submitted by Mr. Olsen. He reported that the Arizona legislature has passed, and the governor has signed, a bill to change ballot access laws there for the worse. To get party candidates on the ballot, it previously required signatures of 1% of that party's registered voters. This change increases it to 2-3% of all registered voters in the state. This move also would hurt the Democrat Party, and they are providing a significant portion of the funding to fight this effort by petitioning for this new law to become a referendum for the voters in the general election.

Mr. Ryan moved:

That the sum of \$15,000 be transferred from the 2013 budget surplus to the ballot access budget line for the express purpose of supporting the Arizona affiliate's petitioning efforts to refer Arizona House Bill 2305 to the electorate at the November 2013 general election. Use of these funds by the Arizona affiliate will be subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Funds shall be distributed up to the maximum of the \$15,000 only in direct proportion to the funds raised by the Arizona affiliate for the specific purpose of this motion, and
- 2) Said funds will be distributed under the supervision of the Executive Director pursuant to the purposes and conditions expressed in this motion.

Following debate, Mr. Neale moved a substitute motion to authorize the Executive Committee to investigate the matter in Arizona and take appropriate action.

Mr. Frankel reported that the Democrats are opposed to this for different reasons than ours. The Democrats have enough money to get the job done, but there is a question of whether we should count on them to make it happen.

Following debate, Mr. Neale withdrew his substitute motion without objection.

Starchild moved a substitute that we create a new budget line item titled Arizona Rescue Fund and authorize the LNC to spend up to \$15,000 to address this situation in Arizona.

Ms. Visek moved to amend Starchild's substitute motion to add "and to further authorize the Executive Committee to encumber an amount of money not to exceed the amount raised."

Ms. Visek's amendment to Starchild's motion was adopted.

The motion to substitute was adopted, so the main motion became:

To allocate a new budget line item titled Arizona Rescue Fund and authorize the LNC to spend up to \$15,000 to address this situation in Arizona, and to further authorize the Executive Committee to encumber an amount of money, not to exceed the amount raised.

The main motion was adopted without objection.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 2013 LNC MINUTES

Mr. Blau moved to suspend the rules for 5 minutes to introduce a motion to approve the minutes from the previous LNC meeting. The motion was adopted without objection.

Mr. Wiener moved to approve the minutes from the March 16-17, 2013 LNC meeting in Chicago. Dr. Lark had consulted with Mr. Blau during meeting recesses, and all the changes since the printed version given to the LNC were stylistic rather than substantive. The motion to approve the minutes was adopted without objection.

DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT LNC MEETING

Without objection, the rules were suspended for 10 minutes for discussion of the date and location of the next LNC meeting. Ms. Visek moved that the next LNC meeting be on November 23-24th, 2013. Mr. Wiener moved to amend the date to be December 7-8th, 2013. Mr. Wiener's amendment was adopted, so the main motion became to set the next LNC meeting to be on December 7-8th, 2013.

Mr. Hinkle moved to amend the main motion to add that the meeting would be in Dallas, TX. The amendment to set the location for Dallas was adopted, making the main motion to set the next LNC meeting to be on December 7-8th, 2013 in Dallas, TX.

The main motion was adopted.

CONTINUATION OF REGIONAL REPORTS

There were no supplements or questions regarding the Region 2 and Region 3 reports. Mr. Pojunis delivered a verbal Region 4 report. Mr. Tomasso delivered a brief verbal supplement to the Region 5N report. Dr. Lark delivered a brief verbal update to the Region 5S report. There were no supplements or questions regarding the Region 6 or Region 7 reports.

NEW BUSINESS WITH PREVIOUS NOTICE

DISCUSSION OF LNCC OVERSIGHT

Mr. Vohra inquired whether the LNC has any oversight role over the activities of the Libertarian National Congressional Committee (LNCC). Mr. Neale explained that the LNCC is by law a separate entity and that the law forbids coordination between the two entities. Following discussion, no action was taken on this item.

DISCUSSION OF LP OF NEVADA

Mr. Pojunis presented his concerns about internal disputes within the Libertarian Party of Nevada. He requested advice about what options there were in the event that the party officers fail to call a convention by the end of the year. Following discussion, no action was taken on this item, as there are still several months of opportunity for the LNC to consider taking action in the event that the required annual convention in Nevada is not called by the end of the year.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn, and the motion was adopted without objection at 7:34pm.

Submitted by Alicia Mattson

APPENDICES

Regular Meeting of the
Libertarian National Committee
July 14, 2013
Las Vegas, NV

Secretary's Report

Credentialing

On May 24, 2013, I was informed that Region 2 had replaced its alternate with Doug Craig (GA) effective immediately.

Minutes of Meetings

Minutes of the LNC meetings from the term of the previous Secretary, namely those from May 6, 2012, July 15, 2012, and November 17, 2012 are being proofread and edited. This has been a long and difficult process, but I plan to distribute these minutes for approval within the next month.

Draft minutes of the March 2013 LNC meeting were distributed to the LNC and corrections were offered. A final draft incorporating all remaining corrections was distributed on July 7, 2013.

Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting from the term of the previous Secretary have been distributed to the EC for review and approval.

Email Ballots

The following email ballots took place since the March meeting in Chicago:

1. On March 20, 2013, Chairman Neale moved (2013-6):

To hold the next LNC session in Las Vegas, NV on Sunday, July 14, 2013.

This motion was meant to supersede in-force email ballot 2013-5, which called for a two day session.

Voting aye: Blau, Cloud, Hagan, Hinkle, Kirkland, Lark, Mack, Neale, Visek, Wiener.

Voting nay: Johnson, Olsen, Pojunis, Starchild, Tomasso, Vohra.

Abstaining: Redpath, Wrights.

Uncounted: Lieberman (aye; superseded).

This motion passed 10 to 6 with 2 abstentions on March 30, 2013.

2. On March 20, 2013, Chairman Neale moved (2013-7):

To rename the Convention Organizing Committee as the Convention Management Committee.

Voting aye: Blau, Cloud, Hagan, Hinkle, Johnson, Kirkland, Lark, Mack, Neale, Olsen, Pojunis, Redpath, Starchild, Tomasso, Visek, Vohra, Wiener, Wrights.

Uncounted: Frankel (aye; superseded), Goldstein (aye; superseded), Lieberman (aye; superseded).

This motion passed unanimously on March 28, 2013.

3. On April 7, 2013, Chairman Neale moved (2013-8):

To increase the LNC budget for Ballot Access expense for 2013 by \$25,000, to assist in funding a petition drive for the Libertarian Party of Arkansas.

Voting aye: Blau, Hagan, Hinkle, Johnson, Kirkland, Lark, Mack, Neale, Pojunis, Redpath, Visek, Vohra, Wiener, Wrights.

Voting nay: Olsen.

Abstaining: Starchild.

Did not vote: Cloud, Tomasso.

Uncounted: Frankel (abstained; superseded), Lieberman (aye; superseded).

This motion passed 14 to 1 with 1 abstention on April 17, 2013.

4. On May 20, 2013, Chairman Neale moved (2013-9):

To increase the 2013 LNC budget for Ballot Access expense by \$8,000, to fund a petition drive for a party petition to successfully be completed in North Dakota by mid-August 2013.

Voting aye: Blau, Cloud, Hinkle, Johnson, Kirkland, Mack, Neale, Pojunis, Redpath, Visek, Vohra, Wiener, Wrights.

Voting nay: Olsen.

Did not vote: Hagan, Starchild, Tomasso.

Uncounted: Frankel (abstain; conflict of interest); Goldstein (nay; superseded), Lark (aye; late vote), Lieberman (aye; superseded).

This motion passed 13 to 1 with no abstentions on May 30, 2013.

5. On June 25, 2013, Chairman Neale moved (2013-10):

That the LNC supports the petition listed online at <https://optin.stopwatching.us/> and authorizes the Chair or the Executive Director to add the Libertarian Party's name as an endorsing organization.

Voting aye: Blau, Cloud, Hagan, Hinkle, Johnson, Kirkland, Lark, Mack, Neale, Olsen, Pojunis, Redpath, Starchild, Visek, Vohra, Wiener, Wrights.

Did not vote: Tomasso.

Uncounted: Frankel (aye; superseded), Goldstein (aye; superseded).

This motion passed unanimously on July 5, 2013.

Policy Manual

I provided an updated version of the Policy Manual to the LNC on July 7, 2013. If there are no objections to this update, I will post the clean version on the website after the Las Vegas meeting.

Conflicts of Interest

On March 29, 2013, Ms. Mack indicated that her potential conflicts of interest are: Central Committee member and Executive Committee member of the Libertarian Party of Ohio, Owner of Libertas Web Services, LLC.

This change is reflected on the COI sheet in the binder.

Declared Potential Conflicts of Interest

Chairman Neale: No conflicts.

Mr. Wrights: President of the Foundation for a Free Society.

Mr. Hagan: No conflicts.

Mr. Blau: Chair of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts.

Mr. Cloud: Paid vendor to the LNC for fundraising services.

Mr. Redpath: Treasurer of FairVote (formerly the Center for Voting and Democracy)
Treasurer of the Citizens in Charge Foundation

Mr. Hinkle: President of the Silicon Valley Taxpayers Association.

Starchild: At-Large representative of the Libertarian Party of California.

Mr. Vohra: Market Aces is a preferred vendor to Mr. Vohra's personal business.

Mr. Olsen: Campaign Director for the Libertarian Party of Colorado.

Mr. Ryan: No information.

Ms. Kirkland: No conflicts.

Mr. Schrade: No information.

Ms. Mack: Central Committee member and Executive Committee member of the
Libertarian Party of Ohio
Owner of Libertas Web Services, LLC

Mr. Goldstein: Chair of the Libertarian Party of Indiana.

Mr. Wiener: No information.

Dr. Lieberman: No conflicts.

Mr. Pojunis: Co-founder and Chair of the Young Libertarian National Alliance
Co-founder of Big L Solutions Inc.

Ms. Capozzi: No information.

Mr. Tomasso: Chair of the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire
Media Representative of the Free State Project

Dr. Lark: Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Advocates for Self-Government
Member of the Board of Advisors for Students For Liberty
Chairman, Student Libertarian Alumni Committee
Secretary of the International Society for Individual Liberty

Mr. Spencer: No conflicts.

Ms. Visek: Legislative Director of the Libertarian Party of Illinois.

Mr. Knebel: Communications Director of the Libertarian Party of Nebraska.

Mr. Johnson: Secretary of the Libertarian Party of Texas
Secretary of the Libertarian Party of Travis County, Texas

Mr. Frankel: Paid vendor to the LNC and other parties for ballot access services
Reporter for *Independent Political Report*, and other online outlets

MEMORANDUM

TO: Libertarian National Committee
FROM: Gary Sinawski
DATE: July 7, 2013
SUBJECT: Counsel's Report

Introduction

This report summarizes my work as general counsel to the LNC since March 10, 2013, the date of my previous report. The report is not privileged and confidential, as it simply relates facts and does not constitute legal advice. It may be disclosed to other members of the Libertarian Party, in your discretion.

General

I have reviewed documents and correspondence, responded to questions, and provided legal advice and assistance on a variety of matters, including the following: conducting ballot access litigation in Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Virginia; reviewing documents in connection with the LNC's proposed purchase of office space; assisting with preparation of employment contracts for national staff; negotiating and preparing a contract for the LNC's acquisition of the website "Libertarian Party News;" advising re. petitioning outside of DMV offices in Virginia; advising re. paying petitioners who do not provide taxpayer identification numbers; preparing a contract between the LNC and Northwest Territorial Mint.

Litigation

Sarvis, et al. v. Judd, et al. - This is a new lawsuit which I am commencing this week in federal district court in Richmond on behalf of the LP-Virginia against the Virginia State Board of Elections. The issue is the constitutionality of Virginia laws which assign minor party and independent candidates to positions on the ballot which are inferior to the ballot positions assigned to major party candidates. The litigation will be on a fast track, and I will do everything possible to obtain a decision at the trial court level before the November 5, 2013 general election.

Libertarian Party of Michigan, et al. v. Secretary of State - This action was commenced on June 25, 2012 in federal district court in Detroit seeking declaratory and injunctive relief from the secretary of state's refusal to place Gary Johnson on the November general election ballot, on the ground that he was listed on Michigan's Republican presidential primary ballot and was therefore barred from the November ballot by the state's "sore loser" law. I represent the plaintiffs along with co-counsel

Mark Brown. This litigation was pursued on an emergency basis at the U.S. District Court, U.S. Court of Appeals and U.S. Supreme Court levels. So far, it has required the preparation of 12 briefs together with ancillary motion papers and other documents. The litigation failed to attain its immediate objective, and Gary Johnson was not granted access to the Michigan ballot. The Court of Appeals recently issued a final decision against us and subsequently denied a petition for rehearing. Our only recourse now is to file a petition for certiorari (discretionary review) with the Supreme Court, which would be due on September 28, 2013. I will make a recommendation about whether to proceed.

Libertarian Party of Illinois, et al. v. Illinois State Board of Elections, et al. This action was commenced on April 5, 2012 in federal district court in Chicago seeking declaratory and injunctive relief from Illinois' June 25th filing deadline for petitions to form a new party; an ambiguity in the law relating to the calculation of signature requirements; and a requirement that a candidate for statewide or countywide office be part of a full slate of candidates for state or county offices. Subsequently I discontinued our challenge regarding the signature requirements because, while the applicable statutes are disorganized and confusing, the signature requirements themselves are not ambiguous. The state made a motion to dismiss the case, and I prepared and filed a brief opposing the motion. On September 6, 2012 the court issued a decision refusing to dismiss the case but indicating that the filing deadline is not unconstitutional. Pre-trial discovery has been completed. I have made a motion for summary judgment on the remaining issue (the "full-slate" requirement) and am awaiting the state's response, to which I will prepare a reply brief. The case will be fully briefed and in the court's hands for decision in mid-July.

Libertarian Party, et al. v. District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics, et al. - This action was commenced in August 2009 seeking to require the District to count the votes cast for each write-in candidate for a particular office rather than publishing a single vote total for all write-in candidates for that office, which is the current practice. I represent the plaintiffs along with local counsel Oliver Hall. The defendant filed a motion to dismiss. Mr. Hall and I prepared a response to that motion along with a cross motion for summary judgment. At the suggestion of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit we submitted the case to (non-binding) mediation, which was unproductive. The district court decided the motions against us, and the the court of appeals affirmed the district court's decision. We filed a brief requesting reconsideration of the court of appeals' affirmance on the grounds that it overlooks relevant Supreme Court decisions and contains important factual errors. The request for reconsideration was denied. We filed a petition for certiorari (discretionary review) with the U.S. Supreme Court, which was denied. This litigation is now concluded.

Libertarian Party of Ohio, et al. v. Husted, et al. - This action was commenced in August 2011 in federal district court in Columbus challenging the

constitutionality of a new ballot access law which requires an inordinately high number of petition signatures to be filed needlessly early in the election cycle. The plaintiffs are represented by local counsel Mark Brown and me. I handled two prior cases for the LP against the Ohio Secretary of State, one of which was decided in 2006 and the other in 2008, both of which invalidated similar high signature/early deadline petitioning requirements. The issues in this case do not differ appreciably from the issues in the 2006 and 2008 cases. On September 7 and October 18, 2011 the court issued orders granting our motion for a preliminary injunction and directing that the LP of Ohio and its candidates appear on the ballot for the November 2011 and November 2012 elections. The litigation is now concluded.

Conclusion

If you have any questions about this report or wish to discuss it further, please contact me at 516-971-7783 or at gsinawski@aol.com.

Staff Report for LNC Meeting July 14, 2013 Las Vegas, NV

LP HQ Activities from March 1, 2013 through June 28, 2013

Prepared by Carla Howell, Executive Director

Membership

- Membership has held steady at 15,236 members as of 6/28/13 since March 2013.
- The number of memberships that lapse each month (as of three weeks after the lapse date) has gone down since December and has declined over the last 2 years. Over the last three months, it has ranged from 290 to 320. The average number of lapsed members per month in 2012 was 368 and in 2011 was 381.
- The number of lapsed members that renew within one year is approximately 30%. Over time, the renewal rate is higher. Over 40% of those who lapsed in 2010 have renewed since. This suggests a trend of prior Libertarian Party members returning.

Fundraising

- The David F. Nolan Building Fund hit the threshold of \$250,000 in June needed to move forward on making an offer for an office space. Funds raised that are available for purchase as of 6/26/13: \$251,918 (net of expenses) with \$78,970 in outstanding pledges. Fundraising for the new building has taken precedence over house letters.
- Revenue for year to date is \$627,623 as of 6/28/13, \$57,152 above budget. This revenue level annualized is \$1,270,790. (Budget is \$1,163,250.)
- Monthly pledgers are at approximately the same level as last quarter and up \$1,660 from early 2012, now at 1,355 pledgers who donate \$28,934 per month.
- Carla Howell has held four meetings with Libertarian-friendly direct mail experts in the D.C. area who appear to hold promise for offering cost-effective prospecting lists to the LP and a program to test the lists, messaging and techniques. A proposal is expected by mid-July.
- Libertarian Angels: FEC compliance issues were investigated with advisor Paula Edwards. Quote was obtained from Libertas Web Services for initial launch.

Media Coverage and Communications

- Radio, TV and print interviews resulted in 36 articles and interviews in media 3/1/13 through 6/28/13 (list attached).
- LPHQ started sending bi-weekly periodical email blasts on April 26 to LP general email list.
- Focus of LP blog, LP News, Facebook, and email blasts (list attached) has turned to emerging roster of 2013 and beyond Libertarian candidates, elected Libertarians, Libertarian solutions.

- The number of viewers of the LP State of the Union Response video continued to rise, reaching 51,385 views as of 6/28/13.
- LP.org menu choices and other links have been consolidated to de-clutter the web site and simplify navigation. A number of forms and web pages have been corrected for errors and simplified.
- Conversion of a back issue of LP News to e-reader formats is underway.
- LP.org traffic (unique visitors) rose in April, then dropped off lately.
- The number of Facebook fans has taken off, gaining an average of 17,457 new fans/month in 2013, up from 3,993 in 2011 and 4,989 in 2012.

	Feb '12	Mar '12	Apr '12	May '13	Jun '13
LP.org UV	81,964	77,683	87,975	71,002	67,376
Total FB Fans	269,182	299,488	320,415	336,821	358,999
Net New FB Fans	8,823	30,306	20,927	16,406	22,178

Candidate and Affiliate support

- In last four months of 2012, we received 190 inquiries from prospective LP candidates through the LP.org website and another 173 in Q1 of 2013. This is more than double the inquiries we received during this period in either 2010 or 2008.
- We received another 137 inquiries in Q2 of 2013 (as of 6/28/13).
- 343 out of 500 candidate prospects (from all sources) live in states where the affiliates prefer to contact the candidates themselves without the help of LPHQ (IN, IL, OH, TX, CT, MI, NC, CO, MA, MO, CA-local candidates, GA, SC, OR, and DE).
- Of the candidates LPHQ is handling, all have been sent candidate information packets. 125 have been called and talked to; left messages were left with another 29 prospects. 27 have dropped out of running.
- Note: Only 2 states – Virginia and New Jersey - have statewide or legislative races in 2013.
- 11 candidates for 2013 were in races that have already taken place.
- 15 additional candidates are officially on the ballot so far for 2013.
- 79 candidates have declared for election year 2014.
- 12 candidates have declared for election year 2015.
- The game *Who's Driving*, which offers a very low-cost means to engage and train candidates and activists while inspiring more activists to run for office, was introduced by Carla Howell and played at the LSLA conference in Denver, CO in May as well as at venues in six state affiliates: Pennsylvania, Washington, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia and D.C. Feedback from participants and state leaders has been very positive.

Ballot access

- Bob Johnston continues to update two internal ballot access guides for Libertarian candidates and state affiliates that he disseminates as needed or requested:

1. One describes state-by-state requirements to get POTUS, VP nominee on the ballot and requirements for the LP to achieve party status. This manual is 80% done and needs 20 hours to complete.
2. The other lists requirements to get state and other federal candidates on the ballot. It is 50% done and needs another 60 hours work to complete.

After manuals are done, they will need about one hour of work per week to keep up to date in response to changing laws, policies and court decisions.

- Top Two has reared its ugly head again in Montana. Voters will decide on a referendum that the Republican-dominated legislature put on the ballot for the November 2014 election.
- The California LP has filed a lawsuit against Prop 14, which created the Top Two system in the state, along with the Green Party and Peace and Freedom Party. A trial is set for January 2014.
- In Arizona, Republican legislators made ballot access for Libertarians more difficult by substantially increasing signature requirements to get candidates on the primary ballot. Opponents (third parties and Democrats) are considering a referendum to overturn the law.
- The LP PA has submitted the Voter Choice Act and has a Republican sponsor in the state senate. If passed, it would dramatically reduce requirements for Libertarians to make the ballot. Similar bills have been submitted to the PA house and senate in the past, none of which have been referred out of committee to date.

Lawsuits (not covered in Gary Sinawski report)

- Alan Gura is lead council for the LNC lawsuit against the FEC to challenge the imposition of BCRA limits on donations to the party from decedents' estates, the Burrington Estate in particular. The case will be heard by the full D.C. Circuit Court, which is unusual and the first time a third party will be heard by the full court. This lends prestige to the LP and could influence congress to remove some of the current regulations imposed on political parties. Richard Winger reports that a favorable ruling for the LP is likely.
- Attorney Paul Rossi filed four lawsuits in Pennsylvania (three on behalf of LP PA; one on behalf of the PA Green Party) to remove arduous requirements for voter signatures. For example, currently a voter's address must be filled in on the petition form by the voter, not by the petitioner or voter's spouse. If successful, this will remove several frivolous reasons for invalidating signatures and make signature challenges much easier to defend.
- The Gary Johnson anti-trust lawsuit against the Presidential Debate Commission for exclusion of Johnson from debates is pending in federal court in Orange County, Calif. A status conference is scheduled for July 11.

Office administration and staff issues

- Documentation of LPHQ routine office procedures is nearing completion. Of the 97 routine office procedures identified in a list:
 - 57 are now documented. 41 of these have been tested by another staff member to ensure they are comprehensible.
 - 15 are straightforward and do not need to be documented.
 - 17 still need to be written.
 - 7 need to be updated.
- The file server (“the z: drive”) has been substantially de-cluttered and organized to make it easier to find files.
- Procedures, spreadsheets and a database have been created and debugged to better track media contacts, media coverage and outgoing LP communications.
- After a few initial relapses, the migration to Drupal 7 is now reasonably stable.
- LNC subcommittees and their members have been posted to *LP.org /bylaws-mandated-committees*

General Email and Direct Mail March 1– June 28, 2013

News Release	Libertarian Party applauds DOMA Strikedown	26-Jun-13
Email	LP fights unfair ballot access laws in four states ... and more LP news	21-Jun-13
LP News	LP News V43 Issue II	17-Jun-13
Pledge	June Pledge	18-Jun-13
News Release	Government engages in unprecedented spying on Americans	06-Jun-13
News Release	Why don't Dems/Reps apologize when stock market goes up?	05-Jun-13
Email	Big Opportunity to DOUBLE your dollars for liberty	31-May-13
News Release	Cut government waste to fix dangerous bridges	24-May-13
News Release	Don't waste time investigating IRS, abolish it NOW along with income tax	17-May-13
Pledge	May Pledge	17-May-13
Email	Renewal request and video link.	13-May-13
Blog & Email	Hardy Macia marijuana cancer video	08-May-13
Email	How you can add \$5,000 a month to the LP mission	08-May-13
News Release	R's in MI courts subvert justice to block Libertarian competition	01-May-13
Email	CISPA dies in Senate! ... and more LP news	26-Apr-13
Email	Justice and truth demand immediate mirandizing of bombing suspect	23-Apr-13
Pledge	April Pledge	22-Apr-13
Blog & Email	Kill CISPA and repeal Patriot Act, NDAA	22-Apr-13
House	Building Fund chase letter	12-Apr-13
Blog & Email	It's the Govt Spending Stupid	10-Apr-13
News Release	Libertarian Party: Move Personal Independence Day from June to January	04-Apr-13
Blog & Email	POLL: Is proposing a NEW tax ever justified?	03-Apr-13
House	Building fund pitch	02-Apr-13
Blog & Email	Register today for LSLA conference May 17-19	30-Mar-13
Pledge	March Pledge	29-Mar-13
Email	Cut taxes now!	15-Mar-13
Special Email	Series of 4 emails to prior Building Fund donors and pledgers	5-Mar-13
News Release	LP Lawsuit on campaign contributions moves forward	03-Mar-13

Media coverage March 1, 2013 – June 28, 2013

6/26/2013 KDKA radio – Carla Howell interview on DOMA
6/20/2013 Courthouse News Service - LP lawsuit on Burrington estate
6/17/2013 Gary Johnson weighs in on NSA
6/12/2013 The Guardian - NSA Scandal
6/11/2013 NewsMax - Libertarians See Political Gains in NSA Debacle
6/9/2013 Responsibility of media to report on 3rd parties
6/2/2013 St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Responsibility of media to report on 3rd parties
5/31/2013 Washington Times - Libertarians enter the gun control debate
5/24/2013 Las Vegas Sun - Opinion on IRS Scandal
5/23/2013 America's Radio News Network - Carla Howell interview on abolishing IRS
5/23/2013 Before It's News - Geoff Neale's presentation on LSLA
5/22/2013 Ind. Political Rpt - Michael Cloud's How you can become a famous Libertarian
5/20/2013 Lake Houston Observer - LP: Abolish the IRS and the income tax
5/16/2013 Radio-Chuck Morse Show - Carla Howell interview on IRS, general L topics
5/11/2013 Examiner - LP comments on IRS
5/3/2013 America's Radio News Network - Carla Howell interview on Boston Bombing
4/22/2013 PressTV - Carla Interview on U.S. rigged elections
4/22/2013 Mother Jones - Anonymous and Libertarians Protest CISPA
4/16/2013 Westmoreland Times - LP news release: Personal Independence Day
4/12/2013 The Next Web - LP accepting bitcoin
4/12/2013 Policy Mic - GJ on libertarians v. Republicans
4/11/2013 The Atlantic - LP accepting bitcoin
4/11/2013 Examiner - Libertarians holding Leadership Strategy Conference
4/9/2013 Huffington Post - Libertarian no longer a bad word
4/6/2013 Blog Talk Radio - Carla Howell interview - general LP discussion
4/4/2013 Yahoo! Commentary – Libertarianism is America's last hope
4/1/2013 Politicus USA - LP on marriage equality
3/26/2013 The Stone Zone - Rand Paul and the LP
3/25/2013 Before It's News - Carla Howell: Filing Taxes With a Song in Your Heart
3/24/2013 Marietta Daily Journal - How Libertarians and Reps. Differ
3/22/2013 Courthouse News Service - En Banc Panel Set for Libertarians' Dispute
3/21/2013 Instant Analysis – DOMA
3/15/2013 The Independent - War On Drugs
3/6/2013 Before It's News – Sequester
3/6/2013 Independent Political Report – Sequester
3/5/2013 Press TV - Sequester manipulation by Democrats, Republicans: Howell

Web Content Created March 1, 2013 – June 28, 2013

Libertarian Party applauds DOMA Strikedown	News Release	26-Jun-13
March issue of LP News now available online	Blog	24-Jun-13
Scotty Boman Detroit Candidate for City Clerk	Blog	21-Jun-13
Learn how to 'Be Dangerous to Big Government' at LP FreedomFest events	Blog	20-Jun-13
POLL: how should govt react to Snowden's leaks on NSA?	Blog	14-Jun-13
LP fights unfair ballot access laws in 4 states	Blog	12-Jun-13
Libertarians See Political Gains in NSA Leak Debacle	Blog	11-Jun-13
Government engages in unprecedented spying on Americans	News Release	06-Jun-13
Why don't Dems/Reps apologize when stock market goes up	News Release	05-Jun-13
LP joins court case to remove limits on political speech	Blog	03-Jun-13
Bill Slantz run for MO US rep (MO-8)	Blog	31-May-13
Most Americans want small government, says LP Executive Director Carla Howell	Blog	28-May-13
Cut government waste to fix dangerous bridges	News Release	24-May-13
Libertarian Levi Tappan wins city council election in Page, AZ	Blog	22-May-13
Libertarian John Wayne Smith aims to downsize government as Florida's governor	Blog	21-May-13
George Brown calls for end to corporate income tax in PA	Blog	20-May-13
Don't waste time investigating IRS, abolish it NOW along with income tax	News Release	17-May-13
Abolish IRS, end income tax, slash government spending interview	Blog	16-May-13
LP Levi Tappan candidate hopes to cut spending and debt in AZ	Blog	13-May-13
LP Arthur Thomas candidate aims to shrink spending in San Antonio	Blog	10-May-13
Hardy Macia viral marijuana video	Blog	08-May-13
Hardy Macia marijuana cancer video	Blog & Email	08-May-13
Post-election issue of LP News now available online	Blog	03-May-13
R's in MI courts subvert justice to block Libertarian competition	News Release	01-May-13
FL Joseph Wendt netted 43% of vote on platform to abolish his office	Blog	29-Apr-13
Rob Sarvis advocates ending police militarization, drug war in VA	Blog	26-Apr-13
Kill CISPA and repeal Patriot Act, NDAA	Blog & Email	22-Apr-13
Who's Driving pages	Web Content	12-Apr-13
Majority of Libertarians reject revenue-neutral tax proposals in poll	Blog	12-Apr-13
Announce Who's Driving blog	Blog	09-May-13
Chris Jenner wins college board election in Illinois	Blog	11-Apr-13
It's the Govt Spending Stupid	Blog & Email	10-Apr-13
Kansas Ogle and Coen garner impressive vote totals in city elections	Blog	08-Apr-13
Malterer for city council seeks cuts in business permitting, property taxes	Blog	08-Apr-13
Libertarian Party: Move Personal Independence Day from June to January	News Release	04-Apr-13
POLL: Is proposing a NEW tax ever justified?	Blog & Email	03-Apr-13

Register today for LSLA conference May 17-19	Blog & Email	30-Mar-13
Republicans and Democrats vote for new Internet tax	Blog	28-Mar-13
Filing taxes with a song in your heart	Blog	25-Mar-13
Howell says Sequester latest Big Government manipulation	Blog	05-Mar-13
LP Lawsuit on campaign contributions moves forward	News Release	03-Mar-13

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted to: Libertarian National Committee, July 8, 2013

Submitted by: James W. Lark, III
Region 5S Representative, Libertarian National Committee
Chair, Membership Level Review Committee

The members of the Membership Level Review Committee (MLRC) are Michael Cloud, Mark Hinkle, Jim Lark, Scott Lieberman, and Rich Tomasso. The committee was established by Geoff Neale during the LNC meeting on March 16-17, 2013. Mr. Neale appointed the members of committee, and appointed Dr. Lark to serve as chair.

The charge of the Committee was to recommend membership/contribution levels (and associated benefits) that would garner the support of a strong majority ("a supermajority") of the LNC. The Committee was asked to provide its recommendations in time for consideration by the LNC during its meeting on July 14, 2013.

As of this date, the MLRC has taken the following actions:

1) The MLRC voted to recommend that the LNC approve a resolution concerning the determination of the donation level required for sustaining membership. Specifically, the MLRC adopted the following motion:

The Membership Level Review Committee recommends that the LNC approve the following motion in the form of a resolution:

Resolved, That the Libertarian National Committee recommends that the 2014 Bylaws and Rules Committee propose an amendment to Article 5 of the Bylaws.

Such amendment would authorize the LNC to establish the minimum sustaining membership donation level by a 3/4th vote of the entire LNC. It would further require that changes to that donation level must be approved by the LNC by the same vote threshold.

2) The MLRC voted to recommend that the LNC adopt the list of membership/contribution levels and associated benefits proposed by Mr. Tomasso. The list of levels and benefits is enclosed below, along with comments provided by Mr. Tomasso to the MLRC.

3) At the request of some members of the Committee, Geoff Neale gathered data from the LP donor database and conducted some analysis on those data to provide information about donation patterns of various types of donors.

The Committee expresses its appreciation to Mr. Neale for his assistance in our efforts. Those who wish to receive the material prepared by Mr. Neale may request it from the Committee. (To protect the privacy of the donors, this material does not include information that identifies individual donors.)

List of membership/contribution levels and associated benefits proposed by Rich Tomasso:

Amounts listed are either given in donations in one calendar year, or provided as a monthly pledge of 1/10th the same amount for one year. (Amounts given do not include funds received for convention packages or other purchases.)

\$25 Sustaining member. Gets newsletter. Counts for delegates.

\$100 Minuteman.

\$500 Patriot.

\$1000 Torch Club.

\$5000* Chairman's Circle.

\$10000* Silver Sovereign.

\$20000* Golden Champion.

\$30000! Rearden Metal Paragon.

\$1000^ Life Member.

* The contribution for Chairman's Circle and higher are calculated since the close of the prior convention.

! This is an amount equal to the maximum legal contribution anyone can make in a year. I don't have that amount on-hand but I know it's about this much.

^ A Life Membership is a distinct purchase, available as a single \$1000 payment. With that, the member no longer gets renewal mailings and has an effective expiration date of 100 years from then. Along with other listed benefits.

Perhaps we could even limit the number of Life Memberships available in a given year to make them a little more special.

Special Recognition:

If the member wishes, with a Minuteman or higher membership level, their name will be mentioned in the next issue of LP News with the thanks of the Chair and entire LNC. A similar mention will be made on LP.org

At reaching Patriot membership and higher, a special certificate suitable for framing will be mailed to the member indicating this great level of support for liberty and the LP.

At Chairman's Circle and above, the member may have their picture printed in LP News along with their name and recognition for their donation. The same to be posted to LP.org

At the Rearden Metal level, the editor of LP News will work with that member to provide a short biographical article with a picture to highlight the member's commitment to liberty and the LP. The same notice to be placed on LP.org.

If the member wishes, if they have achieved Chairman's Circle or above since the close of the prior national convention, a special page in the convention program will list their name with the thanks of the Chair and entire LNC.

During the convention, at an appropriate time, the Chair will recognize en masse, in turn, new Life Members, and those who reached Torch Club or higher.

Premiums:

Monthly pledgers at \$10/mo or greater (Minuteman level) will get a monthly pledge newsletter. Additional news may be made available to pledgers at greater levels.

Patriot members and above will have a special phone number and email to contact the national office with questions about national party business (memberships, dues, convention tickets, newsletters, etc).

Life members will have a distinct lapel pin indicating their status.

Torch Club members and above will have a distinct lapel pin indicating their status.

For Chairman's Circle and above, the pin will be dated to indicate a current status, thus encouraging members at that level to maintain.

Chairman's Circle and above will have available to them a quarterly conference call with the LNC Chair to discuss and ask questions about the future of the Party.

Chairman's Circle and above will have the option to receive the monthly pledge newsletter.

Any limited tickets for special events will be first made available in order starting with Rearden Metal down to Torch Club and Life Members before being made available to the general membership or the public.

Staff and the Chair may issue additional premiums for membership levels such as commemorative coins, plaques, badges, certificates, thank you letters, additional Party communications, conference calls, etc. New premiums with more than a de minimus cost shall

be approved by the Executive Committee.

Convention Premiums:

Patriot membership and above will have distinct ribbon for convention credentials.

Torch Club and above will have a VIP reception at the national convention. Life members may attend.

Torch Club and above will have a priority registration line at the national convention.

Chairman's Circle and above will have priority seating at the National Convention presidential debate.

Chairman's Circle and above will have priority seating at National Convention Banquet(s) and other special ticketed events, with the understanding that seating may be limited and will be made available first-come first-serve.

Members at Silver and above will have the opportunity for seating with keynote speaker, the national chair or LNC officer at the National Convention banquet(s).

Members at Gold and above will have the opportunity for seating with the presidential or vice presidential nominee, keynote speaker, national chair or LNC officer, or other candidate of their choice, at the National Convention banquet(s).

Members at Silver and above will have priority to reserve any available hospitality suites at the hotel, behind the presidential candidates.

Strictly subject to availability and scheduling, Gold members and above may be given naming rights to National Convention events.

With the approval of the Executive Committee, in consultation with the appropriate Convention Committee, additional National Convention benefits such as a private lounge, upgraded rooms, free amenities, comped travel to/from airport, or the like may be made available to members at the Chairman's Circle and above.

Libertarian National Committee

Region 1 Report

Submitted by Norm Olsen

July 14, 2013

My apologies to the committee and the 10 affiliates of Region 1. Due to personal requirements, this report remains(at this time) a work in progress and will remain so for another 7 to 10 days. Regardless, please note the happenings in Arizona as described in detail below.

Overview

- The ten affiliates which comprise Region 1 are: Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.
- Seven of the ten states in the region are currently ballot qualified for 2014. Of the three exceptions, ballot access in Hawaii requires only 750 valid signatures, while ballot access in Washington requires only 1,000 valid signatures. Ballot access in Arizona is covered in detail elsewhere in this report.
- While the originally proposed Arizona legislation was defeated in committee, Republicans resurrected the measure in a special legislative session and got it passed without public comment. Unless overcome as described below, each individual Libertarian candidate will be required to obtain (for example) 5,000 signatures from Libertarian or Independent voters in order to obtain ballot access.
- At convention, the Washington State affiliate removed from its bylaws language which prohibited it from endorsing candidates other than members of the Libertarian Party of Washington State. See details provided below.
- The policy of publishing a *Region 1 News* newsletter from time to time has been continued. All Sustaining Members who are also members of any of the ten affiliates which form the current Region 1 are invited to subscribe to the newsletter. Send subscription requests to Norman.Olsen@lp.org. Seven issues of the newsletter have been issued so far this term (2012 – 2014).
- Due to the geographic nature of this region, which spans five time zones and extends from 19 to 71 degrees north latitude (some 3,000 x 3,000 miles), personal contact between the Regional and Alternate Representatives and the individual affiliates is quite rare.

Alaska

Mark Fish, State Chair

No response as yet.

Number of Libertarians	8,000
Method of Membership Determination	Registered voters
Voters can register as Libertarian	Yes
Ballot Access Status	3% of register voters
Number of Candidates in 2012	2
Estimated Budget	\$1,000 / month

Arizona

Warren Severin, State Chair

Warren reports:

Bad news in Arizona. The Republicans effectively kicked us off the island with some sneaky last-minute changes to legislation. While we have not lost "ballot access", it will be henceforth nearly impossible to get any of our candidates on it. It all happened in a space of two weeks, concluding with the governors signature on a bill last Tuesday.

Early in the year the Republicans introduced two bills to modify AZ election laws and procedures. One bill, HB2305, was meant to shut down Democrat shenanigans around early ballot collections. It was relatively innocuous from our perspective. The other bill, HB2568, was directed squarely at us. It proposed to change the formula for determining ballot petition signature requirements so as to lower the requirements for Republicans while raising those for Libertarian candidates by over 4000%. A private discussion with the bill's sponsor confirmed that the entire purpose was to prevent Libertarian candidates from "stealing" Republican votes. That bill died during the committee process. The chair of the judiciary committee (a Republican with some scruples left) never brought it before the whole committee.

The Republicans saw the error of their tactics. Ten days before HB2305 was to go to the main floor of the senate for a vote, a 'free' committee amended it to add the wording of the failed HB2568. In the meantime, the governor called an emergency session of the legislature to finish an unfinished budget. Once the budget was passed the legislators wanted nothing but to get home. Midnight, literally. A vote on HB2305 was called. It FAILED. Three Republicans broke ranks and voted against it along with all the Democrats. After that, hell broke loose. There were many phone calls to the wayward Republicans – even some from Washington. Within a few minutes there one of the wayward R's asked for a recall on the vote. This time, the bill PASSED on a straight party-line vote.

The Green party chair and I made a trip to the governors office and spent about half an hour with the director of legislative affairs. Despite lobbying from us, and the press, the governor signed the bill four days later.

We have now formed an alliance with the Greens, Dems, and LWV to fight this thing. We had a high level strategy meeting yesterday. Without going into significant detail at this point, there will be a referendum to recall the legislation. A committee is being formed. The committee will have 90 days to

gather 88,000 good signatures. Obviously this will be resource and money intensive. Any help from the LNC will be appreciated.

The press is STRONGLY on our side. Even the Arizona Republic.

There will be legal action. We and the Greens are once again partners. Our lawyers are working on it. The Dems will also pursue legal action.

The take-away here is that this is likely NOT a local Arizona problem. Arizona is, once again, a canary in the coal mine. The actions on the night that the bill was passed indicate strong involvement of the Republican national party. Consider that somebody with enough clout to bully three legislators was up at 3:00 in the morning (Eastern time) following the AZ legislature and making phone calls. The Republicans may be taking this on as a national tactic.

The Arizona Republic reports:

Libertarians and Green Party candidates would be virtually cut off from running for office under new nominating-petition requirements in a bill now on Gov. Jan Brewer's desk. Meanwhile, the legislation eases the number of signatures needed for Republican and Democratic candidates.

On Tuesday, critics of the law said it's a valentine for Republican candidates, who see third-party candidates, particularly Libertarians, as spoilers in races.

The provision was tacked onto a wide-ranging election bill, House Bill 2305, one week before the Legislature adjourned. It passed on largely partyline votes in the closing hours of the session with the support of most Republicans and solid opposition from Democrats.

On Tuesday, the minor-party officials said the bill, if signed, would cement the two parties' hold on Arizona elections.

"This will squelch any dissent," said Barry Hess, communications chairman for the state Libertarian Party. "This stuff has got to stop."

The differences are dizzying, said Warren Severin, the Libertarians' state chairman. For example, a Libertarian seeking to run for governor would face a 4,380-percent increase in required signatures, Severin said. In the east Valley's Legislative District 16, the increase would be 4,463 percent.

That's because House Bill 2305 changes the basis for qualifying signatures from 1 percent of all voters registered with a given party to a percentage of all registered voters. That creates such a high hurdle for gathering signatures that Greens would likely stop trying to run in a party primary and instead run as write-in candidates, said Angel Torres, the party's state director.

Current law says candidates for Congress and the Legislature must get the signatures of 1 percent of the voters in their party; statewide candidates, such as governor or attorney general, require half of 1 percent. Since Libertarians and Greens have low registration levels, that translates into small numbers.

Spreading the requirement across all voters dramatically increases the numbers. For example, a Green candidate looking to run in Congressional District 1 would need 624 signatures to qualify under the proposed legislation, compared to three under the current requirement. But a Republican running in that district would have a lower hurdle than current law: 573 signatures, compared to 624.

The Democrats say they share the concern that the bill hurts minor parties and joined with the Greens and the Libertarians to urge Brewer to veto the legislation. She has until June 26 to act on bills.

Richard Winger of Ballot Access News reports:

As noted earlier, an omnibus election law bill was signed by Arizona’s Governor Jan Brewer last week. The bill, HB 2305, contains the provision that vastly increases the difficulty for members of minor parties to get on their own party’s primary ballot. The bill has many other provisions which are strongly opposed by the Democratic Party and by various voting rights organizations.

If opponents of the bill can obtain 86,405 valid signatures on a referendum petition by September 11, 2013 (90 days after the adjournment of the legislature), then the bill can’t go into effect until after the voters vote on it. That vote would be on November 4, 2013. It is somewhat likely that opponents of the bill will launch a referendum petition. The Arizona referendum procedure, requiring signatures of 5% of the last gubernatorial vote, is easier than the state’s initiative petition requirement. Initiatives require 10% of the last gubernatorial vote for a statute, and 15% for a state constitutional amendment.

Number of Libertarians	24,880
Method of Membership Determination	Registered voters
Voters can register as Libertarian	Yes
Ballot Access Status	Registration >= .65% of active registered voters
Number of Candidates in 2012	14
Estimated Budget	

Colorado

Jeffery Orrok, State Chair

No response as yet.

Number of Libertarians	24,000
Method of Membership Determination	Registered Voters
Voters can register as Libertarian	Yes
Ballot Access Status	1,000 Registered voters
Number of Candidates in 2012	65+
Estimated Budget	\$600 / month

Hawaii

Jim Henshaw, State Chair

No response as yet.

Number of Libertarians	67
Method of Membership Determination	National membership
Voters can register as Libertarian	No, party affiliation not maintained by the state
Ballot Access Status	10% of statewide race, or petition of 0.1% of registered voters (~650)
Number of Candidates in 2012	2
Estimated Budget	

Idaho

Rob Oates, State Chair

Number of Libertarians	36
Method of Membership Determination	National membership
Voters can register as Libertarian	Yes (new this year, explaining the above answers)
Ballot Access Status	Maintained by running 3 statewide candidates very two years.
Number of Candidates in 2012	6
Estimated Budget	\$3,000 per annum

Kansas

Al Terwelp, State Chair

Number of Libertarians	10,800
Method of Membership Determination	Registered voters
Voters can register as Libertarian	Yes
Ballot Access Status	1% statewide race
Number of Candidates in 2012	21
Estimated Budget	\$5,000 annually

Montana

Mike Fellows, State Chair

No response as yet.

Number of Libertarians	
Method of Membership Determination	
Voters can register as Libertarian	
Ballot Access Status	Qualified for 2014
Number of Candidates in 2012	9
Estimated Budget	

Utah

Jake Shannon, State Chair

No response as yet.

Number of Libertarians	2,500
Method of Membership Determination	Tax check off
Voters can register as Libertarian	Yes
Ballot Access Status	2% of statewide congressional vote
Number of Candidates in 2012	
Estimated Budget	

Washington

Larry Nicholas, State Chair

The Libertarian Party of Washington held its annual convention on April 20th in Bellingham, Washington. Larry Nicholas remains chair. In convention, the party amended its by-laws to, among other things, remove language which prohibited the endorsement of candidates of another political party. The author of these bylaw changes, Fritz Sands, offered the following as explanation/justification for the changes:

Thoughts on the LPWA Bylaw change regarding trans-partisanship candidate endorsement

By Fritz Sands, LPWA At-Large State Executive Committee (SEC) Member

At the recent convention of the Libertarian Party of Washington, the delegates voted to accept a bylaw change that allows the endorsement of candidates who are not members of the LP, removes all language

about Libertarian primaries, and removes the distinction between candidates for partisan and non-partisan offices. This change has generated comment both locally and nationally. Since I wrote this specific bylaw change that was adopted, I would like to clarify my thoughts in writing. Note that these are my thoughts, not those of the rest of the Bylaws Committee nor those of the rest of the State Executive Committee.

Top Two

The first and most important reason for the change was to bring the language of the bylaws into accord with the realities of the Top Two Primary system of Washington State. It makes no sense to have bylaws that specify the conduct of a Libertarian Party Primary when there is no such thing.

In 2004, WA voters approved Initiative 872 and put the Top Two Primary system in place. There were a few goals to the project – one, I suspect, is that many voters feel absolutely affronted that there might be a vote that they aren't allowed to take part in. And, in fairness, a Democrat in a heavily Republican district or a Republican in a heavily Democratic district can certainly feel disenfranchised. Another, more public goal, was to “encourage” more mainstream, less ideological candidates in the November election. The Top Two system was a body blow to all the ideological “minor” parties in Washington State – not just the Libertarian Party, but the Green Party, the Constitution Party, etc. Since 2004 there have been very few, if any, candidates on the November ballot who identify as anything other than Republican or Democrat. Membership in the LPWA plummeted in the 8 years after Top Two was implemented.

The Top Two system is here to stay. Our lawsuit was rejected. The legislature will not touch it. Running a counter initiative is incredibly far-fetched – we would have to convince a majority of Washington voters that they do not have a right to vote in each and every election. That simply is not going to happen. So we have to learn to survive and even thrive in this environment.

One interesting effect of the Top Two system is that all political parties have completely lost control of their branding. A candidate can choose to say “Prefers Independent”. A candidate can make up a party and say “Prefers All Night Party”. A candidate can say “Prefers Republican” even if he has never been to a Republican function. This is another reason why our language needed to change. What if there is a “Libertarian Party” candidate (i.e. he has signed the Pledge and paid \$25) who we nominate and who then goes on the ballot as “Prefers Republican”? Are we supposed to then withdraw his nomination? Why? What if he really IS a Libertarian but he wants to say “Prefers Republican” because it makes political sense?

In the Top Two world, there are virtually no differences between partisan races and non-partisan races. In both cases, the November election is a run-off between exactly two candidates. In both cases, political parties have no choices about which candidates are on the ballot and are using their names. So in my

language changes, I explicitly removed the differences and all we are left with is “endorsing” candidates for any public office. Because, in reality, that is all any political party can do.

In the long run, I would LOVE for candidates to proudly state that they “Prefer Libertarian”. I would LOVE for such candidates to get to the November election, and to win. But right now, in 2013 and 2014, that is not happening.

Ron Paul Republicans

One of the opportunities we have (but can easily screw up and lose) is to work with Ron Paul Republicans (Republican Liberty Caucus, etc.) to further mutual goals. One of the first aspects of working with them is to respect their desire to work within the Republican Party. Yes, that is not our path. But we need to honor their choice. I want us to be able to endorse (with caveats to be discussed later) RLC candidates even though they are not members of the LP, when such an endorsement makes sense politically. I want to be able to help them with resources when they have a good candidate and I would expect them to help us when we have a good candidate.

As a side note – of course, we could in theory have this same type of relationship with a liberty caucus in the Democratic Party. However, such an organization does not really exist, and so I have concentrated on organizations that do exist.

Fiscally Responsible and Socially Accepting

That phrase was a key message of the Gary Johnson campaign in 2012, and he used it to describe libertarians in very broad terms – broad enough to include a significant percentage of Americans. In terms of finding candidates, it seems that it could describe a lot of Republicans and Democrats who are interesting in moving somewhat toward a more liberty-oriented society, but who have not gone so far toward libertarian thought as to even be able to see the interminable miniarchist/anarchist debates. We are talking about candidates who would like to legalize pot but not meth, or who want to remove corporate welfare programs but not family welfare programs, or who want legal food carts and trucks but want health department regulations on them, or wants more immigration but not completely open borders. In short, these are candidates who win office and who we can work with on specific pieces of legislation. Does it make sense to be unable to endorse these candidates because they are not Libertarians, per se, even if they can advance the cause of a freer society?

Caveats

OK – this is where it gets really sticky. How do we decide what candidates to endorse and how to couch the endorsement? How do we come up with a process that is transparent and nuanced?

I think (and this is a STRONG suggestion from my wife, Kyra Sands, and I highly respect her strong suggestions) that we need to come up with some sort of minimal checklist of agreement with libertarian principles and have clear statements of where any candidate under discussion for endorsement differs from party positions. These should be listed openly. I think perhaps we should develop a simple questionnaire – as many groups do. Something like the Nolan chart quizzes, but with specific issues.

And, because I believe in dragging the closet door open, there is one issue on which this is likely to be very visibly a point of contention. And the issue is... abortion. How do we approach candidates who are mostly pro-liberty but who are anti-choice?

Kyra’s opinion is that any official LP endorsement of an anti-choice candidate must include a disclaimer and not be a blanket endorsement. I think that is wise. It does not keep us from making such an endorsement, but it clearly states where there are going to be disagreements.

Can we screw this up? Indeed we can. Are there opportunities for diluting our message? Yep. Will we sometimes get co-opted? Probably.

But the alternative is irrelevance.

Conclusions

This is something we needed to do. Yes, we were pushed into this by the Top Two system in this state – and I am not exaggerating when I say that a real alternative is the death of the LP in WA state. Honestly, though, it is a change that Libertarian parties in other states should consider. I ran for office in 1980 and 1982 in California. We had major party status and tried to get at least “paper” candidates in many races. Some of us spent almost no money (I think I spent \$400 running for state assembly) but went to candidate forums and TV debates and got some exposure. Got on the November ballot, all my friends got to vote for me, I got a percent or two. That was great for a party that was less than 10 years old. But the party is now 40 years old. We absolutely need to step up our game.

Number of Libertarians	4082
Method of Membership Determination	National membership
Voters can register as Libertarian	No
Ballot Access Status	1,000 signatures
Number of Candidates in 2012	None, top two primary

	state
Estimated Budget	24 monthly pledges

Wyoming

Dennis Brossman, State Chair

No response as yet.

Number of Libertarians	1,300
Method of Membership Determination	Registered voters
Voters can register as Libertarian	Yes (linked to ballot access)
Ballot Access Status	2% of statewide race
Number of Candidates in 2012	6
Estimated Budget	\$100 / month

Libertarian National Committee

Special Report

May 16, 2013

Concerning: State of Washington Bylaw Change of 20 April 2013

Submitted by: Norman T Olsen, Region 1 Regional Representative

As Requested By: Geoff Neale, National Chairman

The Facts

1. The Libertarian Party of Washington State (LPWA) is a “state-level affiliate party” of the Libertarian National Committee (LNC).
2. The Bylaws of the LNC include a specific requirement that its affiliated parties shall not “endorse any candidate who is a member of another political party for public office in any partisan election” (Article 6, Section 4).
3. Washington State has never (in recent history, anyway) implemented the affiliation of registered voters with a political party.
4. In 2004(?), Washington State adopted an initiative which implemented the Top Two Primary system wherein only the top two vote getters in the primary election for each elective office would advance to the general election ballot.
5. Primary candidates are essentially self-nominated. Political parties do not nominate candidates. (Political parties may recruit, encourage, and/or assist its members to become candidates, but officially do not nominate such candidates.)
6. Candidates on the primary ballot, as well as the general election ballot, may indicate their “preference” of a political affiliation.
7. Party preference of any candidate is simply that, a preference. Membership is not required nor is membership verified, nor can it be officially verified.
8. It is not only possible, but likely, that two or more candidates will “prefer” the same political party.
9. It is entirely possible that a candidate who is not a member of the LPWA could select “Libertarian” as her/his “preference”.
10. The official, legally recognized, significance of political parties in Washington State is limited to relatively superficial functions such as filling vacancies in public offices.
11. The probability that a self-nominated candidate who is a member of the LPWA State will advance to the general election ballot for any office is, currently, rather low; perhaps miniscule is more accurate.
12. At convention on 20 April 2013, the membership of the LPWA removed language from the LPWA bylaws which precluded the LPWA from endorsing a candidate of another party.

13. In addition to the language referred to in item 12 above, the LPWA's action on 20 April 2013 also removed language which made reference to a "Libertarian Primary" which, of course, is no longer applicable to the electoral process in Washington State.
14. The LPWA has not at any time endorsed any candidate other than a candidate nominated by the LPWA.

Analysis

What is the Issue?

Given factual item numbered 14 above, the actions of the LPWA on 20 April 2013 do not represent a breach of the Libertarian National Committee bylaws. The LPWA has indeed removed language in their own bylaws which precluded the endorsement of a "member of another political party". However, no such action has taken place.

Therefore, the only issue of concern becomes two separate and distinct questions:

1. Should the LPWA, in future, chose to endorse a general election ballot candidate who is not a member of the LPWA, would that represent a breach of the LNC bylaws (Article 6, section 4)?
2. Should the LPWA, in future, chose to endorse a primary ballot candidate who is not a member of the LPWA, would that present a breach of the LNC bylaws (Article 6, section 4)?

Both of these issues can be evaluated from a strictly technical viewpoint, or from a pragmatic viewpoint.

Analysis – Technical Viewpoint

Given the nature of the electoral process in Washington State as it currently exists, it is difficult to consider either the primary or general elections as "partisan elections". Further, since: a) there is no official nomination of candidates by a political party, and b) there is no official means by which the membership of a political party can reliably be determined, and c) a candidate can specify his/her preference as any political party (or a term which does not even indicate a political party); it is impractical to suggest that any candidate on the ballot is of "another political party."

Thus, using a strict interpretation of the language of the LNC bylaws as they currently exist, this reporter suggests that the LPWA may endorse any candidate who appears on either the primary or general election ballot without violating the bylaws of the LNC.

Analysis – Pragmatic Viewpoint

Applying a pragmatic view of the language of the LNC bylaws suggests that the purpose of Section 4 of Article 6 is to prevent affiliates of the Libertarian National Committee (at the state and lower levels) from becoming rubber stamps for one of the other major parties as has happened to other minor parties, especially in (but not limited to) states where fusion voting is permitted. Thus, it is entirely appropriate for the LNC to preclude an affiliate from endorsing "any candidate who is a member of another political party for public office in any partisan election."

Since the LPWA affiliate is equally empowered as other political parties to recruit, encourage, and assist its members in obtaining access to the primary ballot, this reporter suggests that should the LPWA chose to endorse a candidate other than one of its members in the primary election, it could be “pragmatically” considered in violation of Section 4, Article 6 of the LNC bylaws.

Pragmatic consideration of the general election, however, suggests that (for the time being) Libertarians are essentially legally excluded. Pragmatically, only Republicans and Democrats need apply. Since the general election attracts the majority of electorate attention (even in the “Top Two” environment) precluding the LPWA from endorsing a candidate could easily lead to the LPWA losing its viability and/or significance in the minds of the Washington electorate. Being able to endorse one or the other candidates in the “Top Two” general election is essential to maintaining the viability and significance of the LPWA affiliate thus affording it the opportunity to become competitive with the major political parties in Washington.

Although unlikely, it must be recognized that it is indeed possible that a candidate who is not a member of the LPWA choose as her/his preference the term “Libertarian”. This could legally happen in either the primary or general election. In both cases (primary or general election) the LPWA must retain the ability to endorse another candidate as the most forceful means of disassociating itself from such candidate if it chose to do so.

Recommendation

It is recommended by this reporter that the LPWA be officially advised that its endorsement of a candidate who is not a member of the LPWA will not be considered a violation of Section 4 Article 6 of the Libertarian National Committee bylaws provided that:

- 1> The endorsement is for the general election in which a member of the LPWA is not one of the two candidates on the ballot.
- 2> The endorsement is for either a primary or general election candidate where a candidate who is not a member of the LPWA has chosen to use the term “Libertarian” (or a similar variation) as their “preference.”

Respectfully submitted on 16 May 2013,

Norman T. Olsen
Regional Representative, Region 1
Libertarian National Committee

Robert Kraus

From: Vicki Kirkland [vickilp12@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 04, 2013 8:25 AM
To: Robert Kraus
Subject: Fwd: Libertarian National Committee Region 2 Report July, 2013
Attachments: LNC Region 2 Report July 2013.wps

Libertarian National Committee Region 2 Report July, 2013
Vicki Kirkland, Regional Representative for Region 2
Composed of Tennessee, Georgia and Florida

TENNESSEE (As reported by Chair, Jim Tomasik)

I am rather pleased to report the following changes that have occurred since the 2013 LPTN Convention that took place on March 9th.

We have more than doubled our list of affiliated county chairs from 11 to 23.

We are revamping our website to be more useful to the county chairs after recently changing over to a Word Press format.

LPTN now offers our "Liberty Package". The Liberty package is responsible for the approximate doubling of our sustainable contributions. The Liberty Package is also designed to help build more national members in the state of Tennessee.

I have assembled a new convention committee for the 2014 Convention. It promises to have drastic improvements from anything we have had in the past.

We are still struggling with a less than successful communication system and trying new things.

GEORGIA

The LPGA State Convention was held the first weekend in April. Rupert Boneham was the Banquet speaker. Doug Harmon was elected to continue serving as Chair, and Doug Craig was elected to continue serving as Vice Chair. Executive Director Brett Bittner who also serves as Chair of the LSLA put on a great LSLA conference in Denver the weekend of May 17-19. I attended the conference and had a wonderful time.

FLORIDA

The LPF had their State Convention Memorial Day weekend in Naples, FL.

Dana Moxley Cummings was elected Chair, and 2010 U. S. Senate candidate Alex Snitker was elected Vice Chair. Three people are considering a run for Congress in 2014, and several more are planning a run for State House.

Florida hopes to have quite a few candidates next year. Adrian Wyllie and John Wayne Smith have both filed to run for Governor so there may be a primary for this position. Libertarian registration has increased dramatically.

Region 5 North Report

This is the most geographically compact region, but each state has different politics, especially in odd years. We are currently searching for a new Alternate Rep.

The affiliates face their own challenges and opportunities. Rebuilding and some leadership transitions from the general election are still being worked out.

Lots of opportunities to grow the LP and expand our reach, but can affiliates take advantage of them? We have to do our own strategic planning for where we put resources.

Tragedy once again put the region into the national news. The bombing at the finish line of the Boston Marathon and the ensuing police action to apprehend the suspects was a major story. The actions surrounding the events have raised conversations about police state tactics and surveillance. It also raised the debate about our immigration and naturalization policy, due process and even posse comitatus (military units assisted in house to house searches).

New Jersey has state-level elections; the chair and I have talked about getting campaigns and fund-raising organized, which will continue in earnest. Perhaps we can coordinate activity with nearby Virginia. Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont have local elections, mostly non-partisan.

We do have new and returning office holders in New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Goals for 2013 include more coordination and communication between the seven affiliates. We have talked about a regional conference with panels and workshops. Carla Howell will be running a *Who's Driving* game at the end of July.

Next major event is the *Freedom & Unity Festival*, August 16-18 in Northfield, VT. Great lineup of workshops and speakers like Joel Salatin of Polyface Farm, Adam Kokesh, and Michael Boldin of the Tenth Amendment Center. Music by Jordan Page.



Connecticut

www.LPCT.org



Campaigns

Bill Russell collected enough signatures to be placed on the ballot for Mayor of Norwich. We have formed the Libertarian Norwich Town Committee after meeting on May 16th. Anyone looking to run for City Council was asked to attend.

Outreach

Our Facebook group has become a busy hub of activity, with member conversations and updates from party officers occurring almost daily. It has become our main online presence.

There is a strong effort underway to form a college Libertarians group at UConn.

Plan for The Future, and Convention

Find or recruit and nominate a candidate for governor no later than mid 2013. That race, with 1% of the vote, will permanently solve the problem of ballot access.

Find and recruit candidates to run at the top of the ticket in municipal 2013 races in the following cities: Hartford, Stamford, Norwalk, Danbury, Norwich, New London, New Haven.

Recruit, very specifically, treasurers for campaigns. Begin on a volunteer basis. Eventually, if need be, the LPCT should consider hiring someone as it becomes impractical.

The LPCT annual convention will be on October 19th at Cabela's in East Hartford.

Maine

www.LPME.org



Current Activity

Organizing the "LP Maine Political Method". This is the creation of a new method that is politically neutral to form alliances with Tea Party, Ron Paul groups, and others. Create effective libertarian action in cooperation with other groups.

We've had a few county organizing meetings. Somerset county is the best organized.

Charles Frohman is calling, looking for help with Our America Initiative.

The LPME facebook page has more than 500 likes.

The Future

Local Elections in the fall, no candidates yet, but we are pursuing several leads.

State convention still in planning stages.

Continue to build organizational structure and concentrate on fundraising.

We are wholly inadequate for fundraising, it is our number one goal.



General Activity

We continue to hold monthly meetups in the Boston area and beyond. Of all the affiliates in the Region, the LPMA has been the most successful in this area. And it's not just meetings, we've gone to movie premiers, horse racing and other social venues.

LPMA had a presence at Tax Day events and several LPMA members joined the local PANDAA chapter, pushing for state nullification bills, we had a booth at Boston Pride Day.

Our Facebook and Twitter presence has grown, with regular postings. The party's monthly newsletter has been distributed regularly, the only affiliate in the Region to do so.

The events of and after the bombing at the Boston Marathon in April created many opportunities to discuss issues ranging from martial law, warrantless searches, surveillance, due process, and even immigration. There were a range of reactions and opinions, even among Libertarians, some of whom were closely impacted by the events. There was an effort to issue a local press release, but various factors ultimately lead us not to.

Elections

John Kerry becoming Sec of State meant a special election for US Senate. Dan Fishman started a campaign due to the huge ballot access obstacles later suspended his campaign.

In better news, two Libertarians, Mary-Anne Wolf and Arthur Torrey, were re-elected to the Billerica town meeting. Robert Walsh is running for City Councilor At-Large in Lynn.

2013 and The Future

Chairman Blau has done an organizational restructuring to provide focus for our activists and get them more involved. This is going very well, and we now have 12 volunteers ready to work full-time on party business, including a brand new and enthusiastic volunteer coordinator. Now we need to ensure that everyone has enough work to keep them interested.

Our state convention will be in October, mostly likely near Worcester.

Recruiting candidates for 2014 is in process. No particular names at this time.

Reach out to elected officials regarding new legislation.

Develop local party chapters. Build camaraderie. Expand our activist base.

Develop an option to accept Bitcoin donations.

Major Opportunities: Party growth. There is a great deal of Libertarian enthusiasm in Massachusetts and we've been getting a lot of interest from activists. We would rate the interest and activity level of local Libertarians as very high. We just need to capitalize on it.

Major Challenges: Marketing our message. We need to be more effective at spreading the word and letting people know they have a viable alternative to the two-party duopoly.



Losses

We lost two members to fast-acting cancer this spring, Denise Brown and Hardy Macia. Both moved to NH as part of the Free State Project and were active volunteers.

Social Networking and Media

Our social media continues to grow, with 80 new Facebook fans and 200 new Twitter followers so far in 2013. Our website backlog has grown, we need a new webmaster to take on several pending digital projects. We've been using newly redone outreach materials.

General Activity

We held the 2nd *Seacoast Annual Freedom Expo* and our state convention on April 27th in Seabrook. The Expo featured several speakers on a range of liberty topics. The event had to be moved due to a fire and that caused low attendance. Overall a successful event, but no one was interested in becoming Treasurer or Membership Director. We're planning a special convention to complete board elections and deal with party bylaws changes.

Afterward, a lively discussion outside lasted for several hours on new outreach and events, media attention and training. There is a very real sense of action among the new members that helps balance the burnout of the rest of us.

We've had good contact with the new YAL chapter, and will be working with them on upcoming projects and creating internships.

The major event of summer was the FSP's annual *PorcFest*. I was unable to round up a full complement of volunteers and was too busy preparing for the writers workshop I ran at the event, so the LPNH did not have an official presence. The ROI for FSP events has been steadily declining anyway. Mary Ruwart and Gary Johnson were speakers. Gary's speech was well received, even if he did get some boos. He dealt with it with humor. We held a memorial service for Hardy Macia at which Gary and several Libertarians spoke.

Campaigns, Elections, Legislation

The Mercatus Center's 50 States ranking put NH at #4, a slight drop from #2.

City elections in November. Recruiting as many candidates as we can.

There is already interest in 2014. I've recruited a few candidates and am working on fundraising. The GOP and Dems are worried about us. We expect it to be an interesting year.

Thanks to some great libertarian lobbying, NH will soon legalize medical marijuana!

The Rest of 2013

Our main challenge is dealing with widespread burnout and lack of interest. The to-do list is pages long, and no one is jumping up to do any of it. We have a lot in the pipeline for 2014, but 2013 is looking like a year we take a breather. Hopefully our next convention will put more pieces in place to facilitate more organized activity.



Membership

New Jersey has a separate state membership. Our numbers are up, and continues the momentum from the election. We are now at a 6-year high!

The number of registered Libertarians continues to climb. We've seen a 13.9% growth since the 2012 General Election! We are 70% larger than the Green Party. In the past six months the D's and R's both dropped in size, 0.46% and 1.3% respectively.

Activity and News

Robert Steiner, a founding member of the NJLP, died on January 4 at a nursing home in Concord, CA at the age of 78. Bob was the first chairman of the NJLP, and our candidate for Congress in the 12th district in 1974.

The website has regular updates on local, state and national news, including important issues like police misconduct, protection of liberties, letters to the editor and lots of videos. It's the most current of all the affiliates in the Region. A regular state newsletter is also published.

We are resurrecting an old show we used to run on Cable Access channels. *Third Point of View – Next Generation* will be a different format, the shows will be much shorter and geared for YouTube viewing.

NJ may have contradictory statutes concerning marijuana, there is an effort to nullify the criminal statute given the finding by NJ legislature that marijuana has medicinal benefits.

The Future and State Elections

NJ has state-level elections this year. We have started to organize campaign activity and fundraising. As of June 5th our candidates have completed petitioning and are on the ballot!

- Ken Kaplan of Parsippany for NJ Governor
- Don DeZarn of East Windsor for State Senate (14th District)
- Sean O'Connor of East Windsor for State Assembly (14th District)
- Steve Uccio of East Windsor for State Assembly (14th District)
- Patrick McKnight of Hillsborough for State Assembly (16th District)

Kaplan is a long time libertarian and president of KenKap Realty Corp. A graduate of Brandeis University and NYU School of Law, and past president of the Livingston Lions Club.

Don DeZarn was arrested on May 18th at Independence Hall for the *Smokedown Prohibition V* event, sponsored by Philly NORML. The police were peaceful at the four previous events, but they decided to initiate violence this time for unknown reasons. They focused on the speakers and organizers. Don was charged and released.

Obtaining major party status will be a real challenge (10% of all the votes cast for the statehouse seats), but we expect no problem maintaining our minor party status.

Party chair Jay Edgar is hosting a general members meeting and Liberty Picnic on July 13. A Libertarian Trivia game is in the planning, plus late night movie screening.

Rhode Island

www.LPRI.us



The Rhode Island affiliate hit a rough patch in late spring/early summer. The state convention was barely attended. There was some talk of folding up, but a core group is committed to seeing the party continue and succeed. The necessary organizational paperwork for 2013 has been filed with the Secretary of State.

LP Rhode Island now has a twitter feed @LPofRI. The website was recently updated.

Party leaders will be focusing on social activities to bring the membership together and build their team. Official plans for the next state convention will be released shortly. The call has already gone out for people to consider running for office in 2014.

As scheduling permits I'll make a visit to the Ocean State to help with their efforts.

Some good news, Tony Jones was appointed to the Cove Management Advisory Commission of East Greenwich for a 3-year term starting July 1st. Beth Richardson currently serves on the Wastewater Commission in Charlestown.

Vermont

www.VTLP.org



The VTLP has been keeping busy with regular meetings and website updates. Within the Region, their website is the second most current with news, blogs and events.

VTLP participated in the *Global Marijuana March* that came through Burlington on May 4. Networking with Vermont liberty groups of various stripes, building a coalition to create more activity and support for our ideas.

In June, a memorial was held for Hardy Macia, our gubernatorial candidate in 2004 and former VTLP chair. He also served for several years as chair of the Selectboard of Grand Isle. Several personal remembrances were posted on our website.

On June 17 we issued a press release calling the recently revealed NSA surveillance unconstitutional. Some Americans at this point might be in favor of the data mining program of the NSA, regardless of its legality, but the constitution protects the minority from having their unalienable rights abridged by the majority. The Libertarian position is that this is clearly unconstitutional under the fourth and sixth amendments in the Bill of Rights.

Members are working on a legislative review system to facilitate activism at statehouse.

We are looking forward to the *Freedom & Unity Festival*, August 16-18, in Northfield at the Woods Campground. Libertarians from everywhere are invited.

REGION 5S REPORT

Submitted to: Libertarian National Committee, July 8, 2013

Submitted by: James W. Lark, III
Region 5S Representative, Libertarian National Committee

This report will provide information concerning activities of the Libertarian Party state affiliates in Region 5S since the LNC meeting on Mar. 16-17, 2013. I shall provide an updated report at the LNC meeting in Las Vegas should additional information become available.

I am pleased to report that I have been able to represent the LP in various ways since the previous LNC meeting. For example, I continue to serve as a frequent guest on a two-hour political talk show that airs on weekdays on WINA radio (1070 AM in Charlottesville, Virginia).

Allow me to express my appreciation to Region 5S alternate representative Scott Spencer for his fine work on behalf of the region. I was unable to attend the Libertarian Party of Delaware convention (May 19), the Libertarian Party of North Carolina convention (June 8), or the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania convention (also June 8) due to scheduling conflicts. Mr. Spencer attended both the Delaware and Pennsylvania conventions; I have been informed that convention attendees greatly appreciated his participation in these events.

Delaware

Scott Gesty (gesty4congress@aol.com), chair of the Libertarian Party of Delaware, provided the following report:

- The LPD website has been updated to include donation features that include one time and subscription donations. This has resulted in over \$1K revenue per year that wasn't there a month ago.
- I have begun my own personal outreach campaign. The goal is to contact every registered active Libertarian in the state via snail mail in one year. I'm currently at 12% in less than 3 weeks in.

We have also had a major player in the Delaware School system blogosphere convert to the LPD. <http://kilroysdelaware.wordpress.com/> will give us mega exposure with state employed teachers and everyone that pays attention to public schools in Delaware.

District of Columbia

Ryan Sabot (ryan.sabot@dclibertarians.org), chair of the Libertarian Party of the District of Columbia, provided the following report:

This summer, the party has been trying to work with the DC Office of Campaign Finance (OCF) to resolve issues surrounding previous bank accounts run by former members of the party who are no longer active in its organization. The DC OCF is threatening the party with fines if we cannot get everything resolved, and we are having a lot of trouble getting things resolved. This issue will hopefully end soon, but if not, it will end up taking most of the summer to resolve and straighten out. This fall there is no election in DC so we will be rather dormant; the next big elections in DC will be in November 2014; we plan on running a full slate of candidates for that election.

Maryland

Bob Johnston (bob.johnston@live.com), chair of the Libertarian Party of Maryland, provided the following report:

The amount of registered voters for the Maryland Libertarian Party have accrued from 8,165 in May, 2010 to 11,909 as of last month, an increase of 45% over the last 3 years.

Further, over the last year, we are adding over 5 new registered voters per day.

Former MDLP candidate and LNC at-large member Arvin Vohra will be hosting the annual MDLP summer picnic at his house in Bethesda, MD on Saturday, July 27.

The MDLP held its annual spring convention on Saturday, April 6 at Squires Italian Restaurant in Dundalk, MD. Jim Lark was the featured speaker.

Bob Johnston
Chairman, MDLP

North Carolina

J.J. Summerell (jjsummerell@worksitesinsight.net), chair of the Libertarian Party of North Carolina, provided the following report:

The LPNC Convention was held June 7 to 9 in Flatrock, NC. Guests included Michael Cloud, Carla Howell and Evan McMahon. Focus was on the first two steps in implementing our 2020 plan, fundraising and candidate development. I was re-elected as Chair and we had 5 new members join the Executive Committee: Barbara Howell, Britton Correll, Ginny Godfrey, Kevin Innes, Brian Irving and Bjorn Pederson. We look forward to working with both of them. We have vacancies in Membership Secretary, Communications Director, Treasurer and Outreach Director. Our next EC meeting is 6/29 and we expect to fill three of these at that time. 2014 Convention will be in eastern NC, probably Wilmington or Kitty Hawk.

The NC Legislature is winding down and there is still a school voucher bill under consideration. We have worked with the Senate Pro Tem's office to help promote.

Under direct attack is the public political funding mechanism. It will probably be discontinued. Politically and philosophically, that is good. Financially it is bad. We had income of \$100K+ over the last few years. We will turn this loss into impetus for a fundraiser.

Our Political Director, Erik Raudsep, is starting a PAC to support Libertarian candidates.

NC now has over 21,000 registered Libertarians!

A new CRM/CMS system is under consideration with Libertas and Nationbuilder as potential providers.

We have had three high schools recently express an interest in student groups: Williams High in Burlington, South Caldwell County High and Saint Mary's School in Raleigh.

Interesting slides on Wake County (Raleigh) membership. NC should mirror this growth.

Two of our new EC members are undergrads. Note age slides, above.

We are targeting Buncombe County (Asheville) for the 2013 elections. A heavily Democratic City Council with 5 seats up in '13. The city is involved in an ugly lawsuit with state government over ownership of utilities. Republicans have vowed to run no candidates. Gary Shoemaker has offered to serve as campaign manager for interested candidates.

I think that covers the bases...

Pennsylvania

Steve Sheetz (cz85b@cz85b.com), chair of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania, provided the following report:

We finally had our convention! It was put together in accordance with our bylaws, and despite some snarking from the sidelines, everyone who was elected to the executive committee will be able to function well together, and my opposition and I were able to come together to start working on what needs to be done! I would like to thank Roy Minet for his grace and style in that! I am thrilled at the formation of new committees! The first one, Lawrence County, a guy was asking about a committee, and I half-jokingly said: "Congratulations Mr. Chair!!" Well, with Libertarian Style, he went to work and began forming his own committee! (Oh there are many of us who will do whatever we can to help him out in this endeavor!) In an adjacent county, Crawford, a new county committee just sent in its paperwork. The last committee was having to do with two counties coming together. Snyder and Northumberland. They will now be the Susquehanna Valley Libertarian Party Committee. It was mentioned that they will bring enough new members to have a board vote, possibly before our meeting in August!

Just this past Saturday, at the July 6th board meeting, the website was discussed. The webmaster in charge of revamping started the project in January, and everyone in attendance expressed

concerns about the fact that he has not finished with his work.. He accepted a \$1000 deposit, with another thousand expected on delivery. It was decided that we would give him a hard deadline. He can finish the project and get paid, he can give us what he has and keep the \$1000 or he can give us our money back and we start from scratch.... The website content discussion was punted to the August meeting given that the original update process needed to be addressed first. We created a Technology Oversight Committee. While many of us are tech savvy, the idea was created to create a group whose purpose was to make sure that technology is working for us... This committee will make suggestions, they will help counties with websites, there will be a member of the committee at board meetings to ensure the live stream is streaming, and since many of us are fed up with driving hours to get to a board meeting, we will begin working with meeting remotely by having a group meeting in the west a group meeting in the east, and we will be able to interact via GoTo Meeting or something like it (one of the first suggestions of the newly formed committee.) The TOC will be there to ensure that everything is working.

Our membership committee is now chaired by Marc Connuck, and there will be some work converting the membership database to something more accessible. The database issue was discussed informally with Bruce Sarte of Berks County, Chairman of the TOC for recommendations on how to make the idea of accessibility a reality.

I intend to also form a county chair's list similar to the state chair's list, only in our case, my goal is to enable newly formed committees to ask questions and receive answers from the more established counties, and also for local counties to share ideas and activities...

Ken Krawchuk intends to run for Governor in 2014 (he told me months ago, but he told me that he is forming his lists and committees etc.. Tuesday Night at the Montco Meeting.

I would be absolutely remiss if I did not mention the Herculean efforts put forth by Montgomery County's own James Babb who did so much to put together a really wonderful convention in such a short amount of time. Barry Dively of Dauphin County, our Finance Committee Chair, AND one of the managers of the Harrisburg Hilton did a lot of work in making sure that we had everything we needed.

Jim Bovard, Ben Stone, Larken Rose, and Carla Howell joined us at the convention, and all four of these speakers went out of their way to make sure that we had a great time! Our event would have not been anywhere close to being a success without them!

Virginia

Chuck Moulton (chuck@moulton.org) serves as chair of the Libertarian Party of Virginia. He did not submit a report.

West Virginia

Michael Wilson (michael.wilson@lpwv.org), chair of the Libertarian Party of West Virginia, provided the following report:

Major points:

- August 24 – LPWV Annual Meeting in Beckley (details to be announced);
- Multiple Bids for the 2014 US Senate Seat (vacated by J. Rockefeller);
- David Moran is willing to run for Governor again in 2016 (to hold Major Party Status);
- Many new technologies in development for candidates named "Click-2-Campaign" (more info available in Fall);
- Formation of Student Libertarian Groups at Marshall U., West Virginia University, and Concord University;
- Membership is increasing monthly (only 1-2 members per month); and,
- We are starting the "Torch of Liberty" award to all gubernatorial candidates that gain or maintain our ballot access standing.

Mike

REGION 6 REPORT

July 14, 2013

Illinois: (Dianna Visek)

The LP-Illinois is getting stronger. We have appointed a political director, a field operations director, a campus director, a membership director, a PR director, a social media director and a newsletter editor. We also have appointed four of our 18 regional directors, who cover individual congressional districts. Our membership is gradually growing. By the end of July we will have ten chapters that cover 34 counties, which is one third of Illinois. Our website is going through an overhaul and is going to be state of the art. We will have a booth at Freedom Fest 2013 at the Keller Convention Center in Effingham. We have begun recruiting candidates for the November 2014 election.

The LP-Illinois will hold its annual convention from Friday evening Sept. 20 through early afternoon Sunday Sept. 22 at the Holiday Inn in Bolingbrook. This year's theme is "The Roots of Liberty." We will have libertarian karaoke on Friday night, speakers and a fund-raising banquet on Saturday and our business meeting and brunch speaker on Sunday. Our speaker line-up is as follow:

Mary Ruwart, "Why Liberty Is the Only Solution to the Health Care Crisis"

Dianna Visek, "Dealing with Drones"

Radley Balko, "Police-State America"

Robert Murphy, "Teaching Keynesians Real Economics"

Thomas Hill and R. Lee Wrights, "Nullification!"

Tom Woods, "Radical and Effective Libertarian Politics"

Steve Horwitz, "Engaging Progressives with Libertarian Solutions"

In addition we will have a debate: "Resolved, non-intervention is the most effective and moral policy for the defense of America" with Ken Prazak, Lee Wrights, Bruno Behrend, and David Applegate.

With regards to our ballot access lawsuit, Gary Sinawski says,

"Our lawsuit against the Illinois State Board of Elections no longer includes a challenge to the filing deadline because the court, in deciding the ILSBE's motion to dismiss the case, "concluded" (the court's word) that the filing deadline was not unconstitutional. The only issue that remains open in the case is the constitutionality of the "full-slate" requirement. That issue will be fully briefed and ready for the court to decide in mid-July of this year.

"In my opinion we can re-litigate the filing deadline issue if the LP's 2016 presidential candidate, or a stand-in candidate, is a plaintiff in the new lawsuit. Courts

scrutinize ballot access restrictions more closely when they are applied to presidential candidates because presidential contests have national implications that don't apply in non-presidential races."

Iowa: (Keith Laube)

The LP-Iowa held its annual convention on March 30. Keith Laube was elected chair. We have 3 brand new state officers (secretary, membership and campaigns/elections) that are in their 20's and 30's, energetic and tech savvy. This provides us a good mix of ages serving as state officers and has provided a spark of energy to the state party. We have a new state chair and retained the expertise of the former chair on the state board.

We have 2,460 registered Libertarians and 157 dues-paying "voting" members. We see an increase in people in their 20's and early 30's open to being a libertarian. We saw about a 17% increase in paid members in 2012 and a 44% increase in registered libertarians (most of these new registered voters are 20 to 35 years old).

Our local elections (school board, city council, and county) will be in the fall of 2013. Deadlines vary from Aug 1st to Sept 19th. A minimal amount of signatures is needed, not a difficult feat. We anticipate no ballot access problems for 2013. We will have at least three candidates in the fall 2013 elections. (Nick Taiber will run for re-election to Cedar Falls City Council). We currently have 15 members contemplating running in 2014 but none have officially committed yet.

We need to get 2% of the vote for governor in 2014 to obtain "political party" status. We are trying to increase registered libertarian voters and members so we have a base of several thousand voters that we can reach out to. We need to get about 20,000 to 25,000 votes for governor to obtain 2% of the vote.

Although we have an active facebook page, our biggest problem at the moment is getting some events planned for members and potential libertarians to attend. If the LNC or LP helped plan an event with a well-known speaker like Gary Johnson that would be great. We lack attendance and outreach at libertarian idea-based events that are put on by others. Media coverage is almost non-existent. Awareness of events and coordination is what we need to have.

One trend we notice is that there are voters in Iowa who are looking for better political options. We are trying to get as much momentum and traction as a party as we can before 2014. We have put together a good draft of a candidate handbook to help and guide candidates. We are discussing some killer issues for 2014 with the plan to

research the issue and have information ready for 2014 candidates to use. Our goals for the next 2 years include:

- 1) Increase communications with registered libertarian voters
- 2) Increase all categories of membership by 50%
- 3) Have at least 25 libertarian candidates on the ballot in 2014.

Missouri: no response

Minnesota: no response

Nebraska: no response

North Dakota: no response

South Dakota: no response

Wisconsin: no response

Region 7 Report.

Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas.

July 14, 2013.

By Gary Johnson and Paulie Frankel.

Alabama.

The Libertarian Party of Alabama held its next state convention on Saturday, June 8. Leigh LaChine was elected state chair. Geoffrey Neale spoke.

As part of Operation Politically Homeless, the party held a blood drive for blood donations on July 1.

Congressman Jo Bonner resigned in May. There is uncertainty about the petitioning requirements for minor party candidates for the special election.

<http://www.lpalabama.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/lpalabama>

Louisiana.

Scott A. Lewis, III, is the new state chair of the Libertarian Party of Louisiana.

The party hosted information booths at the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival in April and the Bayou Boogaloo in May.

The party achieved its goal of increasing the number of registered Libertarians to over 8,000. Executive committees are being organized in parishes.

<http://louisianalibertarian.net>

<https://www.facebook.com/LibertarianPartyOfLouisiana>

Mississippi.

The Libertarian Party of Mississippi notes that some local newspapers, such as the Delta Democrat Times of Greenville, print Facebook and Twitter comments from readers and encourages members to post.

<http://mslp.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Libertarian-Party-of-Mississippi/185325954837176>

Oklahoma.

The party does not have ballot access. Local parties meet regularly.

<http://www.oklp.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/OklahomaLP>

Texas.

The Libertarian Party of Texas state executive committee voted at its June 29 meeting to hire Lauren Daugherty as executive director.

The state party will hold four regional conferences in September and October to train candidates, party leaders, and activists on state filing requirements, fundraising, campaigning, and how to run business meetings and candidate nominating conventions.

The state legislature moved the candidate filing deadlines and the date of the state convention to

earlier dates.

The state executive committee voted to pay Libertas Web Services to manage its contact and donation database. <http://www.golibertas.com>

<http://www.lptexas.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/LPtexas>

BALLOT ACCESS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Ballot Access Committee has been discussing how to organize information related to ballot access, and we anticipate setting up a wiki. Alicia Dearn has offered to take the lead in structuring it. We are exploring ways of getting law students or others to fill in the information.

We are also discussing how ballot access in Illinois and Oklahoma might be improved and how we might be able to respond to states experiencing ballot access emergencies. Since all of our ideas are in the formative stage, we are researching which approaches are doable.

EMPLOYMENT POLICY AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted to: Libertarian National Committee, July 8, 2013

Submitted by: James W. Lark, III
Region 5S Representative, Libertarian National Committee
Chair, Employment Policy and Compensation Committee

The members of the Employment Policy and Compensation Committee (EPCC) are Mark Hinkle, Jim Lark, and Bill Redpath. The members were appointed to the Committee by Geoff Neale on May 9, 2013. Since that date the EPCC has taken the following actions:

- 1) Appointed Jim Lark to serve as chair of the EPCC.
- 2) Provided advice to Mr. Neale concerning proposed contracts between the LNC and Carla Howell and between the LNC and Wes Benedict.
- 3) Established a goal of preparing a revised employee manual, to be delivered to the LNC no later than Dec. 31, 2013.
- 4) Prepared a message for distribution to staff members. The message, which has not been distributed, will inform the staff that the EPCC is available to discuss (on a confidential basis) the working environment or observed violations of the Policy Manual. (The EPCC is specifically charged with the responsibility to be available to the staff for this purpose; we believe staff members should be informed of this responsibility.)

LIBERTARIAN PARTY BALLOT ACCESS ACTION REPORT

Libertarian National Committee meeting

Las Vegas, Nevada

July 14-15, 2013

Dear Colleagues:

If we lived in a nation with just election laws, we wouldn't have to pursue ballot access. Unfortunately, that is not the case. The following memo addresses petitioning opportunities for the LNC in 2013 and 2014.

I want to thank Bob Johnston, LP of Maryland Chair and an Independent Contractor to the LNC, for his work in contacting various state parties and their Chairs, and his preparation of the table that is a part of this report, and Richard Winger for his assistance in updating this report.

We currently have ballot access for our Presidential ticket in 2016 in the following 28 states (plus DC): AK, AZ, CA, CO, DE, FL, GA, ID, IN, KS, LA, MD, MI, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NM, NC, OH, OR, SC, SD, TX, UT, WV & WY. This assumes that all paperwork will be filed on a timely basis.

WI has been deleted from this list because we did not get 1% for President in 2012, even though we got over 2% for US Senate. The LP needs to get 1% for a statewide office in 2014 to have ballot access for President in 2016. This could easily be met by running in 2014 for Secretary of State, Treasurer or Attorney General in WI.

States in which we could be circulating a petition in 2013 are:

AL: We could be doing a party petition (44,828 sigs), and there is a 5,000 sig Independent petition for President that can be done after the 2016 convention.

There is a lawsuit pending regarding party petitions in AL, and we should wait to see the results of this litigation. Lobbying should also be tried. A ballot access reform bill got through the AL Senate last year that would have cut the number of sigs needed for a party petition in half passed the AL Senate.

AR: To get our party status back will take a 10,000 valid sig petition drive, but it has to be completed within a 90 day window of our choosing, and no later than April 5, 2014. The Green Party has a legislator in AR and the LPAR should lobby with the Greens to try to change AR ballot access law. The LNC approved a petition drive for Arkansas, and it will start in mid-to-late August.

HI: The LP lost ballot access in November 2012. 706 valid sig petition completed by February 2014 is needed to regain ballot access. I have been in contact with Tracy Ryan, LPHI Chair, and will endeavor to deliver an update in person at the July 2013 meeting.

NM: As I write this, I have not spoken with the LPNM Chair, but if the LP completed an 6,018 valid sig petition drive for a candidate for statewide office, and that candidate got at least 5% of the vote in November 2014, the LPNM would be entitled to its own primary, and we would no longer have to complete such arduous candidate petitions to run candidates for office in NM (except President, for which very few sigs are needed). There about seven “low level” statewide offices in NM in 2014, and the petition deadline is in late June 2014. We would also need to increase our voter registration percentage to 0.3333333%. We now have about 3,541 voter registrations in NM, and we would need to increase that number by about 625.

ND: The LP party petition is done, and was completed within the amount allotted by the LNC and Wes Benedict’s PAC. About 8,000 total gross sigs were gathered, and 7,000 valid sigs were needed.

States in which we can circulate a petition in 2014 are:

IL: There will be a 25,000 valid sig petition drive from late March to late June 2014 for Governor and other statewide offices. It should be noted that the LNC spent over \$100,000 for paid signatures in 2012 in IL. The 2012 volunteer petition drive produced only about 1,500 gross signatures, according to Lex Green.

ME: The LP of Maine should file a paper claiming that we intend to circulate a party petition, so that people can then register Libertarian. According to Richard Winger, there is no penalty for not successfully completing the petition.

MD: We could be doing a voter registration drive in MD now, but we are currently at about 12,000, and we would need a total of about 35,000. Natural growth is happening at a rate of at least 200 per month. We do have ballot status through 2014, but will need 1% for Governor to retain party status.

NH: Governor and US Senate candidates can get on in 2014 with Independent petitions for 3,000 valid sigs each. If either candidate would receive at least 4% of the vote, the LP would get party status again in NH.

NY: There will be a 15,000 valid sig petition for our statewide candidates (including Governor) in 2014. Our Governor candidate in 2010, Warren Redlich, received 48,386 votes for Governor. Gary Johnson got 47,195 votes for President in New York. 50,000 votes are needed to retain ballot status for the next four years.

PA: We need to do a presidential petition again in 2016. If the LPPA is to have candidates on the ballot in 2014 (the Governor will be elected then), petitioning will have to occur then, too. The number of valid signatures needed on the 2014 petition will be decided by an election in November 2013. There is a ballot access reform bill that is picking up support among Democrats in the state legislature.

I am not asking for further ballot access budget authority for 2013 at this time.

CAMPUS ORGANIZING REPORT

Submitted to: Libertarian National Committee, July 8, 2013

Submitted by: James W. Lark, III
Region 5S Representative, Libertarian National Committee

This report will provide information concerning efforts to build and support Libertarian campus organizations. I shall provide an updated report at the LNC meeting in Las Vegas should additional information become available.

- 1) I continue to respond to inquiries from people who want information about the LP campus outreach effort. I am usually able to respond within 24 hours of receiving an inquiry, although the standard deviation of the response time has increased somewhat during the past year.
- 2) I continue to work with the Advocates for Self-Government to provide material (e.g., "Operation Politically Homeless" kits) to campus organizations. (In the interest of full disclosure, please note that I am the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Advocates.)
- 3) I continue to work with various state and local LP organizations to assist their campus outreach efforts. For example, Lauren Daugherty, the newly appointed executive director of the Libertarian Party of Texas, contacted me yesterday to arrange a discussion by telephone concerning the LPTX campus outreach effort.
- 4) I continue to work closely with Students For Liberty to build libertarian groups at high schools and colleges. (I am a member of the Board of Advisors of SFL.) As part of this effort, members of the SFL board and I have found ways for the LP to use the many services available from SFL. We must be careful in so doing because we do not wish to jeopardize the 501c(3) status of SFL.

In addition, I serve as chair of the Student Libertarian Alumni Committee (SLAC). This organization assists SFL by promoting the organization among libertarians and helping to raise funds for SFL.

I shall address the upcoming SFL campus coordinators retreat later this month. I anticipate that I shall address several SFL regional conferences during the fall. In addition, I have been invited to address a European Students For Liberty conference in Belgrade, Serbia in November. (I was invited to address the ESFL conference in Krakow, Poland, but I shall not be able to do so due to a scheduling conflict.) Incidentally, I have already begun the process of planning our participation in the International Students For Liberty Conference next year.

- 5) I am in the process of entertaining invitations to speak at several colleges and universities during the fall semester. At this time I hope to be able to accept most of the invitations.
- 6) I continue to work with Young Americans for Liberty (YAL) on programs of mutual interest. I shall give an address at the YAL national conference in August.

7) As noted previously, several liberty-oriented organizations (e.g., Cato, Reason Foundation, Institute for Humane Studies, Foundation for Economics Education) work to coordinate their student outreach programs. I participate in meetings of representatives of these organizations when my schedule permits.

8) As I have mentioned previously, I hope LPHQ will routinely authorize the assignment of an intern on a half-time basis to work on campus organizing.