

## **REGION 5 REPORT**

Submitted to: Libertarian National Committee, Nov. 9, 2015

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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 July. I shall provide an updated report at the LNC meeting in Orlando should additional information become available.

I am pleased to note 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](mailto:gesty4congress@aol.com)) is the chair of the Libertarian Party of Delaware. He reports that all is quiet with the LPD, and that the first meeting with the new governing board of the party will take place this month.

Note: The LPD convention took place in Dover on Aug. 8. It was a very nice, reasonably well-attended event in which I had the pleasure of participating.

### **District of Columbia**

Ryan Sabot is the chair of the Libertarian Party of the District of Columbia. He contacted me to indicate that he did not have a report to provide. Note: I was able to contact Mr. Sabot at his work e-mail address. At this moment, I do not know whether he is willing to receive messages on a regular basis at this address.

### **Maryland**

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

The Maryland Libertarian Party currently has 16,314 registered voters, as of August, 2015. This is an increase of almost 2,000 registered voters since August, 2014, and the numbers have grown consistently over the last seven years. The Maryland LP and independents are the only groups of registered voters that have seen any significant growth since 2012.

The Maryland LP has 63 dues-paying members, as of September, 2015.

Vice-chair Eric Blitz is working with civil liberties groups in the state, preparing for the 2016 General Assembly session, which begins in mid-January. Mr. Blitz has been heavily involved in working on legislation to decriminalize and legalize marijuana, police misconduct, transparency issues, and ballot access improvement.

Former LNC regional representative Lorenzo Gaztanaga will be running for Mayor of Baltimore in 2016. This will be the fifth time he is running for office as a Libertarian.

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

The annual summer picnic was held on August 8 at the home of Dave and Renee Sten in North East, MD. Honorable LNC regional representative Dr. Jim Lark attended the picnic, as he always does.

Maryland LP chair Bob Johnston took part in the LNC training session in Alexandria, VA on the weekend of October 17 and 18. Mr. Johnston is the second-longest serving state chair, now in his ninth year.

Bob Johnston  
Chair  
Maryland Libertarian Party

## **North Carolina**

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

1. Recruited great folks for Communications Director (John Vincent Gregory, retired USN and professional public speaking coach) and Treasurer (Ralph Lake, retired in-house counsel for Harrah's Casinos). Both are very competent and professional.
2. Two mailings planned. One to new registrants (300-600/month) and all registrants within 'target' counties and districts. The former primarily for fundraising, the latter for county affiliate development.
3. I've spoken with one potential major donor. He has given generously to both R and D candidates, mostly for conservation causes. Self-identified as a Libertarian Environmentalist. He indicated his donations to the R and D parties were usually routed through a 501c(3) for tax purposes and that I should explore this. I met with a CPA/attorney who has referred me to an attorney in CA. Of course, I do not think political donations of any kind should be tax favored, but if the R's and D's are doing it, we should explore. I frequently refer to the Civitas Institute in Raleigh as a "non-partisan, non-profit, Republican fundraising organization." Any input on this subject from LNC would be appreciated.

4. The Platform Committee has begun its work for the 2016 convention.
5. We have a candidate for US House 1 in the northeastern part of the state. Except for Dare county (Outer Banks, lots of tourism \$\$\$), this district's other 6 counties are among the poorest in the US, a real failure and embarrassment for NC. Incumbent is a D in a highly gerrymandered district. We have recruited the publisher of the regional, upstart paper to publish simple articles on Austrian economics. Interestingly, he says the primary audience requesting more information was poor, rural, mostly Baptist, African American who have been stuck in the swamps of NC, without real progress, since Emancipation. They are under the stark realization that the legacy they are leaving their grandchildren and great grandchildren should be one of education, value creation and a fulfilling life. A legacy of more government programs is not indicative of economic progress but economic backsliding.

At my second meeting with the publisher and candidate, they brought Buddy Ferebee, a local minister (black, Baptist) who preaches all over NE NC. "There's a revolution brewing here, and your message is the message they want to hear" he told me. Within NC Liberty 2020, our strategic plan, we are targeting gerrymandered districts with no second party opposition. We always assumed that our hardest audience to attract would be older, rural, government dependent, African Americans. These folks are telling me the exact opposite. Interesting.

## **Pennsylvania**

Shawn Felty ([snkfelty@netzero.net](mailto:snkfelty@netzero.net)), chair of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania, provided the following press release (dated Nov. 4, 2015) as his report:

Pennsylvania Libertarians Celebrate Five Victories Across the Commonwealth: Party congratulates all candidates across the state. A vote for liberty is never wasted!

Following yesterday's general election, Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania (LPPA) Chair Shawn Felty issued the following statement:

"Yesterday was a great day for liberty in the Commonwealth! Despite challenging ballot access laws that were recently declared unconstitutional by a federal judge, numerous Libertarian candidates managed to vie for public office with the goal of affording the citizens of Pennsylvania the right to enjoy all of their freedoms, all of the time.

"Our candidates spread the message of lower taxes, limited government, and freedom across our great state and, while results are still coming in, at least five of our candidates did what just a few years ago would have been unthinkable: they won!

"On behalf of all members of the party, I am proud to congratulate Charles Boust, who was elected Auditor of Upper Frankford Township (Cumberland County); William Dickerson who was re-elected Constable of Valley Township (Montour County); James Foose, who was elected Constable of North Manheim Township (Schuylkill County); Daniel Noll, Sr., who was elected

to Tremont Borough Council (Schuylkill County); and Nelson Reppert, who was elected to Cressona Borough Council (Schuylkill County).

“Some people may say that unless you vote for a candidate from one of the old parties, you’re tossing your vote away. We disagree. Voting for the lesser of two evils is still, after all, voting for evil. But a vote for liberty -- a vote for limited government, lower taxes, and personal responsibility -- is never wasted. Those votes tell the old parties that it is time for a change; that we are tired of business as usual in Harrisburg; and that we want a functional government that will reduce its size, scope, and burden on the taxpayer. With an ongoing budget stalemate, a governor who refuses to work with the legislature, and a ballooning state government, it is clearly time for a change in Pennsylvania. And we are seeing that change begin at the local level across the Commonwealth.

“The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania looks forward to competing in next year’s elections and hope to see our state’s ballot access laws -- which currently effectively keep many third party and independent candidates off of the ballot -- replaced with Senate Bill 495 - The Voter’s Choice Act (VCA). The VCA will end the unfair treatment of minor party and independent candidates seeking to serve Pennsylvania and will bring real choice to the Pennsylvania voting booth.

“We ask all liberty-loving Pennsylvanians to leave the old parties behind and join us in the fight for limited government and lower taxes – and to consider running for office or assisting with a campaign in 2016!”

The Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party Platform reads, in part, “We, the members of the Libertarian Party, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and defend the rights of the individual. We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.”

## **Virginia**

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

The Libertarian Party of Virginia had nine candidates for public office on November 3, 2015. The results:

- Virginia Senate, District 10 (of 40): Carl Loser, 527 votes, 0.95% in a four-way race
- Virginia House of Delegates, District 20 (of 100): Will Hammer, 3,425 votes, 23.92% in a two-way race
- Virginia HOD, District 33, Mark Anderson, 723 votes, 3.61% in a three-way race
- Virginia HOD, District 46, Andy Bakker, 505 votes, 4.50% in a three-way race
- Virginia HOD, District 87, Brian Suojanen, 343 votes, 2.09% in a three-way race

- Powhatan County, Board of Supervisors, District 5, Charlie Bennett, 58 votes, 3.56% in a three-way race
- Powhatan County, Board of Supervisors, District 4, Todd Rice, 62 votes, 3.14% in a three-way race
- Charlottesville City Council, Alvin Scott Bandy, 691 votes, 4.37% in a five-way race
- Colonial Heights City Council, David Bucciarelli, 241 votes, 9.14% in a three-way race

The date for the 2016 LPVA Convention has not yet been set.

There is no US Senate election in Virginia in 2016. The LPVA ran seven candidates for US House in 2014, when Robert Sarvis was our US Senate candidate. We will attempt to equal or better that in 2016.

## **West Virginia**

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

The first three quarters of 2015 have proven to be some of the most successful in the growth and development of the Libertarian Party of West Virginia. Over the past year, in West Virginia, we have seen our voter registration total for the Libertarian Party increase over 30% from 1,854 (October, 2014) to 2,508 (September, 2015).

In 2015, we established regional coordinators (filling 8 of the 9 positions to date) and county contacts (filling 23 of the 55 positions to date) to facilitate communication, outreach, event planning and membership growth throughout the state party.

Since the beginning of the year, we have experienced a 133% growth in our social media engagement (primary via Facebook) vastly expanding our outreach opportunities.

All of this growth has provided us the opportunity to engage with voters throughout the entire state through increased event participation and outreach booths at many statewide, regional and local events (such as Bridge Day, local festivals and trade-shows).

Finally, we have also launched our 2016 campaign season well in advance. Dr. David D. Moran has accepted our preliminary nomination as the 2016 LPWV Gubernatorial Candidate (the most important race for our state affiliate, as it determines if we maintain official (Major) party status and ballot access).

All of these efforts have generated exponential growth for the Libertarian Party throughout the Mountain State and have ignited the interest of thousands of voters. We have even had calls from county clerks seeking more information about the party in response to increasing numbers of individuals coming in to their offices to register as, or switch to, Libertarian!

The Libertarian Party of West Virginia hosted two events coinciding with the 2015 Bridge Day Festival in West Virginia. Bridge Day is a B.A.S.E. (Building, Antenna, Span, and Earth) Jumping event that takes place on the New River Gorge Bridge near Fayetteville on the third Saturday of October each year. The jumpers descend over 800 feet into the gorge for the world's premier BASE jumping experience.

On October 16, 2015, the LPWV held our first annual Raleigh County Round-Up in Beckley. This social (which we hope to make an annual event) brought together over a dozen new Libertarians and inaugurated a resurgence of the party back where it first kicked off in the state.

A pleasant surprise in attendance was Joy Johnson, the widow of Dr. Wallace Johnson (the namesake of the Dr. Wallace Johnson Flame of Liberty Award, and the first Candidate for Governor to gain the Libertarian Party Official Major Party Status in 1996). In addition to Mrs. Johnson, the evening featured David Moran (the 2012 and 2016 LPWV Candidate for Governor); John Buckley (the 2014 LPWV Candidate for U.S. Senate); and Michael S. Wilson (the current LPWV State Chairman).

The LPWV is currently working to hold additional meetings such as this across the state and we strongly encourage everyone interested to check in frequently to our events page to see where we will be meeting next.

On October 17, 2015, the LPWV set up our second annual booth at the West Virginia Bridge Day Festival. With some controversy surrounding this year's event (the Bridge Day Committee proposed requiring biometric scans of all vendors and jumpers), the LPWV nearly declined participation in the event. In any event, we never heard further about security scanning and had one of the most successful outreach events in our state party's history.

The volunteer at the booth distributed hundreds of copies of the "World's Smallest Political Quiz." Upon completion of the Quiz's 10 questions, results were scored on an easel with color-coding to indicate political party affiliation. Although the overwhelming majority of participants were self-identified Republicans, Democrats, or "independents" (i.e., no party) (but we did find nearly a score of Libertarians in the crowd!), 54.47% of the test-takers fell in the libertarian quadrant of the political spectrum!

In addition to the success of the political quiz, David Moran, our 2016 candidate for Governor, distributed nearly 2,000 pieces of campaign literature, greeted hundreds of perspective voters, and took dozens of photos with passers-by and pageant queens.

In addition to Wilson, Moran, and Buckley, many thanks to Luke Brumfield, Alexis Brumfield, Karl Kolenich, Erika Klie Kolenich, Travis Simms, Searra Carter, Sara Starkey, and Kristen Smith for helping staff the booth.

Finally, the LPWV unveiled our newest brochure (featuring our new membership requirements and an application for membership) that was well received and generated new members to the state party throughout the weekend's festivities.