



LNC MINUTES

ROSEN CENTRE, ORLANDO, FL

MAY 26, 2016

CURRENT STATUS:

AUTO-APPROVED JUNE 27, 2016

VERSION LAST UPDATED:

JUNE 3, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Nick Sarwark called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Following public comments, Jim Lark moved to thank the convention organizers and the headquarters staff for their work. The motion passed without objection.

ATTENDANCE

Attending the meeting were:

Officers: Nick Sarwark (Chair), Arvin Vohra (Vice-Chair), Alicia Mattson (Secretary), Tim Hagan (Treasurer)

At-Large Representatives: Sam Goldstein, Gary Johnson, Guy McLendon, Bill Redpath

Regional Representatives: Norm Olsen (Region 1), Marc Feldman (Region 3), Jeff Hewitt (Region 4), Jim Lark (Region 5), Roland Riemers (Region 6), Kevin Ludlow (Region 7), Rich Tomasso (Region 8)

Regional Alternates: Ed Marsh (Region 2), Brett Bittner (Region 3), Aaron Starr (Region 4), Scott Spencer (Region 5), Daniel Hayes (Region 7), Joshua Katz (Region 8)

Staff members present were: Wes Benedict (Executive Director)

Not in attendance were: Doug Craig (At-Large), Vicki Kirkland (Region 2), Ron Windeler (Region 1 Alternate), Sean O'Toole (Region 6 Alternate)

The tight travel and convention schedules resulted in some late arrivals. Gary Johnson served as Secretary Pro Tem at the start of the meeting, as a late-adjournment of the Platform Committee had delayed Alicia Mattson's arrival until approximately 3:10 p.m. at which time she resumed the Secretary duties. Aaron Starr also arrived following the Platform Committee meeting, and he represented Region 4 until Jeff Hewitt arrived and took his seat around 3:15 p.m. Marc Feldman arrived at 3:30 p.m.

The gallery contained numerous other attendees in addition to those listed above.

CREDENTIALS REPORT AND PAPERWORK CHECK

Ms. Mattson noted that the California affiliate routinely elects its representatives for the next term at its state convention in advance of the national convention. As a result, Region 4 changed its regional representation. Jeff Hewitt is the new regional representative, and Aaron Starr is the new regional alternate.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Starting from the proposed agenda:

Mr. Redpath moved to add a 5 minute agenda item following the Counsel's Report to discuss the Gary Johnson Victory Fund; there was no objection.

Mr. McLendon indicated that the Affiliate Support Committee had not prepared a report, and he moved to delete that committee's agenda item; there was no objection.

Mr. Goldstein moved to remove Regional Reports from the agenda (though written reports are included in the appendices to these minutes). A voice vote on the motion was inconclusive, however, it was adopted by a show of hands.

Without objection, 5 minutes of public comment was added as the last agenda item.

Without objection, the agenda was adopted as amended, as follows:

Report of Potential Conflicts of Interest (Mattson)	3 minutes
Officer Reports	
Chair's Report	5 minutes
Treasurer's Report	5 minutes
Secretary's Report	5 minutes
Staff Reports	20 minutes
Counsel's Report	10 minutes
Reports of Standing Committees	
Audit Committee (Starr)	5 minutes
Awards Committee (Lark)	5 minutes
Convention Oversight Committee (Ryan)	5 minutes
Employment Policy & Compensation Committee (Lark)	5 minutes
IT Committee	5 minutes
Platform Committee	5 minutes
Bylaws Committee	5 minutes
Credentials Committee	5 minutes
Ballot Access Committee	10 minutes
Public Comments	5 minutes

REPORT OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Ms. Mattson reported that since the previous meeting, Joshua Katz reported that he is no longer the Executive Director of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut.

Other members provided the following verbal updates:

Gary Johnson is no longer the Secretary of the Libertarian Party of Texas.

Norm Olsen is a candidate for Congressional District 6 in Colorado.

Brett Bittner is a member of the Indiana State Central Committee from Congressional District 7.

Guy McLendon is no longer the Vice-Chair of the Libertarian Party of Louisiana.

Kevin Ludlow is the IT Director of the Libertarian Party of Texas.

OFFICER REPORTS

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Sarwark had submitted a written report (see Appendix A), and he supplemented with an oral report to discuss media interest in our convention.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Hagan had provided written financial statements to the board. He gave an oral summary of the highlights of the statements.

Given the high turnout for our convention, Mr. Hagan moved to amend the budget to increase Line 24 Convention Revenue to \$240,000 and increase Line 35 Cost of Support and Revenue – Convention to \$200,000. The motion was adopted without objection.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Ms. Mattson had submitted a written report (see Appendix B). She noted that she will add to her report the identity of members of the Website Redevelopment Committee.

She reported that all minutes for the term have been approved and are posted on the website.

She requested that during the next term the LNC revisit the rules for the APRC, review the related directives to staff issued by former chair Geoff Neale, and revise the body of rules to improve the functionality of the APRC.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Benedict gave an oral staff report, discussing our membership increases driven by the Clinton/Trump effect and the highly-praised work of Andy Burns to help affiliates with websites and branding. He fielded questions.

Mr. Benedict noted that our branding expenditures have exceeded the budget. Mr. Goldstein moved to increase budget Line 26 Brand / Political Materials Revenue and also budget Line 55 Brand / Political Materials Expense from \$35,000 to \$65,000. The motion was adopted by a voice vote.

COUNSEL'S REPORT

LNC Counsel Oliver Hall hasn't yet submitted a Counsel's Report because he has been traveling on various cases. He is flying to Orlando to negotiate a contract with our presidential ticket, and he may be present in person for the May 30 LNC meeting.

GARY JOHNSON VICTORY FUND

Charles Frohman was recognized to speak about the Gary Johnson Victory Fund which has registered with the FEC as a Joint Fundraising Committee (JFC). He provided an informational handout to the LNC. Fifteen of our state affiliates have joined, and Mr. Frohman urged the LNC to join the fundraising committee so as to raise their donation limits. He fielded questions. Mr. Sarwark will ask Oliver Hall to provide feedback on how participation in the JFC would impact non-FEC-filing affiliates.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Mr. Johnson raised a point of order regarding Bylaw Article 10.2, which states, in part:

“The non-officer members of the National Committee shall appoint a standing Audit Committee of three members with power to select the independent auditor. One member shall be a non-officer member of the National Committee and the other two shall not be members of the National Committee.”

For this term, Mr. Johnson has been the LNC member on the Audit Committee, and Aaron Starr and M Carling were the Audit Committee members who were not members of the National Committee. Recently Aaron Starr had been appointed as the Region 4 Alternate to the LNC. Mr. Johnson's asked the Chair for a ruling on Mr. Starr's status with the Audit Committee.

Mr. Sarwark ruled that since Mr. Starr is now an LNC member, he is therefore ineligible to hold his seat on the Audit Committee and cannot continue to serve. Mr. Starr inquired how this situation was different from past rulings in which the Chair had argued that ineligibility merely created a cause for removal rather than an automatic vacancy. Mr. Sarwark reiterated his ruling. Mr. Starr noted that there were now two from the LNC who had previously been appointed to the Audit Committee, so he inquired about how to determine which one of the two was now ineligible. Mr. Sarwark's ruling was that the LNC had intended for Mr. Johnson to serve in the LNC-member seat, thus Mr. Starr as the person whose status had changed was now the ineligible one, and his Audit Committee seat is now vacant. Additional discussion related to whether the bylaw language “shall not be members of the National Committee” also precluded alternates of the National Committee.

Mr. Olsen appealed the ruling of the chair that Mr. Starr is ineligible to serve on the Audit Committee and thus there is currently a vacancy.

Following debate, the vote on sustaining the ruling of the chair was as follows:

Voting “aye”: Hagan, Hewitt, Lark, Marsh, Olsen, Redpath, Riemers, Tomasso, Vohra

Voting “no”: Johnson

Abstaining: Feldman, Goldstein, Ludlow, Mattson, McLendon, Sarwark

The chair's ruling was upheld with a vote total of 9-1.

Without objection, Mr. Starr as the former Chair of the Audit Committee delivered the Audit Committee report. He noted that the Audit Committee had a discussion with the contracted audit firm about how to continue for the 2015 audit. In both of the prior audits the firm had done for us, there were cost overruns. The Audit Committee wanted the audit firm to agree not to overrun the budget without a prior agreement from us. The firm did not agree, so the Audit Committee has ended our arrangement with them. The Audit Committee has hired Frye & Wolcott to conduct the audit of our 2015 financials. Their quote was around \$15,000, and field work will start shortly after the national convention.

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Dr. Lark, as chair of the Awards Committee, had submitted a written report (see Appendix C) and supplemented with an oral report. He noted that Ron Paul and Bill Redpath will be inducted into the Hall of Liberty during this weekend's convention. Mr. Redpath will be present, and Dr. Paul will accept via a thank you video.

CONVENTION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

BetteRose Ryan, as chair of the Convention Oversight Committee, gave an oral report. (See the committee's meeting and attendance roster in Appendix D.) Ms. Ryan noted that current convention revenues are around \$242,000, and sales are continuing. She believes we are above the break-even point. She requested that the LNC address how to make use of 7 "comp" (complimentary) room nights we have with the Rosen Centre for meeting planning purposes, which are a use-it-or-lose-it scenario. There are limitations on use of this perk set by Policy Manual Section 2.03.4.

Mr. Ludlow moved to authorize applying the 7 comp nights with the Rosen Centre to Ms. Ryan's hotel room, regardless of whether she is a delegate for the convention. The motion was adopted by a show of hands with no opposition.

Ms. Mattson provided an update on the status of contract negotiations for the 2018 convention in New Orleans.

EMPLOYMENT POLICY & COMPENSATION COMMITTEE (EPCC)

Dr. Lark, as chair of the EPCC, had submitted a written report (see Appendix E) and supplemented with an oral report.

On behalf of the EPCC Dr. Lark moved to amend Policy Manual Section 2.01.3 to add the following paragraph immediately after the conclusion of the fifth paragraph:

"Employment agreements shall include information about any obligations by the LNC to pay moving and moving-related expenses. A maximum on the total amount of such expenses to be paid shall be specified. In addition, the specific expenses must be approved by the LNC chair."

The motion was adopted without objection.

Ms. Mattson moved the second motion in the EPCC report, which was to amend Policy Manual Section 2.03 to insert a new subsection 18 as follows:

"18. Debt and Capital Leases

The LNC and its staff may not incur debt, with the exception of trade payables, in excess of \$2,000, except with a 2/3 vote of the National Committee. This includes entering into binding lease agreements with aggregate payments totaling more than \$2,000."

Mr. Sarwark handed the gavel to Mr. Vohra so that Mr. Sarwark could participate in debate.

Dr. Lark relayed concerns by staff that addition of this language may require the LNC to vote on many matters that should not require the attention of the LNC.

Following debate, the vote on the main motion was as follows:

Voting "aye": Goldstein, Hewitt, Johnson, Lark, Ludlow, Marsh, Mattson, Riemers

Voting "no": Feldman, Hagan, McLendon, Olsen, Redpath, Sarwark, Tomasso

Abstaining: Vohra

The motion was adopted by a vote total of 8-7.

IT COMMITTEE

Mr. Goldstein, as chair of the IT Committee, requested that the committee's time be used by Mr. Ludlow for a report from the Website Redevelopment Committee. There was no objection. Mr. Ludlow reported that the committee had solicited bids, vetted potential vendors, and had chosen a firm to complete the website redevelopment. Mr. Ludlow expects to show a preview of the new site to the delegates this weekend. The vendor is tentatively scheduled to have the functional code ready by June 6. They anticipate a launch of the new site around June 24.

PLATFORM COMMITTEE

Ms. Mattson, as chair of the Platform Committee, reported that today the committee adopted two amendments to its report and looks forward to presenting its ideas to the delegates during the convention.

BYLAWS AND RULES COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Bylaws and Rules Committee, Mr. Katz invited the delegates to the committee's public forum at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Sarwark resumed the gavel from Mr. Vohra.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Credentials Committee, Mr. Johnson reported on the high turnout expected for this convention and on delegate disputes that had come before the Credentials Committee.

BALLOT ACCESS COMMITTEE

Mr. Redpath, as chair of the Ballot Access Committee, had submitted a written report (see Appendix F) and supplemented with an oral report.

He noted that though the LNC has approved a ballot access drive in Ohio to have our presidential ticket listed as independent candidates, there may be a parallel drive by the Johnson campaign to complete a party petition there.

ADJOURNMENT

Following public comment, the LNC adjourned without objection at 5:15 p.m.

Chair's Report - 2/21/16 - 5/26/16

- Gave a number of interviews, including Slate, the New York Times, NBC, the Washington Times, MSNBC, Reason, the Johnny Rocket Launchpad, Univision, and many others.
- Calls, meetings, and written correspondence with major donors.
- Wrote columns in LP News.
- Participated in a press conference at the Oklahoma Capitol regarding or successful ballot access drive and attended Libertarian Party of Oklahoma event.
- Attended and spoke at joint Libertarian Party of Mississippi/Alabama Presidential Debate.
- Spoke at Liberty America event in Atlanta, GA.
- Attended and spoke at Libertarian Party of Florida, Libertarian Party of Louisiana, and Libertarian Party of Indiana conventions.
- Engaged with candidates and LP members on social media.
- Responded to LP member correspondence regarding official positions and concerns.

Secretary's Report

For May 26, 2016 LNC Session

Following is a status report for minutes of LNC and EC meetings since the previous regular LNC session:

- February 20-21, 2016 LNC session – auto-approved on March 20, 2016
- February 28, 2016 LNC Executive Committee teleconference meeting – auto-approved on March 14, 2016
- March 7, 2016 LNC Executive Committee teleconference meeting – auto-approved on March 22, 2016
- March 23, 2016 LNC Executive Committee teleconference meeting – auto-approved on April 8, 2016
- March 30, 2016 LNC Executive Committee teleconference meeting – auto-approved on April 14, 2016
- April 27, 2016 LNC Executive Committee teleconference meeting – auto-approved on May 12, 2016

The Policy Manual has been updated to reflect the change made by the LNC in its February 20-21, 2016 meeting.

All minutes from this term have been approved and are posted on the website.

Since the February 2016 session, the California affiliate has elected Jeff Hewitt as its new regional representative and Aaron Starr as its new regional alternate.

Committee membership changes since the previous regular LNC session:

- During the February 20 LNC meeting, Kevin Ludlow had been appointed to chair a Website Redevelopment Committee with authority to pick additional committee members. On February 22, Mr. Ludlow announced his selection of Sam Goldstein and Arvin Vohra to serve on that committee.
- When the California affiliate elected its new representatives, Dan Wiener became ineligible to continue to serve on the APRC, creating a vacancy which has not been filled.
- On April 3, 2016, California appointed Tom Lippman as their representative to the Credentials Committee, and Starchild as their alternate.
- On April 10, 2016 I was notified that Texas had appointed Anastasia Wilford as their representative to the Credentials Committee to replace Carla Pealer who cannot attend the convention.

No email ballots were completed since the February 20-21, 2016 LNC session.

Alicia Mattson
LNC Secretary

2016 AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted to: Libertarian National Committee, May 23, 2016

Submitted by: James W. Lark, III
Region 5 Representative, Libertarian National Committee
Chair, 2016 Awards Committee

The members of the Awards Committee are Tim Hagan, Daniel Hayes, Kevin Knedler, Jim Lark, and Roland Riemers. The Committee members were elected by the LNC during the November 2015 meeting.

In March and April the Committee solicited nominations from LP members by various means, including an article in *LP News*, e-mails to the LP e-mail list, and a blog post on LP.com. At least 63 people submitted nominations for the four national awards (Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry, Thomas Paine, and Thomas Jefferson) and/or induction into the Hall of Liberty.

The Committee evaluated the nominations for the Hall of Liberty and elected Ron Paul and Bill Redpath. As specified by the LNC Policy Manual, election was by unanimous vote of the Committee.

The Committee also selected the recipients of the Adams, Henry, Paine, and Jefferson Awards; the names of the recipients will be announced at a ceremony during the national convention in Orlando. For each award, the Committee selected a “short list” of at most three nominees. Inclusion of a nominee on that list required a majority vote of the entire Committee, combined with an absence of opposition to that nominee. Award recipients were then selected from each short list. Selection of each recipient required a majority vote of the entire Committee.

The Committee expresses its gratitude to the following people:

- * Carla Howell and Robert Kraus, for their help in distributing information about the awards process
- * Robert Kraus, for preparing a webpage (www.lp.org/lpawards) on LP.org that provides information about the awards and lists the recipients and Hall of Liberty inductees
- * Eric Dixon, for his work to prepare video presentations for the awards ceremonies
- * Kevin Knedler, for making the arrangements to design and produce the trophies, and for underwriting some of the costs
- * The many LP members who submitted nominations.

The names of the previous recipients of the Adams, Paine, Henry, and Jefferson Awards, along with the names of the Hall of Liberty members, are enclosed below in an appendix.

APPENDIX: Libertarian Party national award recipients and Hall of Liberty members

1996:

Samuel Adams Award: Don Ernsberger
Thomas Paine Award: Jacob Hornberger
Thomas Jefferson Award: David Nolan

1998:

Samuel Adams Award: Steve Dasbach
Thomas Paine Award: Harry Browne
Thomas Jefferson Award: David Bergland

2000:

Samuel Adams Award: Richard Rider
Thomas Paine Award: Michael Cloud
Thomas Jefferson Award: Ed Clark

2002:

Samuel Adams Award: Bruce Baechler
Thomas Paine Award: Richard Pearl
Thomas Jefferson Award: John Perry

2004:

Samuel Adams Award: Jim Lark
Thomas Paine Award: Mary Ruwart
Thomas Jefferson Award: Ron Crickenberger

2006:

Samuel Adams Award: Michael Badnarik
Thomas Paine Award: John Stossel
Thomas Jefferson Award: Harry Browne

2008:

Samuel Adams Award: Bill Hall
Thomas Paine Award: Mike Ferguson, Eric Schansberg
Thomas Jefferson Award: Ruth Bennett, Jim Lark

2010:

Samuel Adams Award: Michael Johnston, Kevin Knedler
Thomas Paine Award: Rex Bell
Thomas Jefferson Award: Bill Redpath

2012:

Patrick Henry Award: Lex Green, Travis Irvine
Samuel Adams Award: Clyde Garland
Thomas Paine Award: Jim Lark

Thomas Jefferson Award: Sharon Harris
Hall of Liberty: Ed Clark, John Hospers, Roger MacBride, Tonie Nathan, David Nolan

2014:

Patrick Henry Award: Rupert Boneham, Robert Sarvis
Samuel Adams Award: Hardy Macia
Thomas Paine Award: Sharon Harris
Thomas Jefferson Award: Pat Dixon
Hall of Liberty: Harry Browne, Richard Winger

2016:

Patrick Henry Award: To be announced
Samuel Adams Award: To be announced
Thomas Paine Award: To be announced
Thomas Jefferson Award: To be announced
Hall of Liberty: Ron Paul, Bill Redpath

Patrick Henry Award:

2012: Lex Green, Travis Irvine
2014: Rupert Boneham, Robert Sarvis
2016: To be announced

Samuel Adams Award:

1996: Don Ernsberger
1998: Steve Dasbach
2000: Richard Rider
2002: Bruce Baechler
2004: Jim Lark
2006: Michael Badnarik
2008: Bill Hall
2010: Michael Johnston, Kevin Knedler
2012: Clyde Garland
2014: Hardy Macia
2016: To be announced

Thomas Paine Award:

1996: Jacob Hornberger
1998: Harry Browne
2000: Michael Cloud
2002: Richard Pearl
2004: Mary Ruwart
2006: John Stossel
2008: Mike Ferguson, Eric Schansberg

2010: Rex Bell
2012: Jim Lark
2014: Sharon Harris
2016: To be announced

Thomas Jefferson Award:

1996: David Nolan
1998: David Bergland
2000: Ed Clark
2002: John Perry
2004: Ron Crickenberger
2006: Harry Browne
2008: Ruth Bennett, Jim Lark
2010: Bill Redpath
2012: Sharon Harris
2014: Pat Dixon
2016: To be announced

Hall of Liberty:

2012: Ed Clark, John Hospers, Roger MacBride, Tonie Nathan, David Nolan
2014: Harry Browne, Richard Winger
2016: Ron Paul, Bill Redpath

Convention Oversight Committee

Meeting Dates and Attendance Roster for May 26, 2016 LNC Meeting

	Capozzi	Hayes	Kirkland	Marsh	Mattson	McCurry	Ryan
02/25/16	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y
03/08/16	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
03/22/16	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y
03/31/16	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y
04/14/16	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
04/26/16	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
05/03/16	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
05/11/16	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y

Committee Chair BetteRose Ryan will be present at the meeting to deliver a report.

EMPLOYMENT POLICY AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted to: Libertarian National Committee, May 23, 2016

Submitted by: James W. Lark, III
Region 5 Representative, Libertarian National Committee
Chair, Employment Policy and Compensation Committee

The members of the Employment Policy and Compensation Committee (EPCC) are Brett Bittner, Joshua Katz, and Jim Lark. The members were appointed to the Committee by Nick Sarwark on Nov. 15, 2014.

1) The EPCC has prepared motions concerning leases and capital expenditures and contractual provisions concerning moving expenses. The motions are included in an appendix to this report.

Items 2-5 below were included in the EPCC report of Feb. 15, 2016. Since the LNC has not taken action on these items, the EPCC has included them again in this report.

2) Section 2.03.06 of the LNC Policy Manual reads as follows:

Fixed Assets

Staff shall maintain a listing of fixed assets and update it monthly to record any additions or disposals. Depreciation shall be recorded monthly on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the related assets.

In the review of the LNC's internal financial controls, the auditor noted in its discussion of "best practices" that the staff has not maintained the listing of fixed assets in the manner required by the Policy Manual.

The EPCC recommends that the LNC consider what action (if any) to take in this matter.

3) In the review of the LNC's internal financial controls, the auditor noted in its discussion of "significant deficiencies" that as of the end of 2013, the LNC's FEC Policies and Procedures Manual had not been updated since 2006.

The EPCC recommends that the LNC establish a special committee to prepare an updated version of this manual. In addition, the LNC should develop a process for the regular review and updating of this manual.

4) In the review of the LNC's internal financial controls, the auditor noted in its discussion of "significant deficiencies" that the LNC has not established a document retention/destruction policy, and recommended that such a policy be established.

The EPCC recommends that the LNC establish a special committee to prepare such a policy.

5) Section 2.03.07 of the LNC Policy Manual reads as follows:

Time Sheets and Expense Allocation

Each employee shall submit a timesheet at least once per pay period to reflect the number of hours worked, allocating such time to corresponding categories specified in the annual budget. Time sheets shall be reviewed and approved prior to employee time being entered in the payroll system. Payroll costs for each employee shall be allocated to expense categories in proportion with approved time. Separate general ledger accounts shall be used for allocated payroll costs.

Where appropriate, an expense shall be allocated to one category. Expenses that benefit more than one category or that are general administrative in nature shall be allocated to a general administrative account in the general ledger. Those expenses shall then be allocated on a monthly basis to expense categories in proportion to the allocation of payroll costs. Separate general ledger accounts shall be used for allocated general administrative costs.

Monthly financial statements shall separately report allocations of payroll and overhead to corresponding categories.

In the review of the LNC's internal financial controls, the auditor noted in its discussion of "best practices" that employee timesheets do not reflect the actual time spent in each functional area. In addition, the auditor noted that there was no evidence of review and approval of timesheets. The auditor recommended that in order to allocate more accurately the time charged to projects, employees should complete timesheets that reflect actual hours worked on the various programs and/or supporting services functions.

After receiving the auditor's statements and the report of the Audit Committee, questions have been raised by staff concerning the particulars of how the timesheets should be completed. Mr. Benedict requested that the EPCC conduct research concerning how other organizations handled timesheets and functional allocation of expenses.

After consideration of this matter, the EPCC recommends that the LNC evaluate its requirements for such information from staff, and that it provide clear guidelines to the staff concerning the reporting of such information.

APPENDIX

1. Motion concerning leases and capital expenditures

Motion: Amend Section 2.03 of the Policy Manual by adding the following language immediately after Section 2.03.17:

18. Debt and Capital Leases

The LNC and its staff may not incur debt, with the exception of trade payables, in excess of \$2,000, except with a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the National Committee. This includes entering into binding lease agreements with aggregate payments totaling more than \$2,000.

2. Motion concerning payment of moving expenses for LPHQ employees

Motion: Amend Section 2.01.03 of the Policy Manual as follows:

Add the following language immediately after the conclusion of the fifth paragraph:

Employment agreements shall include information about any obligations by the LNC to pay moving and moving-related expenses. A maximum on the total amount of such expenses to be paid shall be specified. In addition, the specific expenses must be approved by the LNC chair.

NOTE: Should the motion be approved, Section 2.01.03 will read as follows:

Section 2.01 OBLIGATIONS AMONG BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

3) Employment Terms

Employment agreements shall require adherence to the Bylaws and policies adopted by the LNC as a condition of employment.

Employment agreements shall specify in writing that registering as delegate to any national party convention constitutes an immediate resignation of employment.

Employment agreements with bonus provisions must make the bonuses contingent on objectively-measured achievements.

Employment agreements with bonus provisions based on revenues shall exclude convention and bequest revenues.

Employment agreements with bonuses based on achievements during a period of time shall require that the employee be an employee of the Party on every day of that time period to be eligible for the bonus.

Employment agreements shall include information about any obligations by the LNC to pay moving and moving-related expenses. A maximum on the total amount of such expenses to be paid shall be specified. In addition, the specific expenses must be approved by the LNC chair.

No employee of the Party shall be a member or alternate of the LNC or any Bylaws specified committee.³⁷ Any person employed by the Party shall be terminated immediately upon his or her acceptance of election or appointment to the LNC or any Bylaws-specified committee.

Except as otherwise authorized in this Policy Manual, no employee of the Party shall endorse, support, or contribute any money, use his or her title or position, or work as a volunteer, employee, or contractor to aid:

- any candidate for public office prior to nomination, or
- any candidate for Party office

This shall not preclude any Party employee from being a candidate for public office.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY BALLOT ACCESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Libertarian National Committee meeting

Orlando, Florida

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Dear Colleagues:

The following memo addresses petitioning opportunities for the LNC in 2016.

I want to thank Richard Winger and Bob Johnston, LP of Maryland Chair and an Independent Contractor to the LNC, for their assistance in updating this report.

The other committee members are Richard Winger, Paul Frankel, Ed Marsh, Gary Johnson (of Texas).

I will have an oral update at the LNC meeting in Orlando, if I have any additional data, and I probably will.

We currently have ballot access for our 2016 Presidential ticket in the following 32 states: AK, AR, AZ, CA, CO, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IN, KS, LA, MD, MI, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NM, NC, ND, OK, OR, SC, TX, UT, VT, WV, WI & WY.

I will now address the other 18 states and DC:

AL: The LPAL will do an Independent petition for 5,000 valid sigs in 2016 after the Presidential nomination. The deadline is August 18. LPAL Chair Leigh Lachine think about 2,500 to 3,000 sigs will be volunteer or LPAL paid sigs. About 5,000 sigs will be needed to be paid by the LNC. I have spoken with I have spoken with Paul Frankel about doing this petition drive. No EC encumbrance yet. LNC Budget: \$15,000.

CT: The LPCT now has about 1,300 gross signatures. The petition drive has gotten off to a slow start, but we now have five paid petitioners working in CT, and we have lined up a petitioning firm that states that it will be able to start petitioning in CT in early June.

The Executive Committee approved a \$25,000 encumbrance for CT on 2/1/2016.

DC: We will have to do about a 4,500 valid sig petition drive for President between July 1 and August 10. No EC encumbrance yet. I budget \$25,000 from the LNC due to the difficulties of petitioning in DC.

IL: 25,000 valid sig petition drive for President & US Senate with a deadline of Monday, June 27. About 12,500 gross sigs have been gathered to date, about 4,800 of which have come from volunteers (my 830 is included in that). The paid petitioners had a slow start in IL, but things are picking up. The pay rate has been increased to \$3 per gross sig. The LPIL has retained Christina Tobin's petitioning firm to collect signatures. Validation is being closely monitored by the LPIL.

A \$50,000 encumbrance of LNC funds was approved by the EC. No LNC money has yet been expended on this petition drive, but that is about to change.

IA: 1,500 valid sig petition drive for President. The deadline is August 19. LPIA Chair Keith Laube knows of 550 gross sigs and says that candidates for office in Iowa are collecting more. He does not think that meeting the 1,500 valid sig requirement will be a problem.

KY: One of only two states that depends only on the vote for President to remain on the ballot (KY 2%, WA 5%). The LPKY has filed a lawsuit that argues that because the LPKY has almost 5,000 voter registrations, it should not have to do a 5,000 valid sig petition drive to qualify for the ballot. Nonetheless, we should plan for a possible 5,000 valid sig petition drive, starting Memorial Day 2016. No EC encumbrance yet. I budget \$15,000 in 2016.

ME: The LPME is suing several state officials and the Secretary of State's office because they ruled that the LPME did not gather the requisite 5,000 voter registrations needed by December 1, 2015, to get party status in Maine. The LPME disagrees. We think we have a strong case to prevail in court.

But, to stay on the ballot after the 2016 election, the LPME needs to have 10,000 registered voters by November 8, 2016, who also vote in the 2016 General Election, to maintain party ballot status after the 2016 General Election.

If the litigation fails, and the LPME does not qualify as a political party through the registration process, we would need to do a 4,000 valid sig petition drive starting Memorial Day, with an August 1 deadline. The LNC or EC would have to quickly address a ME petition drive then.

MA: We will need to do a 10,000 valid sig petition drive for President after Memorial Day 2016. Deadline: August 1, 2016. I am working with Christina Crawford of the LPMA, who is working diligently to maximize the number of volunteer signatures and financial donations from LPMA members. She thinks there will be 2,000 volunteer sigs, 2,000 LPMA paid sigs, and 10,000 will need to be paid by the LNC. Budget: \$25,000.

Please note that if we had party status in MA, we would not have to petition at all to get our Presidential ticket on the ballot there.

MN: A 2,000 valid sig petition drive for President after the Memorial Day 2016 weekend convention. I will plan on this being done by the LPMN, and Andy Burns has assured me that that will occur.

NH: 1,500 valid sigs in each of two congressional districts (3,000 valid sigs total). I think this is going to need LNC subsidization for a drive starting Memorial Day 2016. No EC encumbrance yet. I budget \$15,000 in 2016.

NJ: 800 valid sigs after Memorial Day 2016. Although the LNC needed to subsidize in 2012, I would hope they could do this on their own in 2016. LPNJ Chair Patrick McKnight tells me the LPNJ will do this petition drive on their own.

NY: We will need 15,000 valid sigs from June 21 to August 2 for our Presidential ticket in 2016. LPNY Chair Mark Glogowski says that the LPNY is aiming for 30,000 gross sigs, with about half of that coming from volunteers. The LPNY has asked for an LNC encumbrance of \$25,000.

OH: The LPOH is still in court regarding Ohio's ballot access laws. There are lawsuits in both federal and state courts as the LPOH attempts to regain ballot status in OH. Our federal case recently lost in US District Court, but is being appealed to the Sixth Circuit US Court of Appeals.

We have hired a petitioning firm to complete the Independent petition in Ohio for 5,000 valid sigs. The petition started circulating on Sat, May 21. It is piggybacked on a medical marijuana petition.

The EC encumbered \$12,500 for this petition drive; nothing has been spent yet.

PA: We are looking at a 21,775 valid sig petition drive with an end date of August 1. As of Sat, May 21, the LPPA had 7,978 gross sigs. Many (but not most) of these sigs were gathered on Primary Day (Tue, April 26). There was an EC encumbrance of \$62,000, of which \$5,000 or less has been expended at this point.

The per gross sig pay rate has been increased in PA to \$3 to stimulate more production. Probably 15 to 20 people responded to Wes Benedict's appeal for petitioners in PA. A validity rate requirement of 70% is in each petitioner's contract and "make good" sigs will be required of each petitioner who does not reach 70% validity.

RI: A 1,000 valid sig petition drive. I don't think the LPRI can do this themselves. We are probably looking at an LNC expenditure of \$2,500.

SD: A party petition for 6,936 valid sigs would get us two elections (2016 & 2018), with a possibility of retaining ballot status if we get 2.5% for Governor in 2018.

Wes Benedict thinks this petition drive has been completed, and we are awaiting confirmation from the LPSD. The deadline is in July.

Thank you to all who were involved in this project, particularly Lori Stacey of the SD Constitution Party, and others associated with her.

TN: 275 valid sig petition drive for President in 2016. The LPTN should handle this itself. The LPTN needs to work to get this done well ahead of the deadline in 2016, and not let it go to a last day fire drill, as in 2012. I have asked Ed Marsh, a Ballot Access Committee member, to see to it that that occurs, and he accepted that assignment

VA: 5,000 valid sig petition drive for President in 2016 deadline is Noon on Friday, August 26. I know of 1,035 gross sigs that exist. The LPVA is trying to do this on an all volunteer basis, but this may not occur. I have been the LPVA coordinator to this point, but I have been focused on other states' petition drives with higher sig numbers and earlier deadlines. Andy Bakker, LPVA Vice Chair, has agreed to step in for me in this role in VA. For now, I will predict that no LNC subsidization will be needed for VA, but that is not certain.

WA: 1,000 valid sig petition drive for President in 2016. The LPWA should handle this itself. I have deputized M Carling, who lives in Vancouver, WA, to make sure this petition drive is carried out successfully. M and I had a phone call with LPWA Chair David Traynor re: this drive, and it is proceeding according to plan.

Financial Summary: LNC 2016 Budget: \$272,500.

LNC Amounts spent YTD (as of 5/22/2016):

CT: \$705.00

MT: \$3,722.20

OH: \$2,500.00

OK: \$29,411.00

PA: \$9,652.37

SD: \$9,738.10

Total: \$55,728.67

Remaining Budget Authority: \$216,771.33

Remaining amounts in EC passed encumbrances:

CT: \$24,295

IL: \$50,000

OH: \$10,000

PA: \$52,347.63

Total: \$136,642.63

Proposed budget for states without an encumbrance, as of yet:

AL: \$15,000

DC: \$25,000

KY: \$15,000

MA: \$25,000

NH: \$15,000

NY: \$25,000

RI: \$2,500

Total: \$122,500

Sum of remaining amounts in EC passed encumbrances and Proposed budget for states without an encumbrance: \$259,142.63, which is \$42,371.30 higher than the remaining budget authority.

If we lose the lawsuit in ME, there could be another \$15,000 needed for a petition drive there.

Bill Redpath
Chair
Ballot Access Committee

CAMPUS ORGANIZING REPORT

Submitted to: Libertarian National Committee, May 23, 2016

Submitted by: James W. Lark, III
Region 5 Representative, Libertarian National Committee

This report will provide information concerning efforts to build and support Libertarian campus organizations. I shall provide an updated report at the LNC meeting in Orlando should additional information become available.

- 1) I continue to respond to inquiries from people who want information about the LP campus outreach effort. I am pleased to note that it is now unusual when I do not respond within 24 hours of receiving an inquiry.
- 2) I continue to work with the Advocates for Self-Government to provide material (e.g., “Operation Politically Homeless” kits) to campus organizations. (In the interest of full disclosure, please note that I am the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Advocates. In addition, Region 3 alternate representative Brett Bittner serves as the executive director of the Advocates.)
- 3) I continue to work with various state and local LP organizations to assist their campus outreach efforts. In particular, I anticipate working with the North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia affiliates this fall to help build campus organizations in those states.

Earlier this month I contacted Andy Burns to volunteer to provide training in the area of campus organizing via the lpaction.org website.

- 4) I continue to work closely with Students For Liberty to build libertarian groups at high schools and colleges. (I am a member of the Board of Advisors of SFL.) As part of this effort, SFL board members and I have found ways for the LP to use the services available from SFL. We must take care in the ways we work together to avoid jeopardizing SFL’s 501c(3) status. I have already been invited to address the annual SFL campus coordinators’ retreat this summer.

I gave an invited address at the ninth International Students For Liberty Conference in Washington, DC on Feb. 26-28; Carla Howell conducted a workshop at the event. In addition, the LP conducted a very successful outreach booth at the event. The following people were instrumental in that success (listed in alphabetical order of surname): Andy Bakker, Wes Benedict, Carla Howell, Bob Johnston, Martin Moulton, Kirby Myers, Arvin Vohra, Ruth Witt. (I apologize if I have omitted the name of someone who deserves mention.)

On Mar. 12 I gave an address to the European Students For Liberty Conference in Prague, Czech Republic. During my participation in the conference I met with members of various libertarian party organizations in Europe. I have been invited to speak at several ESFL regional conferences during the fall. I have already accepted the invitation to address the ESFL conference in Sofia, Bulgaria, and I anticipate accepting invitations to address conferences in Ljubljana (Slovenia), Brno (Czech Republic), and Heidelberg (Germany).

- 5) On Apr. 30 I gave a keynote address to the second party congress of Liberalistene (the Libertarian Party of Norway) in Oslo. Subsequently I was invited to return to Norway to help build the youth wing of the party. In addition, I have been invited to address a libertarian youth summer camp in Sweden. I shall endeavor to arrange my schedule to visit Norway and Sweden in August.
- 6) I continue to receive invitations to speak at high schools, colleges, and universities. I gave an address at the University of Maryland (College Park, Maryland) on Apr. 8, at the Virginia Military Institute (Lexington, Virginia) on Apr. 21, and at the 2016 Adam Smith Gala at Campbell University (Buies Creek, North Carolina) on Apr. 23. (The Gala is an annual event sponsored by several institutions based at Campbell University.)
- 7) In my previous report I noted that I had accepted an appointment to serve as a member of the Foundation for Economic Education Faculty Network. I anticipate that I shall have the opportunity to serve as a faculty member at FEE seminars later this year.
- 8) I anticipate working with the 2016 LP presidential ticket on outreach to young voters (especially college students). I shall contact the campaign organizations of the presidential and vice presidential candidates shortly after nomination to inquire in what ways I can be of assistance.
- 9) I am pleased to report that several high school students have started organizations to assist in promoting the Libertarian Party among young people, with special emphasis upon high school students. Specifically, I am working with Trent Some (Pennsylvania) of the Libertarian Youth Caucus and Michael Hess (West Virginia) of High School Libertarians to assist their efforts.

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Submitted to: Libertarian National Committee, May 23, 2016

Submitted by: James W. Lark, III
Region 5 Representative, Libertarian National Committee
International Representative, Libertarian National Committee

This report will provide information concerning my efforts as International Representative to assist the work of libertarian political parties and activists throughout the world.

1) Geoff Neale, chair of the International Alliance of Libertarian Parties (and immediate-past LNC chair), has informed me that the organization is still attempting to secure banking services. He said that IALP has established a U.S. affiliate which can accept donations.

Mr. Neale also indicated that the IALP will sponsor an exhibitor table at the LP national convention in Orlando.

2) IALP is considering an application for membership from LIDER (Liberte et Democratie pour la Republique) in Cote d'Ivoire (the Ivory Coast). I have not cast a vote yet, as I want to see more information about the organization.

3) I addressed the European Students For Liberty Conference in Prague, Czech Republic on Mar. 12. During my participation at the conference, I was able to meet with members of various libertarian parties in Europe.

At this time I anticipate addressing several ESFL regional conferences during the fall. In particular, I anticipate addressing the conferences in Ljubljana (Slovenia), Brno (Czech Republic), Sofia (Bulgaria), and Heidelberg (Germany).

4) On Apr. 30 I gave a keynote address to the second party congress of Liberalistene (the Libertarian Party of Norway) in Oslo. I am pleased to report that my participation was very well received by Liberalistene members.

Indeed, I have been invited to return to Norway to assist in building the Liberalistene youth wing. I have also been invited to address a libertarian youth summer camp in Sweden. I am currently trying to arrange my schedule so that I can visit both Norway and Sweden in August.

REGION 5 REPORT

Submitted to: Libertarian National Committee, May 23, 2016

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 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 (jsummerell@worksitesinsight.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 (bocbrown@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.wvgazette.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

See the following 9 pages for the Region 8 report

Region 8 Report

This is the most geographically compact region, but each state has very different politics and processes. Would like more members to subscribe to the *LP_8new* yahoo group.

Heading into 2016 elections, only Vermont has statewide ballot access. Connecticut has partial ballot access. New Jersey is recognized as a minor party and only needs 800 signatures. Maine is currently in the process of becoming a recognized party.

Given the 2016 convention date, full ballot access will require some resources from either National or the presidential campaign to put our nominee on the ballot in some of the states.

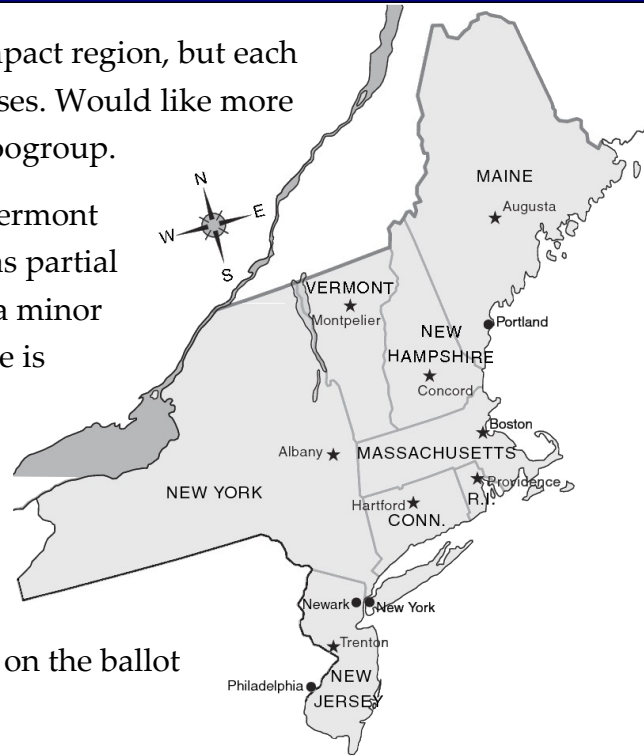
Connecticut, Maine and New Hampshire are involved in litigation for petitioning and ballot access. Media coverage of Libertarian events has seen a nice bump this year, with reports on state conventions and interviews with local leaders and candidates. Maine and New Hampshire have adopted new platforms.

Recent events of interest:

- » Vermont Convention
- » New York Convention
- » Rhode Island Convention
- » Maine Convention

Upcoming events of interest:

- » New Hampshire nominating convention, early June
- » FSP's Porcupine Freedom Festival, June 19–26 in Lancaster, NH





Litigation

The Libertarian Party of Connecticut won a legal victory that allows them to hire out-of-state contractors to collect signatures for candidates petitioning their way onto the ballot.

Before the ruling, only Connecticut residents were permitted to collect signatures. Professional circulators from out-of-state firms, which are often hired by candidates, had to be accompanied by a Connecticut resident.

Judge Hall concluded that circulating a petition is “core political speech” and Secretary of the State Denise Merrill would be infringing on the Libertarian Party’s First Amendment rights by impeding it.

“This decision is good news for free speech,” said Dan Barrett, the ACLU of Connecticut’s legal director and a cooperating attorney. “The Libertarian Party deserves the chance to deliver its message by hiring signature-gatherers based on their qualifications, not their ZIP codes.”

The decision, according to Barrett, aligns with other federal court rulings across the country.

2016 Elections and Petitioning

Connecticut must collect 7,500 signatures by August 10th. This is a large undertaking but we are engaging in a drive to get it done. All the forms are available on our website and we will have volunteer events and petitioner training.



Voter Registration Drive

We submitted 6482 signatures by the December 1st deadline. The Secretary of State said only 4489 were valid. The LPME filed a lawsuit against the Secretary.

The bottom line is the people in political power will use 'law' to suppress competition. Those that make the rules, rule. Wrong, unfair, etc. Even so, we are so close to meeting and still jumping through their micro hoop suspended 100 feet in the air, surrounded by fire and explosives. All we need to do is get a few hundred more registrations. That is all.

The hearing for 'reconsideration' was May 16th. I requested through our legal council the audio or typed transcript of our federal court hearing to have ballot access. Council were told there are no transcripts to provide. What do you think about that?

There is much that could be said, and will, after the ruling but, there is one major point: We need more people to fill out the voter registration card as Libertarians. It is believed the state will accept this and we will have ballot access for the presidential election. In short, the Libertarian Party presidential candidate will be on the ballot in Maine.

Over the next two weeks, you can mail me a completed registration card. If you don't have one, I will get one to you. Need volunteers to ask people to register as Libertarian. Do you have some time to do this? I will do everything within my limited means to support this noble cause. Let's make this happen. Ask a friend. Take a walk on the wild side and just ask someone if they are happy with the current state of the country.

I am also asking the new executive committee if we can work together in groups of two to ask people to register as Libertarians.

If you can assist in this very important matter, kindly email Chair@lpme.org.

LP Maine on the Radio and Online

LPME chairman Jorge Maderal was on on WVOM on Thursday, March 12 at 7:30AM.

Candidate Jim Bouchard was on Newsradio WGAN on May 18th.

LPME Facebook page has more than 4100 likes, a 250%+ improvement since January!

State Convention, May 15th

We had a full day of business, electing officers, hearing from presidential campaigns and a straw poll. Gary Johnson and Austin Petersen got 12 votes. John McAfee and Darryl Perry each got 1 vote. The convention also adopted the "World's Smallest Political Platform". It reads:

"The Libertarian Party supports reducing the size, scope and power of government at all levels and on all issues, and opposes increasing the size, scope or power of government at any level or for any purpose."

We are sending the largest delegation since 2000 to the national convention.

The results of the convention were covered by WMTW, the local ABC affiliate and WCSH, the local NBC affiliate.



Continued Public Issue Messaging

Between election campaigns we are staying in the public eye with issues-focused ad campaigns. Libertarians have many issues for which the public supports us, not the other parties. We just need to show the American people the truth. We have issues where the march of history is on our side. We will bring America to the future, the Libertarian future.

First campaign was *No to the Olympics* (success!). Our current campaign is *Ending the Surveillance State*. We plan a massive fund raising effort to support the campaigns. How are we doing? Our Facebook ad is getting a 2% “like” return, astronomically high for Facebook. Next we will combine social and traditional media outreach. Your designated donations at LPMass.org, the state PAC, will be spent on the effort.

Elections and the Future

Members are looking forward to doing better in 2016 than we did in 2014, which is the best we have done in more than a decade. Fortunately, Massachusetts Libertarians already have full ballot access: You can enroll (“register”) as a Libertarian, and you can run as a Libertarian in any partisan race.

Massachusetts must collect 10,000 signatures after the convention by August 2nd.

Peace Now! End the Warfare state!

Peace can happen. The warfare state, the glorification of defense welfare and crony capitalism, can be brought to an end. But it won’t come to an end by itself. You will only come to an end when we, the patriotic people of the United States, bring it to an end.

You can do your part. No one of us can bring peace and prosperity, but together we can make it happen. Our individual voices can be the drip drip drip of water that eventually creates vast and beautiful valleys and canyons.

What can you do right now? No matter where you live, there are newspapers. There are Facebook pages. There are political blogs. You need to speak up. You need to stand up for peace not having to stir from your computer keyboard or put down your mobile device, and start sending the world short messages: we want peace, and we want now.

Say why you want peace in your own words. But remember to close the letter “Peace now! End the warfare state!” That common ending sends a message that the American people are united against pointless wars and against defense welfare.



Lawsuit

With the NHCLU we are suing the state in Federal court over a change that wiped out 2/3 of the time we have to complete a party-wide petition with no corresponding reduction in the number of signatures, effectively making the task impossible.

Despite our brief demolishing the state's case, the judge sided with the state, citing several arguments from the RNC's amicus brief. The appeal has been filed to the 1st Circuit and amicus briefs were filed on both sides. The fact we felt there was no feasible way to do a party-wide petition for 2016 should work in our favor. There are likely to be oral arguments in June.

Recent Activity

We exhibited at the NH Liberty Forum. We were able to collect some petition signatures, membership renewals and general donations. I spoke with several people interested in having a presence at our national convention either as a presenter or exhibitor. Also found members interested in starting local groups to rebuild our activity level.

Some LP activists from other states have moved here recently, hoping to get them involved and perhaps organizing local action.

Some good ballot access bills didn't go far, in part from Establishment resistance.

Our website team is evaluating WordPress and NationBuilder.

Darryl Perry and Rich Tomasso had a great discussion with visiting officials from India as part of the World Affairs Council program. They asked about our platform, our nominating process, elected Libertarians, the history of political parties in America, what points of attack do we have in a campaign against Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, and our views of the American political process. We pointed out all the roadblocks put in the way of minor parties. We learned about Indian politics, including their very thorough financial disclosure laws and laws that prevent anyone with misdeeds from filing election challenges. One of the Americans traveling with them said he would check out Libertarian candidates when he got home.

2016 Election

A few candidates have come forward. We're currently recruiting, aiming for at least 16 state rep candidates. Filing period is early June, so the bump in attention post-convention should bring in a few more people willing and able to run to boost the numbers. A few people have said they'll run or make major donations if we hit certain recruiting thresholds.

History has shown a definite updraft effect having multiple candidates on the ballot, sometimes increasing local vote totals by 400% vs statewide average. Petitioning will start immediately after nominations and 3000 net sigs need to be gathered by August 10th.

Have spoken with pro petitioners and some new volunteers are coming forward. The overall cost will likely be less than expected, especially if candidate recruitment goes well.

I recommend the presidential campaign have a presence at PorcFest to meet 1000+ libertarians from across the country and talk to the media.



2016 Candidates and Petitioning

New Jersey must collect 800 signatures by August 1st.

Bill Sihr – 1st Congressional District - [facebook.com/Bill-Sihr-for-Congress-222932914735084](https://www.facebook.com/Bill-Sihr-for-Congress-222932914735084)

John Ordille – 2nd Congressional District - [facebook.com/JohnOrdilleLibertarianForCongress](https://www.facebook.com/JohnOrdilleLibertarianForCongress)

James Marcotullio – 3rd Congressional District

Jeremy Marcus – 4th Congressional District

Claudio Belusic – 5th Congressional District

Judy Shamy – 6th Congressional District

Dan O'Neill – 7th Congressional District

Dan Delaney – 8th Congressional District

Diego Rivera – 9th Congressional District

Mike Bohan – 11th Congressional District

Thomas Fitzpatrick – 12th Congressional District

Douglas Burgoyne - Allendale Town Council

Michael Chazukow - West Milford Town Council - [facebook.com/Chaz2016](https://www.facebook.com/Chaz2016)

Patrick McKnight - Montgomery Township Council

Joe Rafferty - Washington Township Town Council - [facebook.com/RaffertyForCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/RaffertyForCouncil)

Michael Roche - Ocean Township Town Council (Ocean Cty) - [facebook.com/CandidateMichaelRoche](https://www.facebook.com/CandidateMichaelRoche)

Peter Rohrman - Bergen County Freeholder - [facebook.com/RohrmanForBergenCountyFreeholder](https://www.facebook.com/RohrmanForBergenCountyFreeholder)

Demethenes Backos - Bergen County Freeholder

Lawsuit challenges Passaic City's refusal to disclose 2-year-old minutes

Libertarians for Transparent Government filed a lawsuit against the City of Passaic's refusal to provide any minutes of City Council nonpublic meetings nor minutes from Planning Board and Zoning Board public meetings. The LTG argues minutes of closed meetings must be promptly released, even redacted, and unapproved public meeting minutes be marked "draft" and released.

The basis for the City's denial of the public minutes is they "have not been approved." The basis for denial of the closed minutes is that they must "remain exempt from production under such time as there is no longer a need for confidentiality" and that "the City Council has not adopted a Resolution authorizing the release" of those closed minutes.

NJLP to Governor Christie: Commute Sentences of Non-Violent Drug Offenders

The NJ LP demands Governor Christie immediately commute the sentences of prisoners whose only offense involved non-violent drug offenses. At a time in which the NJ State Budget must be cut, we cannot afford to imprison people who have not harmed anyone.

According to the State Department of Corrections there are 2,360 inmates being held for non-violent drug offenses. Another 664 prisoners are being held for "violations against public policy." At an average cost of \$54,865 per prisoner, these prisoners are held at annual cost of over \$165 million or over \$450,000 per day. New Jersey already has the highest debt burden at \$52,300 per taxpayer.

Prisoners like Jon Peditto, sentenced to 8 years for growing 18 marijuana plants. Governor, you have a chance before you leave office to correct the injustice done to Jon and many like him.



Growing the Party

Since Mark Glogowski took over as NY State Chair last spring, we have added three new county chapters (going from 10 to 13) with several more in organizational mode.

State Convention in Manhattan

A fantastic day was had by all at the venerable Ukrainian East. We sold out with 96 paid registrants, plus eight candidates and members of their staff, press and a few additional guests (including two candidates for National Chair) for the largest LPNY Convention since 1994.

The convention was also a demonstration of a voting system using Bitcoin-derived blockchain technology, selected to run the convention's vote. More details are in the Verge article, <http://theverge.com/2016/5/5/11592806/libertarian-bitcoin-blockchain-voting-john-mcafee>

Thanks most especially to Vlad and Cameron (of the Brooklyn LP) who helped me handle registration, to M, Jim and Audrey (Suffolk LP) who handled credentialing, and to Alex, Ron and Hesham (Manhattan and Staten Island chapters) who addressed various technical matters, the auction and so many other behind-the-scenes issues.

I am especially thankful to all of you who traveled great distances; we have never had Western New York represented so well before.

Hesham advises that we had as many as 6500 viewers on the live-streamed debate with John McAfee, Gary Johnson, Darryl W. Perry and Austin Petersen! The straw poll results were: Gary Johnson 56% Austin Petersen 18% John McAfee 15% Darryl Perry 8% Other/NOTA 3%

Video of the debate is available at [Youtube.com/watch?v=r5YOOO1nzZw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5YOOO1nzZw)

2016 Candidates and Petitioning

New York must collect 15,000 signatures between July 12 and August 23.

Candidates nominated for public office by the LP of New York or its local chapters:

U.S. Senate – Alex Merced – AlexMercedForNY.com – @alexmerced

Congress, 22nd District – David Pasick – PasickForCongress.com

Congress, 25th District – Anthony D’Orazio – TonyforNY.org – @tonyfor25th

State Senate, 52nd District – Rich Purtell – PurtellforNYsenate.nationbuilder.com – @rich_purtell

State Assembly, 123rd District – Jeffrey Tillery

facebook.com/Jeffrey-Tillery-for-State-Assembly-131181320287829

State Assembly, 138th District - Peter Vazquez – PetersonVazquez.com – @peter_vazquez1

Media Coverage

The Daily News wrote an article about NY Libertarians going to the national convention. <http://thedailynewsonline.com/bdn01/local-delegates-to-attend-libertarian-convention-20160521>



Rebuilding

LPRI continues to rebuild. We started the year with new social events and have continued with debate watching parties and meetings. Interest is up across the board.

State Convention

Our state convention was in Warwick on May 15th. The keynote speaker was Representative Blake Filippi. Delegates heard from various campaigns and state leadership. The delegates participated in a straw poll for president, the results were Gary Johnson 12, John McAfee 1, Darryl Perry 1, Austin Petersen 1 and NOTA 1. We also held a straw poll for LNC chair, results: Charles Peralo 7, Mark Rutherford 3 and NOTA 2

Gary Johnson Hits Local Talk Radio

Hot off the announcement that former Massachusetts Governor William Weld is his chosen running mate, Libertarian candidate for President Gary Johnson appeared on The Coalition radio program on Saturday, May 21 at 6 p.m., on local talk radio powerhouse, 630 WPRO-AM. The program is hosted by Pat Ford, recently re-elected chairperson of the Libertarian Party of Rhode Island. Co-host for this week's one-hour radio show is Rhode Island media personality Tony Jones.

In addition to over-the-air radio broadcast of The Coalition at 6 p.m., the show streams online live and on demand at coalitionradio.us every week. You can listen to podcasts of past shows with Libertarian Party candidates for President Austin Petersen, John McAfee, Darryl Perry and more, visit www.coalitionradio.us.

2016 Elections and Petitioning

Rhode Island must collect 1,000 signatures between July 5 and September 9.



Vermont LP urges adding Home Growing back into Legalization Bill

Allowing home growing and personal transfer between adults within the possession limits allowed, is the best way to accomplish the need for Vermonters to not have to buy drugs trafficked into our state illegally. Legal home growing will allow Vermonters to develop their cannabis cultivation skills to support an artisan cannabis industry, so we are not bombarded solely by over-commercialized product when the retail market is finally opened.

Vermont Libertarian Party Vice Chair Bonnie Scott has a message for the legislature: “Let’s do cannabis legalization right. Let’s do it ‘The Vermont Way’ that we were told would happen. That includes home growing. The plant-based growing provisions in S.95 would be a decent compromise if the legislature isn’t comfortable with the 100 square feet of garden per household allowed by the original Benning/White bill.”

The Vermont Libertarian Party congratulates the Vermont Senate in taking an important first step towards legalization of cannabis, a position that the majority of adult Vermonters support. We urge the House to pass a more comprehensive bill that includes home growing.

Making Ibogaine Treatment Legal in Vermont

Vermont Libertarian Party Vice Chair Bonnie Scott was interviewed by Psychadelic Times for her lead in the legislative effort to make ibogaine treatment legal. “In late 1990s I met Dana Beal who would speak about ibogaine at his meetings. I went to an ibogaine conference in 1999 and learned for the first time about all the science behind ibogaine treatment. For the next thirteen years, I would tell people about ibogaine when I could, but it often wasn’t something people were terribly interested in.”

Much like how cannabis became legalized in California and Oregon, Bonnie and her team are working to make ibogaine a legal treatment within the state of Vermont. Asked her about the latest bill they helped to introduce, “Our original bill H.387 had some problems, but the new H.741 is wonderful and has a number of state representative cosponsors.”

<http://psychedelictimes.com/iboga/making-ibogaine-treatment-legal-in-vermont-an-interview-with-bonnie-scott/>

State Convention

The VTLP state convention was April 2nd in Burlington. Darryl Perry, 2016 Presidential candidate, was a guest speaker.