

REGION 5 REPORT

Submitted to: Libertarian National Committee, July 13, 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 March. I shall provide an updated report at the LNC meeting in Alexandria 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 participated in the Independence Day parade in Dover on July 4. He also indicated that the LPD convention will take place in Dover on Aug. 8.

District of Columbia

Ryan Sabot is the chair of the Libertarian Party of the District of Columbia. I did not receive a report from him. Please note that the most recent message I sent to Mr. Sabot at ryan.sabot@dclibertarians.org bounced.

Maryland

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

David Moon, freshman Democrat member of the House of Delegates 20th district and member of FairVote (of which Bill Redpath is also a member), met with the Maryland LP on June 18 at the home of Stu Simms. Delegate Moon spent over two hours discussing issues regarding ballot access and civil liberties.

Delegate Moon had sponsored a bill in the General Assembly session earlier this year, HB 626, which would have allowed any party with at least 10,000 registered voters to become a recognized party. If the bill had been voted on and passed by the legislature, the MDLP would not have to worry about ballot access, since we have over 15,000 registered voters. While the bill was well-received by the committee, it was never brought up for a vote.

As the law stands now, the state party needs the 2016 Presidential candidate to obtain at least 1%

to maintain ballot access. 2012 Presidential candidate Gary Johnson received 1.1%. If the Presidential candidate doesn't get 1%, the party will have to get 10,000 signatures to get back on the ballot.

Delegate Moon will re-introduce the ballot access bill again in next year's legislative session.

Robin Grammer, freshman Republican member of the House of Delegates 6th district, will address the Maryland LP on July 29 at the North Point library in Dundalk, MD.

The Maryland LP annual summer picnic will take place on August 8 at the home of Dave and Renee Sten, in North East, MD.

Vice-chair Eric Blitz worked tirelessly with other groups on marijuana decriminalization, civil forfeiture, and police misconduct bills during the recent General Assembly session.

Mr. Blitz also compiled a list of bills and results from the session on issues important to Libertarians:

<http://lpmaryland.org/2015-legislative-review/>

The Maryland LP has 15,715 registered voters, and 61 members as of mid-June.

Bob Johnston
Chair
Maryland Libertarian Party

North Carolina

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

Guilford and Johnston counties had successful organizational meetings and elected officers. Watauga County, a major LPNC target, has an organizational meeting scheduled for 7/7.

Our Executive Director, Brad Hessel, has become IT Director for the LPNC and we are searching for a new ED. Unfortunately, this was necessitated for financial reasons.

We have divided the state into three regions for managerial efficiency. Windy McKinney is western NC, Jeremy Hussey central NC and Brian Irving eastern NC. They will work for more county organizations.

The 2016 LPNC Convention is scheduled for 22-24 April in Raleigh, exact location TBA.

We have been only modestly successful in fundraising. To date, we have focused on past contributors. However, we have 150-200 new L registrants per month and we will begin contacting them with three different approaches: a simple letter or postcard, a membership card

and welcome letter and a bumper sticker and welcome letter. It will be interesting to see which is most successful.

J.J. Summerell, Chair, attended LPEX and was quite impressed with the content. We will encourage more members to attend next year.

Pennsylvania

Shawn Felty (snkfelty@netzero.net) was elected to serve as the chair of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania during the party's convention on June 6. He suggests that those interested in the activities of the LPPA view the party's webpage, Facebook page, and list of candidates on LP.org.

Virginia

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

Candidates: We have eight LPVA candidates for public office in 2015. They are:

Carl Richard Loser, Virginia Senate, 10th District
William M. Hammer, Virginia House of Delegates, 20th District
Mark Anderson, Virginia House of Delegates, 33rd District
Andrew Bakker, Virginia House of Delegates, 46th District
Brian T. Suojanen, Virginia House of Delegates, 87th District
Gregory Todd Rice, Powhatan County Board of Supervisors, 4th District
Charlie Bennett, Powhatan County Board of Supervisors, 5th District
Alvin Scott Bandy, Charlottesville City Council

The Communications Committee is working to improve the current website (lpva.com). Improvements will be forthcoming soon. The new Committee chair is Hollie Ryan of Norfolk, whom the LNC elected to the Platform Committee in March 2015.

LP Platform Committee: As of this time no one has sought election to serve as the LPVA's designated member of the Platform Committee.

LP Credentials Committee: Juanita Billings was appointed to the Credentials Committee by the State Central Committee at its meeting on June 20.

LPVA Chairman and LNC member Bill Redpath had the honor of being the Keynote Speaker at the Libertarian Party of Ohio Conference on Saturday, May 2. He spoke on the need for proportional representation in the United States for the LP, or any other third party, to be an electoral success.

The State Central Committee recognized the Libertarian Party of Loudoun County as an official local affiliate committee during the SCC meeting on April 25.

The LP of Northern Virginia (LPNOVA) had a booth at Celebrate Fairfax (essentially the Fairfax County Fair) on June 6 - 7.

While a date has not been formally set for the 2016 LPVA Convention, we are primarily looking at a one-day event on Saturday, April 9, 2016, to take place in or near Richmond.

West Virginia

Michael Wilson (michael.wilson@lpwv.org) is the chair of the Libertarian Party of West Virginia. He informed me that the LPWV is attempting to run a statewide "Vote Libertarian" style campaign next year. He noted that the LPWV has already secured candidates for the following offices next year:

- Governor
- Secretary of State
- Auditor
- Treasurer
- Commissioner of Agriculture
- Attorney General
- President
- U.S. House of Representative - 1st District
- U.S. House of Representative - 2nd District
- U.S. House of Representative - 3rd District

He also noted that the LPWV may have candidates in several State House races.