



Region 8 Report

Submitted on 8/16/17 by Regional Representative Patrick McKnight

Massachusetts:

We have local groups meeting around the state. Sometimes a good crowd (in Boston) but often just three people. We have ten such meetings listed on the web site. We had two where the leaders didn't show, not good but unfortunately we have the libertarian malady of trying to do everything ourselves so when one person can't run the meeting he just tries to cancel, but people showed up anyway because we had promoted them.

We invited volunteers to attend the state committee meeting. Last month for the first time, we had two, a couple who had also run a local group in Danvers. We signed up for a Pride festival in Salem (not the big one in Boston - we missed the deadline for that). We had seven volunteers participate, used the World's Smallest Political Quiz and collected 32 names.

We have ongoing discussion between state committee and volunteers on Slack.

Our Executive Director Bruce Skarin quit. He became demoralized. He set up a tiered membership tied to Nation Builder and we had a membership drive with the goal of 200 new members. We had 3 volunteers actually making phone calls but we only got 30 new by the self-imposed deadline. I think that's pretty good for us, maybe not very good in general but unfortunately that leaves the stuff he was doing undone. We had someone say he would take over membership and we voted on it, but it's someone who doesn't really get much done other than rewriting the bylaws, so I'm not counting on him to fill Bruce's shoes in any meaningful way.

We are planning our convention for October 14th. We have Carla Howell and Jeffrey Miron, Harvard economics professor as the main speakers. We had a good convention last year with a variety of workshops and speakers, lunch and dinner, and about 80 people attending. We're trying to reproduce that without losing money this time around.

New Hampshire:

On June 27, 2017 the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire welcomed the third sitting State Representative into the Party when Representative Brandon Phinney formally announced he had left the Republican Party to join the LP. Phinney joins Rep's Stallcop & Dyer in the Libertarian Caucus of the New Hampshire General Court, the only such caucus in the nation.

The LPNH Executive Committee on July 23, approved the affiliate application from the newly formed Libertarian Party of the Lakes Region NH, which is comprised of the entirety of both Belknap and Carroll Counties, and Grafton County except for the towns of Bath, Bethlehem, Franconia, Lisbon, Littleton, Lyman, Monroe, and Sugar Hill. Tony Jankowski was elected Chair of the LP Lakes affiliate during their organizational meeting on July 19. LP of the Lakes joins LP Seacoast as the second regional affiliate in NH.

LP Western NH, which was officially organized on February 18, held their Annual Meeting on August 12. During that meeting the members voted to amend the bylaws to reduce the number of officers from 5 to 3, and voted to consolidate the region to only include Cheshire County. The membership of LP Western NH submitted a petition for affiliation to the LPNH EC immediately following their Annual Meeting. Darryl W. Perry (LPNH Chair) was re-elected Chair of LP Western NH, he had served as interim Chair since the organizational meeting in February.

The LPNH Membership Committee is working on organizing the remaining parts of the state into regional affiliates, with a goal of having regional affiliates for the entire state before the 2018 convention.

Maine:

We now officially have ballot status as a Major Party in Maine! At the end of the last legislative session an updated law was passed that gave us status on par with the R's and D's, however it also set the bar for maintaining it the same as the other parties. A blessing and a curse of sorts as we are recognized and treated as a Major Party but we have little time to grow and meet the requirements for keeping that status. Our candidates this fall/election cycle will be listed as Libertarian which is a huge win, it is the following cycles we need to plan and work for. We now have a challenge in that the voter registration cards used by many towns are ones they purchased before the new law so they do not specifically state Libertarian on them. They do have an open line for folks to write in a party, this has caused some discussion from some members and candidates feeling that it is unfair to the party registration efforts. The alternative argument is that towns buy these cards so asking or expecting them to throw them out and buy new versions is not reasonable or respectful. We are talking with the Sec of States office to ensure that all town clerks have communication that will help to ensure they notify folks that they can write in Libertarian on the card. We are also developing a social media campaign to educate as well.

Our chief goal is registrations – we must achieve the same level/number as the R's, D's and Green Independents in order to keep our status and official ballot listing. Maine needs help in doing this, registration drives, candidate and event support to gather new registrations, GOTV funding and support come election time as well as overall visibility and support both in funding and in boots on the ground help. Support from National and other New England states in planning and holding a weekend blitz drive of registrations or funding and staffing a booth at a place like the Fryburg Fair would be a significant boost for us and our efforts.

Maine will be taking part in the #ReRegister drive in September and we are meeting with multiple office holders and prominent people who have expressed interest in changing registration to the Libertarian party and part of our conversations involves the public media announcement, press conference, etc of them doing that in September as part of the campaign. We will have a kit from the Ad Hoc committee that we will use as well.

Event planning around and outgrowing from this is still in the planning stages but one significant event we are working on is a public forum that would be billed as a “civil discussion” (playing off the recent government shut down and the overwhelming public feeling that the two major parties cannot even discuss or negotiate together anymore) where a discussion on an issue of the day is moderated with members of the various parties taking part to show that a civil and polite discussion can take place and that Libertarians are the sane middle voice in this state. Jim Bouchard has agreed to be the Libertarian panel member and we are talking with friendly members of the other parties to build a panel that is appealing yet not polarizing. Hope would be to have this event in late September or early October and then launch follow ups afterwards.

Maine has a slate of candidates forming, while still early we have declared candidates for Governor and US Senate and a private announcement for the 2nd Congressional District (public announcement to come in the next few weeks). At this time no final decision has been made by Jim to reenter the race for the 1st CD which would be an exact rematch of the race last year as both the D and R candidates are the same. We also are talking with some state and local level candidates as well. It is still early in the cycle for announcements and expect most to announce after Labor Day. There has been a little media coverage for our current Gov candidate around a public event held recently to clean up discarded needles in public spaces. We expect increased coverage as summer ends as Maine traditionally does not “campaign” in the summer as part of the media culture.

We have begun planning for our convention and the ideas forming are excellent. More information coming in the next couple of months, any assistance on speakers and possible funding, even for travel expenses would be greatly appreciated.

The biggest help from National right now is support around the registration efforts both in helping with folks to collect and the public education to raise awareness and then as always any targeted money support to help fund the drives and public events, etc.

Connecticut:

Town committee meetings April 12, (Norwich) 20th(Plainfield) / Rally April 15th @ Capitol/ May 7 town committee formations (Vernon, Manchester, East Windsor)

South Windsor and East Windsor Manchester and Vernon Town Committees May 7th, South Windsor Library Friends Room 1-430PM.

- April 22nd Meriden Town Committee - Meriden public library 2 pm to 4 pm

Several state rep district, Congressional District 2/ Senate/ President locked in.

Leadership Changes:

Dan Reale Chair, Paul Passarelli Vice Chair, Carol McMahon Treasurer, Heather Gwynn Secretary

New Jersey:

Registered LP voters is at a record of 7,090. Peter Rohrman has had several TV and radio interviews covering his race for Governor. The following candidates are on the ballot:

2017 Candidates:

Governor and Lt. Governor – Pete Rohrman and Karese Laguerre

12th District Assembly - Dan Krause and Anthony Storrow

13th District: Assembly – Eveline Brownstein

27th District: Assembly – Damien Caillault & Jeff Hetrick

37th District: Assembly – Claudio Belusic

39th District: Senate – Jim Tosone

39th District: Assembly – Jason McKenna

West Milford: Town Council– Michael Chazukow

Hunterdon County: Freeholder – Dan Heitkamp

Berkeley Heights: Town Council – Tom Maciejewski

Manalapan: Town Council – Hisham Hamed

Northfield City Council – John Ordille

Westfield: Town Council – Valerio Bruscianelli

New Board members elected include Jeff Hetrick, Rich Bowen, Dorit Goikhman and Kevin Lowery.

Patrick McKnight Chair

Jim Tosone Vice Chair

Hunter Romach Secretary

Richard Bowen Treasurer

Jeff Hetrick VP Marketing

Jay Edgar VP Membership

Kevin Lowery VP Programs

Joe Baratelli Central NJ Representative

Dorit Goikhman North NJ Representative

Tim O'Brien South Jersey Representative

Vermont:

No candidates this year. In September we will begin reorganizing towns to that we can maintain our recognized party status which allows us to run candidates.

We need to successfully reorganize at least 10 towns to complete the process. This is usually very difficult for us and we usually just barely make it in time.

New York:

The LPNY endorsed a Divisional Structure at its April convention. The divisional structure seems to be working well. The divisional directors are stepping up to the plate and starting initiatives in their fields.

We have three new chapters so far this year, bringing our total number of chapters to 18. We now have 16 TCC working to create chapters. That leaves 28 more counties to go and we will

finally have what I consider a complete backbone for the LPNY to grow on. You can follow the development now yourself on our new website www.LPNewYork.org. The older URLs (www.ny.lp.org and www.lpny.us) will redirect you to the new site. If you click on the Action tab and then on "find an affiliate" the map is self explanatory. It will be kept current as new chapters and new TCCs are added.

Candidates: On the campaign trail, we have 62 candidates attempting to get on the ballot. We still have to wait to see how many actually make it. There are 43 candidates in Suffolk county alone that are trying to get on the ballot. They are listed on our new website www.LPNewYork.org under "About Us".

Larry Sharpe has been doing a fantastic job supporting the candidates around the state

Upcoming Event: The Long Island Cook Out will be on Saturday August 26th. It is generally well attended by people from the NYC area. I have attached the flyer if you are interested.

Chapter Adjustments: We had one of our multi-county chapters downsize. The Greater Rochester Libertarian Party is not the Monroe County Libertarian Party. I used to be comprised of six counties in 2012. In 2013 Genesee split off. In 2016 Livingston split off. Realizing that there was no activity in the other counties and that the other counties had no paid members in the chapter, the chapter shed three of the remaining counties and is now just the Monroe County Libertarian Party. One of the counties (Wayne County) has already had a TCC assigned. The State Committee finally agreed that Niagara County LP chapter's charter should be pulled, and they did so a couple of months ago. There has been no success in locating a new TCC to reorganize the group.

Membership: While our LPNY new membership is still going up, a large number of people from 2016 have yet to renew this year. This is a concern because it represents more than 40% of the membership. As of today the 2016 members who have not renewed for 2017 represent over 35% of our membership. My earlier assessment was that our growth in 2016 was real and not a presidential year blip. The growth was attributed to the growth to the growth in the number of chapters and the TCC's efforts. Now I am wondering if there is some other problem or concern that I am overlooking. I believe we should be doing a better job with retention.

LPNY membership

April 27, 2016 April 7, 2017 August 16, 2017

271 current paid members 299 current paid members 348 Current members

74 members lapsed 12/31/15 213 members lapsed 12/31/16 186 members lapsed

Chapters

April 27, 2016 April 7, 2017 August 16, 2017

13 Chapters 18 Chapters 18 Chapters

7 Temporary Chapter Chairs 15 Temporary Chapter Chairs 16 Temporary Chapter Chairs

Voter Registration: How many registered voters are affiliated with the Libertarian party still remains a mystery because for many counties, the NYS BoE records do not agree with the county BoE records. We know for sure we have 6,619 individuals in NYS that are officially affiliated with the Libertarian Party on NYS Board of Elections files as of 2/27/17. This is about 1,000 over our all-time high, but it is impossible to determine a trend because of the BoE database reformatting activity. We had over 5,000 active voters in December of 2015, but by January 6, 2016, we had dropped to 3,031 active voters. By April the active voters affiliated with the Libertarian Party rose to 4,519. The increase is due to the BoE in some counties capturing earlier corrupted records and to an actual increase in LPNY registrations. It is difficult to get a good count, but an estimate is that the New LBT registered voters to corrected records is about 50/50.

It has also been established that there are many more people whose records have been corrupted by the County BoE's. This issue has been investigated. After meeting with several of the county commissioners of the BoE, collecting many examples, and pursuing the correction of records it is clear that the errors are egregious and border on being deliberately fraudulent in nature.

Report filed with NYS BoE: A 25 page report to the Board of Elections has been delivered to the NYS Board of Elections during the first week of August, 2017. In a brief conversation with one of the Co-directors and one of the NYS BoE commissioners, they indicated that they are willing to have their staff sit down and discuss the details in the report, which I plan to do during the 3rd or 4th week of August. The report discusses the quality of a sampling of 48 individual voter registration records from 28 of the 62 counties. (Investigations into the other counties is still pending.) If I can get the BoE to willingly address these issues I believe it will help tremendously in the growth of the party. If I can't, more dramatic action will need to be taken because it is clear that the errors being made are knowingly being made and are deliberately not being fixed or properly addressed by the county Board of Elections.