



LNC MINUTES

PHOENIX, AZ

MARCH 28-29, 2015

CURRENT STATUS: **AUTO-APPROVED APRIL 26, 2015**

VERSION LAST UPDATED:

APRIL 14, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Nick Sarwark called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. on Saturday, March 28. (All expressed times are Mountain Standard Time.)

ATTENDANCE

Attending the meeting were:

Officers: Nick Sarwark (Chair), Arvin Vohra (Vice-Chair), Alicia Mattson (Secretary), Tim Hagan (Treasurer)

At-Large Representatives: Sam Goldstein, Gary Johnson, Guy McLendon, Bill Redpath

Regional Representatives: Norm Olsen (Region 1), Vicki Kirkland (Region 2), Marc Feldman (Region 3), Dan Wiener (Region 4), Jim Lark (Region 5), Jay Estrada (Region 7), Rich Tomasso (Region 8)

Regional Alternates: Ed Marsh (Region 2), Scott Lieberman (Region 4), Scott Spencer (Region 5), Sean O'Toole (Region 6), Joshua Katz (Region 8)

Staff: Executive Director Wes Benedict, Operations Director Robert Kraus

Not attending the meeting were: Ron Windeler (Region 1 Alternate), Brett Bittner (Region 3 Alternate), Daniel Hayes (Region 7 Alternate)

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

CREDENTIALS REPORT AND PAPERWORK CHECK

Ms. Mattson noted that, per Bylaws Article 8.6, Rob Oates had automatically vacated his Region 6 Representative seat as of the end of the previous LNC session, due to having missed 2 consecutive regular sessions. Region 6 has not yet notified the Secretary of a replacement, though it is her understanding that they are working on it.

Ms. Mattson reported that At-Large Representative Evan McMahon emailed his resignation from the LNC earlier this morning, due to his continuing health problems.

Dr. Lark moved that the LNC resolve to express our thanks to Mr. McMahon for his service and offer our best wishes for his health. The motion was adopted without objection.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Sarwark modified his agenda proposal as follows before offering it as a motion to the LNC:

The lunch adjournment was set for 12:30 p.m. Saturday since a professional photographer would be onsite then to take headshots for LNC members.

The Audit Committee report was made a special order for 11:30 a.m. Saturday.

A new 10-minute agenda item was added immediately before officer reports to consider a motion to remove an Audit Committee member.

With the above changes to the Chair's proposed agenda, the LNC took up an implied motion to approve the proposed agenda.

Mr. Tomasso moved to add 5 minutes following New Business without Previous Notice to discuss the At-Large vacancy; there was no objection.

Mr. Redpath moved to add to the end of the agenda a discussion to schedule the next LNC session; there was no objection.

Ms. Mattson moved to postpone the Convention Oversight Committee report agenda item until Sunday, immediately before New Business with Previous Notice; there was no objection.

Ms. Mattson moved that we use the three agenda items designated for appointment of the Platform, Credentials, and Bylaws and Rules Committees to nominate the candidates and distribute ballots, but allow LNC members to fill out their ballots overnight and turn them at Sunday's call-to-order. There was no objection to the motion.

Without objection, an executive session was added as the last agenda item on Saturday for the purpose of discussing aspects of the Employment Policy and Compensation Committee report; there was no objection. Mr. Redpath requested to also discuss litigation against the Commission on Presidential Debates in that same executive session; there was no objection.

Without objection, the agenda was adopted as amended, resulting in the following agenda:

Report of Potential Conflicts of Interest (Mattson)	3 minutes
Removal of an Audit Committee Member	10 minutes
Officer Reports	
Chair's Report (Sarwark)	15 minutes
Treasurer's Report (Hagan)	15 minutes
Secretary's Report (Mattson)	15 minutes
Staff Reports	45 minutes
General Counsel Search Committee Report	5 minutes

Reports of Standing Committees

Affiliate Support Committee (McLendon)	10 minutes
Appointment of Awards Committee	5 minutes
Employment Policy & Compensation Committee	5 minutes
IT Committee	10 minutes
Nominations for Convention Committees	30 minutes

Ballot Access Action Report

10 minutes

Regional Reports (Supplements to printed reports)

5 minutes each

Special Committees

Evaluate Logo Redesign Proposals (Vohra)	60 minutes
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Convention Oversight Committee Report

10 minutes

New Business with Previous Notice

Amend Policy Manual to Create a Ballot Access Committee (Olsen)	15 minutes
Purchase Bronze sponsorship of LPEX (Olsen)	10 minutes

New Business without Previous Notice**At-Large Vacancy**

5 minutes

Schedule the Next LNC Session**Special Orders**

Audit Committee (Starr)	11:30 a.m. Saturday
Saturday lunch adjournment	12:30 p.m. Saturday
Executive Session for EPCC Report and CPD Lawsuit	end-of-day Saturday
Ballots Due for Convention Committee Elections	9:00 a.m. Sunday

REPORT OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Ms. Mattson reported that since the previous LNC session, the following two potential conflicts of interest were submitted:

Marc Feldman is a candidate for the Libertarian nomination for President of the United States.

Nick Sarwark is an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee of the State Committee of the Arizona Libertarian Party.

Guy McLendon orally reported that he has resigned as the South Region Director of Our America Initiative.

REMOVAL OF AN AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBER

At Mr. Sarwark's request, Mr. Olsen moved to remove the Chair of the Audit Committee.

Mr. Vohra assumed the gavel to chair this agenda item.

Mr. Sarwark explained the background for the motion. Mr. Starr, in his capacity as Chair of the Audit Committee, had signed an engagement letter with a CPA firm to conduct the audit of the 2014 accounting records. Mr. Sarwark believed that it was necessary for him as LNC Chair to have approved the contract since LNC Policy Manual Section 2.04.03 requires that the LNC Chair approve any contract in excess of \$7,500. Mr.

Sarwark also felt it was a budget overrun, since the sub-level budget worksheet line for Accounting was for \$13,500, which with a policy-allowed 10% overage would authorize up to \$14,850, but the engagement letter was for \$15,000.

Mr. Sarwark indicated that he had recruited Eric Blitz, who is Vice-Chair of the Libertarian Party of Maryland, to fill the Audit Committee vacancy should there be one as a result of this motion.

During debate, Ms. Mattson expressed her belief that the above-referenced LNC policy regarding the chair executing all contracts is overridden in this instance by Bylaws Article 10.2 which specifies that the Audit Committee is appointed "with power to select the independent auditor". (See also RONR, 11th ed. p. 490, lines 23-25 which state, "When a committee is appointed 'with power,' this means with power to take all the steps necessary to carry out its instructions.") Ms. Mattson noted that the price is consistent with historical expenditures, and the LNC is obligated to accommodate their choice.

Without objection, Mr. Starr was allowed to address the LNC. He stated that his signature on the engagement letter was with unanimous consent of the Audit Committee members, and he had also signed the engagement letter during the previous LNC term without complaint from the LNC Chair or staff. He also stated that the LNC's adopted budget in the December 2014 minutes does not include the granular details that make up the budgeted category of Administrative Costs, so the 10% overage rule would only apply to that broader \$274,617 figure.

Following extensive debate, the vote on the main motion was as follows (note that Bylaws Article 10.2 precludes officers from participating in decisions regarding the identity of the Audit Committee members):

Voting "aye": Feldman

Voting "no": Estrada, Goldstein, Johnson, Kirkland, Lark, O'Toole, Olsen, Redpath, Wiener

Abstaining: McLendon, Tomasso

Ineligible to vote: Hagan, Mattson, Sarwark, Vohra

The motion failed with a vote total of 1-9.

Mr. Sarwark resumed chairing the meeting.

OFFICER REPORTS

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Sarwark had submitted a report in writing (see Appendix A), and he supplemented with an oral report. He gave an updated status of the lawsuit with Our America Initiative (OAI) against the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD). OAI fundraising continues for covering the costs of discovery. The brief is being drafted and is expected to be filed in late April. Since the LNC is a co-plaintiff, Mr. Sarwark will review the briefs before filing and will share them with LNC members who wish to see them. Mr. Sarwark clarified that the LNC has not provided financial support for the lawsuit; OAI is funding the effort and the LNC is a plaintiff with standing.

AUDIT ENGAGEMENT LETTER

Mr. Goldstein moved to amend the agenda to take up immediately a motion to approve the engagement letter between the Audit Committee and the auditing CPA firm, and to amend the budget.

During debate, Mr. Sarwark indicated that the auditing firm is concerned that Mr. Sarwark is disputing the validity of the contract. Mr. Sarwark indicated that at this point, there are still no checks that he would direct to be executed based on the engagement letter.

Following debate, the motion to amend the agenda was adopted by a show of hands.

Mr. Goldstein moved that the LNC ratify the engagement letter between the Audit Committee and Gelman Rosenberg & Freedman, executed on March 15, 2015, and to amend the budget as necessary to accommodate the \$15,000 quoted amount.

Ms. Mattson moved to amend the Goldstein motion to strike "ratify" and instead insert "direct staff to honor the engagement letter", so that if adopted the main motion would be to direct staff to honor the engagement letter and to amend the budget as necessary to accommodate the \$15,000 quoted amount.

Following debate, the vote on the Mattson amendment failed by a vote of 4-8 with a show of hands

The vote on the Goldstein main motion was as follows:

Voting "aye": Estrada, Feldman, Goldstein, Johnson, Kirkland, Lark, McLendon, O'Toole, Olsen, Redpath, Sarwark, Tomasso, Vohra, Wiener

Voting "no": (none)

Abstaining: Hagan, Mattson

The motion passed with a vote total of 14-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial statements through February have been presented to the LNC in writing. Mr. Hagan supplemented with oral report. He noted that legal changes made by Congress now allow donors to, in addition to contributing the legal maximum for our general fund, also contribute up to the same amount to a party's building fund or to a presidential nominating convention fund.

Mr. Hagan inquired of the LNC whether there was objection to allowing staff to print fewer binder items for LNC meetings, with the idea that the LNC members would bring our own electronic copies of many materials submitted in advance. With general agreement that this can work and save printing costs, the details of this arrangement will be informally worked out later.

Mr. Redpath inquired why the money in our restricted building fund isn't being used immediately to reduce our mortgage principal. Mr. Kraus indicated that the bank requested that we only make our extra principal payments once or twice a year for their convenience. Following discussion, Mr. Hagan indicated his intent to in the future have staff make these extra principal payments made on a more frequent basis.

In response to inquiry by Mr. Olsen, Mr. Hagan indicated that we received our 2015 bequest payment of \$33,400 in February. The revenues were entirely recognized in 2014, which under our present employment contracts triggered \$19,000 of bonus payouts to our staff members, but no additional bonuses will occur in the future as a result of this bequest.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Ms. Mattson had submitted a report in writing (see Appendix B) and summarized its key points with a brief oral report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH AUDITING CPA FIRM PARTNER

Per the special order on the agenda, at 11:30 a.m. Ms. Mattson moved to enter executive session with Jackie Oneto of the CPA firm Gelman Rosenberg & Freedman (by telephone) for purposes of a discussion of vendor negotiations and personnel matters.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

Voting "aye": Kirkland, Lark, Mattson, Tomasso, Wiener

Voting "no": Feldman, Hagan, Johnson, Olsen, Sarwark, Vohra

Abstaining: Estrada, Goldstein, McLendon, O'Toole, Redpath

The motion failed with a vote total of 5-6.

When Ms. Oneto joined by phone, she indicated that executive session is recommended as a best practice for this conversation.

Mr. Wiener moved to go into executive session without staff but with the members of the Audit Committee and Ms. Oneto for discussions of vendor negotiations and personnel matters.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

Voting "aye": Goldstein, Kirkland, Lark, Mattson, McLendon, Olsen, Tomasso, Wiener

Voting "no": Feldman, Hagan, Johnson, O'Toole, Sarwark, Vohra

Abstaining: Estrada, Redpath

The motion was adopted with a vote total of 8-6.

The LNC entered executive session at 11:35 a.m. and rose from executive session at 12:30 p.m.

Without objection the LNC adjourned for lunch at 12:30 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

STAFF REPORTS

Staff had submitted a written report in advance (see Appendix C). Mr. Benedict supplemented with an oral report.

Mr. Benedict indicated that because membership has been declining recently, a telemarketing company we have used before (DirectLine) has been hired at a cost of \$19,000 to make phone calls for membership renewals. It is expected the effort will not make a profit on the fundraising, but he expects it will bring back a few hundred lapsed members. The company was given a list of 10,000 people to call in the next 4-6 weeks. We have one in-house person who makes renewal calls to people whose sustaining membership lapsed during the prior month; this firm will work with people whose sustaining membership lapsed more than a month ago.

Some of our literature has been recently translated into Spanish and put in graphic formats similar to the English equivalents. Staff is waiting to see if the logo will change before they make any large-scale purchases of literature.

Mr. Benedict fielded various questions from the LNC regarding the state of our finances, benefits of membership, and the staff work load with the recent loss of two staff members.

GENERAL COUNSEL SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Sarwark updated the LNC on the efforts of the General Counsel Search Committee, on behalf of committee chair Bill Hall. The plan is to solicit interest, then allow each committee member to pick a top 3, discuss the options and see if there is consensus. If no consensus develops, we would conduct an expanded search. If there are enough top prospects, they will develop a formal job description, gather proposals from each of the prospects, evaluate them, and provide the best options to the LNC Chair. Mr. Hall has expressed the hope that the process will conclude by the end of May. The LNC will likely be asked for approval to retain new general counsel either before or during the next LNC session.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Audit Committee Chair Aaron Starr presented an oral report to supplement the committee's written materials. The field work for the audit of the 2014 records will begin the week of April 20. To improve the efficiency of the process, the Audit Committee has requested of Ms. Oneto that this time the Audit Committee should be the intermediary communication point between staff and the CPA firm.

Since our chart of accounts has not yet been changed to accommodate creation of a statement of functional expenses, the 2014 audit will not attempt to create one. The Audit Committee and Mr. Hagan have agreed they will work together to propose a new chart of accounts that would facilitate a statement of functional expenses in the future.

AFFILIATE SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Affiliate Support Committee Chair Guy McLendon delivered an oral report. During the past quarter, Beth Vest phoned the state chairs and then provided Mr. Benedict information about state affiliate convention schedules.

He noted that the Affiliate Support Committee adopted a recommendation that the LNC approve the upcoming motion from Mr. Olsen regarding spending \$3,000 of the Affiliate Support Committee budget to support the LPEX event in late May.

He brought up the possibility that perhaps the LNC could create white-paper type materials to help affiliates with guidance regarding the formation of 527 organizations, 8871 filings, the types of activities that may trigger additional filings, etc. Following discussion, it was decided it would be appropriate for our legal counsel and/or FEC consultant to provide that kind of material. Dr. Lark reminded the LNC that former legal counsel Bill Hall had provided some similar material in the past and could be reused if brought up to date. M Carling volunteered to update those materials.

APPOINTMENT OF AWARDS COMMITTEE

Without objection this agenda item was postponed indefinitely following a general discussion of how to find suitable applicants.

EMPLOYMENT POLICY & COMPENSATION COMMITTEE (EPCC)

EPCC Chair Jim Lark had submitted a written report on the committee's activities, along with a written report prepared in response to a motion (adopted during the December 2014 LNC session) requesting the EPCC to

research past employee contract structures and make recommendations for going forward (see Appendix D and Appendix E). An executive session is planned for later in the meeting to cover topics in the report regarding employment contracts.

IT COMMITTEE

The IT Committee had submitted a written report (see Appendix F), and Mr. Tomasso supplemented with an oral report. They are focusing on a website redesign project and a shared database project.

NOMINATIONS FOR CONVENTION COMMITTEES

Mr. Olsen moved that we use approval voting for the convention committee elections. Mr. Redpath moved to amend to specify that a majority would not be required for election, but a plurality would suffice. Mr. Redpath's motion failed on a show of hands with a vote total of 6-8. The main motion to use approval voting passed on a show of hands.

Without objection, all those who submitted applications in advance were nominated, those being:

Bylaws and Rules Committee: Richard Burke (OR), M Carling (WA), Jim Fulner (MI), Sam Goldstein (IN), Dan Karlan (NJ), Joshua Katz (CT), Alicia Mattson (NV), Chuck Moulton (VA), Jeff Orrok (CO), Michael Schoenike (MT), Aaron Starr (CA), Rich Tomasso (NH), Joseph Wendt (FL), Lorence Wenke (MI), Dan Wiener (CA), Matt Wittlief (IN), Zachary Yutzy (OH)

Credentials Committee: Beth Duensing (IN), Gary Johnson (TX), Mike Kane (FL), Vicki Kirkland (FL), Steve Linnabary (OH), Colin Nicol (LA), Roger Roots (MT), Emily Salvette (MI), Michael Schoenike (MT), Joseph Wendt (FL), Lorence Wenke (MI), Michelle Wesnofske (TN), Zachary Yutzy (OH)

Platform Committee: I. Dean Ahmad (MD), Loren Ameen (MI), Jake Bryan (AL), Gene Chapman (TX), Chris Colvin (MT), David Demarest (NE), James Felber (TX), Nick Frollini (PA), William (Bill) Hajdu (CA), Lynn House (FL), Paul Koksvik (NY), Andy LeCureaux (MI), Tom Lippman (CA), Alicia Mattson (NV), Guy McLendon (LA), David Overby (IA), Alexander Pease (RI), Robert Peterson (NY), Donald Reach (VA), Roland Riemers (ND), Hollie Ryan (VA), Jeffrey Sanford (LA), Herbert Schoenbohm (USVI), Michael Schoenike (MT), Debbie Schum (CO), Mike Shipley (AZ), Richard Sutherland (FL), Zeb Sutton (IN), Lorence Wenke (MI), Zachary Yutzy (OH)

There were no nominations from the floor for the Credentials Committee.

There were no nominations from the floor for the Bylaws Committee.

Ms. Mattson nominated Fred Stitt (CA) for the Platform Committee based on an email she had received from him after the other applicant information had been sent to the LNC. Mr. Sarwark nominated David Williams (CO) for the Platform Committee.

Various LNC members spoke in favor of various nominees. The ballots are to be completed overnight and are to be turned in for tabulation at the call-to-order at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday.

BALLOT ACCESS ACTION REPORT

Mr. Redpath had submitted a written report in advance (see Appendix G), and he supplemented with an oral report.

The Arkansas petition drive has started, and they have about 1,000 gross signatures so far. There are three petitioners working on the effort, and they appear to be on target to complete it on time.

We have been contacted by Kurt Evans about an effort to repeal a bad ballot access law passed in South Dakota. Starting Tuesday (March 31) is a 90-day window during which they can petition to have a referendum placed on the ballot to repeal it. 18,000 valid signatures are needed to qualify the referendum. If that effort piggy-backed with our plan for a ballot access petition drive in 2015 it could potentially reduce the per-signature cost. There is no specific plan or agreement, but options are being discussed.

Richard Winger has suggested that we approach the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with a request that he define a position on certain questions about circulating ballot access petitions with "Not Yet Determined" instead of a candidate name, or with names of the electors rather than candidate names, since Massachusetts law does not allow candidate substitution after petitions have been filed. George Phillies, chair of the Massachusetts affiliate, will approach his state committee about it. Should the state committee decline, it is still possible that the LNC could approach the state to ask the question.

Mr. Sarwark noted we have just received a request from the Alabama affiliate for a petition drive there, but we haven't had time to digest those details yet. He also noted that South Dakota also has potential for a lawsuit regarding their petition deadline date.

REGIONAL REPORTS

All regional representatives had submitted written reports (see Appendix H through Appendix O), and they supplemented with oral reports.

On behalf of Region 1, Mr. Olsen noted that in Wyoming the number of registered Libertarians had dropped by 50%, but total voter registration in Wyoming dropped by a third. It seems the government has been working on cleaning up the voter registration rolls, but it is not clear why the Libertarian Party was disproportionately affected. In Arizona, a "Top-Two" bill has passed the House and is now in the Senate.

On behalf of Region 2, Ms. Kirkland noted the dates of affiliate conventions in her region.

On behalf of Region 3, Mr. Feldman mentioned the affiliate conventions in his region and summarized the legal news from Ohio noted in his report.

On behalf of Region 4, Mr. Wiener noted that the California affiliate's convention will be combined with the LPEX event on May 31st.

On behalf of Region 5, Dr. Lark offered to take questions on his report; there were none. Dr. Lark had also submitted a written Campus Organization report (see Appendix P) as well as an International Representative report (see Appendix Q).

On behalf of Region 6, Mr. O'Toole noted that a Republican state legislator in Missouri has introduced a bill that would allow fusion candidates.

On behalf of Region 7, Mr. Estrada indicated that tonight he will obtain the needed details from Alabama about their ballot access funding request to bring a motion to the LNC tomorrow. He is attempting to encourage states in his region to assist each other during ballot access efforts.

On behalf of Region 8, Mr. Tomasso reported that the Maine affiliate is starting their party petition drive and they expect to accomplish it on their own without LNC assistance. Mr. Katz noted that the Connecticut affiliate was able to find state representatives to introduce some ballot access improvement bills, though none gained traction in the Government Accountability and Elections Committee.

Without objection the agenda was amended to take up the New Business with Previous Notice motions at this time.

NEW BUSINESS WITH PREVIOUS NOTICE

CREATE BALLOT ACCESS COMMITTEE

Mr. Olsen made a motion, which after amendment without objection became:

1. The following is hereby added to the Section 2.02 of the Policy Manual as a new sub-section 8:

8) Ballot Access Committee

The Ballot Access Committee shall:

- 1. With the assistance of staff, collect and analyze information of all affiliates concerning ballot access needs.*
 - 2. Recommend to the committee as a whole the implementation of specific strategies and projects consistent with current budget allocations for ballot access.*
 - 3. Proposed strategies and/or projects shall represent the best use of budgeted funds allocated among the various acceptable ballot access techniques such as, but not limited to, petitioning, lobbying, litigation, public awareness, and collaboration with other organizations which are pursuing the goal liberalizing ballot access laws.*
 - 4. With the assistance of staff, prepare and present ballot access reports at each general LNC meeting in spreadsheet form which will shall include:*
 - a. The specific affiliate(s) which is intended to benefit from the effort*
 - b. Funds allocated to the effort*
 - c. Expenses already incurred*
 - d. Brief description of the progress of the effort in terms of specific statistics related to the effort*
 - e. The specific individual(s) or organization(s) to which any funds were disbursed and/or which use of the any LP trademark, service mark, or logo were approved.*
 - 5. With the assistance of staff, and prior to the second general LNC meeting following the completion of the bi-annual election cycle ending in November of even numbered years, prepare and present a report which supplies the details of the entire election cycle ballot access effort with regard to:*
 - a. Initial estimated expenses*
 - b. Expenses actually incurred*
 - c. Actual ballot access results*
 - d. If appropriate, ballot access retention results*
 - e. Significant problems encountered in the effort*
 - f. Significant unexpected successes of the effort*
 - g. FEC regulation issues encountered*
 - h. Evaluation of the individual(s) and/or organization(s) which were directly contracted/interacted with.*
 - 6. Develop procedures and policies as reasonably appropriate to spread institutional knowledge of ballot access issues within the committee, LNC staff, officers of LNC affiliates, and future holders of these positions.*
2. The table in Section 1.03-1 of the Policy Manual which defines the membership aspects of committees is revised to indicate that:
 - a. The name of the committee shall be Ballot Access Committee.
 - b. The committee shall consist of five party members, no less than three of which shall be LNC members or Alternates selected by the LNC using Approval voting.
 - c. The Chair shall appoint the remaining two members.
 - d. The Chair shall appoint the chair of the Ballot Access Committee.
 3. Policy Manual Contents and Index shall be modified as appropriate to reflect the above changes.

4. The budget line currently referred to as “70-BallotAccess Petitioning Related Expense” shall be changed to “70-Ballot Access Activities Expense” and be recognized to include all activities primarily targeted toward gaining ballot access and/or the liberalization of ballot access laws.

The general discussion of this motion indicated the understanding that this committee will be advisory, not with power to decide how funds are spent, and encumbrance power would remain with the Executive Committee.

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

Voting “aye”: Hagan, Kirkland, Lark, Mattson, Olsen, Sarwark, Tomasso, Vohra, Wiener

Voting “no”: Estrada, Feldman, Goldstein, Johnson, McLendon, O’Toole

Abstaining: Redpath

The motion passed with a vote total of 9-6.

There was no objection to a request by Mr. Sarwark that we add to the end of the agenda an item to appoint the 3 LNC members to the newly created Ballot Access Committee.

PURCHASE BRONZE SPONSORSHIP OF LPEX

Mr. Olsen moved that the LNC purchase a Bronze Sponsorship of the LSLA LP Expo event to be held in Las Vegas May 28 – May 31, the \$3,000 cost to be charged against the Affiliate Support budget line.

Dr. Lark inquired about what entity is running this event. Mr. Olsen said it is being run by a Brett Pojunis-affiliated limited liability corporation called LPEX, LLC.

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

Voting “aye”: Estrada, Hagan, Kirkland, McLendon, Olsen, Sarwark, Tomasso, Wiener

Voting “no”: Feldman, Goldstein, Johnson, Lark, O’Toole, Redpath, Vohra

Abstaining: Mattson

The motion passed with a vote total of 8-7.

EXECUTIVE SESSION EPCC REPORT AND CPD LAWSUIT

Without objection at 5:30 p.m. the LNC entered executive session to discuss portions of the EPCC report and the lawsuit against the Commission on Presidential Debates.

The LNC rose from executive session at approximately 6:35 p.m. and without objection adjourned to 9:00 a.m. Sunday.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 29.

Mr. Sarwark announced that overnight he had been contacted by additional people who wished to be considered for election to specified convention committees, those people being:

Starchild (CA) – Platform Committee, Bylaws and Rules Committee
Thomas Knapp (FL) – Platform Committee
Daniel Hayes (LA) – Bylaws and Rules Committee

PUBLIC SESSION EPCC REPORT AND CPD LAWSUIT

Following public comment, Ms. Mattson noted that though we do not presently have a general counsel, she wished to offer a motion that anticipates we will have one in the near future. Ms. Mattson moved to direct our general counsel to take into consideration the EPCC report regarding inconsistencies and other concerns with our past employment contract terms and to draft a standard employment contract to be later approved by the LNC. The motion was adopted without objection.

TELLERS FOR CONVENTION COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

All the convention committee ballots were turned in to the Secretary. Mr. Marsh and Mr. Spencer were appointed as tellers for the convention committee ballots.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

EVALUATE LOGO REDESIGN PROPOSALS

Mr. Vohra made an oral presentation from the committee appointed at the previous LNC session to evaluate logo redesign proposals. He displayed for the LNC's review a number of proposed logos that had been submitted to the committee.

Following general discussion, Mr. Redpath moved to amend the agenda to take up the Convention Oversight Committee report now, then take up the At-Large vacancy, then the discussion of the next LNC meeting, a recess, and then return to the logo discussion. The motion was adopted without objection.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

The tellers had finished the tabulation of the ballots for convention committee elections; without objection the LNC agreed to take up the completion of those elections. Ms. Mattson first announced the results for the Credentials Committee.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The LNC appoints 5 of the 10 seats on the Credentials Committee. With 16 ballots cast, the results of the balloting were as follows:

Vicki Kirkland - 16
Mike Kane - 14
Gary Johnson - 13
Emily Salvette - 12
Beth Duensing – 10
Steve Linnabary – 10
Roger Roots - 5
Colin Nicol – 1

Joseph Wendt – 1
Zachary Yutzy - 1
Michael Schoenike – 0
Lorence Wenke – 0
Michelle Wesnofske - 0

Vicki Kirkland, Mike Kane, Gary Johnson, and Emily Salvette were elected to the Credentials Committee, each having received a majority. There was a tie for the fifth seat between Ms. Duensing and Mr. Linnabary, each having received a majority.

Mr. Redpath moved to resolve the tie with a coin flip. Mr. Johnson moved a substitute to instead resolve by a show of hands between the two tied candidates. Mr. Redpath withdrew his motion without objection.

Mr. Johnson moved as a main motion to resolve the tie by a show of hands between the two tied candidates. There was no objection to the motion.

By a show of hands, Ms. Duensing was elected to the fifth seat with 8 votes, Mr. Linnabary having received 5 votes.

Mr. Goldstein moved to appoint Mr. Linnabary as the 1st alternate; there was no objection.

Mr. Goldstein moved to nominate Emily Salvette as interim chair of the Credentials Committee; there was no objection.

BYLAWS AND RULES COMMITTEE

The LNC appoints all 10 seats on the Bylaws and Rules Committee. With 16 ballots cast, the results of the balloting were as follows:

Sam Goldstein – 13
Dan Karlan – 13
Chuck Moulton - 12
Alicia Mattson – 11
Rich Tomasso - 11
Joshua Katz – 10
Aaron Starr – 10
Dan Wiener - 10
Jeff Orrok - 9
M Carling – 8
Matt Wittlief – 8
Daniel Hayes - 6
Jim Fulner - 4
Richard Burke – 3
Joseph Wendt – 2
Starchild - 2
Zachary Yutzy - 1
Michael Schoenike – 0
Lorence Wenke – 0

Sam Goldstein, Dan Karlan, Chuck Moulton, Alicia Mattson, Rich Tomasso, Joshua Katz, Aaron Starr, Dan Wiener, and Jeff Orrok were elected to the Bylaws and Rules Committee, each having received a majority.

Mr. Redpath moved to fill the tenth seat with show of hands vote between Mr. Carling and Mr. Wittlief; there was no objection.

By a show of hands, Mr. Carling was elected to the tenth seat with 10 votes, Mr. Wittlief having received 3 votes.

Without objection, Mr. Wittlief was appointed as the 1st alternate.

Nominations were opened for interim chair. Mr. Goldstein nominated Ms. Mattson, but she declined. Mr. Vohra nominated Mr. Moulton. Mr. Wiener nominated Mr. Starr.

There was no objection to Mr. Sarwark's suggestion to elect by a show of hands.

By a show of hands, Mr. Moulton was elected as interim chair of the Bylaws and Rules Committee with 12 votes, Mr. Starr having received 4 votes.

PLATFORM COMMITTEE

The LNC appoints 5 of the 20 seats on the Platform Committee. With 16 ballots cast, the results of the balloting were as follows:

Guy McLendon - 12
Alicia Mattson – 11
Hollie Ryan - 10
I. Dean Ahmad - 8
Lynn House – 8
Mike Shipley - 8
Nick Frollini - 6
Andy LeCureaux – 6
Debbie Schum - 6
Michael Schoenike - 5
Chris Colvin – 4
William (Bill) Hajdu – 3
Roland Riemers – 3
Thomas Knapp – 3
Fred Stitt – 3
Starchild – 3
James Felber – 2
Tom Lippman – 2
Alexander Pease – 2
Jerry Sanford – 2
Zachary Yutzy – 2
David Williams - 2
David Demarest - 1
Loren Ameen – 0
Jake Bryan – 0
Gene Chapman – 0
Paul Koksvik – 0
David Overby - 0
Robert Peterson – 0
Donald Reach – 0
Herbert Schoenbohm – 0
Richard Sutherland – 0
Zeb Sutton – 0
Lorence Wenke – 0

Guy McLendon, Alicia Mattson, and Hollie Ryan were elected to the Platform Committee, each having received a majority.

While reading the results of the ballot vote, Ms. Mattson inadvertently overlooked announcing the vote totals of Andy LeCureaux, Debbie Schum, and Michael Schoenike, leaving the impression that they had received zero votes.

Mr. Tomasso moved that we have a runoff ballot using approval voting between anyone who had at least 6 votes. Mr. Feldman moved to amend by substitution to instead do a show of hands using approval voting between anyone who had at least 6 votes. Mr. Feldman's substitute motion was adopted by a show of hands, with a vote total of 11-2 making it the main motion. The Feldman motion as the main motion was adopted without objection.

Ms. Mattson noticed at this point that Andy LeCureaux had also received 6 votes, so he was included in the runoff, per the conditions of the motion. The oversight of Debbie Schum and Michael Schoenike's votes was not caught until after the end of the session, thus Debbie Schum was mistakenly not included in the runoff.

The show-of-hands vote totals for the runoff were as follows:

Dean Ahmad - 9
Lynn House - 7
Mike Shipley - 8
Nick Frollini - 5
Andy Lecureaux - 7

Mr. Ahmad was elected to the fourth seat, having received a majority.

Mr. Redpath moved to appoint Mr. Shipley to the fifth position. Ms. Mattson moved to amend by substitution that we use a show-of-hands runoff between Mr. Shipley, Ms. House, and Mr. LeCureaux. The Mattson amendment passed on a show of hands with a vote total of 11-3, making it the main motion. There was no objection to the Mattson motion as the main motion.

The show-of-hands vote totals for the runoff were as follows:

Mike Shipley – 8
Lynn House – 8
Andy LeCureaux – 5

None had received a majority. Mr. Redpath moved to conduct a show-of-hands vote between Mr. Shipley and Ms. House with a plurality electing; there was no objection.

The show-of-hands vote totals for the runoff were as follows:

Shipley – 7
House – 8

Ms. House was elected to the fifth seat.

Mr. Hagan moved to appoint Mr. Shipley as the 1st alternate. Mr. Goldstein moved to amend the Hagan motion to also name Mr. LeCureaux as the 2nd alternate and Mr. Frollini as the 3rd alternate. There was no objection to either the amendment or the main motion.

Ms. Mattson nominated herself for interim chair. Mr. McLendon nominated himself, then withdrew, then nominated himself, then withdrew again. Without objection Ms. Mattson was elected as interim chair of the Platform Committee.

CONVENTION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (COC) REPORT

Mr. Sarwark announced that Audrey Capozzi (FL), JJ McCurry (FL), and BetteRose Ryan (AZ) will likely be his appointments to the non-LNC positions on the Convention Oversight Committee, but he will obtain the required consent of the COC members to formalize it.

On behalf of the COC, Ms. Mattson reported that it had been her hope that by this meeting the COC would have decided how to proceed with the site selection for the 2018 convention, which would likely allow the LNC to select the site at its next session. However, the COC currently does not have a consensus on whether to conduct the search using in-house time investments or with a professional vendor.

NEW BUSINESS WITHOUT PREVIOUS NOTICE

LNC AT-LARGE VACANCY

Mr. Redpath moved to appoint Doug Craig to fill the at-large vacancy created by the resignation of Evan McMahan.

Mr. Wiener moved to postpone indefinitely to allow the LNC to inform the membership of the vacancy. Following debate, the vote on the motion to postpone failed on a show of hands with a vote total of 5-8.

Ms. Mattson nominated Joshua Katz for the at-large vacancy. Dr. Feldman nominated Brett Bittner, but Mr. Bittner contacted an LNC member promptly to decline the nomination.

Nominations were closed without objection.

Various individuals spoke in support of the candidates. Mr. Katz addressed the body in person. Mr. Craig addressed the body by phone.

Mr. Johnson moved to use a roll call vote for this election. The motion failed on a show of hands with 4 in favor and 9 opposed, therefore the election will be conducted with the default ballot procedure.

With 14 ballots cast, the results of the ballot were as follows:

Doug Craig – 11

Joshua Katz - 3

Mr. Craig was elected to an at-large position, having received a majority.

SCHEDULING NEXT LNC SESSION

Without objection the LNC took up the agenda item to schedule the next LNC session while Mr. Craig was still on the phone with the LNC.

Following informal discussion of the members' schedules, without objection the next in-person LNC session was scheduled for July 18-19, 2015, to be held near our headquarters in Alexandria, VA.

APPOINTMENT OF BALLOT ACCESS COMMITTEE

Nominations were opened for the LNC-member seats on the newly-created Ballot Access Committee.

Mr. Goldstein nominated Mr. Redpath.

Mr. Marsh nominated himself.
Mr. Estrada nominated himself.

Mr. Hagan moved to close nominations and accept those three as the LNC members on the Ballot Access Committee. The motion was adopted without objection. Mr. Sarwark announced his appointment of Richard Winger and Paul Frankel to the other two positions on the committee. Mr. Sarwark designated Mr. Redpath as the chair of that committee.

ALABAMA BALLOT ACCESS PETITION DRIVE

Without objection the LNC agreed to amend the agenda to take up a motion regarding a funding request for Alabama ballot access.

Mr. Estrada moved that the LNC encumber up to \$2,500 to assist the Libertarian Party of Alabama in achieving ballot access in Jefferson County.

Paul Frankel addressed the committee by phone to provide more details. The restrictive ballot access laws in Alabama make it very expensive to do a state-wide party petition there. Our presidential candidates usually opt for the less expensive "independent" petitions. A bill is presently in the Alabama state legislature; if it passes, it would reduce the state-wide party petition signature requirement by half (currently 35,413 valid signatures). If that were to happen, Mr. Frankel believes the amount already budgeted for Alabama would allow the Alabama affiliate to complete a state-wide party petition with 25,000 to 35,000 raw signatures. If that bill doesn't pass, a state-wide drive would be financially out of reach, but any signatures collected in the interim in Jefferson County while waiting to learn the fate of that bill could be used for either the county or a later state-wide effort.

About 5,000 valid signatures would be needed for the Jefferson County effort, with a filing deadline of March 8, 2016. If there is ballot access in Jefferson County, the affiliate would run 10-20 partisan candidates for county-wide races. No state-wide races or races outside of Jefferson County would benefit from the county petition, and it would not benefit the 2016 presidential ticket. There are no legislative races in Jefferson County in 2016.

The Alabama affiliate will be providing additional funds along with the requested LNC expenditure for this effort. Paul Frankel and Ross Lowe could complete the drive themselves without a need for out-of-state petitioners. Low turnout in 2014 elections in Alabama had the beneficial side effect of reducing the number of signatures required to qualify this effort.

Following debate, the vote on the main motion was as follows:

Voting "aye": Estrada, Feldman, Johnson, Kirkland, Lark, McLendon, O'Toole, Olsen, Redpath, Sarwark, Vohra

Voting "no": Goldstein, Hagan, Mattson, Tomasso, Wiener

The motion passed with a vote total of 11-5.

EVALUATE LOGO REDESIGN PROPOSALS (CONTINUED)

Without objection the LNC returned to an evaluation of logo redesign proposals.

Mr. Vohra conducted a review of logos presented earlier; without objection the LNC agreed to use a show-of-hands approval vote to narrow the field of designs to a short list of options. Each design was assigned a nickname for easier reference. The approval votes were as follows:

Torch Eagle – 9
L Bell – 6
Scissor L – 1

LP Circle Squiggle – 4
LP in a Triangle – 0
Torch Flower – 5
Crown Torch T – 11
Charging Torch – 4
5-S flame – 0
Blue Flame Across L – 0
Torch Inside L – 0
Negative Space L in Field of Stars – 3
Vertical Name Statue of Liberty – 9
LP Leaf with Statue – 1
Stars Left of Flame – 4
Current Logo – 9
Prior Statue of Liberty Logo – 9
Chuck Moulton’s Modification of the L Bell – 4
Rosie the Riveter – 5

Without objection, the LNC agreed that the short list of top contenders is:

Crown Torch T - 11
Torch Eagle - 9
Vertical Name Statue of Liberty - 9
Current Logo - 9
Prior Statue of Liberty Logo - 9
L Bell - 6
Torch Flower - 5
Rosie the Riveter – 5

After informal discussion, there was no objection to a proposal to have an electronic meeting on Sunday, May 3rd, at 9 p.m. Eastern to take up the question again.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

At Dr. Lark’s suggestion, without objection the LNC expressed thanks to the Libertarian Party of Arizona for the Friday night reception, and especially to Emily Goldberg for her help with the reception and with providing transportation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no more business, the LNC adjourned without objection at 1:00 p.m.

Chair's Report - 12/14/14 - 3/27/15

- Gave a number of interviews, including Details magazine, RT radio and TV, Sputnik news, Old Dominion Libertarian, Johnny Rocket Launchpad, and others.
- Calls, meetings, and written correspondence with major donors.
- Wrote columns in LP News.
- Spoke at Southern California Regional Conference (video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukV53h8avUA>)
- Engaged with candidates and LP members on social media.
- Responded to LP member correspondence regarding official positions and concerns.
- Endorsed HR1466 ("Surveillance State Repeal Act") on behalf of the Libertarian Party.
- Attended an Our America Initiative event to get an update on the lawsuit against the Commission on Presidential Debates from Ron Nielson, Judge Jim Gray, and Rocky Anderson.
- Sent official remarks to the Partido de la Libertad Individual (Spain) on the occasion of their third annual convention, held in December 2014.

Secretary's Report

For March 28-29, 2015 LNC Meeting

Following is a status report for minutes of LNC and EC meetings since the previous LNC meeting:

- December 13-14, 2014 LNC session – auto-approved on January 13, 2015
- March 7, 2015 Executive Committee teleconference – auto-approved on March 23, 2015

The record of minutes from the previous LNC term is now complete, the final item having been finished:

- June 26, 2014 pre-convention LNC session – approved by email ballot on February 6, 2015

I updated the Policy Manual to reflect the changes made in the December 13-14, 2014 LNC meeting.

The new Judicial Committee Rules of Appellate Procedure were deemed approved on January 12, 2015, so I promptly updated the bylaws and rules document to reflect the new rules.

The web page that lists which people serve on which committees was out of date, so I provided staff with the current information.

All of the above materials were promptly posted to the website by our staff.

After noticing that each of the past two LP News editions had articles containing summaries of LNC meetings, I have volunteered to provide these articles as part of my Secretary duties for the remainder of the term.

After inquiring with the LNC about proposed times, I hosted Adobe Connect test sessions on the evenings of February 28, March 2, and one during the workday for staff on March 3. I invited everyone from the LNC who hadn't previously experienced it to join a test session so that they can be comfortable with it whenever the LNC first attempts to use it. There are still 5 people who have not yet participated in a test session, and any of them that still wish to do a trial run need to contact me and make arrangements for a time to do so.

I recently facilitated two Adobe Connect sessions for the IT Committee, and one for the Convention Oversight Committee.

I received approximately 60 applications so far for the 20 convention committee positions that we advertised to be appointed at this meeting. I assembled the applications and sent them to the LNC on Tuesday, March 24th so they could be reviewed in advance of the meeting.

The following 2 email ballots were completed since the last LNC meeting:

Motion: to approve the attached minutes from the 6/26/14 pre-convention LNC meeting.

Sponsors: Mattson, Wiener, Kirkland, Olsen

Started: 01/27/15

Ended: 02/06/15

Voting "aye": Estrada, Feldman, Goldstein, Hagan, Johnson, Katz, Kirkland, Lark, Mattson, McLendon, McMahon, O'Toole, Olsen, Redpath, Sarwark, Wiener

Voting "nay": (none)

The motion PASSED by a vote of 16-0.

Motion: The Libertarian National Committee approves the (attached) charter of the International Alliance of Libertarian Parties, seeks admission to the International Alliance of Libertarian Parties as a founding member, and designate Geoff Neale as our Representative to it.

Sponsor: Sarwark

Started: 02/09/15

Ended: 02/19/15

Voting "aye": Feldman, Goldstein, Hagan, Johnson, Kirkland, Lark, McLendon, McMahon, O'Toole, Redpath, Sarwark, Wiener, Vohra

Voting "nay": Hayes, Katz, Mattson, Olsen

The motion PASSED by a vote of 13-4.

Alicia Mattson
LNC Secretary

See the following 25 pages for the staff report

Staff Reports

March 28-29, 2015 Meeting of the Libertarian National Committee, Inc.
Phoenix, Arizona

Executive Director's Report

Submitted by Wes Benedict

Membership and financial reports are submitted separately by Director of Operations Robert Kraus.

Staff Personnel Changes

No changes in full-time staff since the last meeting. We have a graphic designer doing some contract work.

Employee Tasks & Duties

Wes Benedict: Executive Director

Primary fundraiser
Writing and preparation of fundraising letters & emails
Staff hiring, evaluation, assignment of tasks, supervision
LNC/Chair interface
Brand development
Membership plans, renewals and prospecting
Manage LPStore.org & promotional items
Create and monitor Facebook Ads
Help with outreach events

Carla Howell: Political Director

LP News editor
Liberty Pledge newsletter editor
Post blog entries, press releases, poll and other information on LP.org
Writing/Editing - blog, press releases, videos, LP News, other web content
Media inquiry responses, interviews, travel to interview
Social Media Management: Facebook, twitter, etc.
Giving speeches, travel (State Events)
Candidate recruitment, coaching, support, support literature, LP solutions, talking points
Campaign and candidate support
Affiliate support
Creation of LP literature (e.g. new tri-fold brochure)

General promotion of LP candidates (e.g., new radio show)
Track media hits and contacts
Miscellaneous meetings with, and inquires from, outside organizations
Miscellaneous issues concerning members, candidates, affiliates, donors

Robert Kraus: Operations Director

Help with overall maintenance of LP.org
Customer service - internal and external
Maintain membership/contributor database (Raiser's Edge)
Assist with mem database troubleshooting and cleanup
Supervision of Mem support Specialist
Administrator of lp.org & hq.lp.org email and group list servers
Maintain compliance with government policies, especially the FEC
Managing lawsuits and other legal matters with the chair & treasurer
Managing our ballot access matters & petitioning w-treasurer
Affiliate support - working w-states on various things
Manage database updates provided by state affiliates to LPHQ
Staff liaison to the Convention Oversight Committee & other conv duties
Staff liaison to the Building Fund & Other Committees
Accounting and bookkeeping (a/p, a/r, maintain QuickBooks)
Preparation of financial and membership reports
Provide data to FEC consultant for FEC filing
Facilities and equipment planning and maintenance
General purchasing and procurement
Work with Chair and Treasurer on financial issues & audit
Record & Attend LNC meetings (12 hrs every 4 months)
Maintain membership, financial, and other archives
Payroll and benefits administration for LP Staff
Create and maintain Employee Manual
Maintain LNC contact list (an off-line document and at LP.org)
Process & manage monthly gifts for direct account draft
Assist Casey with processing and entering contributions into RE
Assist in general office upkeep, organization, and ordering of supplies
Re-check of daily deposits and cash audits
Miscellaneous: Filing, research, member correspondence

Nick Dunbar: Membership and Pledge Programs. Special Projects

Work with vendors for house and acquisition appeals (gets fundraise letters printed)
Work with vendors for LP News printing and mailing
Sends monthly renewal email blasts
Data pulls for donor acknowledgments (thank you notes)
Update Board Report (Standard report which shows appeal results)
In house IT support for servers, PC's & phones

Process monthly gifts for members & get updated info plus Pledge News
Analyze results on all mail appeals and select segments for lists
Orders LP stationery, letterhead, envelopes

Bob Johnston: Member, Candidate and Affiliate Support

Call Libertarian candidates to find out the information they need to run for office
Keep track of our current ballot access in each state
Compile LP candidate data and update LP.org web site
Monthly Donors: call and email those whose cards expire
Miscellaneous projects, e.g., compiling filing requirements for affiliates
Compile LP elected officials data and update LP.org web site
Compile election results for LP candidates
Address general questions and complaints from members
Provides customer service to state and local affiliates
Manage LP.org blog

Casey Hansen: Member Services & Affiliate Relations

Maintain Events Listing on LP.org
Create new records for people who ask for information packets
Prepare data for new memberships and print letters for membership cards
Prepare information packets for new inquires
Print and mail special mail projects (annual reports, Christmas cards, etc.)
Print and send membership cards to monthly pledgers
Update and maintain records in RE
Design website for state affiliates
Maintain State Chair and State Organization contact lists
Convention and LNC Meeting Prep
Photocopy checks before deposit
Prepare daily reports and do daily cash audits
Process and cage all checks, credit cards and cash received via mail into RE
Process and cage all web transactions into RE (varies greatly)
Process refunds and contribution returns
Print and send acknowledgements of donations
Prepares email updates lists
Each month, import website recurring gift transactions into Raiser's Edge
Import new inquiries and volunteers into RE
Greet visitors to the office
Produce and mail LP information packets
Generate weekly inquiries list
Put together and mail merchandise orders
Produce and mail LP membership card packets
Sort and tag physical monetary contributions (checks, cc, and cash)
Address general questions and complaints from members

Answer and direct incoming phone calls

Monitor and sort incoming email to LP email addresses

Maintain address and contact information for members

Accept, open, and deliver courier packages

Accept, open, and sort mail from USPS

Deposit checks at bank after they have been processed & verified

LNC Political Director Report Nov 27, 2014 – Mar 19, 2015

Projects and one-time activities:

- Issued and compiled extensive 2014 Libertarian candidate survey (highlights attached).
- Held conference call with 2014 governor and U.S. Senate candidates (copy of minutes available upon request to LNC members; do not have permission to make public).
- Updated emails and other contact info for 2014 candidates
- With Bob Johnston, have maintained frequency of blogs at approximately five per week.
- Took over as Editor of LP News when Eric Dixon left (have been writing and editing content all along; Eric continues to do layout as contractor)
- Compiled, edited December, January, February, March issues of *Liberty Pledge*
- Work with Rep Pocan's office on LP support of his Surveillance State Repeal Act
- Worked ISFLC (International Students for Liberty) booth for duration of weekend
- Helped script and produce SOTU response video
- More negotiating to continue radio show *Libertarians Working for You* on VoiceAmerica free of charge to LNC.
- New LP brochure in progress
- Presentation to journalist interns at The Washington Center

Regular activities:

- Write blogs and news releases
- TV, radio and print interviews
- Candidate support for 2014 and recruitment for 2015-16.
- Oversee posting of Facebook memes to LP.org
- Research and develop talking points for candidates and media interviews
- Address miscellaneous state ballot access issues
- Attend DC-area events and keep in contact with key libertarian organizations
- Correspond with elected Libertarians
- Write, format emails via iContact

- Miscellaneous admin (more since Molly/Eric left): e.g., update/create iContacts lists, ensure cross-posting content to FB/Twitter, help maintain candidate contacts spreadsheet, list of candidates to cover
- Arrange media bookings (previously done by Molly Schwopp)
- Take miscellaneous phone calls and occasionally meet with walk-in visitors at headquarters

Correspondence with candidates/affiliates

Political Director made contact with the following Libertarian campaigns, affiliate officers and prospects this period in support of their 2015 and/or post-mortems on 2014 campaigns (in addition to frequent contacts made by Bob Johnston). This involved getting their feedback, responding to inquiries and questions; giving advice on general campaigning, messaging, media relations and fundraising; helping to connect to volunteers; and covering their campaigns in LP media:

Steve French – SC, Mark Elsworth-NE, Andrew Hunt-GA, Robert Burke-WI, Kathie Glass-TX, Mike Monchalin-OR, Adrian Wyllie-FL, Ken Krawchuk-PA, Alex Snitker-FL, Danielle Alexandre-FL, Steve Long - OK, Amanda Swafford – GA, Doug Craig -GA, Jeff Carson – VA, Matt Cholko-VA, Chris Brookover-VA, Matt Chipman, Carl Loser – VA, Dave Dotterer – VA, Tyler Brown – VA, Andy Bakker – VA, Ruth Witt – VA, Matt Shutter – PA, Brent Dickerson – TX, Jason Amatucci-VA, Dan Feliciano – VT, Darcie Johnston – VT, Clark Bell – NY, Kevin Colson, Clift Duval – TX, Care Clift – AK, Mark Fish AK, Bill McCord-AK, Ron Windeler-AK, Rob Cunningham – MO, Robert Reagan – AR, Jake Porter – IA, Lily Williams-CO, Leo Dymowski-MD, Michael McDermott – AK, Ken Moellman-KY, Dave Patterson-KY, Sharon Hansen – IL, Brannon McMorris - LA, Bruce Majors – DC, Rufus Craig – LA, Rachel Mills-NC, several prospective candidates at ISFLC and a few 2016 pres candidate

LP Media coverage

Below is a partial list of national LP media mentions (does not include candidate-specific coverage). Note that since the departure of LNC receptionist Molly Schwopp, we have not been able to keep a log of all of our media hits:

1/14	WBSM, New Bedford, MA	Carla radio interview
TBD	Independent Voter Network	Nick interview done; not published yet
Feb 6	Sputnik News	Nick interview for story US Libertarian Party Urges Media Coverage of Chicago's 'Black Site'
March	Independent Hour	Nick interview being scheduled
March	Russia Today TV	Nick interview being scheduled

3/2	Paul Molloy show	Wes radio interview
2/5	Details magazine	Nick interview on Adam Kokesh
1/20	Glenn Beck Show	On Arvin's SOTU response
1/20	RT TV	Nick interview on SOTU response
1/21	RT TV	CH panel discussion on SOTU response
1/20	Reason	On SOTU response
1/20	Mesa Legend	Nick comment in article <i>Obama offers path to citizenship for illegals</i>
1/30	Glen Woods BoldRepublic.com show	Arvin interview on Libertarians response to Scott Walker American Revival
TBD	Press TV	Carla interview on campaign finance
12/17	AP	Nick quoted in article <i>Court upholds Alabama ballot access requirements</i>
12/15	Press TV	Carla interview on <i>Democrats, Republicans silencing 'voices of freedom'</i>
11/27	Press TV	Carla interview on <i>Libertarian Party: Secretary of Defense is a "no-win job overseeing a no-win U.S. foreign policy"</i>

Press Releases this period

- 3/20 Libertarian Party endorses Surveillance State Repeal Act
- 3/9 Republican tax plan leaves federal tax burden dangerously high
- 1/20 Libertarian Party Response to President Obama's State of the Union Address
- 1/12 Lawmakers and Silk Road investigators, prosecutors are the real perps
- 12/11 Libertarian Party calls for shutting down CIA, criminal prosecutions
- 12/2 Libertarian Party: Stop deceiving Americans with the term 'government shutdown'

Blogs this period

- Mar 17, 2015 US District Court upholds Ohio ballot access law. Ohio LP vows to fight on.
- Mar 16, 2015 Four Alabama State Senators Introduce Ballot Access Bill (updated)
- Mar 13, 2015 State Conventions (updated)
- Mar 12, 2015 LP Georgia Needs Help with Ballot Access Bill Friday, March 13
- Mar 12, 2015 LNC Seeks Applicants for Platform, Bylaws, Credentials Committees
- Mar 11, 2015 Oklahoma House unanimously passes favorable ballot access bill
- Mar 11, 2015 Libertarians Working For You show, with Matthew Schutter and Clayton Sanford
- Mar 6, 2015 LPME treasurer and former chair running in special election Tuesday
- Mar 5, 2015 Louisiana Libertarian elected to JP and constable association executive board

- Mar 4, 2015 Libertarians Working For You show, with Matt Hasty and Andy Craig
- Mar 3, 2015 Libertarian Andy Craig for Congress Makes Case for Scaling Back FDA
- Mar 2, 2015 Gary Johnson at CPAC
- Mar 2, 2015 Report on Students For Liberty event
- Feb 26, 2015 Former Colorado LP candidate Lily Williams interviewed on InfoWars
- Feb 25, 2015 Libertarians Working For You show, with Mike Shipley and Steven Nielson
- Feb 23, 2015 Take the poll: Which politicians do you consider to be Big Government?
- Feb 19, 2015 Nevada Libertarians help bring down tax-payer funded stadium
- Feb 19, 2015 New logo design for Libertarian Party
- Feb 18, 2015 Libertarians Working For You, with Jason France and Beth Vest
- Feb 16, 2015 December 2014 LP News available online
- Feb 12, 2015 Libertarian Party at the Students For Liberty conference this weekend
- Feb 11, 2015 Libertarians Working For You, with Henry Herford and Jennifer Werther
- Feb 10, 2015 LPIA elected official forces conversation on de-prioritizing marijuana
- Feb 10, 2015 Update: Help me reach out to student libertarians
- Feb 9, 2015 Bill to ease ballot access in GA introduced
- Feb 6, 2015 LNC Chair Nicholas Sarwark: "We can't buy real friends with free candy"
- Feb 4, 2015 Libertarians Working For You, with Todd Grayson and Jay Price
- Feb 3, 2015 Arvin Vohra appears on Glen Woods Bold Republic show
- Feb 3, 2015 Help me reach out to student libertarians
- Feb 2, 2015 Manhattan LP raises four cents for disgraced politician at convention
- Jan 30, 2015 California Court of Appeals upholds two-only ("top-two") primary
- Jan 28, 2015 Libertarians working for you
- Jan 26, 2015 Washington Times: Libertarians have good reason to be optimistic
- Jan 23, 2015 Response to SOTU address covered on The Blaze
- Jan 21, 2015 LNC Chair Nicholas Sarwark talks about State of the Union on RT TV
- Jan 21, 2015 Reason Magazine blogs the LP response to SOTU
- Jan 20, 2015 Libertarian response to SOTU tonight
- Jan 19, 2015 2015 list of dates and events of interest to Libertarians
- Jan 16, 2015 Libertarian Party of Alabama calls for ballot access law reforms, announces issue coalition
- Jan 14, 2015 Ohio LP vice-chair op-ed published in online site for the state's largest newspaper

- Jan 13, 2015 LP Chair Nicholas Sarwark says 2016 Libertarian candidate for president will offer new ideas; two old parties will run 'sequels and reboots'
- Jan 12, 2015 California top-two hearing this Thursday in San Francisco
- Jan 8, 2015 Two ballot access bills introduced in the VA legislature
- Jan 6, 2015 Oklahoma GOP Lawsuit Against Colorado is Cynical and Shameful
- Jan 5, 2015 Long time TX libertarian running in special election
- Jan 2, 2015 Harry Browne's New Year's Resolutions for Selling Liberty Effectively
- Dec 31, 2014 New York LP featured in U.S. News article hailing decline in arrests for minor offenses
- Dec 30, 2014 Maine LP submits Declaration of Intent to become a political party
- Dec 29, 2014 2012 LP Vice-Presidential candidate to appear at Democrat Liberty Caucus in SC
- Dec 23, 2014 LPO Finds Other Ways to Make A Difference
- Dec 17, 2014 Libertarian Party wins most midterm votes of any alternative party in US in last 100 years
- Dec 15, 2014 Democrats, Republicans silencing 'voices of freedom': LP Political Director Carla Howell
- Dec 14, 2014 Iowa Libertarian running in special election for state legislature
- Dec 11, 2014 Georgia Libertarian running in special election
- Dec 9, 2014 LNC Meeting Dec 13 & 14, 2014 New Orleans
- Dec 9, 2014 Two Libertarians to be appointed to Alaska Public Offices Commission
- Dec 8, 2014 Louisiana Libertarian wins runoff election
- Dec 4, 2014 An open letter to U.S. House leaders to prohibit mass surveillance
- Nov 27, 2014 Libertarian Party: Secretary of Defense is a "no-win job overseeing a no-win U.S. foreign policy"

Highlights of 2014 Libertarian Candidates Survey

A survey of 2014 Libertarian candidates was conducted January 8- February 9, 2015. The survey was sent to 661 candidates for which email addresses were on file. 264 responded to all or a portion of the questions.

Breakdown of 264 respondents:

40 - US House

24 – statewide federal (US Senate or at-large US House)

60 – Statewide state office (governor, secretary, etc)

85 – State district office (mostly legislature)

55 – Local (including DC mayor)

Highlights of Survey Responses

Events and outreach

- 155 Libertarian campaigns distributed a total of 23,408 yard signs.
- 150 Libertarian campaigns distributed a total of 14,635 bumper stickers.
- 153 Libertarian campaigns distributed a total of 1,015,533 brochures or other printed materials.
- 133 Libertarians campaigns visited a total of over 142,087 households.
- 98 out of 153 candidates were a featured speaker at one or more campaign events.
- 48 out 139 published campaigns memes. 78% of candidates believed the memes were somewhat to highly effective.
- 120 out of 152 Libertarians campaigns had a website. (Note: Many candidates who did not take the survey had no website.)
- 122 out of 158 Libertarians campaigns had a Facebook page.
- 62 out of 148 Libertarians campaigns had a Twitter account with a total of 33,115 followers.
- Most found Facebook and other forms of social media to be the most effective way to reach voters. Community events, face-to-face contact and the campaign websites were also cited.
- 47 out of 103 coordinated activities with non-Libertarian political organizations.
- 8 out of 135 reported receiving support indirectly from a PAC.

Message

- 54 out of 74 noticed that voters were more receptive than in the past to Libertarian candidates and Libertarian solutions.
- The issue that candidates reported resonated most with voters was small government/less government/cutting spending. The second-most cited issue was legalizing / decriminalizing marijuana.
- Of the 112 who responded, 52 said they could have used help with formulating their Libertarian Solutions.
- 41 out of 118 reported being accused of being a “spoiler.”

Media

- The average candidate was featured in 2-3 print articles, interviewed on 2-3 radio shows, and in 1-2 TV news reports.
- 25 out of 146 who responded were featured in national media.
- Out of 155 candidates, polls were published in 48 of their campaigns. About 2/3rds were included in some or all of the polls.
- Candidates were included in 33 out of 82 televised debates for their campaigns and 13 out of 18 radio debates.
- 34 out of 147 participated in one or more pre-primary debates or candidate forums
- Two-thirds of candidates reported getting no or just minimal media coverage.
- 77 of 137 who responded reported making regular contact with media
- Half of the 174 who responded sent out 3 or more press releases during their campaign
- 18 out of 173 held press conferences

Volunteers:

- Facebook was the main vehicle used to recruit volunteers, although no means proved wildly successful. More than 90% said they needed more volunteers than they had.
- Candidates’ friends, family and other personal contacts were the primary source of volunteers.
- Recruiting at events, contacts from past campaigns and websites were also cited as sources.
- Volunteers were used primarily for social media outreach, working events, and canvassing.
- Median average of 4 volunteers per Libertarian campaign.
- Social media help and local organizers were cited as most critical to campaigns.

Fundraising

- 184 candidates reported raising \$1,252,480 (average \$6,807). Of these, 67 reported raising no funds. The top 3 fundraisers raised \$672,339 (more than half of all funds raised). The top 16 fundraisers raised \$1,004, 820 (more than 80% of all funds raised).
- Not included in the above totals were two fusion candidates who also ran on the GOP ticket. They reported raising \$650,000 and \$750,000 respectively.
- 173 candidates reported that they contributed \$733,070 to their own campaigns (average \$4,213).
- Slightly more than half had an online donation page. Most used PayPal for donations. Pyrex and Anedot were also used.
- Of the 82 candidates who filed campaign finance reports, 29 reported having difficulty or found campaign reporting cumbersome.
- One reported that an inexpensive app called Campaign ToolBox was very helpful.

Miscellaneous

- 64 out of 115 candidates felt the goals they set for their campaign were met; 31 felt they partially met goals, or fell short but were satisfied with what the campaign achieved; 20 did not feel they met goals, or did so minimally.
- 31 out of 119 said they had unrealistic expectations of what their vote total would be.
- 66 out of 133 said they plan to run for office again; 31 said probably or maybe; 17 are undecided; 19 said no or unlikely.
- 108 out of 116 indicated they intend to stay active in other ways.
- Print vendors who were cited as offering good prices were: supercheapsigns.com, Vistaprint, bannersonthecheap.com, Gotprint.com, Sign Rocket, Stars and Stripes Chicago, and yardsignwholesale.com.
- Asked what if any expanded support candidates would like to see from the national or state LPs, 115 responded (some gave more than one suggestion):
 - 25 want more volunteers
 - 22 want funds or help fundraising
 - 20 want more candidate training or advice
 - 9 want literature templates or free literature
 - 7 want more coordination or support from state LP affiliate
 - 8 want help building websites
 - 5 want more support across the board

- Asked what if anything they would have done differently knowing what they know now, 120 responded (some cited more than one item):
 - 26 would not have done anything differently
 - 22 would have started earlier to recruit volunteers, raise money or other campaign activities
 - 12 would have done “lots” of things differently
 - 11 would have raised more money
 - 10 would not have run or would have run as a major party candidate
 - 33 cited other things they would have done differently

Individual Responses to Questions

What was the most memorable moment of your campaign?

- having both the r & d candidates tell me i needed to host a radio show
- Being on the debate stage, answering a question and watching my millionaire R opponent nodding in agreement with just about everything I said.
- People along parade routes being excited to see a Libertarian candidate
- Working with my family and friends that supported me.
- my opponent refusing to campaign
- Kicking butt in one of the larger debates/forums
- when a homeless lady gave me a dollar for my campaign.
- Beating my opponent with a comfortable margin despite negative press circulating untrue accusations from government agencies.
- My first radio interview
- Receiving hate messages from liberal voters
- Getting the Boulder Weekly's endorsement
- Getting emails saying "you've got my vote" after appearances
- My debate with Larry Smith
- at the debate, when the D opponents turned out to be barely articulate, I have minor children who are more articulate
- Being on TV, having a teleprompter
- my nervousness
- Interviews
- Watching the returns come in and realizing that I had received more votes than the difference between two major
- Responding to numerous questions, new followers on twitter and media mentions were the most memorable moments of our campaign.
- candidate forums
- Election day
- Having people recognize my name as a candidate when I would introduce myself as a blogger at events
- Watching election results on TV

- the public debate held by a neighborhood assoc
- Too many great times to mention
- Suing the State of Nebraska for breaking election laws
- having libertarians explain to me how we will never win
- Conducting radio/TV interviews.
- Hearing involuntary laughter from his supporters and people who still voted for him when I buried my nutball opponent
- When I and my green party opponent walked into our republican opponent's campaign headquarters to hand deliver debate invitations, and the girl behind the desk seemed astonished that ANYONE was in the office.
- When it was over!
- visiting the strip club in Williston, ND
- None
- Making radio as with my seven year old son
- Debating my republican opponent
- Every time someone said "I support you."
- The LULAC/NAACP candidate forum
- asking people to vote for me who said yes
- getting 3,787 votes
- Getting sworn-in.
- Looking at the election results the next day
- Election night seeing my name and my numbers roll in
- Wiping the floor with one supposedly small gov republican candidate at a forum
- Getting some zingers in at my Democrat opponent at the Ark Press Assoc debate
- It was fun debating Elijah Cummings at League of Women Voters
- Being in a parade.
- beating out 4th, Danny Stroud
- Two moments, one was talking to many people at the Primary day polls while petitioning, and getting to talk to the community directly. Two, hearing that a member of the local Republican party said that my manner of answering questions succinctly was something they hoped to replicate in the future.
- 1. Getting arrested for petitioning; 2. Gary Johnson visit
- The RoboCall scandal
- Leading in the write-in vote
- speaking to the current Board of Regents (open comments), reminding them I'm watching, needling Republican opponent who didn't complete LWV questionnaire
- Recruiting a candidate for governor.
- Going on stage in the very first state debate in front of 2,000 people live
- Doing a press conference in front of the Alamo in San Antonio.
- my signs being stolen
- Winning
- Debate
- The 4 local debates where I got to speak directly to the people.

- speaking at the libertarian local meeting
- Nearly doubling my expected number of votes
- Having friends call me up out of the blue to tell me they voted for me ... Happy to have the Libertarian alternative!
- Noting stood out
- debates
- Getting nominated by the local party members.
- Debates #2 and I realized I truly was the best candidate who lacked a financial voice to be heard statewide.
- Getting laughter and applause for a one-word answer to a candidates forum question.
- staying up till 2am making signs and drinking with friends...the 2am drunken signs were not presentable.
- October 28 Cleveland City Club Debate
- a father telling his preteen kids that the "Libertarians are who will save our country"
- Having someone say that I was forging a path for the future. Someone saying that I was an inspiration for generations to come later on.
- Letter from voter after election thanking me for running.
- Election night
- My opponent not showing up for a debate
- Election night when they announced we had more than 6% of the total vote. I was shocked! Previous Libertarian candidate received less than 300 votes. Plus there's too many instances of people telling me they voted for the first time in their lives in support of me, and these are 50-year-olds.
- more libertarian candidates this time
- Meeting voters and hearing their thoughts.
- A funny. I handed a gentleman my campaign card that said Vote Libertarian at the top. He glanced at it and said,"I didn't know the Librarians had a party." I said, "They do. They're very nice people and you should vote for one." I used that story many times. I also received several vote because my campaign car (parades and events) is a 1932 Ford coupe with a 5 inch chop. I drove it or a 29 roadster with my magnetic campaign signs.
- Discussing issues with people
- I got a laugh from some non-Libertarian candidates.
- Public sign waving events.
- Receiving Joe Walsh's endorsement on his radio show.
- Not being able to get anyone willing to run in my stead.
- Participating in the nationally televised debate.
- Texas Farm Bureau forum
- speaking with a person who was concerned by my advocacy of an open border, and after my argument I was able to convince her that my position was the right one.
- Not one.
- numerous

- A major chain of newspapers editorialized that my libertarian ideas were significant and valuable.
- Standing in the rain and talking to voters. It was a phenomenal experience!
- Participated in a televised forum
- Standing ovation after TV interview
- People listened to me.
- final debate on tv and spending time with edwin edwards
- Speaking for 30 minutes to a crowd of 1100, Sharing the megaphone with my 6 and 4 year old daughters
- When the incumbent argued with me openly at a public forum. What an idiot.
- Parade
- Claiming I spent zero dollars
- Getting emails and messages on Facebook from family who were following returns
- Favorable press from Seattle Times
- Not one moment, but the number of my friends and colleagues who took the time after the election to say they were proud of me for even trying, when most people just sit and complain
- Getting a sitting Senator who was the Senate Lead on single payer visibly upset when I made it clear he didn't know how much things would cost
- Meeting Karl Tatgenhorst and Mike Jasper at the Danville HS Candidates Night
- Sitting in a political forum and talking about our counties issues and projecting libertarian solutions to them
- Following the election results online.
- My first debate closing statement. I shocked a few people.

What was the most gratifying aspect of your campaign?

- 58,000 votes
- 60,000 votes recorded
- All the voters who wrote and called me thanking me for running and giving them a better choice for governor
- Becoming the first Libertarian elected to office in my county.
- Being a voice for people have gone long without being heard.
- Being applauded for being a young guy running against the incumbents
- Being cheered on by Alaskans.
- Being endorsed by a few newspapers
- Being involved
- being on the ballot, getting 3787 votes
- Breaking some people's thinking outside of the MSM box
- Changing hearts and minds (albeit not as often as I hoped for).
- changing the local perspective and teaching
- did better than our governor candidate %age

- doing nothing and getting the highest number of votes I've ever received, and matching the highest percentage of the total vote.
- Doing something
- Earning 50,000 votes
- experience
- Facing my worst fear (tv debate) and not messing up too much.
- Finding substantial support for my ideas among a large number of people (if not percentage)
- Finding that many people were receptive to Libertarians
- getting 22% of the vote without spending any money
- Getting my name out for '16
- Getting our message out in forums and debates.
- Getting results so much stronger than anyone guessed.
- Getting to meet people and being treated with respect
- Goodwill from colleagues in the legal profession.
- got 10% of vote without campaigning
- Got some reasonably good press from a couple of outlets
- hard to say
- Having a donate page was the most satisfying achievement even if no donations occurred online
- Having far greater number of votes than was expected.
- Having people at festivals, after seeing some of what someone else had or over hearing a conversation literally run after us seeking more lit.
- having the respect of many people that I didn't know before
- hear people's reaction that the candidate took time to meet with them face to face.
- Hearing people ask me if I will run again.
- Hearing the cars honking and the thumbs up.
- Helping party maintain voting momentum on the ballot with small incremental gains in some polling areas.
- How the community comes together to listen to each other and appreciate differing viewpoints, and reasonable discussion.
- I got 3606 votes.
- I got the Libertarian name out there
- I met a lot of great people.
- I was able to get some people off their asses and angry enough to go up against the status quo
- Increasing vote total with 40% lower turnout
- Interacting with the residents
- It was fun
- Just running for office
- lots of people told me they voted for me.
- Many people told me they were glad I was running
- Meeting the people. They all have the same problems.
- Meeting Awesome People and getting involved

- Meeting new people and promoting libertarian ideal's.
- meeting new people and promoting the libertarian message
- Meeting new people who were receptive to what I had to say. Also, national blog radios that noticed me and the national LP.
- meeting people
- meeting people who were fed up with the status quo
- Meeting people, creating Media relations
- Meeting supporters from around the state.
- Meeting the voters of Louisiana
- Meeting voters.
- Messages, emails and phone calls from ordinary people supporting and encouraging my campaign
- More than double vote % as previous LP record for IL state Treasurer
- more votes
- my winning opponent asking to meet with me to discuss my issues
- no cost
- not mine, but it was gratifying when I turned in signatures for candidates, and when they thanked me for what I did for them.
- now winning the election so now I do not have to give up my day job
- Our Campaign published a great amount of information with our available resources. We provided a viable option for our district in Kansas.
- People appreciated my efforts.
- People enthusiastically supporting the campaign and its message.
- People telling me they voted for me.
- people voted for me
- Performing so well in our first stare debate in front of 2,000 people; the extensive media coverage and the ones we did so well at; and finally, getting requests from supporters in China and Canada and many states
- positive reception of our message by other candidates
- Preventing the Green Party Candidate from finishing a strong second
- pride in trying to make a difference
- Proving beyond a doubt that most nutballs pretending to be Republicans are cafeteria RINOs
- Received most votes of all Libertarian county-wide candidates.
- Receiving 57,069 votes, most ever for LP in MD
- Receiving the votes.
- Running as a Libertarian
- satisfy my conscious about doing everything I can to advance Liberty for all
- Seeing that some many people voted for me, even though I did not win.
- sharing Libertarian ideas with people, planting the notion that the Libertarians were someone to be aware of
- Showing that minor party candidates can make a difference
- Significant support from members of my community, improved relations with city government, offered position within city government

- someone thanking me, telling their children about Libertarians "saving our Country"
- Speaking directly with voters, most of whom had no prior understanding of Libertarian platform and principles.
- Speaking the truth always.
- Speaking to a group that over 30 college students showed up to hear me speak.
- Spreading the message of freedom
- Spreading the Libertarian gospel
- Still debating about it
- support from neighborhood groups that are not generally libertarian
- talking politics with people and actually have them listen
- Talking to people from all different walks of life and hearing how fed up they were with the way our government is operating
- talking to so many different people
- That it's over.
- That people had a CHOICE. (There was only going to be a R candidate running)
- That the issues I talked about are now being talked about in the Senate -- Industrial Hemp, GMO food.
- The courage I gained by approaching random people
- The fact that the answers from sitting Senators who have never been challenged changed considerably
- The gratitude from voters of giving them a real choice
- The huge amount of support I received by sticking to my principles.
- The number of people who viewed me as the candidate who made the most sense.
- The number of supporters I received from people who are traditionally Rs or Ds
- The opportunity
- The people I worked with and met.
- Tremendously positive response from community leaders, including from my opponent
- Trying to make a difference
- Two parts
- Understanding the process and difficulties a lot more.
- Vote results, making contact with other patriots.
- voter awareness
- we collected enough city signatures, and I came in 3rd.
- Web site development
- When it was over.
- Winning ;-)
- winning the challenge to my candidacy
- Young people on campus getting it.

Was there anything you found disappointing about your campaign?

Of the 122 who responded (some with more than one answer):

- 12 found nothing disappointing
- 32 cited lack of party support or volunteers
- 20 cited lack of media coverage or debates
- 20 cited lower vote total than expected or not winning
- 12 cited voter apathy, ignorance or allegiance to Ds/Rs
- 9 cited lack, or relative lack, of funds
- 5 cited lack of time or conflict between time on campaign and family life
- 3 cited disappointment in their own efforts
- 2 cited not making the ballot
- Other disappointments cited:
 - N.Y. election law is rigged against minor party candidates
 - Lack of receptivity by close friends and family
 - The opposition was negative and toxic
 - reality
 - Sort of pointless exercise.
 - State rules regarding the voter pamphlet for candidate profiles required either too much money, or too many signatures.
 - Lying and deception from the Green party candidate
 - Lack of events to attend
 - The local clerk's office botched the ballots and had me listed as an independent rather than a libertarian.
 - That the Republicans/Democrats want to make sure that no third party gets elected and will use any means to make that happen.
 - That there really was no campaign/election. Like most districts in the USA, Gerrymandering determines the winner years in advance.
 - Incumbent Republican refused to openly debate me throughout entire campaign
 - Direct mail brochures are less cost-effective than I hoped.

What are you most proud of about your campaign?

- 19% vote against a 14 year incumbent in a fiercely republican district with only \$700 and 3 months campaigning.
- 3600+ votes with no money spent in any form by any person.
- 4% of vote
- 4000 votes on \$2.00 postage
- As far as I know, I received the highest percentage of any Libertarian in the US with 36%
- Beating out Danny Stroud
- Being straightforward and forthcoming about my stance on issues

- better than average results for first time 3 way race
- Changed some people's minds about what a Libertarian stands for.
- Doing it.
- Feedback from friends that they voted for me.
- Final results in the most democratic stronghold district. We actually got more votes than a republican candidate did with 5 times the campaign expenses
- Fixing the voter registration issue that allowed libertarians to register to vote at the DMV.
- For me, the citizen's debate forum. I am deaf, the idea of speaking in front of cameras, radio stations & TV outlets was intimidating but I kicked ass! I'm very proud of myself for that. The other thing is the fact I actually ran for office. Everyone I knew said I was crazy to run for office and I did it, learned a lot, and learned so much.
- Gave people choice and exposure for LP
- getting 3787 votes
- getting 4+% in the election
- Getting ballot status for the party
- Getting the "unheard" alternatives some exposure
- Going against my manager's advice, and creating my own closing statement at the debate. I hear it was pretty good (I don't watch myself on TV).
- Got 25% of the vote
- Got more votes than any other 3rd party candidate
- Grassroots effort and success
- Highest vote total for LP for congress in CT/record state LP fundraising for 2012
- Honest and positive, no mud-slinging
- Honest. Fair. Every statement was proved by state and federal data. Every conclusion was supported by at least two data points and a strict logical progression.
- How close I came despite the odds.
- How people reacted to me one on one when I talked to them about the issues.
- I am most proud of how amazing the local community was in coming together to listen to me, and support my run.
- I am proud of the 17,000+ Arkansas voters that were willing to break from the century old 2-party system and vote for me to be their next U.S. Senator
- I came from nowhere and now I'm involved and people are coming to me for answers and to rally everyone together
- I contributed to a notable national vote for Libertarians in the off-year elections.
- I did a lot of work, research, engaging voters from Mn and other states, and took direct action on many issues.
- I gave the people a choice. The RINO would have run unopposed if I hadn't
- I got 1500 votes without trying to get any.
- I had more positive attention from major media and more endorsements than in my previous two campaigns for the same office.
- I had to do 95% of the work myself and did it
- I helped maintain the appearance of Democracy in America.

- I never compromised my positions or my principles.
- I promoted Liberty.
- I ran
- I ran for office, there are a lot of people that could but did not.
- I ran it truthfully and ethically
- I tried
- I was included in every debate and performed well. I think I advanced the Libertarian Party in North Dakota.
- I was outspent \$400,000 to \$9998
- I was the most informed, prepared and qualified to hold office.
- I won
- I won 21% of the despite starting late and being poorly organized
- I'm proud that I ran for office.
- I'm told I got the highest % for a non-R/D US Congress candidate in Iowa since the WW 1 Progressives.
- Independence
- It puts the lie to the 2 parties.
- It was fun
- It was professional, polished, we held great press worthy fundraisers and we were active! We worked almost every single weekend doing active events for the campaign and during the week we always did 2-3 events if not more.
- Keeping message based on issues rather than personal attacks on my opponent
- LPRC membership is up and the message of liberty really got around.
- Media Relations -
- My 7% vote total was the third highest in the state for races with 3 or more candidates.
- my highest vote share so far >7%; data showing I took 2 1/2 times votes from D as R
- My performance in my debate
- My public positions
- New LPM members
- no campaigning at all and got 10 percent of the vote. my people are great! I'll try next time (was double-full-time with work and school during campaign time)
- No special interest funding
- Not getting in the dirt and slinging mud.
- not giving up
- Nothing
- Obtaining public exposure
- Our endorsement by Gov. Gary Johnson & Optics: Our campaign had stickers, campaign signs, and position statements/papers of noticeable and respectable quality that still make our campaign proud!
- Perseverance
- Putting the party and freedom on the ballot.
- Raised my public profile dramatically.

- raising money for the wounded warrior project
- Ran a clean, respectable campaign. Having never have run before, I learned a lot about campaigning.
- Reaching over 1.2million Texans with my message of hope and options
- Reaching people. Many people told me I was the first libertarian they had voted for.
- Recruiting 30+ local candidates
- Running an honest campaign
- Running.....I am not a politician. I am a disgruntled voter!
- Securing full ballot status for the LP in Wisconsin.
- Smashing the vote record
- spreading the libertarian message
- Staying honest ... NEVER compromising.
- Surviving the disappointment of 19.8%.
- Taking almost 1/5 of votes despite being outspent 100:1.
- That I changed some of the conversation
- That I didn't come in last in a field of 5.
- That I ran and had 18,082 people support me with a vote.
- That I received as many votes as I did with very little resources and personnel
- That I was serious and thorough, in stark contrast to my opponents.
- That I was the youngest person running in my country.
- That I worked as hard as I could, met my goals and introduced three counties of voters to Libertarians
- That we finished with 28.06% of the vote total
- That we gave honest answers to every question and that Lorenzo ran with me.
- That we went up against the republican Party , in a republican county and almost won, spending only 6000 dollars
- The amount of door knocking and citizen interaction I created
- The amount of votes I received for the amount of money I spent.
- The banner campaign
- the help and support of the veteran community
- The number of votes I received.
- the ratio of dollar spent to the votes received
- the verbal lashing I gave during the debate
- The voter support I received from people I had never met.
- We finished what we started
- We gained 8% more votes with a 40% lower turnout, with less money and volunteers than 2012.
- we made it through
- We provided a real Libertarian option with viable solutions for the challenges that face our state.
- We shed light on what Liberty is in a 95% Republican district.
- We won!
- Website

- Winning
- With little to no money we sat at the debate table at 2 out of the 3 congressional debates.
- zero compromising on principles

Director of Operation's Report

by Robert Kraus

Blackbaud – Data Dumps – Internal Customer Service

We continue to do various on going clean ups of emails and other items in the dumps. As part of our effort to have accurate data – Casey tests all emails on **new and renewed memberships by sending them all a quick “thank you, your membership card has been mailed” email every Monday. Bad emails are then removed from the database.**

There are still a number of states that use the old formatted dump which is very cumbersome. We continue to reach out to those states to switch to the updated format which is much easier and simpler to use.

Building Fund

There is \$7,896 in the restricted building fund account as of 03/20/15. The current LP News, which just hit homes, **has already pulled in \$3,071 on the “pay down the mortgage” appeal.**

Final individual donor room and perpetual plaques have now been displayed at HQ and recognition certificates have been mailed.

In terms of maintenance issues, we are looking into a sprinkler alarm system. The cost of this would be in the \$3500 range (capital expense) plus \$360 a year or so for monitoring.

FEC Filing

We continue to file accurate FEC reports and use Paula Edwards to complete the FEC Filing Process on a monthly basis and handle our amendments. The reconciliation and audit steps to this process continue to work to assure that these reports are correct prior to filing, and to insure that the disbursements and contributions match to our cash accounting records.

As a reminder, the FEC reports are done on a cash basis while our financial reports are done on an accrual basis as required by our bylaws which require adherence to GAAP. Therefore, our Statement of Operations will not always look the same as what is reported on the summary page of our FEC Filings.

Financial

Finances remain very tight despite the first installment of the bequest. The EOM report for Feb-15 (in your binders) shows that at end of the month Feb we had an actual reserve of \$64,059 vs. target of \$50,460. HOWEVER this month (March) we paid out the 2014 year end bonus which amounted to over \$19k plus we hired Direct Line for another \$19k to make renewal calls. Thus, as of 03/20/15, we only have about \$36.5k in unrestricted cash on hand of which \$25k is committed for LPAR ballot access. So in reality we only have about \$11.5k cash available to fund on going operations and we expect cash to remain very tight for the foreseeable few months.

Other

We had WSM (Web Site Movers) run our annual security scan on our web server and LP.org which runs about \$600. They found several vulnerabilities which cost about \$\$1255 to fix.

Thank you!

Robert

EMPLOYMENT POLICY AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted to: Libertarian National Committee, Mar. 22, 2015

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

The members of the Employment Policy and Compensation Committee (EPCC) are Brett Bittner, Joshua Katz, and Jim Lark. The members were appointed to the Committee by Nick Sarwark on Nov. 15, 2014.

1) On Jan. 12, 2015, Dr. Lark sent a message on behalf of the EPCC to members of the LPHQ staff. The message informed 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.)

2) During the LNC meeting on Dec. 13-14 last year, the LNC approved a motion that assigned the EPCC the task of researching the structure of employee contracts and making recommendations for going forward. The EPCC has prepared a report to comply with the requirements of the motion; this report is submitted as a separate document.

For the convenience of our colleagues, we have prepared an appendix to our report. The appendix contains material from the Policy Manual that is relevant to consideration of employment contracts for LPHQ staff.

The EPCC expresses its appreciation to Mr. Katz for his work on the report; his efforts provided most of the basic material contained in the report.

3) The EPCC will endeavor to complete the following tasks by Dec. 31, 2015:

- Obtain (at a reasonable cost) a review of the Employee Manual by an attorney who is competent in the area of employment law in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- Determine (in consultation with the Executive Director and the Chair) whether documents, procedures, and guidelines for the effective administration, supervision, and development of LPHQ staff should be developed (or revised). Should it be necessary to develop (or revise) such documents, procedures, and guidelines, the EPCC will undertake these tasks.

Employment Policy and Compensation Committee: Report on Director--Level Contracts

This report provides information about the structure of previous contracts for director-level employees of the Libertarian National Committee, and offers suggestions, items of concern, and items for consideration concerning future contracts.

Items listed as suggestions enjoy unanimous EPCC support. Those listed as items for consideration are items that either received majority (but not unanimous) EPCC support, or that EPCC members believe should be considered by the LNC. Items of concern are matters the LNC should regard as potential hazards, without a specific course of action suggested.

This report has been created pursuant to the following motion of the LNC:

(Minutes, LNC meeting, Dec. 13-14, 2014, p. 11): Ms. Mattson moved that the LNC refer to the Employment Policy & Compensation Committee the task of researching past employee contract structures and making recommendations for going forward. The motion was adopted without objection.

General Contractual Provisions

Contracts have specified the expectation of good faith and loyalty to the Party, including not working to support any other party, or the candidate of any other party, unless so instructed by the Chair.

Contracts have generally included a submission to arbitration within the District of Columbia (moving forward this will be the Commonwealth of Virginia,) and have specified that registration as a delegate to any convention will constitute an immediate resignation of employment. Arbitration agreements have generally been standard, but one specified a procedure for selection of an arbitrator that appears to have been drawn from the Old Testament.

Contracts have included clauses requiring the return of all real property upon termination. In addition, contracts have generally included clauses protecting the intellectual property of the Party and prohibiting the disclosure of trade secrets.

Contracts have generally stated the standard benefits package, but without binding the Party to continue these benefits indefinitely. As the benefits offered have shifted, contracts have kept pace. These benefits have included a parking space and liability insurance to the extent that the LNC chooses to provide.

However, several contracts have specified the accrual of vacation time, rather than simply referencing the Employee Manual provisions. Some contracts have contained provisions that differ from those in the Employee Manual; the differences are primarily with respect to accrual.

For example, some contracts have stated that vacation time accrues monthly, whereas the Employee Manual states vacation time accrues with each paycheck, which are issued bimonthly.

Contracts have (except in one case) specified that director--level employees are full-time and exempt from overtime, and set their own hours, while stating that they are expected to be available during business hours and to be present at HQ unless conducting Party business elsewhere.

Executive Director contracts have stated that personnel decisions must be made in coordination with the Chair. This accords with requirements stated in the Policy Manual.

Suggestion: The general contractual provisions mentioned above should be included in future contracts, and standard language used for these clauses. Where possible, contracts should be written in accordance with the language of the Policy Manual and the Employee Manual unless there are clear and compelling reasons to use different language.

Bonus Structure

The compensation and bonus structures in contracts have varied greatly. Some employees have been paid low base salaries with very large bonus opportunities, while others have received higher base salaries and lower bonus opportunities. Some employees have had no bonuses included in their contracts. The following are examples of various bonus structures used:

- Fixed amount at fixed revenue points, plus additional pay for each 10% above a higher fixed amount
- Eligible for additional fixed amount bonus once per year, at LNC discretion.
- Fixed amount each quarter if revenue exceeds quarterly budgeted revenue, with the same fixed amount also paid at year end for each 10% in excess of annual budgeted revenue
- Paid quarterly, fixed amount, if revenue exceeds target on an annualized basis; additional larger fixed amount at yearend for exceeding 110%, plus a percentage of excess

Items of Concern: Basing bonuses on revenue provides an incentive to spend excessive amounts on fundraising, and pays for income not dependent on staff performance. Additional concerns are raised by the combination of accrual basis accounting and paying bonuses for revenue above a target, particularly when a staff member is paid a percentage of the amount above the target.

For example, a bequest may be accrued in one period, but distributed over several years. Under most bonus structures utilized, bonuses would be owed (sometimes in large amounts) in the year the bequest was received.

More generally, situations such as bequests raise related issues: staff members who secure a future income stream may not receive bonuses based upon that work, and future staff members may receive bonuses based upon revenue they did nothing to secure.

Suggestions: In designing bonus structures for an employee, the Chair and the EPCC should strive to base those structures on measures tailored to the Party's goals, as relevant to the employee's position. To the extent possible, bonuses should be based upon objective measures that can be reasonably connected to the employee's performance.

In all cases, the process of defining and awarding bonuses should be transparent, and care should be taken to ensure that cash flow issues and other implications are fully understood by the Chair, EPCC, and prospective employee. Additionally, bonuses should be easy to calculate, in the sense that upon reviewing the relevant terms and financial statements, any LNC member can understand and calculate the bonuses to be paid.

Termination

The most commonly used termination arrangements were as follows:

- Termination without cause: One month notice, pay until end date
- Termination with cause: No compensation
- Termination by employee with one month notice: Pay through end date only

However, the arrangements varied, as did the phrasing. Most were similar to the above, with the following exception:

- Termination without cause: Paid for 3 months past termination, relocation up to \$15k, LNC assumes unexpired portion of lease up to 12 months
- Termination with cause: Relocation and lease as above
- Termination with "serious" cause (3/4 LNC vote): No compensation
- Termination by employee with one month notice (unless waived by Chair): Paid through end date, relocation up to \$15k if employee worked at least one year

Items of Concern: In the lease example above, unless the contract contains the appropriate specifics (e.g., the unit leased, the rental terms, etc.), the Party could assume a liability of unknown value. In addition, payments triggered by an employee's unilateral action (e.g., voluntary termination by the employee) may create perverse incentives.

Suggestions: We suggest that termination clauses not include reimbursement for relocation or lease payments unless there are clear and compelling reasons for such inclusion. Instead, employees terminated without cause should be paid a reasonable compensation (e.g., three months' severance) that is not dependent upon relocation or rental costs. Furthermore, termination for cause should not trigger payments other than those for work performed prior to termination.

Relocation and Work Location

Only one contract included payment for relocation, in an amount up to \$20,000. Additionally, that contract allowed for an extended time of working from Boston prior to moving to the Washington, DC area.

Suggestion: If relocation costs are included in a contract, we suggest that a provision be included allowing for the recovery of such costs, on a pro-rated or staggered basis, in the event of a termination of employment. Additionally, we suggest that relocation allowances be reasonably based on market conditions and prices.

Credit Check and Criminal Background Check

The Policy Manual states that a credit check and criminal background check are required prior to an offer of employment to any prospective employee. Additionally, the Policy Manual limits the work that may be done by those who have been convicted of certain crimes or who have a history of personal bankruptcy, except with permission of the Chair and EPCC.

These limitations would not be acceptable for a director--level employee. Some contracts have stated explicitly that employment is contingent on successful completion of a criminal and credit check, while others have not.

Suggestion: We suggest that all contracts explicitly state that employment is contingent upon a criminal and credit check acceptable to the Chair and EPCC. This would include the requirement that the Chair and EPCC provide clearance, if needed, to perform essential tasks of the position.

A decision by the Chair or EPCC against granting such clearances, based on the results of these checks, should nullify the contract without any liability on the part of the Party. Such requirements and their implications should be made clear in the contract.

Language Used

Most contracts have specified that the contract is between the employee and the LNC, via its chair. However, some contracts have used “I” and “me” terminology, which is not appropriate because the Chair could change during the employee’s term of employment.

Most contracts have specified start and end dates, along with the length of extensions (generally one-year increments). Such specification allows for appropriate budgeting. Other contracts have indicated a start date “upon LNC approval” which complicates budgeting and may require changes in budgets. One contract specified a three-year term of employment, while all other contracts specified a term of one year or less.

Suggestion: Standardize the language used in contracts and include specific start and end dates. In addition, for executive director contracts it is appropriate to indicate that the LNC must approve the contract.

Items for Consideration: The LNC may wish to consider standardizing contract length (such as renewal in one-year increments) for renewed contracts, while leaving the length of the initial contract open to the judgment of the Chair, EPCC, and ED.

Job Responsibilities and Titles

Most contracts have stated that responsibilities will be as described in the Policy Manual and as additionally assigned by the Chair. Others have listed specific responsibilities and left unclear how additional responsibilities can be assigned. Some employees have been hired into job titles specifically authorized and described in the Policy Manual, but with wildly different responsibilities.

Most contracts have used the titles authorized by the LNC in the Policy Manual. However, two contracts used the term “Chief Operating Officer,” which is not authorized or defined in the Policy Manual.

Suggestions: To the extent possible, responsibilities and titles specified in a contract should match the applicable position descriptions in the Policy Manual. All contracts should use standard language indicating that responsibilities will be as stated in the Policy Manual and Employee Manual, and as additionally assigned by the Chair. The Policy Manual should be amended to specify more clearly the responsibilities of the Political Director.

Probationary Period

Several older contracts included a 90-day probationary period with specified tasks to be achieved in that period. Some of these tasks used the language “attempt to,” which may lead to difficulties in determining compliance with the contract. No recent contracts have utilized these 90-day probationary periods.

Item for Consideration: The LNC should consider re-instituting the 90-day probationary period. Should a probationary period be specified in a contract, the contract should also include a clear description of what constitutes satisfactory (and unsatisfactory) performance during that period.

Non-Disclosure Agreement and Conflict of Interest Statement

Several older contracts included signing a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) and providing a conflict of interest (COI) statement as conditions of employment. No recent contracts have included these terms.

Suggestion: All employment contracts should include a statement indicating that as a condition of employment, employees must sign a non-disclosure agreement and provide a conflict of interest statement.

Non-Compete Agreement

While all contracts reviewed included specific expectations that an employee will not to work for competing parties or candidates during the employment term, none of the contracts included a non-compete clause.

Item for Consideration: The LNC should consider introducing a non-compete clause into all contracts, with the possible exception of termination without cause by the Party.

EPCC Involvement

The Policy Manual requires the EPCC to review and comment on all director-level contracts. However, such contracts (with the exception of contracts for the position of Executive Director) do not require EPCC approval, nor do they require the Chair to respond to EPCC concerns and suggestions. In the past, contracts have been signed and approved after the EPCC raised objections, without the Chair making modifications suggested by the EPCC. NOTE: A detailed discussion of these cases should be reserved for an Executive Session.

Additionally, EPCC approval is required in order for employees without clean background and credit checks to perform certain tasks. However, there is no requirement that such approval be obtained prior to hiring such employees. Thus, the possibility exists for hiring a Communications Director who cannot handle membership records or an Executive Director who cannot handle funds.

Suggestion: The Policy Manual should be amended to require EPCC approval for all director-level contracts.

APPENDIX:

The following material from the LNC Policy Manual is relevant to consideration of employment contracts for LPHQ staff.

Section 2.02 COMMITTEE SCOPE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

6) Employment Policy and Compensation Committee

The Employment Policy and Compensation Committee shall develop documents, procedures, and guidelines for the effective administration, supervision and development of Staff, including but not limited to job descriptions, compensation ranges, hiring, training, performance reviews, promotion, progressive discipline and termination. The LNC may supersede any such documents, procedures and guidelines by adopting a replacement.

The Employment Policy and Compensation Committee shall also be available to Staff to discuss on a confidential basis the working environment or observed violations of the Policy Manual.

The EPCC shall also complete a review of any contract for director-level employment no less than 10 days prior to the Chair signing it.

Section 2.04 LEGAL MATTERS

3) Contracts and Contract Approval

All contracts or modifications thereto shall be in writing and shall document the nature of the products or services to be provided and the terms and conditions with respect to the amount of compensation/reimbursement or other consideration to be paid.

The Chair shall approve any contract in excess of \$7,500.

All contracts of more than one year in duration or for more than \$25,000 shall be reviewed and approved by General Counsel prior to signing by the Chair.

No agreement involving a financial transaction with a related party shall be executed unless first approved by the LNC. Any such agreement shall be disclosed in a conflict of interest statement.

Independent contractors doing business with the LNC are required to sign formal contracts that clearly set forth the parties' intention that they be treated as independent contractors.

Each contract for director-level employment must be circulated to the LNC on a strictly confidential basis after it has been reviewed by Counsel and the EPCC.

Section 2.09 OTHER MATTERS

4) Hiring and Termination

The Chair shall appoint and employ the Executive Director with the approval of the LNC, subject to the right of the LNC to discharge the Director at any time by majority vote. The Chair shall provide advice and consent to the Executive Director on the appointment, employment, and termination of all LPHQ personnel.

The office of the LNC shall conduct a credit and criminal background check prior to offering employment to any prospective employee.

Employees and candidates for employment shall be obligated to notify the Chair, Executive Director and Employment Policy and Compensation Committee of the full details of any arrest or conviction of crimes punishable by imprisonment, or of any personal financial problem, including involuntary liens or any filing for personal bankruptcy.

The office of the LNC shall not employ any person who has been convicted of a crime against property or person, unless with the approval of the Employment Policy and Compensation Committee. The Chair shall promptly disclose to the LNC as a confidential employer-employee matter that such approval has been given. The LNC may override such approval, but the motion shall not reveal confidential details.

The office of the LNC shall not allow any employee with a history of financial problems, including involuntary liens or who has filed for personal bankruptcy, to handle money or negotiable instruments, access donor information, approve or negotiate purchases with contractors or suppliers, or prepare accounting records, unless with the approval of the Chair and the Employment Policy and Compensation Committee. The Chair shall promptly disclose to the LNC as a confidential employer-employee matter that such approval has been given. The LNC may override such approval, but the motion shall not reveal confidential details.

IT COMMITTEE REPORT MARCH 2015

Committee work has been slower than expected this past quarter with the holidays and some members focused on other commitments requiring time away.

We have not named a replacement for Laura Delhomme. We may pick her replacement based on website development and management experience. Sam and Rich will send out inquiries to a subset of our applicant pool before next meeting.

We did meet last week via conference software and shared what progress we had made on various tasks.

Rich did networking at the tech sessions at Liberty Forum. He's joined Software Engineers for Liberty and the NH Freedom Engineers group. He shared some of our initiatives and is looking to recruit more outside help for either actual work or expertise on best products and products we can use, saving time on evaluations. There is some amazing new technology including highly targeted and unobtrusive voter contact, GoTV and campaign management tools. He also found some new web shopping cart and payment processing that could save the party money and expand our merchandizing. Efforts to stop the liberty community constantly re-invent the wheel are coming together. He also spoke with people who were involved with the previous LP.org upgrade.

Sam asked for and Wes provided details on Raiser's Edge add-ons we can get along with pricing.

Drew Hutton is evaluating of free/cheap project collaboration and project management software. He found that with free you usually get what you pay for, and some free tools don't scale up so well. Other people are recommending similar tools for their own political projects.

Kurt and Stewart were looking at the shared database technology, Raiser's Edge upgrades and some GoTV tools.

THE IT BUDGET

We have not asked for specific appropriations out of the IT budget, though we likely expect that to change in the next quarter once the website effort moves forward and the database project solidifies, and potentially Raiser's Edge packages if we can get consistent contact with BlackBaud. The party is already using Adobe Connect. Some project management software licensing may come next. Those shouldn't be pricey per utility, usually <\$500 each. We will continue looking at more opportunities for savings in our back office and IT operations.

COMMITTEE PROJECTS AND IDEAS

Ballot Access: An open question is what tools are used to track ballot access and petition drives? We are looking at 20+ states with petition drives in 2016 and that could mean managing 100+ petitioners, so it would be good to know how we can do that effectively so nothing gets missed. We recommend a repository filled with all the info Bill Redpath and others have accumulated so it doesn't get lost.

LP.org: The discussion at the LNC meeting got everyone on the same page on the challenges posed by our current website. It is not "bad" but it needs do more and do it in a way that's easier to navigate and manage. The push goal was to have an RFP ready to show at this meeting. That's been pushed out due to a rethinking of how to approach this project. Rather than focus on the technical

needs, first look at the “user stories” we want to create. In other words, figure out who will be coming to the website and what we want them to be able to do and a general idea of how they'd do it and how we want them to feel during and after the process. None of the technology is a real obstacle, the most likely features are available off-the-shelf, with the exception of integration with Raiser's Edge.

We are recommending a members-area on the website as a way to better engage the membership and candidates to simplify some back-office operations. If members have an identity on the site, we can much better evaluate what is important to that member, tailor the website experience to them, and gather a bunch of useful information that is currently being missed.

Here are examples of the users who would have reason to go to LP.org and the types of activity we want them to be able to do easily.

First Time Visitor: Learn about libertarianism and the LP. Get more information, contact their state and local affiliate, be guided to our social media platforms. Something entertaining to watch/listen/read.

Member: Join/Renew/Upgrade their membership. Update their contact info. Request their donation history. Post on members-only forum. A membership FAQ. Link to their affiliate. How to become convention delegate. List of state/local candidates. Calendar of events. Collect issue concerns, demographics and talents. Surveys and polls.

Candidate: The nomination process for their local affiliate. GoTV and campaign how-to articles. Communications training.

Media: Platform, white papers, press releases, our social media platforms, links to prior coverage and interviews with party leaders. Special contact form. Entry form for press credentials for conventions and other special events.

Curious/Interested/Prospect: Similar to FTV. More links to big/little L position statements. Reasons to join the LP. This is our persuasion section. These are not members yet, bring them into the funnel. Collect issue concerns and other basic demographics.

Once the user stories are fleshed out, we'll need to look at any technical issues with the current site and how the cut-over may happen. That should provide enough detail to create an RFP.

Shared Database: The potential for this getting done are huge. It could be a great supplement (or perhaps replacement) for Raiser's Edge. It could allow affiliates to outsource hosting/management. Get some economy of scale for upgrades and maintenance.

There are some real technical and policy issues for this project, but the path is one of “how” rather than “can we”. Answers to these questions will drive completion of this project. Based on past discussions, the issues to address include:

- How to segregate the data properly.
- Who can and cannot access the data.
- What is the sharing agreement to/from national and the affiliates.
- What is the sharing agreement among affiliates.
- Will we make special provisions for candidates.
- Who will host this? The LNC, an allied entity like the LSLA, an independent body, a subsidiary of the LNC?

LIBERTARIAN PARTY BALLOT ACCESS ACTION REPORT

Libertarian National Committee meeting

Phoenix, Arizona

March 28-29, 2015

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 2015 and 2016.

I want to thank Richard Winger and Bob Johnston, LP of Maryland Chair and an Independent Contractor to the LNC, for their assistance in updating this report.

We currently have ballot access for our 2016 Presidential ticket in the following 30 states: AK, AZ, CA, CO, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IN, KS, LA, MD, MI, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NM, NC, ND, OR, SC, TX, UT, VT, WV, WI & WY.

There is one ongoing petition drive: AR. This drive will likely have started by the time of this LNC meeting. 10,000 valid sigs gathered within a 90 days window are necessary. The EC approved an LNC expenditure of \$26,000 for this drive, with the rest of the money and volunteer sigs coming from the LPAR.

I will now address the other 19 states and DC:

AL: The LP can start a party petition anytime (35,413 valid sigs), but I presume that we will do an Independent petition for 5,000 valid sigs in 2016 after the Presidential nomination. I budget \$15,000.

CT: 7,500 valid sigs in 2016 for President. The LPCT is working with the ACLU to possibly litigate the out-of-state petitioner ban in CT. This drive will likely need some subsidization from the LNC. I budget \$25,000.

DC: I estimate a 4,600 valid sig petition drive for President in 2016. I budget \$15,000 from the LNC.

IL: 25,000 valid sig petition drive for President & US Senate in 2016. I will budget \$66,500, which was the budgeted amount for 2014.

IA: 1,500 valid sig petition drive for President. This required subsidization in 2012 from the LNC. Hopefully not in 2016.

KY: 5,000 valid sig petition drive for President can start the day after Election Day 2015. I budget \$7,500 in 2015 and \$7,500 in 2016.

ME: The LPME is working with Scott Kohlhaas in a voter registration drive. The LPME needs 5,000 registered voters to become an officially recognized political party in Maine, which would give the

LPME ballot access. This registration drive is about to start. It will have to conclude by December 2015. Scott Kohlhaas anticipates this registration drive will succeed. I am not planning on any LNC subsidization at this time.

MA: We will need to do a 10,000 valid sig petition drive for President after Memorial Day 2016, unless we receive permission from the Secretary of State to list only our Presidential electors. If we got that permission, the petition drive could start in February 2016. Deadline: August 1, 2016.

Please note that if we had party status in MA, we would not have to petition at all to get our Presidential ticket on the ballot there.

MN: A 2,000 valid sig petition drive for President after the Memorial Day 2016 weekend convention. I will plan on this being done by the LPMN.

NH: 1,500 valid sigs in each of two congressional districts (3,000 valid sigs total). I have not seen anything out of the LPNH recently that would indicate that it could handle this petition drive on its own. I budget \$15,000 in 2016.

NJ: 800 valid sigs after Memorial Day 2016. Although the LNC needed to subsidize in 2012, I would hope they could do this on their own in 2016.

NY: We will need 15,000 valid sigs for our Presidential ticket in 2016. I budget \$30,000 from the LNC.

OH: The LPOH is still in court regarding Ohio's ballot access laws. We should see how this litigation plays out before considering what to do with Ohio for 2016.

OK: A party petition would be 41,242 valid sigs. A presidential petition would be 40,047 valid sigs. The cost to do an LPOK petition drive would likely be about \$125,000. NOTE: This dollar amount is not included in the 2015 & 2016 summaries below.

PA: We are looking at probably about a 25,000 valid sig petition drive in PA starting in February 2016. We are probably looking at an expenditure of \$70,000.

RI: A 1,000 valid sig petition drive. I don't think the LPRI can do this themselves. We are probably looking at an LNC expenditure of \$2,500.

SD: The LP lost its party status in SD in November, because the LPSD did not run someone for Governor this year. However, the LPSD has a new Chairman, Emmett Reistroffer, who seems to have a great desire to move the LPSD forward. A party petition for 6,936 valid sigs would get us two elections (2016 & 2018), with a possibility of retaining ballot status if we get 2.5% for Governor in 2018. I budget \$20,000 of LNC funds in 2015.

TN: 275 valid sig petition drive for President in 2016. The LPTN should handle this itself. The LPTN needs to work to get this done well ahead of the deadline in 2016, not let it go to a last day fire drill, as in 2012.

VA: 5,000 valid sig petition drive for President in 2016. The LPVA should handle this itself.

WA: 1,000 valid sig petition drive for President in 2016. The LPWA should handle this itself.

2015 Summary:

AR \$26,000
KY \$7,500
SD \$20,000

Total: \$53,500 (although \$57,500 is budgeted for 2015).

2016 Summary:

AL \$15,000
CT \$25,000
DC \$15,000
IL \$66,500
KY \$7,500
MA \$25,000
NH \$15,000
NY \$30,000
PA \$70,000
RI \$2,500

Total: \$271,500

BALLOT ACCESS LOBBYING

The following is nearly entirely excerpted from ballot-access.org:

AL

On March 18, the Alabama Senate Constitution, Ethics & Elections Committee passed SB 221, the bill that eases ballot access for newly-qualifying parties and independent candidates. The vote was 4-2. The only Democrat who was present, Linda Coleman, voted for the bill. Five Republican Senators were present, and three of them voted for the bill. The two Republicans who voted against the bill were Chairman Bill Hightower and Phil Williams. The bill now goes to the Senate Rules Committee.

The bill, SB 221, lowers the number of signatures for independent candidates, and newly-qualifying parties, from 3% of the last gubernatorial vote, to 1.5%. That change affects petitions for Congress and state office. Petitions for partisan county office would continue to be 3%.

The bill also eases the petition deadline for newly-qualifying parties, for Congress and state office, from primary day, to the third Wednesday after the runoff primary. The deadline for petitions for county office, and for independent candidates, would not change.

Ballot access bills have passed this committee in the past. In 2013, SB 265 passed its first committee on April 4, but it didn't advance any further. In 2011, SB 17 passed this committee on March 8, but then it was blocked in the Senate Rules Committee.

CT

HB 5303, sponsored by Rep. Devin R. Carney (R-Old Saybrook), states that if a party gets 1% for any statewide race in the recent past then it is on for all statewide offices. We got over 1% for US Senate in 2012 and there was no US Senate race in 2014, so if this bill passed, we would be on for President, as well as US Senate, in 2016 (we are already on for US Senate).

DC

Some Libertarians are trying to find a city councilmember who will introduce a bill expanding the vote test for party status so that it includes Shadow US Senator and Shadow US House. We met the vote test for both offices in November 2014, so if this proposed bill passed, we would be back on.

NC

A good bill ballot access bill to reduce the number of required signatures is expected to be introduced in the state legislature soon.

OK

On March 10, the Oklahoma House passed HB 2181 by a vote of 90-0. The eleven members who didn't vote were all excused that day, which means that no legislator who was in the chamber abstained. The bill now goes to the State Senate. It lowers the petition for a newly-qualifying party to 1% of the last gubernatorial vote.

PA

On February 18, Pennsylvania State Senator Mike Folmer re-introduced his ballot access bill, SB 495. It cuts the number of signatures for independent candidates from 2% of the winning candidate's vote in the last election to the smaller numbers that are required for major party candidates to get on a primary ballot. Current law requires 2,000 signatures for statewide primary candidates.

The bill says a party is qualified to nominate by convention if it has registration membership of one-twentieth of 1%, but less than 15%. Current law requires all parties to have registration of 15% in order to avoid having to submit hefty petitions for their nominees. If the bill were to be enacted, the Libertarian and Green Parties would be on the November ballot automatically.

The bill is sponsored by five Republicans and five Democrats. The five Republicans are Senators Folmer, Mario Scavello, Lisa Baker, Kim Ward, and Patricia Vance. The five Democrats are Senators Rob Teplitz, John Yudichak, Anthony Williams, John Blake, and Lisa Boscola. The bill has been introduced in previous sessions and never made any headway. However, this year, Senator Folmer is chair of the committee that has jurisdiction over the bill. Also there are two federal ballot access cases pending, both of which are likely to win.

All other good bills have died in the legislatures.

SD—Bad bill signed into law, however we plan on completing a party petition in SD in 2015.

On March 20, South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard signed SB 69, which injures ballot access for newly-qualifying parties and independent candidates. The bill had passed the legislature on a party-line vote, with Republicans supporting the bill and Democrats opposing it.

The bill says members of qualified parties can no longer sign an independent candidate's petition. No other state currently has such a requirement. Arizona passed this restriction in 1993, but it was declared unconstitutional in 1999.

The bill also moves the deadline for a newly-qualifying party from the last Tuesday in March to the first Tuesday in March. For 2016, the deadline moves from March 29 to March 1. South Dakota generally has harsh winters, and the bill requires a new party that is formed at the beginning of an election year to gather over 7,000 valid signatures in winter weather.

The deadline for a new party was put into April in 1984, and in 2007 moved to late March.

I still think there needs to be greater involvement by a National Office employee, presumably the Political Director, in helping our state parties with ballot access lobbying. I stated this in my report for the December 2014 LNC meeting.

Thanks, Bill Redpath
LNC At-Large Representative

Libertarian National Committee

Region I Report

Submitted by Norm Olsen & Ron Windeler

March 28, 2015

Overview

- The nine affiliates which comprise Region 1 are: Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Kansas, Montana, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.
- Aggressive election activity has produced continued ballot access for the 2016 general election in eight (AK, AZ, CO, HI, KS, MT, UT, WY) of the nine states in the region are currently ballot qualified for 2016.
- Ballot access in Washington State requires 1,000 valid signatures; a rather reasonable threshold compared to other states. Over the years, the Washington State affiliate has routinely obtained ballot access without assistance from the national committee.
- “Pseudo Top Two” is again alive and well in Arizona. HB-2128 includes many of the same provisions which were passed in a midnight special session in 2013. This measure would make it very difficult for any minor party to get on the general election ballot.
- Significant increases in voters registering as Libertarian have been experienced in several of the states in the Region. This trend of several years remains strong in the region.
- 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.

Region statistics update appear on the next page in landscape orientation.

APPENDIX H
REGION 1 REPORT

Affiliate	Libertarians	How Determined	Register as Libertarian	Ballot Access	Candidates 2014	Qualified 2015	Web site Current	BSM	Cash Flow
AK	6,811	Registered Voters	Yes	3% of Registered Voters	7 Yes	Yes	Yes	65	\$3,000
AZ	27,806	Registered Voters	Yes	0.65% of active registered voters	15 Yes	Yes	Yes	288	\$10,000
CO	24,576	Registered Voters	Yes	1,000 Registered voters	46 Yes	Yes	Yes	385	\$6,000
HI	55	National Membership BSM	No	10% of statewide race, or ~ 750 signatures	18 Yes	Yes	Yes	55	\$10,000
KS	12,993	Registered Voters	Yes	1% statewide race	10 Yes	Yes	Yes	148	\$5,000
MT	55	National Membership BSM	No	3% of statewide race	7 Yes	No	No	55	N/A
UT	8,594	Registered Voters	Yes	2% of statewide congressional vote	11 Yes	No	No	83	\$5,000
WA	341	National Membership BSM	No	1,000 signatures	13 Not yet	Yes	Yes	359	\$80,000
WV	934	Registered Voters	Yes	2% of statewide race	4 Yes	No	No	27	\$400
	82,165		6 of 9		131	8 of 9	6 of 9	1,465	\$119,400
					16.88%			11.95%	

Alaska

Michael Chambers, State Chair

2015 Convention: May 9, 2015; 9AM to 5PM; Location to be announced.

Arizona

Michael Kielsky, State Chair

Received January 24, 2015:

AZLP held its biennial organizing meeting today. As a result there is a new board. Membership:

- Chairman – Michael Kielsky
- Treasurer – Marge Tendler
- Secretary – Emily Goldberg
- First Vice Chairman – Jim Iannuzo
- Second Vice Chairman – Bill Barker
- Assistant Treasurer – Joe Cobb
- Assistant Secretary – Micah Black

Colorado

Jeffery Orrok, State Chair

2015 Convention: Friday, April 24th thru Sunday April 26th; Double Tree Hilton, Aurora, Colorado

Hawaii

Tracy Ryan, State Chair

Kansas

Rob Hodgkinson, State Chair

2015 Convention: April 17th thru April 18th; Country Inns & Suites, 2760 S 9th St, Salina KS 67401.

Montana

Mike Fellows, State Chair

On Saturday we had an entry in the Missoula St Pats Parade. We were the only political entry. Nothing fancy. On Monday Mike Fellows spoke to the Senate Local Government Committee on HB 289. In 2008 Ravalli County voters repealed the County Growth Policy. land use regulations are tied to those growth policies. Ravalli County would like to do some of TFD taxing Financing Districts and HB 289 was introduced to get around the voters of Ravalli County. HB 289 was tabled after passing the House. We

have been to Helena on several trips. Our last trip was opposing a bill to take motorcycles off the exempted list for insurance. We plan on getting to Helena a few more times on bills. In Montana the legislature is broadcast on 11.5 in most major cities with public broadcasting. Although most hearings are recorded, some make it to a statewide audience via public broadcasting. Another good way to get our message out if we get to the hearing to say a few words in support or opposition. It's a two hour drive from Missoula to Helena.

Utah

Mark Hilgenberg, State Chair

Washington

C. Michael Pickens, State Chair

2015 State Convention: May 29th thru May 31; Red Lion Hotel, Vancouver, WA.

Wyoming

Richard Brubaker, State Chair

Region 2 Report

FLORIDA:

The LPF State Convention will be held in New Port Richey the first weekend in June. A Chair, Vice Chair, 2 At Large Representatives and all 14 Regional Reps will be elected. A Fund Raising Director, Heather Schieferle Preysz has been hired. Adrian Wyllie made a court appearance concerning his fight to have the Real ID Act declared unconstitutional. The judge fined him 150 dollars and court costs, refusing to make a ruling on the constitutionality of the issue. You may remember that Adrian voluntarily surrendered his driver's license 4 years ago to challenge this.

GEORGIA:

I attended the Georgia State Convention the first weekend in March. A new State Chair, Brett Larson was elected. Outgoing State Chair, Doug Craig did not seek re-election, but he will still serve on the State Committee. Georgia is trying to fight their unfair Ballot Access laws.

TENNESSEE:

The LPTN State Convention will be held at the Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro, April 25th. Chair, Jim Tomasik has been working on annexation issues in West Tennessee. Jim has visited several groups in West Tennessee. He plans to run for the Memphis City Council.

Vicki Kirkland
Region 2 Rep

Indiana

The 2015 Libertarian Party of Indiana Convention will be April 24 – 26, 2015 at the Union Club Hotel & Memorial Union 101 North Grant Street, West Lafayette, Indiana

The agenda includes:

Welcome Reception in the West Main Lounge of the Purdue Memorial Union.

Don Barriger, Brown County LP Chairman and Specialty Court Advocate; on Veterans' Courts in Indiana

Pepper Hulette Snyder, Media personality and co-owner of Indiana Talks News/Talk Network; on Pitching a Libertarian Message to Women in Media

Michael Yoder, Managing Partner, Premier Family Medicine; on The Impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on Medical Practices

Paul Ogden, Retired Attorney and Political Columnist; on Civil Asset Forfeiture in Indiana Lunch with Judge James Gray, 2012 Libertarian Party candidate for vice president

Awards Banquet & Entertainment featuring Tony Stiles

Candidate Training hosted by LNCC Executive Director Evan McMahon.

Kentucky

The Kentucky LP State convention was held February 28, 2015 and had 4 guest speakers. The ACLU of Kentucky, Take Back Kentucky (a paleo-con activist group), 2016 LP Presidential Candidate Dr. Marc Allan Feldman, and Brett Bittner from the LNC (Region 3 Alternate).

The leadership team for LPKY:

State Chair: Dave Capano – dave.capano@LPKY.org

State Vice-Chair: Bryan Shumate Short – bryan.short@LPKY.org

State Secretary: Cyrus Eckenberg – cyrus.eckenberg@LPKY.org

State Treasurer: James Bozman – james.bozman@LPKY.org

At-Large 1: Mark Gailey – mark.gailey@LPKY.org

At-Large 2: John Will Allender – john.allender@LPKY.org

At-Large 3: Dan Hull – dan.hull@LPKY.org

At-Large 4: Frank Harris – frank.harris@LPKY.org

1st District Chair: David Watson – david.watson@LPKY.org

2nd District Chair: Joe Redmon – joseph.redmon@LPKY.org

3rd District Chair: Chris Roberts – chris.roberts@LPKY.org

4th District Chair: Bill Mitchell – bill.mitchell@LPKY.org

5th District Coordinator: Krystal Freeman – krystal.freeman@LPKY.org

6th District Chair: Micki Bowling – micki.bowling@LPKY.org

A Judicial Committee was also created. The Judicial Committee must be divorced of all other party activities. The initial Judicial Committee is:

JC 1. Ken Moellman – ken.moellman@LPKY.org

JC 2. Chris Robinson – chris.robinson@LPKY.org

JC 3. James Fahringer – james.fahringer@LPKY.org

JC 4. Joseph Szeremet ** – joe.szeremet@LPKY.org

JC 5. David Patterson – david.patterson@LPKY.org

Michigan

The Libertarian Party of Michigan 2015 State Convention will be held in the original home of Gibson guitars and the modern American craft beer movement: Kalamazoo.

Convention speakers include:

C. Michael Pickens—keynote: current chair of the LP of Washington, author: Libertarian Leadership: Planting the seed for a Libertarian future.

Darryl W. Perry—banquet: award-winning author of Duopoly: How the Republicrats control the electoral process.

Brian R. Wright—breakout: LPM Webmaster and author, will be discussing his new book, Satyagraha Liberty, as it relates to practical Libertarian strategies.

This is the ‘in between’ convention year, with officers and bylaws/platform up for reconfiguration.

Ohio

The Libertarian Party of Ohio 2015 Conference will take place Friday May 1, 2015 - Saturday May 2, 2015 at the Deer Creek State Park Lodge, 22300 State Park Road 20, Mount Sterling, OH 43143

Bill Redpath will be presenting as our Keynote Speaker at the banquet lunch on Saturday afternoon.

Ohio Legal News

February 11, the Tuscarawas County Board of Elections refused to certify the petition of Jonathan Gentsch, software engineer and LP candidate for New Philadelphia council, citing instructions from the office of Ohio Secretary of State John Husted, a Republican, that the Libertarian Party of Ohio was not a recognized political party, according to Mark Brown, the LPO lead attorney.

SB 193, passed as an emergency action in 2013 by statehouse Republicans and signed by Governor John Kasich, strips ballot access from the LPO and other challenger parties.

On Monday, March 16 it was announced that Judge Michael Watson of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio ruled that Senate Bill 193 “does not impose severe burdens on the right of minor parties to associate or the right of electors to cast meaningful votes.” The judge added that the law’s requirements “rationally serve important state interests.”

In another important case, Maurice A. Thompson, executive director of the 1851 Center for Constitutional Law filed suit on behalf of Citizens in Charge, Cincinnati for Pension Reform and Ohioans for Workplace Freedom against a 2013 measure — Senate Bill 47 — declaring that circulators of initiative petitions must be Ohio residents.

Judge Watson said that even if Husted assumed the law were constitutional, “a reasonable official would have understood that enforcement of the residency requirement would violate plaintiffs’ First Amendment right to engage in political speech despite the presumptive validity of the statute.” The judge ruled that Husted could be held personally liable for civil damages. Thompson said the sum is relatively modest: less than \$10,000.

“If public officials from the governor down through the police know that they will be liable for enforcing an unconstitutional law, they are far more likely to take Ohioans’ constitutional rights seriously. We would like to end the ‘I don’t make the law; I just enforce it’ mentality that many public officials use to escape liability for the harm they cause.”

The question of whether Husted must actually pay that is the only one remaining. Husted can either appeal Watson’s decision or proceed to a hearing to see what damages are merited.

Region 4 / California Report

by LNC Regional Representative Daniel Wiener (3/22/2015)

Coming up on Sunday, May 31st will be the Libertarian Party of California's annual state convention (tinyurl.com/kdg6wvx). The admission fee is \$50. This year it will be held in Las Vegas at the Tropicana Hotel, in conjunction with the Libertarian Political Expo (see LPEX.org for details and fees and hotel information). Since LPEX will provide a wealth of speakers and events on Friday and Saturday, the Sunday state convention will be devoted to LPC business. New state officers and Executive Committee members will be elected, and potential amendments to the Platform and Bylaws will be considered. (Proposed changes which have already been submitted to the Bylaws Committee can be found at tinyurl.com/o2vdx2.) The Libertarian Party of Nevada will also hold its state convention on May 31st.

LPC Southern Vice-Chair Jonathan Jaech is trying to organize a ride-sharing cooperative to go between Southern California and Las Vegas (rs2015.info). Similarly, the Libertarian Party of Sacramento County is facilitating travel arrangements from Northern California (tinyurl.com/oqwonyk) by chartering a bus.

The 6th Annual Southern California LP regional conference, hosted by San Bernardino and Los Angeles County Libertarian Parties, was held on January 31st. It had a great line-up of speakers, including 2012 VP candidate Judge Jim Gray, author/activist Norma Jean Almodovar, Craig Beresh of the California Cannabis Coalition, author/activist Leon Weinstein, women's rights activist Alexandra Goldburt, and national LP Chair Nicholas Sarwark. Nick's speech is available on YouTube (tinyurl.com/ma68kso).

The Libertarian Party of Los Angeles County (LPLAC) has started an on-line newsletter (lanewsrag.com). Regarding LPLAC upcoming events, there will be a mixer/supper club meeting in Downey on April 4th (tinyurl.com/lnwpgdk); a mixer/supper club meeting in Pasadena on April 8th (tinyurl.com/ltj9kc8); a dinner meeting in San Pedro on April 16th (tinyurl.com/lxjrhf); and a supper club meeting in downtown L.A. on April 22nd (tinyurl.com/l5ahmcy). Libertarian Jay Beeber, a local folk hero for leading the successful fight to abolish red-light cameras in Los Angeles, ran for City Council (jay4la.com) and on March 3rd received just under 5% of the vote in a crowded field of 14 candidates.

The San Diego Libertarian Party Supper Club meets regularly, with the most recent one being on the topic of how to pay less taxes (tinyurl.com/kvdgtoh). Kern County LP is getting organized, with Maximus Sallam being appointed Chair Pro Tem. The Libertarian Party of Ventura County continues to hold monthly meetings, rotating around different cities within the county (lpvc.org).

A half-hour Libertarian Counterpoint discussion, hosted by Richard Fields and focused on LPC current news, was broadcast on YouTube (tinyurl.com/pqw2cky) on February 16th, with a panel consisting of Jarret Tilford, Brian Thiemer, and Janine Kloss. The Libertarian Party of Sacramento (LPSac) reports that there will be a mixer in Folsom on April 9th, another mixer in Sacramento on April 17th, and LPSac elections on April 22nd (tinyurl.com/nge5lx7). The LP of San Francisco continues to hold monthly meetings (lpsf.org).

Libertarian National Committee

Region 4 Report -- Nevada and New Mexico

For the March 28-29, 2015 LNC Session

by Scott Lieberman Region 4 Alternate

Nevada:

1. LPNV has 6 to 10 people in their HQ making calls to media, potential sponsors, and local libertarians in an effort to get them to participate in LPEX. In fact, LPEX might end up being the largest libertarian event ever held in Nevada, with the exception of FreedomFest. Mr. Pojunis has lined up some of the best political trainers in the country, and they will reveal their secrets at LPEX.

www.LPEX.org May 28-31, 2015

2. LP Nevada has been targeting very successful entrepreneurs to run for offices on their Executive Committee.
3. Nevada is starting state caucuses for blacks, Hispanics, Jews, LGBT, and other groups. They are hoping this concept can be duplicated by other state affiliates.
4. LPNV has set up a Legal Committee consisting of 3 very experienced attorneys. This committee is trying to recruit lawyers in Nevada to serve on 3 LPNV sub-committees that will deal with various legal issues.

New Mexico:

1. Elisheva Levin, LPNM Secretary, is helping to get NM to pass an Article V Convention of the States resolution. HJR 19 passed the House, but did not get through the Senate. (The Majority Leader of the Senate is a Democrat, and he is suppressing most bills, because he is not happy that the Republicans just gained a majority in the NM House for the first time in 60 years). Ms. Levin's area, Catron County and District 49, generated the largest number of phone calls, e-mails and letters on this issue of any area in the state.
2. Sherry Heim, LPNM Central Committee Member, has been working on commercial hemp. There was a bill in the NM House, but likely it did not get through the Senate. We are not sure because the Senate session ended the day this report was sent to me by the LPNM Secretary.
3. The LP of Catron County is working on developing a neighborhood protection plan for the Red Hill, NM area. This neighborhood protection group would focus on protecting and assisting neighbors and fellow citizens in the event of a disaster or other serious event.

REGION 5 REPORT

Submitted to: Libertarian National Committee, Mar. 22, 2015

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

This report will provide information concerning activities of the Libertarian Party state affiliates in Region 5 since the LNC meeting in December 2014. I shall provide an updated report at the LNC meeting in Phoenix 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).

Delaware

Scott Gesty (gesty4congress@aol.com) is the chair of the Libertarian Party of Delaware. He informed me that the LPD received some negative feedback concerning the social media meme posting that appeared to compare Ron and Rand Paul with the members of the Bush family and members of the Clinton family. He inquired about the vetting process for such postings.

District of Columbia

Ryan Sabot (ryan.sabot@dclibertarians.org) is the chair of the Libertarian Party of the District of Columbia. I did not receive a report from him.

Maryland

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

The Maryland Libertarian Party will be conducting its annual spring convention at Squires Italian Restaurant in Dundalk, MD, on Saturday, March 14. Two-time statewide candidate Robert Sarvis will be the featured speaker.

Delegate David Moon of Takoma Park has sponsored a bill for ballot access relief, HB 626. This bill would allow any recognized political party with at least 10,000 registered voters as of the last day of the year to retain its ballot access. Currently, a party must have at least 1% of the registered voters in the state as of the last day of the year (over 37,000), or the top-of-the-ticket candidate in the most recent general election must receive at least 1% of the vote. Shawn Quinn, the MDLP 2014 gubernatorial candidate, received 1.5% last November, and the party is on the ballot through 2016.

A hearing on the ballot access bill was held in the state capital during the current General Assembly session on February 25. The bill's sponsor, David Moon, MDLP vice-chair Eric Blitz, and MD Green Party chair Brian Bittner all spoke to the committee in favor of the bill. The hearing went very well, and we are optimistic that it will receive a favorable rating from the committee. A similar bill must be sponsored in the state Senate.

In addition, Mr. Blitz has been coordinating with pro-marijuana legalization groups such as the ACLU, MPP, and NAACP, and speaking to the General Assembly in favor of bills decriminalizing and legalizing marijuana.

The Maryland LP has 15,310 registered voters as of the most recent Board of Elections registration report in January. The party has 72 members as of the end of February.

Bob Johnston
Chairman, MDLP

North Carolina

J.J. Summerell (jjsummerell@worksitesinsight.net) is the chair of the Libertarian Party of North Carolina. He provided the following report (which I have edited slightly):

1. Fundraising. We are now travelling NC with a presentation on 2020, our strategic plan. We are inviting past major (\$1K+) donors and a few selected others. Afterwards, we begin approaching small donors and potential whale donors. Fundraising is job #1 in NC now.
2. County affiliate development. Concurrent with fundraising is county affiliate development. This not only organizes counties/districts for membership purposes but also begins the candidate identification process.
3. Convention. Our annual convention will be April 10-12 in Durham at the Hilton Garden on I-40. All are welcome. Two main speakers are Nicholas Sarwark, LNC Chair, and John Davis of John Davis Consulting. Davis Consulting focuses on NC candidates and John says he has put much thought into the chances of a third party rising to power in NC. Both should be interesting.
4. Bylaws. 2015 is the year we amend bylaws and Brian Irving, has served superbly as Chair of that committee as well as his duties as Director of Communications. LPNC Chair issued an executive order to have his salary doubled.

Pennsylvania

Steve Scheetz (cz85b@cz85b.com) is the chair of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania. He has informed me that the LPPA convention, originally scheduled for Feb. 28, will likely be held on Apr. 25

Virginia

Bill Redpath (wredpath2@yahoo.com), chair of the Libertarian Party of Virginia, provided the following report:

The next LPVA convention will be sometime in early 2016, date(s) and site to be determined.

State and local offices are elected in odd-numbered years in Virginia. All 100 House of Delegates seats and all 40 Senate seats are on the ballot in November 2015. All 140 are elected from single member districts. Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General, along with the House of Delegates, will be on the ballot in November 2017.

Currently, the following LPVA candidates for 2015 have been nominated (through district nominating conventions): Carl Loser (pronounced "LOW-ser") for Senate District 10, Andy Bakker (pronounced "BACH-er") for House District 46, Todd Rice for Powhatan (pronounced "POW-ha-ton") County Board of Supervisors (District 4), and Charlie Bennett for Powhatan County Board of Supervisors (District 5).

In addition, there are several other candidates seeking Libertarian nominations for which nominating conventions have not yet been held. These include Dean Davison (House District 17) and Will Hammer (House District 20). Mr. Hammer was the LPVA candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives in the 6th District last year.

The Senate candidate needs 250 valid in district signatures to get on the ballot, while the other offices listed need 125 valid in district signatures. The petitioning deadline is Tuesday, June 9; I am not aware that any of the petitioning requirements for any of the candidates have been completed yet.

In 2016, there is no US Senate election in Virginia. The presidential petition in 2016 will require 5,000 valid signatures to be gathered between 1/2/2016 and 8/26/2016. Currently, the LPVA does not anticipate needing help from the LNC to successfully complete that petition.

West Virginia

Michael Wilson (michael.wilson@lpwv.org) is the chair of the Libertarian Party of West Virginia. I did not receive a report from him.

Sean T. O'Toole

3425 Gladstone Boulevard .- Kansas City, Missouri 64123
(816) 739-2737 .- sean@kingfieldcapital.com

March 22, 2015

LNC Region 6 Report

Submitted by Sean O'Toole, alternate representative

Region 6 is comprised of nine states including Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Idaho reports no new information.

Illinois reports:

We have initiated a party-wide review of our operations in anticipation of achieving "established party" status as defined by Illinois law. This requires a comprehensive rewriting of our bylaws and the bylaws of each local chapter. It also entails establishing Precinct Committeemen, which we have implemented as phase one of the process. Since this is a practice used by the major parties in Illinois and many other states, we hope to utilize this type of activism to grow the party and the Libertarian brand. Although these things are not required of non-established parties, we want to be prepared for a smooth transition. We have consulted with the Green Party of Illinois to see what their experience was during their brief turn as "established" and are confident that we are going to be well positioned once we meet the legal requirements for party recognition.

In 2012, The Libertarian Party of Illinois filed suit in the Northern District of the United States District Court to address the unfair ballot access rules. The first issue we addressed was eliminating the full slate requirement, which makes us run for all open executive offices at the county and state levels. The second issue involves changing the filing deadline to be later in the season, which would allow us more time to collect the signatures. The third issue concerns how the vote total is calculated, resulting in even higher numbers of signatures to be collected, but this was dropped from the suit in 2013. We are hopeful for a good ruling on the remaining two issues.

We have had a recent status conference which our attorney, David Schoen of Atlanta, Georgia, was able to attend via phone. The judge said she hopes to get a decision out to the parties soon. There was a follow up status conference scheduled for March 11. That status hearing set for 3/11/2015 was stricken and reset for 3/24/2015.

Missouri reports:

The Missouri Libertarian Party will hold its annual convention on Saturday, May 28 in Columbia, Missouri. The daylong event features seven speakers, including LNC Vice Chairman Arvin Vohra, as well as the election of party officers. Sure to be discussed will be House

Bill 1157 introduced recently in the Missouri Legislature. The bill, introduced by self-proclaimed libertarian-leaning Republican Shamed Dogan of St. Louis, would allow for fusion candidates in Missouri primary elections. The Missouri Libertarian Party has enjoyed ballot access continuously since 1992 and Libertarian candidates are frequently the deciding factor in statewide elections. A lively debate is expected.

No other states in the region filed reports.

Region 7 Report

Alabama

- Reported by State Chair Leigh LaChine
- Alabama currently requires 35,000 valid signatures per election cycle to obtain statewide ballot access. If any candidate running for statewide office managed to obtain 20% of the vote they would gain statewide access through the election cycle. Alabama actually achieved this in 2002 with a statewide Judge candidate garnered over 20% of the vote. It was lost in the next cycle when another candidate did not reach that threshold.

At the present time the Party is focused on getting countywide ballot access in Jefferson County. The Party has raised about 40% of the estimated \$6000 in funds needed to acquire the signatures for the ballot access for next next election.

Alabama Senate Bill 221 which would reduce the 3% requirement for signatures to half that cleared the first hurdle and got out of committee. The bill still needs a sponsor on the House side. If this bill were to pass it would significantly drop the required signatures to get statewide ballot access and make it a much more manageable effort each cycle.

Arkansas

- Reported by State Chair Jessica Paxton
- Here in Arkansas, we began our ballot access petition today (March 20th). We have 90 days to gather 10,000 valid signatures in order to run Libertarian candidates for any partisan office in the 2016 election. Any neighboring states who may have volunteers who would like to help AR gather signatures can contact our project manager, Michael Pakko, at 501-716-0567 or mpakko@yahoo.com

We are also planning and advertising our upcoming annual convention to be held May 16 at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Little Rock. Chairman Sarwark will be joining us as keynote speaker. There will be two training sessions, a Cocktail Caucus social and Executive Committee elections at this convention as well. Details can be found at lpar.org/convention

Louisiana

- Reported by Region 7 Alternate Daniel Hays
- Louisiana begins its legislative session in early April 2015 during which the LPL and its members will be utilizing the knowledge and relationships it established in 2014 to help move forward Liberty minded legislation. This involvement helps to teach the mechanisms of the legislature and how to prepare candidates to run and succeed in office. Marijuana reform will be one of the heavily areas of focus once again.

Louisiana has quite a few candidates looking at running in October 2015 for the State Legislature and other offices. Many are in an early exploratory phase. Some have already announced. Jennifer Werther seeks to run for Sheriff of St. Tammany parish.

Jay Price is running for State Representative in District 70.

Jason France is running for BESE(Board of Elementary and Secondary Education) District 6. Mr France is a particularly exciting candidate because of his national notoriety created through his blog and whistleblowing activities enabled by his time as a La Department of Education data specialist. His blog can be followed at :
<https://crazycrawfish.wordpress.com/tag/louisiana/>

Louisiana currently stands at 10,981 registered Libertarians. There are approximately 190 State Party Dues Paying members.

Louisiana has set it's next state convention for April 16 & 17th 2016 with the location to be determined.

Mississippi

- Reported by State Chair Mario Barnes
- Danny Bedwell former MLP Chairman will be running for Congress in Congressional District 1 in a special election held, May 12th, 2015. Additionally in the fall elections we have Sherry Bedwell (Danny's wife) running for Circuit Clerk Boyd Kindell and Jacob Reeves running for State Senate Josh Hardy running for State House 3 candidates running for the position of district supervisor as well.

Oklahoma

- Reported by Oklahoma State Chair Steve Long
- 2015 has been a year of renewal for the Libertarian Party of Oklahoma.

The two main things we have focused on this year are maintaining an identity separate of the Tea Party and establishing our relevance. Making voters and activists more aware of our existence and stressing the differences between Libertarians and Tea Party Republicans is paramount to creating a "brand" for the Party here in Oklahoma.

At the beginning of the year, we led a protest against Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt's lawsuit he filed against the state of Colorado in response to their legalization of marijuana.

In February, we hosted the first annual WTF - Where's the Freedom event at the State Capitol. This purpose of this event was to highlight bad legislation that had been proposed this session. Bills such as the hoodie ban (SB13), the prohibition of the recognition of same-sex common law marriages (SB 669), the raising of the minimum wage (HB1344) and the prohibition of the use of public funds for licensing of same-sex marriage (HB1599).

Also in February, we sponsored the OKLP We Stand With Muslims event at the State Capitol. This coincided with Muslim Day, which was sponsored by CAIROK. As part of this event we delivered to each legislator a letter in support of Oklahoma's Muslim community and helped escort Muslim citizens into the State Capitol to meet with their

elected officials. Visibility for the OKLP was high at this event and we were generally well received save for the few protestors present at the event.

We also continued our fight to get the Libertarian Part on the ballot in the State of Oklahoma. Our efforts have led to the passage of a ballot access bill in the State House that would decrease the required number of signatures to form a political party.

As always, we continue to utilize technology by revamping our presence on social media with Facebook, Twitter and our official website.

2015 is the year that we stopped being ignored!

Texas

- 1st quarter SLEC meeting was canceled due to weather.
- Rolled out Rally Congress tool.
- Rolled out an internal communication website for SLEC members.

See the following 9 pages for the Region 8 report

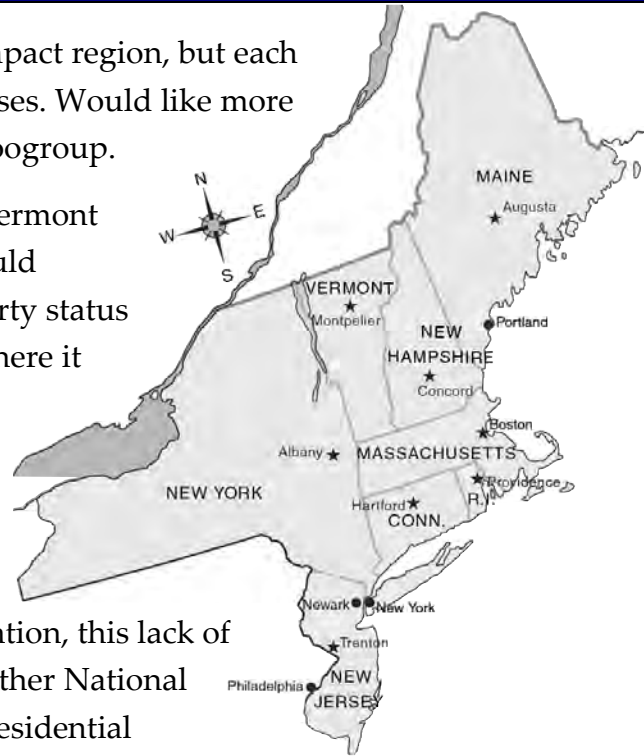
Region 8 Report

This is the most geographically compact region, but each state has very different politics and processes. Would like more members to subscribe to the *LP_8new* yahoo group.

Heading into 2014 elections, only Vermont had reliable ballot access. Petitioning would either be eliminated or become easier if party status were obtained, except in Massachusetts where it would become more difficult.

Coming out of the election, there were no changes to statewide ballot access despite some early positive news.

Given the timing of the 2016 convention, this lack of ballot access will require resources from either National or the presidential campaign to put our presidential nominee on the ballot in some of the states.



We got a lot of snow. A lot. That made doing much of anything that didn't involve shoveling difficult. There are preliminary talks of a regional event, location will be determined by which states want to participate.

Recent events of interest:

- » Start of Maine voter registration drive
- » New Hampshire convention – March 7, Manchester
- » NH Liberty Forum – March 5–8, Manchester
- » New Jersey convention – March 21, Hightstown

Upcoming events:

- » New York convention – April 25, Rochester
- » Seacoast Freedom Summit – April TBA, Seabrook
- » PorcFest – June 21–28, Lancaster, NH



Holding Steady

The LPCT currently has two elected officials. All races in Connecticut are partisan.

Future Growth

The LPCT is engaged in a major fundraising effort with the hope of raising seed money to hire a part-time employee. We have sent letters to 1,500 people. In January, we will launch an email fundraiser for the purpose of funding the 2015 local races—the goal is to raise enough money to place all endorsed candidates on the ballot with paid petitioners, and to provide all candidates with a website, professional photograph and brochure.

Ballot Access

The Libertarian Party of Connecticut, in conjunction with the Green Party and Our America Initiative, is engaged in ongoing efforts to lobby the state legislature for better ballot access laws and the inclusion of all registration-qualified parties on the voter registration form. Volunteers are needed for this effort, please contact Joshua Katz to help.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are currently encouraging members and interested people to attend local meetings and consider running in this year's municipal elections.

There are current vacancies on the Bylaws Committee and the Outreach Committee. Activists are also needed to participate in planning efforts for the 2015 municipal elections. We are also seeking candidates for local office in 2015.

The legislative session began on February 7. Volunteers are needed to check the list of bills on a weekly basis and report any of particular interest to Libertarians.

Another way to become a Libertarian public official is by seeking appointment to a local board or commission. Many towns have vacancies on several boards. If you find a vacancy in your town you are interested in, please contact Joshua Katz to seek a partisan endorsement.

Appearances

LPCT Chairman Joshua Katz spoke at the Alt Expo breakout during the *NH Liberty Forum* about Health Care Autonomy. He outlined his and his family's experience dealing with government rules and regulations.





Social Media

The LPME Facebook page has more than 980 likes, a 50%+ improvement since last year.

Voter Registration Drive

Maine LP submitted a letter of intent to form a political party and it has been accepted by the Secretary of State of Maine. However official notification went out in January. Although this is only a small step it is a significant milestone with the current mood of the state. I am cautiously optimistic for the LPME in 2015.

Maine is still digging out of winter but we do plan on beginning our ballot registration drive in April. The plan is to get 5000 people to register as Libertarians so we can get official party status.

We have until December 2015 to register 5,000 Maine residents to be on the 2016 ballot. We will need an additional 5,000 for a total of 10,000 to maintain party status. With the help of Scott Kohlhaas we will have the necessary funds to accomplish the short term goal of 5000 if not the entire 10,000. If successful Maine will not require any funds for ballot access on the next nor any other election cycle.

A small set back is that we will not have Libertarian printed on the registration cards since we are a "qualifying party". So we will have to check the other box and write in Libertarian. But once we are a qualified party, we'll have our own line in the cards.

Our Other Initiatives

I am also planning on petitioning for rank choice voting and a state wide marijuana initiative simultaneously. No details yet on these.

Legislative Efforts

On the legislative side we have teamed up with the green party to support LD507 which will open the primary petitioning requirement to unenrolled, making it easier for third party candidates to run for office.



General Activity

The Massachusetts State Committee is experiencing changes in membership. Libertarian Don Graham has been added to the State Committee and appointed as the IT Facilitator. The State Web pages have had some exotic difficulties and are being relocated.

We have a lot of local candidates who have at least some libertarian leanings, including some very-long-time members running for local office. Most local offices in Massachusetts are non-partisan, so many voters will not see obvious signs of our party.

So soon as state web pages are completely re-established, we will be launching a fund drive to support in-state political activity, and a targeted electronic fund drive to raise money for 2016 Presidential ballot access.

Political Strategy

Party Chair George Phillipis posted an analysis of the four political strategies used by the various parties in MA, with the attendant costs for each for the smaller parties. Our strategy is to build up a serious base across Massachusetts, run candidates for offices where petitioning can be handled in a effective way, and actually become a major party as opposed to having the Secretary of the Commonwealth give us a shiny badge that on the front says “major party” but has printed on the back side “please ignore the anvil we have just chained around your neck”. With that strategy, we are recruiting more and more candidates for local and higher office. We are advancing to set up local organizations of libertarians, people who all know each other and know for whole they are willing to work. More important, local organizations are people who will ask each other to run for office and promise to support the candidates when they do run.

Vote Nolympics! Vote Libertarian!

Eminent domain for private gain is the mark of the beast that our federal government has been turned into a proprietary tool of the corporate plutocratic interests who see the purpose of government as to rewrite the rules in their personal favor. Thus, during the financial crisis of the Great Recession, individuals in deep debt because of home mortgages were left to their fates. Banks with deep debt because of irresponsible and incompetent management were given vast bailouts so that they would stay in active business.

Now we see a future public pain of eminent domain being brought to Massachusetts, not for private gain but for circus entertainment for the world’s billionaires. Almost every modern Olympics has devastated local property, and left taxpayers with a bill in the billions.

Hopefully the good thrifty Yankee people of Massachusetts will realize that Olympic looting for private entertainment is unacceptable. The Olympic Games should be shipped permanently back to where it came from, beautiful Mediterranean Greece. Reusing the same facilities will be vastly cheaper. Besides, the people of Greece, having been looted by German bankers, could really use the money.



Lawsuit

With the NHCLU we are suing the state in Federal court over the latest change to the law to make life harder for third party and independent candidates. This one wiped out 2/3 of the time we have to complete a party-wide petition with no corresponding reduction in the number of signatures, effectively making the task impossible. We found a very favorable precedent from Rhode Island for nearly the same situation. The case was featured at the annual *Bill of Rights* dinner in October. We've gotten some favorable press about it.

The state made a motion to dismiss. It was denied. We're in discovery now. Our thanks to the staff at LPHQ for providing needed records. Our answers to the state's interrogatories are due April 1st, followed by depositions in mid-April, with briefs for summary judgement on April 17th. We expect a decision by June. Our lead attorney, Gilles Bissonette of the NHCLU, has done a great job for us. It has taken up a lot of our time and energy.

Convention

After logistics and a hectic work schedule, our convention got pushed to March 7th. We tried to have it as part of Liberty Forum but they were not accomodating so had to find our own space. The main business was electing new officers and deciding on a plan for the next year. The officers elected are: Rich Tomasso as Chair, Daryl Perry as Vice Chair, Tom Kershaw as Treasurer, Brian Chabot as Membership Director, and John Babiarz as Judicial Committee Chair. We approved several updates to our party bylaws and constitution. We will have another regular convention near the end of the year. Our next board meeting is April 6th.

General and Future Activity

We established a Platform Committee with the mission to propose a state-level platform for members to consider at our next general convention.

The legislative session started in January, with bills on everything from asset forfeiture, ballot access, cutting taxes, school funding and more. A sizeable bi-partisan liberty caucus is in the statehouse now, so we have lots of friendly legislators to work with. I expect we'll make the most progress on fiscal and regulatory issues for the coming session. The NH House passed simple marijuana decrim, and rejected REAL-ID again. A ballot access reform bill proposed by Max Abramson failed. An amendment to address the committee's concerns was proposed but none of the committee reps sponsored it. We'll try again next year.

A few interested candidates for 2016 have come forward.

Plans are in the works the next Seacoast Liberty Expo in April in Seabrook.

Social Networks and Website

Coming out of convention we have a team ready to revamp the website! Our Facebook Group has 630 members, our Page has 350 Likes. We have 1112 Twitter followers @LPNH.



Going to Youtube

Patrick McKnight recorded a video message on Youtube highlighting the success of the NJLP. Our vote totals are growing. While the D's and R's lost more than 1% of their registered voters, our numbers grew by more than 8% in 2014. We are the *only* growing party. That's for a reason, we're not career politicians, we're volunteer statesmen and stateswomen.

<http://youtu.be/4O6ondHhgdU> Check out our YouTube channel.

Not Letting Winter Slow Us Down!

We hosted a holiday party on Dec 20th in Hamilton.

We are already recruiting for local candidates, our goal is to have a full slate and overwhelm the opposition with the message of liberty.

Our state convention was March 21st at Tavern on the Lake in Hightstown. We had a great lineup of speakers including: Hesham El-Meligy is co-founder of *Muslims for Liberty*, and James Babb, who has been called the most effective libertarian in the nation for jury rights.

In Other News

We publish a quarterly newsletter and have regular updates to our website. We're involved in many efforts from watching local government to fighting corruption, eminent domain abuse, poor public works, mismanaged government projects and more.

Eminent Domain and property seizures are big news in the Garden State, we've made regular commentary on the matter, even taking a stand to protect a judge's home from being seized via a ballot measure by irate citizens.

Chairman Patrick McKnight was recently published in the *Times of Trenton* and *NJ.com*.



Looking at The Party

We have 11 active chapters across the state.

Queens Convention

Queens County convention was on January 10 in Jackson Heights. Dr. Tom Stevens was unanimously re-elected Chair. The membership also elected Thomas Adair Rossman to serve as Vice-Chair, Alden Link to serve as Secretary, Natale Corsi to serve as Treasurer, and John Clifton to serve as State Representative. Dr. Stevens was also re-elected to serve as Membership Director.

The Queens Libertarian Party ran and co-sponsored monthly events on the second Saturday throughout the year on many topics including Benedict Arnold, Grand Juries, and the Biblical Case For Libertarianism. Another major event was LPQC's Holiday Toy Drive spearheaded by Michelle Yaskel. Queens LP members donated 108 toys to QSAC (Quality Services For The Autism Community). The toys were hand-delivered to the children and a photo of the donation was taken for a News Release.

Manhattan Convention

Manhattan LP convention was on January 24th. Great time was had by all at the spectacular Ukrainian East Village Restaurant. Thanks to our regional alternate rep. Josh Katz for making the trip from CT (and to Rich Tomasso for offering to do so from NH). Excellent slate of activists elected as officers for the upcoming year, two engaging speakers and of course perogis for peace! Onward to freedom in an un-free City.

Time for a New Direction in New York

Sheldon Silver's career ends in disgrace, but the disgrace is not his alone. Every Democrat who voted for him for Speaker knew what was going on. How things are done in Albany is an open secret. Every Democratic Party elected official who was in a position to do something, and didn't, should resign immediately.

This is the face of not just the Democratic Party in New York State, but the entire political culture. Corruption is endemic and every single voter must now choose to be part of the problem or part of the solution.

State Convention

Our state convention will be April 25th at the Rochester Airport Holiday Inn. It will be a full day event. Features speakers include Blair Horner, Director of the NY Public Interest Research Group, and LNC Vice-Chair Arvin Vorha. We'll also have party-building workshops.



The Future

Properly reorganizing the LPRI is chairman Mike Rollin's very top priority. That started at our executive committee meeting on Dec 7th. Tony Jones set a new record for Libertarian Party candidates with his nearly 10,000 votes. Beyond that, Bob Healey, who called himself a libertarian during one of his debate appearances, got 22% of the vote. We thus do have an obvious libertarian base here in Rhode Island that is ready, and waiting for us to organize it.

Does Secretary of State Know Petitioning Is A Right

Chairman Mike Rollins wrote a public letter to the RI SoS. It reads, in part:

I am writing to publicly ask Rhode Island Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea if she has ever read our United States Constitution? After all, in accordance with both Article VI, of our United States Constitution; and Article III, Section 3 of our Rhode Island State Constitution Secretary Gorbea recently swore an oath to support our United States Constitution, as an official pre-condition requirement of taking office. More specifically, I am writing to ask if Secretary Gorbea has ever read, and studied the First and Fourteenth Amendments?

My reason for publicly asking if Secretary Gorbea has ever actually read, and familiarized herself with our United States Constitution, which she is officially bound by oath to support, is that Secretary Gorbea has recently released an official "Transition Committee Report" calling for "a lobbying task force that will guide efforts to strengthen, simplify and clarify Rhode Island's lobbying laws and regulations." Let me say, for the public record, that as far as I personally am concerned all past, current, or future Rhode Island "lobbying laws" appear to be a blatant violation of our God given, and First Amendment guaranteed right "to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." I thus do wish to publicly ask Secretary Gorbea why she is publicly supporting having any Rhode Island lobbying laws, at all, in blatant violation of her official oath to support the First Amendment, and the rest of our Constitution?

Am I correct in my understanding of our current, blatantly unconstitutional, and thus totally bogus alleged "lobbying laws" here in Rhode Island that I personally may technically be in violation of said blatantly unconstitutional, and thus totally bogus alleged lobbying laws--merely by sending out this specific email message--even though nobody is paying me anything at all to send it?

Please do note that I personally am not currently a registered lobbyist, and I totally refuse to ever become one.

"Under our Constitution, anonymous pamphleteering is not a pernicious, fraudulent practice, but an honorable tradition of advocacy and of dissent." –SCOTUS (514 US 334)



Win Some, Lose Some

The **Dan Feliciano** campaign was a huge success. Dan was the highest percentage Libertarian for governor campaign in the country at 4.38%. Sadly, Dan has decided to join the Republicans, likely he was wooed after coming in 2nd on a write-in campaign for their primary.

A political party is not one person. We nominated 15 candidates last year and will work to grow that total going forward. We have ten town committees and a good base of activity and volunteers to continue our growth. Dan's jump has been a cause of concern and some division but we've regrown from similar circumstances.

Changes

Bonnie Scott was elected Vice-Chair after Dan's departure. Some new projects are underway, including making closer ties with the single-issue liberty groups in the state. Bonnie is also hard at work developing a legislative alert system.

Vermont LP Joins Vermont Coalition to Regulate Marijuana

There is no good reason for marijuana to be banned for adult use, and we support the Vermont Coalition to Regulate Marijuana effort's to scale back the senseless, often racist, and counter-productive Drug War. At the *Magic Hat Mardi Gras parade* on February 28, Bonnie Scott worked with BTV Green and the Coalition to collect hundreds of signatures on postcards in favor of legalization, which will be delivered to state legislators by the Coalition.

Vermont LP Opposes Expanding Background Checks for Gun Sales

Vermont firearm dealers currently conduct background checks on each person purchasing a firearm both in-store and at gun shows. Expanding the background check law will have no effect on stopping criminal purchases, because criminals don't obey laws.

Burlington LP Nominates Loyal Ploof as Libertarian Candidate for Mayor

"Our taxes are too high, I want to make Burlington a more affordable for everyone, and will work to lower taxes by at least 1% in my first term. Shrinking the size of our government down is one of the first things I want to do: Removing the smoking ban, trespass ordinance, and the unconstitutional gun ban." stated Ploof.

After the vote, Channel 17 and WPTZ Channel 5 interviewed Loyal. Video and transcript is available at <http://shar.es/1b2Oiu>

Yard signs, donation links, yard signs, and other ways to help are at: LoyalPloof.org. He's on twitter @LoyalPloof. More news at www.BurlingtonLP.org



CAMPUS ORGANIZING REPORT

Submitted to: Libertarian National Committee, Mar. 22, 2015

Submitted by: James W. Lark, III
Region 5 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 Phoenix 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.
 - 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.
 - 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, SFL board members and I have found ways for the LP to use the services available from SFL. We must take care in the ways we work together to avoid jeopardizing SFL’s 501c(3) status.
- In my opinion the LP booth at the International Students For Liberty Conference last month was very successful. LP Executive Director Wes Benedict informed me that the booth collected at least 455 free membership forms; at least 327 of these yielded legible names and addresses for entry into our membership database. I gave an address at the conference on the “nuts and bolts” of building campus organizations. From the feedback I have received, attendees enjoyed the address and found it to be very informative. Carla Howell, Arvin Vohra, and Mr. Benedict conducted a breakout session at the conference.
- 5) I continue to receive invitations to speak at high schools, colleges, and universities during the school year. For example, I shall give an address at James Madison University (Harrisonburg, Virginia) on March 24; the address will be sponsored by Madison Liberty. In addition, I am frequently asked to speak to students who are studying politics and government.
 - 6) I continue to work with Young Americans for Liberty (YAL) on programs of mutual interest. I shall address the YAL regional conference at Va. Tech (Blacksburg, Virginia) on April 18.
 - 7) I am working with Wes Benedict and Robert Kraus to find and utilize more college Libertarian volunteers. Mr. Benedict and Mr. Kraus recently sent me information about some prospective interns; I hope to engage the services of interns for various campus organizing projects.

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Submitted to: Libertarian National Committee, Mar. 22, 2015

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

This report will provide information concerning my efforts as International Representative to assist the work of libertarian political parties and activists throughout the world. At this time, the LNC's International Representatives are Geoff Neale and I.

1) I shall address the European Students For Liberty Conference in Berlin, Germany on April 12. I am trying to arrange meetings during my visit to Berlin with representatives of Libertarian party organizations in various countries.

As noted in my previous report, I suspect I shall make at least two trips to Europe next fall to address Libertarian conferences.

2) I was invited to address the International Society for Individual Liberty conference in Bali this summer. Unfortunately, it is unlikely I shall be able to accept due to various faculty duties during the summer semester at the University of Virginia.

I am still trying to arrange my affairs so that I can accept an invitation to visit Brazil this year to assist the campus libertarian movement there. If I am able to accept the invitation, I shall endeavor to meet with several libertarian political activists during the visit.

At this moment, I consider unlikely that I shall travel to Australia this year. However, I consider it likely I shall be invited to speak at a south Asian conference of libertarian students this year (I believe the conference will be in India). If so, I shall endeavor to meet with Libertarian political activists during my trip.

3) The International Alliance of Libertarian Parties held an organizational meeting in Bournemouth, England on March 6-9. Participants approved the charter of the organization during the meeting. Mr. Neale attended the meeting in his capacity as the LNC's representative to the IALP.