

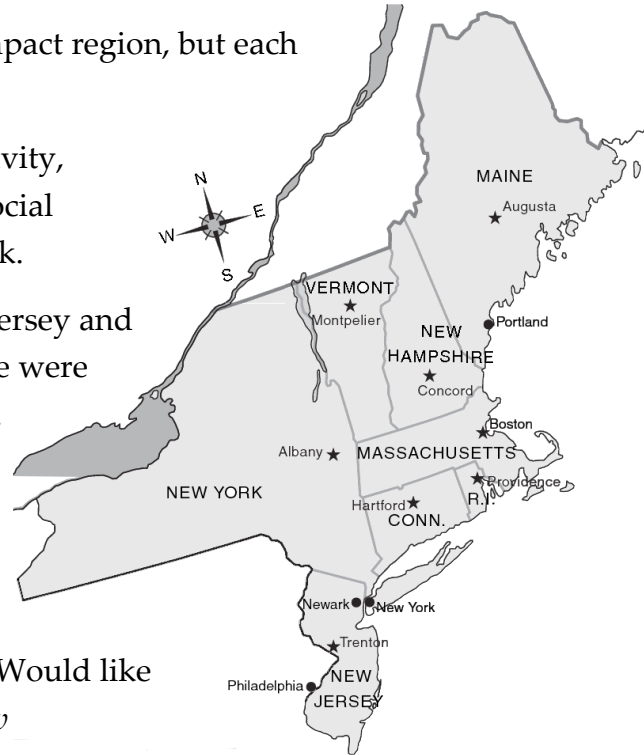
Region 8 Report

This is the most geographically compact region, but each state has very different politics.

Some affiliates are showing less activity, others have renewed activism and more social functions, some engaged in charitable work.

This year, each affiliate (sans New Jersey and Vermont) was busy with petitioning. There were some local elections (mostly non-partisan).

There are always opportunities, the challenge is having the resources (time, money, people) to apply to capitalize on them. We may do another joint event, perhaps a candidate training. Would like more members to subscribe to the *LP_8new* yahoogroup.



Heading into 2014 elections, only Vermont has reliable ballot access. Petitioning would either be eliminated or become easier if party status were obtained come November, except in Massachusetts where it would become more difficult. Given the timing of the 2016 convention, continued lack of ballot access will require resources from either national or the presidential campaign to put our presidential nominee on the ballot in most of the states.

Recent events of interest:

Porcupine Freedom Festival (aka PorcFest) in Lancaster, NH June 22-29.

Several political trainings from C4L and Atlas.

Vermont Freedom & Unity Festival, August 16-17

Freecoast Freedom Festival, this weekend in Portsmouth, NH.

Upcoming conventions:

Massachusetts on October 18th in Worcester.

New Hampshire - TBA



Conventions, Campaigns & Candidates

We held a contentious 2nd Congressional District convention. Marc Guttman was nominated for State Senate, District 20, by acclamation. The nomination for the Congressional race was strongly contested between Dan Reale, our candidate 2 years ago who earned ballot access, and Lori Hopkins-Cavanaugh, the Republican nominee seeking a cross-endorsement (this was basically her running to prevent our running a candidate). We passed a motion to allow the SCC to nominate the highest ranking rejected human candidate if the Secretary of the State turns down our nominee (human to exclude NOTA). The election went to two ballots before being won by Dan Reale. Dan has been invited to a debate to be held by *The Day*, the largest newspaper in the district.

Rich Lion successfully petitioned to run on our party line in Manchester, CT - District 9 - for State Rep.

Other petitioning candidates failed to make their petitioning deadlines, and we declined to nominate candidates for state Constitutional offices requiring petitioning.

We are currently encouraging members and interested people to attend local meetings and consider running in next year's municipal elections.

The party has issued press releases dealing with the Export-Import Bank, Common Core, and the plane shot down over Ukraine.

We have a candidate running against a Democrat head to head, and the Democrat voted for an unpopular gun control bill last year. This is a winnable race.

Ballot Access

LPCT chairman Joshua Katz testified against the cross-endorsement law (PA 13-180).

We are working with LP National, the Green Party and the ACLU to overturn some of the more onerous provisions in state ballot access laws, including restrictions on who can and cannot petition, and challenging the requirement that petitioners live in-state as unconstitutional.

Future Growth

We have plans to launch a major fundraising effort to hire an Executive Director.



Social Media

The LPME Facebook page has more than 765 likes, up from 680 in March.

Healthcare

The issue is coming up again in Maine. Some Maine nursing homes are threatening to close due to inadequate funding from MaineCare, the Maine Medicaid program. Legislators fear a backlash from relatives of nursing home patients and house, senate and Gov. LePage will undoubtedly find funds to add to MaineCare budget. 78% of nursing home care in Maine is funded by MaineCare and Medicare and Maine Nursing Homes are 92% full.

We pointed out four key problems with the current system along with simple pro-market solutions to create greater availability and quality of care.

Andrew Ian Dodge 1967-2014

We are saddened by the untimely passing of Andrew Ian Dodge, Libertarian candidate for US Senate in 2012, this August.

We will always remember his energetic campaign during which he ran against both major party candidates and Angus King. Andrew collected his own signatures to get on the statewide ballot, produced his own campaign materials, and then tirelessly drove his turbocharged Subaru to events all over the state. His dedication to the cause of liberty will not be forgotten and we offer our condolences to his wife Kim and his mother Elizabeth.



You can read his final thoughts at AndrewIanDodge.com

The Future

We will be looking at new party rules in Maine which may ease the way for us to become a recognized party, devil is in the details however.



General Activity and Outreach

We hold monthly meetups in the Boston area and we have five regional meetups established. Our Facebook page reached 2000 Likes this month! (up from 1100 in November) Our Twitter presence grows with regular postings. The newsletter includes items of general interest and practical aspects of Libertarianism.

Libertarians are gathering signatures on an Initiative (officially known as "Petition C") to repeal the automatic inflation adjusted increases of the state gasoline tax that was enacted this summer. All details and reasons for it are at www.TankTheGasTax.org.

If anyone would like to partner or cross-advertise events, email us partners@lpmass.org

We continue to be active on social media, pointing out efforts of our legislature and police to trample more of our rights and calling out stupid regulations that stifle innovation.

We had a table at the 25th Annual *Freedom Rally* on Boston Common last weekend. The Rally draws thousands in support of marijuana re-legalization.

2014 Election Goals

The electoral effort will be focused on the legislature rather than the executive branch. We set a goal to run more LP candidates for state rep than the GOP currently has seats. Recruitment and promotion of this effort started early this year, as well as fund-raising. We have 15 candidates.

We are building up the list of unopposed state legislative races, the best opportunities for Libertarian breakouts. So far the list is rather long. We are also closely tracking what seats will have incumbents retiring, creating open races, that list is also growing.

2014 Convention

The Massachusetts LP State Convention will be on Saturday, October 18 at 10:00am at Tweed's Pub Restaurant in Worcester, Massachusetts



Social Networks and Website

Our Facebook Group has 582 members, our Page has 324 Likes, and we have 1047 Twitter followers (@LPNH). Twitter is our most active network and our Facebook group is next most active. Our website backlog keeps growing, but a recent software upgrade should help. We need a new webmaster to take on several projects. Some people have come forward, but never reply to followups.

The Primary

Several Libertarians ran in the primaries of the other parties. Even though we were asked, we made no endorsements and provided no funds.

Candidates

None of our major candidates made it on the ballot. It was a combination of factors. They are all mounting write-in campaigns. It is a disappointment and ruins several near future plans we had, but we will deal with it. Perhaps with the my predicted results of the GOP Establishment winning their primaries, the liberty community will come back to support us as a useful counterweight to the go-along-to-get-along crowd.

Lawsuit

With the help of the NHCLU we are suing the state over yet another change to the law to make life harder for third party and independent candidates. The latest change 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. We found a very favorable precedent from Rhode Island for nearly the same situation. The case is still in discovery phase.

General Activity

Getting members involved is still more difficult than ever. We will have a convention this fall to build a new leadership team. If members would come forward for some hard and creative work, NH can make a national impact on Libertarian politics. The only question is how many of them want to.

On the general liberty front, we have two court rulings to celebrate. One that affirms the ability of citizens to film public officials and law enforcement. Another kept a new education tax credit on the books.



2014 Candidates

Joe Baratelli of Mercerville for U.S. Senate
Dorit Goikhman of Morganville for U.S. Congress (6th District)
Jim Gawron of Flanders for U.S. Congress (7th District)
Jeff Hetrick for Chatham Town Council
Steve Uccio of East Windsor for Mercer County Freeholder
Brian Pizza of Forked River for Ocean County Freeholder

Democrats and Republicans Lose Ballot Column!

For decades the first columns have been reserved for Democrats and Republicans. This year the Ds and Rs should lose this discriminatory electoral advantage as a result of the failure of the old parties to maintain support with the public.

New Jersey law requires that to have a party column, a political party must “poll at any primary election for a general election of at least 10% of the votes cast in the State for members of the General Assembly at the next preceding general election.”

For the 2013 General Election, 3,726,973 votes for General Assembly were cast. The following primary, fewer than 200,000 votes were cast in the Democratic primary, and only 152,000 votes were cast in the Republican primary. These low numbers mean neither party met the required threshold to have their own column in November 2014 General Election.

However, the 1999 *New Jersey Conservative Party Inc. vs. Farmer* decision by the New Jersey Superior Court interpreted polling at “any primary election” as the number of voters at all the primary elections (including local and county races) combined. This means low primary turnout doesn’t matter. Instead, total votes combined ensure these two parties can never lose their special ballot advantage.

The minor parties in NJ are considering a lawsuit if the SoS doesn't comply with the law.

NJLP State Open Government Activist is 2014 FOI Hall of Famer

Well known for his public advocacy and a frequent panelist and speaker throughout New Jersey, John Paff is the 15th inductee into the *State Open Government Freedom of Information Hall of Fame*. Known as the “Heroes of the Fifty States,” the joint initiative of the National Freedom of Information Coalition (NFOIC) and the Society of Professional Journalists recognizes the recipient’s “long and steady effort to preserve and protect the free flow of information about state and local government that is vital to the public in a democracy.”

Paff’s interest in government transparency began in 2002 after the New Jersey Open Public Records Act was passed. He has taken a lead in the work of the NJLP’s *Open Government Advocacy Project* and has served as Project Chairman since 2003. Paff has won numerous lawsuits against non-compliant public agencies, making a significant contribution to the body of case law giving teeth to the statutes.

“The award judges had a wealth of riches this year in choosing its ‘hero,’ but John Paff stood above the crowd,” said Sarah Nordgren, Director of Content Development for the AP. “John is tireless not only in his support of open government, but also in imparting the deep knowledge he has to others, so that they, too, can work to ensure transparency.”



Petitioning & Candidates

In August, The Libertarian Party of New York submitted more than 35,000 signatures to afford New Yorkers an alternative to the failed policies of the two major parties.

New York's Libertarian ticket will be headed by Long Island realtor **Michael McDermott for Governor**. **Chis Edes for Lt. Governor**, U.S. Navy veteran **John Clifton for Comptroller**, Manhattan defense lawyer Carl Person for Attorney General, Grant Lally for Congressional District 3 (Long Island), Gigi Bowman for Senate District 5 (Long Island) and Mark Glogowski, Assembly District 139 (Western New York). In all, 12 Libertarians filed for public office.



And we did it economically. The LNC allocated \$25,000 to the ballot drive, but we spent less than \$18,000 of that. We had a better than expected volunteer gathering at 13,500. Four other LPNY members each got 500+ and many more came in between 200-500. The drives in 2010 and 2012 each cost around \$43K, so we ended \$7000 under budget.

The Republican lobbyist who filed a general challenge to the Party's statewide slate failed to perfect his challenge. A separate challenge has been made against all 5000 of Gigi Bowman's signatures. Our counsel has agreed to defend the proceeding for a flat fee of \$2000 (not including expenses or any appeal). The next court date is September 23rd.

The next BOE Commissioner's meeting is Sept. 26.

Press Coverage

The challenge to Gigi Bowman's petitions got local press coverage. Gigi and party chair Mark Axinn called out the incumbent for trying to silence his competition and reduce the choices available to the voters and not upset the apple cart of the corrupt nature of NY politics.



Candidates

Rhode Island Libertarians successfully petitioned for a statewide office for the first time in a midterm year in the party's history. The party placed **Tony Jones** of Wickford on the ballot for Lieutenant Governor.

Why Lieutenant Governor? Tony Jones said, "If elected, I would "serve" alone, hire no staff, take no budget, and refuse to accept a salary."

Jones said if elected, he'd spend his time advocating for the elimination of the office of Lt. Governor, which costs taxpayers roughly \$1 million per year. The Lt. Governor does not have much power to wield in state government and many argue the position has long since lived out its usefulness.

Jones is asking for support via his Web page, <http://www.lpri.us/tonyjones.html>



Making the News

LPRI Lt. Governor candidate Tony Jones is getting some nice press coverage. <http://tinyurl.com/GoLocalProvTonyJones>

An article in GoLocal Providence highlighted Tony's positions, including saving the taxpayers \$1Million by not hiring staff or taking a salary and working to eliminate the position of Lt. Governor.

Tony wrote, "in essence, everybody who is seeking or gets elected to this office is simply using it for their own pet projects, while in reality, they have no actual power vested from the office. They are asking the taxpayers to pay them to hang out as they promote their own personal agenda, whatever it might be...on your dime."

Regulate Rhode Island

Tony Jones released a statement calling for Rhode Island to become the next state to tax and regulate marijuana like alcohol. He pointed out the harm reduction and business growth in Colorado and Washington thanks to their recent initiatives.

"As candidate for Lt. Governor, I'm proud to be a member of Regulate Rhode Island, a new organization leading the movement to regulate and tax marijuana like alcohol. In 2015 Rhode Island has the opportunity to become the first state on the East Coast to end the costly and destructive policy of marijuana prohibition."



Vermont Candidates

We nominated candidates like crazy! On June 9, we nominated **Dan Feliciano for Governor**. Dan is a Strategy and Transformation Consultant with 20+ years experience integrating business acquisitions, leading and driving large scale business transformations, and turning around public- and private-sector businesses. Dan also has broad experience and a deep understanding of healthcare. This makes him uniquely qualified to tackle Vermont's healthcare reform.

www.DanFeliciano.com



Dan has already received great press coverage in the *Burlington Free Press* and local talk radio. His campaign is drawing in support from all affiliations. On the eve of the GOP primary, several prominent GOP leaders endorsed Dan as a write-in.

In all, we've nominated 15 candidates for the general election! Travis Spencer, John Cisar, Ben Mayer, Glyn Wilkinson, Christopher Coolidge and Paul Washburn for State Senate; Loyal Ploof, Ray Collette, Varpilah Chase, Lillith Soleil, Dana Rushford and Ted Schaft for State Representative; Owen Mulligan for Sheriff of Chittenden County, Jonathan Stauffer for High Bailiff of Chittenden County; Loyal Ploof and Roy Collette for Justice of the Peace.

Hardy Macia Wins Samuel Adams Activism Award

I'm pleased to announce that Hardy Macia is the recipient of the Libertarian Party's 2014 Samuel Adams award. At the Libertarian Party National Convention the party gives awards to the most deserving volunteers in the Libertarian Party. The Samuel Adams award is for years of service as an activist of which Hardy was very much deserving.



Outreach

Several of our candidates appeared in the Essex Memorial Day parade including John Cisar, Loyal Ploof, Dana Rushford, Roy Collette and Dan Feliciano with a total of 10 volunteers!

We were in the Independence Day parades.

We had candidates, members, volunteers all over the Freedom and Unity Festival. It had everything from Jordan Page to paleo coffee! People from all over New England came. Joshua Katz of Connecticut presented for the LP.

The Vermont LP will be participating in the 2014 Pride Vermont Parade on Sunday September 14th. Several members and candidates will be participating.