

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.