

REGION 5 REPORT

Submitted to: Libertarian National Committee, May 23, 2016

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This report will provide information concerning activities of the Libertarian Party state affiliates in Region 5 that have occurred since the LNC meeting in February. I shall provide an updated report at the LNC meeting in Orlando 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 at least once a month as a guest on a two-hour political talk show that airs on weekdays on WINA radio (1070 AM in Charlottesville, Virginia). Also, I was interviewed on RT TV on May 18; the topic was the US electoral system.

On a personal note, allow me to express my gratitude to Libertarian Party of North Carolina chair J.J. Summerell and Libertarian Party of West Virginia chair Michael Wilson for their hospitality during my participation in the LPNC and LPWV state conventions, respectively. Also, please join me in thanking Wes Benedict and Carla Howell for their fine work at the Libertarian Party of Virginia convention (Ms. Howell) on Mar. 5 and the Libertarian Party of West Virginia convention (Mr. Benedict and Ms. Howell) on May 7.

Delaware

Scott Gesty (gesty4congress@aol.com) is the chair of the Libertarian Party of Delaware. The annual LPD convention took place in Dover on March 12. The convention nominated the following candidates for office this year:

Scott Gesty for US House of Representatives
Sean Goward for Governor
Bob Wilson for General Assembly Representative District 7
James Brittingham for General Assembly Representative District 39
Nadine Frost for Wilmington City Council District 5

Long-time LPD officer, activist, and candidate Brad Thomas was the recipient of the William Morris Award.

District of Columbia

John LaBeaume (jvlab@electiondissection.com) is the new chair of the Libertarian Party of the District of Columbia.

Maryland

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

The Maryland Libertarian Party has 89 members as of May 10. The party has 16,412 registered voters as of this date, up 791 from the same time last year.

The Maryland LP conducted its annual convention on March 12 in Dundalk, MD. Speakers included Dee Hodges of the Maryland Taxpayers Association, David Boaz of CATO, and long-time libertarian activist Dr. Mary Ruwart. Bob Johnston was reelected chair of the state party, and is now in his tenth year as the chair.

For the first time in the state party's history, the MDLP nominated a full slate of delegates (22) to serve at a national convention. As of this writing, it appears all of the nominated delegates will be attending the national convention.

The state party summer picnic is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 6 at the home of Dave and Renee Sten in North East, MD.

Long-time member and party activist Doug McNeil passes away on April 2. Doug was an expert on Maryland election law, and had testified several times before the General Assembly. He was instrumental in getting the law on retaining party status lowered from 3% of the top-of-the-ticket candidate to 1%. He also assisted in eliminating the double-petitioning requirement. Before 2003, a party had to submit 10,000 signatures to become a recognized party, and a candidate also had to petition similar to Independent candidates to get on the ballot, which required statewide candidates to collect over 34,000 signatures. Now, a party only needs to submit 10,000 signatures of registered voters to become recognized, and candidates must pay filing fees similar to the establishment party candidates.

Doug ran for office several times, and was running for Mayor of Baltimore this year. The party decided to leave him on the ballot for the general election in honor of all of the work he did for the party and for ballot access.

His passing was written up on BallotAccessNews.org by editor and publisher Richard Winger.

North Carolina

J.J. Summerell (jjsummerell@worksiteinsight.net), chair of the Libertarian Party of North Carolina, reports that the LPNC will have 13 candidates on North Carolina ballots this year, including the LP presidential ticket, candidates for Governor, Lt. Governor, the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representative, two candidates for the North Carolina Senate, and nine candidates for the North Carolina House of Representative.

He also reported that there may be as many as 30 LPNC members at the national convention in Orlando, and that the 2017 LPNC state convention will take place in Asheville in April.

Pennsylvania

Shawn House (lancasterlibertarian@comcast.net) is the new chair of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania. Mr. House is a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives in the 16th District.

Virginia

Bo Brown (boebrown@yahoo.com) is the new chair of the Libertarian Party of Virginia. The party held its state convention near Richmond on Mar. 5. The convention was well attended and drew substantial media coverage, including <http://wtvr.com/2016/03/05/libertarian-party-2016-candidate/>.

West Virginia

Michael Wilson (michael.wilson@lpwv.org) is the chair of the Libertarian Party of West Virginia. He and LPWV secretary John Buckley report that the LPWV held a very successful convention in Flatwoods on May 7. At least 90 people participated in the convention, which featured appearances by LP presidential nomination candidates Gary Johnson and Austin Petersen.

The convention generated several news stories, including the following:

www.wvgazettemail.com/news/20160507/state-libertarians-battle-for-public-eye

www.statejournal.com/story/31949484/wv-libertarian-party-fields-candidates-for-november-elections

www.statejournal.com/story/31966164/now-is-the-winter-of-four-discontent-the-rise-of-third-parties-in-west-virginia