

Region 6 Report – December 9-10, 2017

New Orleans LNC Meeting

Submitted December 7, 2016 by David Pratt Demarest, LNC Region 6 Representative with contributions by Sean O'Toole, LNC Region 6 Alternate

FREEDOM, Nothing More, Nothing Less

1 SUMMARY

The big news in Region 6 is ambitious candidate slates.

Nebraskan Libertarians State Senator Laura Ebke's is in it to win her 2018 reelection campaign. The Nebraska GOP has launched a mud-slinging campaign with a scurrilous and dishonest accusation that Laura's free screening of 'A *Wonderful Life*' movie with popcorn and soft drinks violates campaign law. It does not. One unnamed Nebraska Libertarian closely associated with the LNC has suggested that a copy of the movie be sent to Governor Ricketts for a free viewing during the Governor's mansion parking lot tailgate parties that include refreshments beyond free popcorn and soft drinks.

Iowa will participate in primaries for the first time in 2018. Jake Porter and Marco Battaglia, two stalwart Libertarians, are running for Governor and holding a series of town halls and debates across the state.

Illinois is focused on their ballot access campaign that requires 25,000 signatures and is hoping for LNC financial support for their arduous and heroic ballot access efforts.

South Dakota held a successful state convention in July and will be working with LP officials to accomplish their goal of joining Region 6 in time for the 2018 New Orleans national LP convention in New Orleans.

North Dakota is cleaning up their bylaws and launching a new initiative to legalize recreational marijuana.

Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin are going all out with their candidate recruiting, training and support programs.

2 ILLINOIS

Lex Green
Chair LPILLINOIS
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Libertarians in Illinois are very active. Our candidates are campaigning at every opportunity, including several parades every week. State Organizing Committee (SOC) attendance is high every month and our Board of Directors are hard at work to achieve our mission and our goals.

Our Communications Division has released several Press Releases and regularly sends out email newsletters to our members. The Finance Division held a fundraiser in September and is planning state funding of next year's Ballot Access Drive. The IT Division has been busy adapting the website to the bylaws changes we recently adopted, and supporting the influx of new SOC volunteers. The Field Operations Division is responding to new member volunteers, and supporting the establishment of new chapters and activities around the state. The Political Division is the busiest of all. They have planned a Candidate's Forum at the University of Illinois in Champaign IL that will feature all three of our candidates for Governor. The Ballot Access Director has submitted for approval a Ballot Access Initiative that will rely more than ever on volunteers and donations to the state party. The Precincts Director has grown our army of Precinct Committeemen to over 100, managed our first ever election of State Central Committeemen, and is assisting Field Ops with the bylaws for our forming Cook County Central Committee.

The Ballot Access effort we are preparing for includes the highest projected levels of volunteer signatures and donations we have ever produced. It, therefore, represents a slightly reduced request for financial assistance from the LNC. That request has been submitted to the LNC for approval at the December meeting. I hope that everyone on the LNC agrees with us that a successful effort to get on the Illinois November Ballot is important to mission of the Libertarian Party and to its Illinois affiliate. If we can achieve 5% of the vote in a state-wide office, our 2020 Presidential candidate will be assured of easy access to the ballot, and we will finally be able to run candidates for Congress.

On a similar note, we have found that Illinois law is ambiguous where local ballot access is concerned. To take advantage of an apparent loophole, several members of the McLean County affiliate are submitting petitions to be listed in the Primary Election to be held March 20, 2018, instead of waiting for the spring gathering period for the fall General Election. Local authorities have been willing to consider accepting these petitions. There is one County-wide candidate, taking advantage of the new ruling of the Federal Appeals court that a full slate isn't required. We also have candidates for 6 other County Board offices in that county.

3 IOWA

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LPIA Chair
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Major party status has been treating the Libertarian Party of Iowa well. The LPIA will be take part in state primaries for the first time in 2018. LPIA candidates will likely be included in ALL debates in the state.

Jake Porter and Marco Battaglia, LPIA officers and good friends, have been participating in a series of Iowa Gubernatorial debates. Their first debate in November took place in Council Bluffs. The inaugural event was hosted by LPIA officer Jocelyn Fry and moderated by David Pratt Demarest, LNC Region 6 Representative.

The first Battaglia-Porter debate in December took place at a Gubernatorial Forum hosted by the largest newspaper in the state. Both of our stalwart Gubernatorial candidates received fair coverage from the media following several interviews. Both have been invited as guest speakers at numerous events.

Libertarian Rob Green of Cedar Falls received the highest vote total for an At-Large City Council Race on November 7th. The seat required a majority, so there is a runoff election scheduled for December 5th.

Party resources in the party are gearing up for the "Iowa Caucus", which we will be hosting on February 5th. We will have 10 caucus sites around the state. Per Iowa Code, we will select precinct captains, county leadership, and delegates to advance to the state convention on March 23rd-24th.

4 MINNESOTA

Chris Holbrook
Chair LPMN

The Libertarian Party of Minnesota (LPMN) had a successful Minnesota State Fair Booth. Over its 12-day Aug-Sept run we sold approx. 100 new LPMN memberships, collected about 500 additional new leads, and received over \$10,000 in donations.

We just soft-launched our new and improved website developed by an outside firm we hired. Without going into nuance, let's call it an 8-week project pre-funded by a money bomb/donation request. There are still some alterations being made, but we are operable again (<https://www.lpmn.org/>).

We had an event in November that in partnership with Liberty America brought Larry Sharpe to town for a Leadership Lunch (<http://libertyamerica.org/event/liberty-lunch-with-larry-sharpe/>). On a nice Saturday afternoon, roughly 30 plates were sold at \$50 each plus approximately \$500 additional raised on site, all for Liberty America. You can see a video of Larry's great presentation on our FB page (which is approaching 8000 followers) at <https://www.facebook.com/LPMINNESOTA/?ref=bookmarks>.

We ran 6 candidates in local races for Twin Cities municipal offices, including for Mayor in both Minneapolis and St. Paul, which enjoy Ranked Choice Voting. While our Libertarians here ran primarily as Paper Candidates, all received some nice exposure via forums, interviews, and social media. Our election results were 1.1% lowest to 4.9% highest, which is respectable in a Metro that sees 90% of our offices held by DFL and no Republicans even on ballots. Here is an example of the Minneapolis Mayor First Round results: (by the way, if this doesn't translate in this email and you want to use it in a report, you can also find it here, not in the same order. <http://electionresults.sos.state.mn.us/Results/MunicipalRaces/107?districtid=43000>)

Mayor First Choice (Minneapolis) Results By Precinct
134 precincts in contest. 134 of 134 precincts reported in municipality.
Libertarian Party Charlie Gers 1232 votes 1.18%

Lastly, now that the obstacles described above are behind us, we are rolling up our sleeves to build sub-affiliates in each congressional district in Minnesota. We are also starting discussions with potential candidates for our impending statewide races. They will need to depend on each other to have any definition of success 2018 for the LPMN.

5 MISSOURI

Bill Slantz
Chair LPMO

LPMO report provided courtesy of Sean O'Toole, LNC Region 6 Alternate:

We have verbal commitments from more than 20 candidates for office in 2018.

The Missouri LP held its annual convention on July 22nd in Jefferson City, MO. Approximately 50 attendees enjoyed presentations by Bill Redpath, Will Coley, and libertarian author Aya Katz. Several new members of the party were in attendance and many have volunteered to serve on the state committee.

Plans are to hold our 2018 convention at the same venue on February 24, 2018 as a nominating convention for statewide races on the 2018 schedule.

The Missouri State Fair is underway (August 10 - 20). The State Fair is traditionally one of our largest outreach events in Missouri. Early reports indicate great interest in the party from fair-goers.

6 NEBRASKA

Scott Zimmerman
Chair LPNE

Additional information provided by Matt Maly, newly elected Chair of the Libertarian Party of Douglas County (DCLP):

Nebraska now has 12,897 registered Libertarians, a 13.5% increase from this time last year. The Republican and Democratic parties shrank by 1.7% and 3.6% respectively. The LP currently makes up just over 1% of registered voters and has its sight set on the goals of 2% in 2018 and 5% by 2020.

Nebraskan Libertarians State Senator Laura Ebke's is in it to win her 2018 reelection campaign. Laura's reelection campaign has completed several successful lit drop efforts. Getting as many as 20 volunteers on Saturdays this fall, she was able to get a door hanger on every door in every town in her district. Next steps for the campaign include phone banking, door knocking and parades.

The Nebraska GOP has launched a mud-slinging campaign with a scurrilous and dishonest accusation that Laura's free screening of '*A Wonderful Life*' movie with popcorn and soft drinks violates campaign law. It does not. One unnamed Nebraska Libertarian closely associated with the LNC has suggested that a copy of the movie be sent to Governor Ricketts for a free viewing during the Governor's mansion parking lot tailgate parties that include refreshments beyond free popcorn and soft drinks.

Nebraskans are excited about a very serious new school board candidate in Omaha. Tyler Gloe is a financial professional who's involved in many community organizations and has already earned the endorsement of Omaha's mayor, Jean Stothert. Tyler expects the race to be contested so he's working to raise funds. We think his campaign is well worth investing in.

The Nebraska state legislative session begins in January. One of the big topics this session will be an occupational licensing reform bill that's sponsored by Senator Ebke. Laura has participated in several town hall events on the issue with representatives of the Platte Institute, a local conservative thinktank and the ACLU of Nebraska. Currently, about one in four jobs in Nebraska require a license and this bill would create an automatic review process for every licensing board, forcing them to justify their continued existence once every five years. Senator Ebke is optimistic about the bill's chances this year.

7 NORTH DAKOTA

Marty Riske
Chair LPNORTHDAKOTA
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North Dakota information was provided by Roland Riemers, Immediate Past Region 6 Representative:

I continue to work on updating our bylaws. I feel bylaws are like our American Constitution. Without clear and usable bylaws, we do not have an effective organization. We Libertarians like to promote our government following the Constitution, but we run our party usually completely ignorant of our own rules. As a former state chairman, I will admit that I was just as guilty.

On the political side, there is a movement to put together a new initiative measure to legalize recreational marijuana, which many of the Libertarians in ND support, including myself. Last year we helped pass a measure to legalize medical Marijuana, but the state is still going through the learning curve to put this measure in force. Biggest problem we have is the state keeps on wanting to regulate it to where it is meaningless, such as requiring payment of a \$5,000 fee just to show you are interested in being a provider.

On April 8th, North Dakota held a statewide meeting in Bismarck to elect new officers. Eric Olsen temporarily filled the gap after Tony Mangnall retired as chair. Marty Risky, a former chair, was elected as our new state chair. A full set of state officers was elected and immediately discussed plans for the 2018 election as well as updates to our state bylaws. The new leadership is highly computer-literate.

North Dakota is pushing national membership, and contributing another \$10 for state membership. Confederation did not work to well for our founders, as independent states running amok does not a country make.

Roland Riemers was appointed by Marty as the state representative to the LNC and was also appointed as a non-voting member of the LPND executive committee to facilitate information flow between state and national. To the best of Roland's knowledge, this is the first time a state party has delegated that responsibility to ensure state and national communication.

North Dakota is continuing a search for statewide candidates for 2018, as well focusing on legislative districts with high Libertarian vote tallies. Districts are going to beat the bushes for strong Libertarian legislative candidates. An offer was made to help finance the cost of one of our young members to attend the next national convention so that ND can encourage young people to get involved in the state Libertarian Party.

8 SOUTH DAKOTA

Aaron Alyward
LPSOUTHDAKOTA Chair

Additional information provided by Greg Baldwin, LPSD At Large Representative:

Since the last convention we have been working on the following things:

- Our focus has been adding more people to the state LP, and trying to recruit people to run for office. For the last few months we have continually added people to the LP, while the Republicans, and Democrats continue to lose voters.
- As for people running for office, we currently have myself running for District 6 State House, and another individual running for City Council in Mitchell, SD.
- We also have two other individuals who are throwing around the idea of running for house seats, and one thinking about county sheriff. We are also in the process of trying to set up county parties, with Minnehaha county have the most progress to date.
- As of December 1st, we will be putting on a "Feeding South Dakota" food drive and donation. That will run from December 1st through December 18th.
- We are also trying to get voters involved by having them submit ideas for T-shirts, which we will be selling going into the new year.
- All the details aren't put together, but we are shooting for the second weekend of April, in 2018, to have our state convention in Sioux Falls, SD.
- This one is a way out yet, but we also booked Constitutional Attorney, KrisAnne Hall, to come speak in Sioux Falls, next October. She will be speaking on the issue of State Sovereignty. We're hoping to have a good turnout for that and get a few state legislators in attendance to they can better serve the people of South Dakota.

9 WISCONSIN

Phillip Anderson
LPWI Chair
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The Libertarian Party of Wisconsin continues to grow and thrive. We currently have 14 candidates for elections in Fall of 2018, and 3 for the Spring elections. We also have a candidate for State Senate in a special election in January.

A popular Libertarian sports announcer in the Madison area has declared for Wisconsin Secretary of State, joining yours truly and Patrick Baird on a slate of statewide candidates.

Check out TeamGuv.org for more info on the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Secretary of State campaigns.

LPWI is continuing to prepare for our April 2018 State Convention, to be held on the State Capitol Square in Madison. Our keynote speaker will be Jeffrey Tucker.

Check out our new website at LPWI.org, and join us next April. I challenge my fellow District 6 Chairs to throw a better convention than LPWI will. Please send us invitations, as we will be sending you all invitations to ours.