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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 re-writing 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 157 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.