

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 resources from either National or the presidential campaign to put our nominee on the ballot in some of the states, barring legislative reforms.

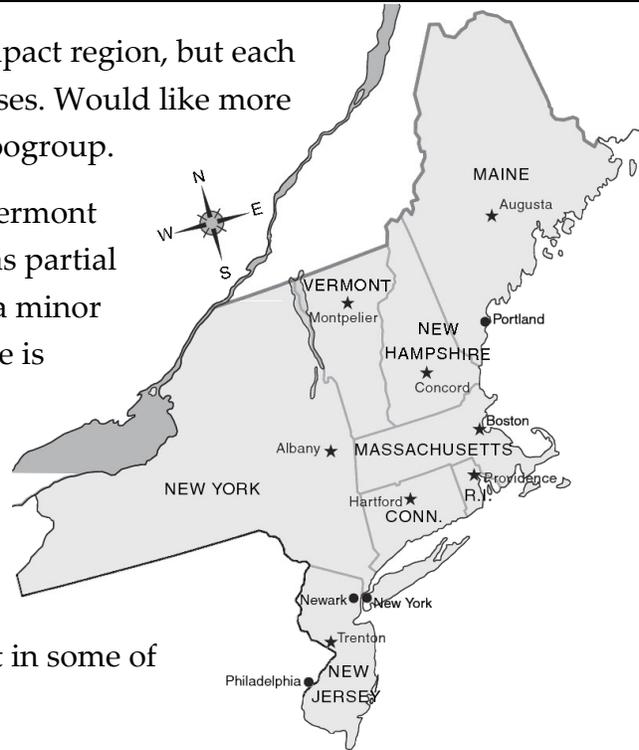
Connecticut and New Hampshire are involved in litigation for petitioning and ballot access. The presidential campaign is underway, with the first debate held in Massachusetts in October. New Jersey had state-wide elections and New York had local elections earlier in November. More details in those reports.

Recent events of interest:

- » New Hampshire Liberty Dinner – July 19, Mary Ruwart keynote
- » Liberty Happy Hour – August 25, One Star Bar, Manhattan
- » Connecticut convention – September 19
- » Massachusetts convention – October 17, Nick Sarwark keynote

Upcoming events of interest:

- » Repeal Prohibition Day, December 5
- » Bill of Rights Day, December 15
- » New Hampshire LP convention, tentatively January 16th
- » FSP's Liberty Forum, February 18–21 in Manchester, NH





Convention

The LPCT held its annual convention at Cabela's in East Hartford on September 19. The speakers were paid in various exotic meats, and included: MC Rich Lion, State Rep Devin Carney, LPMA Chair George Phillies, outgoing Chair Joshua Katz, LPRI member and founder of the Rhode Island chapter of Coyote (sex worker advocacy group) Bella Robinson, Free Stater and former member of the LPCT Robert Lombardo, a panel of representatives from the group Connecticut Against Common Core, and the keynote Dr. Richard Adelstein, Professor of Economics at Wesleyan University. A great time was had by all.

Delegates voted in Andrew Rule as the new Chair, added Joshua Katz and Carl Lupinacci as at-large board members, and left the board otherwise intact.

Local Elections

The 2015 election in Connecticut was a municipal election. The most active campaign was Rich Lion for Manchester Board of Directors. Rich was coming off of a 15% finish in his run for state rep (2014) in a district including Manchester. Lion received 392 votes or 8% in a six-way race and retained ballot status. It should be noted that attaining his impressive finish for State Rep required leaving his job, and he was working extra hours to recover, making this race more difficult for him.

Website

Since the last LNC session, Connecticut has been working with Andy Burns to transition to NationBuilder. We now are handling membership, communications, most finance, and our website through NationBuilder, and are quite pleased with it. Since moving to NationBuilder, volunteer recruitment has improved, as has our ability to easily contact our supporters, which in turn has boosted fundraising. We thank Andy for help in setting up the website and all aspects of NationBuilder, and his continued support in volunteer recruitment and fundraising.

Litigation

The LPCT is still working with the ACLU and Day Pitney on the out of state petitioner ban. It appears that a lawsuit will be filed shortly, but the attorneys are first working to obtain a written agreement from the state not to enforce the law. They are also trying to see if the state will agree to not defend the law in return for the ACLU waiving the assignment of legal fees. Negotiations are ongoing.



Social Media

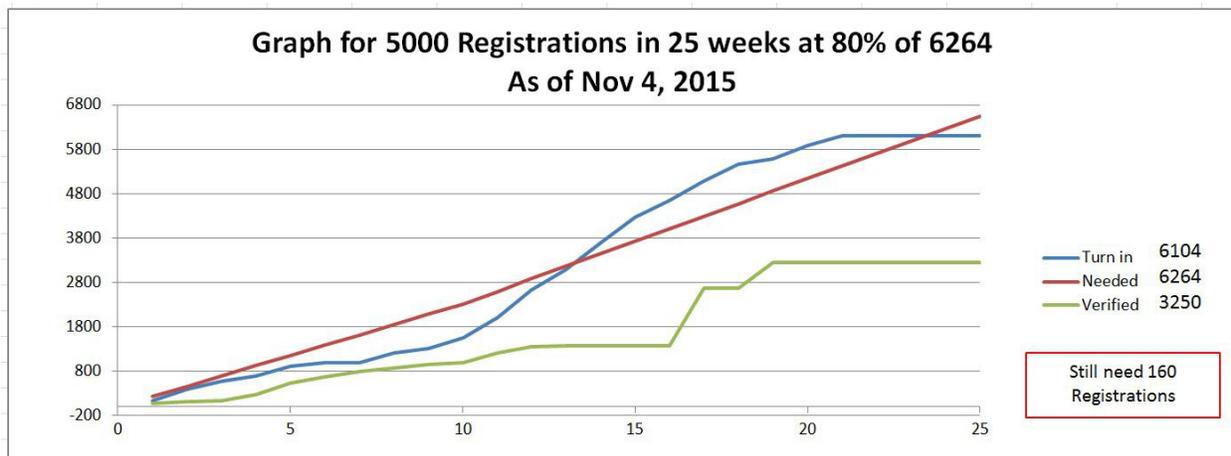
The LPME Facebook page has more than 1700 likes, a 60%+ improvement since June!
We have moved our website to the NationBuilder platform.

Voter Registration Drive

The plan is to get 5000 people to register as Libertarians so we can get official party status. We will need an additional 5,000 to maintain party status. With the help of Scott Kohlhaas we raised the necessary funds to accomplish the short term goal if not the entire 10,000. http://www.lpme.org/registration_drive_2015

A small set back is that we will not have Libertarian printed on the registration cards since we are a "qualifying party". So we will have to check the other box and write in Libertarian. But once we are a qualified party, we'll have our own line in the cards.

Looks like we will have the numbers by the December 1st deadline, it just takes time for the state to validate the registrations. This graph shows what is needed in red, what we have turned in in blue, and what the state says we have turned in in green. With a month to go we should have enough time. So Maine will not require any funds for ballot access on the next nor any other election cycle.



Our Other Initiatives

I am also planning on petitioning for rank choice voting and a state wide marijuana initiative simultaneously. No details yet on these.

Legislative Efforts

On the legislative side we have teamed up with the green party to support LD507 which will open the primary petitioning requirement to unenrolled, making it easier for third party candidates to run for office.



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.

State Convention a Big Success

Our 2015 Convention had the first live debate between our party's Presidential candidates carried live on streaming video, a keynote speech by our National Chair Nick Sarwark, election of a new State Committee, and more. We had our best attendance since 2006. Even more impressive considering we were competing with S4L. There was even a candidate for U.S. Senate from California, who came to cover the event and start what he called a Libertarian Party network to compete with the likes of CNN and Fox News.

Several Platform planks were discussed; one was adopted. Some members have called for adoption of a much longer State Platform, or for a multi-day special state convention to debate the new platform.

The Presidential debate featured Steve Kerbel, Darryl W. Perry, Marc Allan Feldman and Derrick Michael Reid. The moderator was George Phillies.

National Chair Nick Sarwark gave the keynote. His message: Tell your opponents “you might be right”; then they'll listen to you. Be nice; honey attracts more flies than vinegar. Win!

The new State Committee and its officers are: George Phillies, Chair. Alwin Hopfman, Petitioning Mobilization. Daniel Fishman, Editor, Political Facilitator and Recording Secretary. Cris Crawford, Archivist, 2016 Presidential ballot access. David Blau, Treasurer. Don Graham, Information Technology Facilitator. Bob Underwood, Membership Secretary. Peter Everett, Member. Heather Mullins, Member.

The National Convention delegates elected: George Phillies, Daniel Fishman, Cris Crawford, Heather Mullins, Don Graham, Rene Ruiz, Susan Ruiz, and Arthur Torrey. Anyone elected to the State Committee may choose to be a delegate ex officio.

Watch the debate: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKm9bleznWo>

Read Libertarian discussion of the debate in Independent Political Report: <http://www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2015/10/live-stream-for-the-libertarian-presidential-debate-101715/>

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.

There has been some confusion at the LPUS over ballot status in the Bay State. If the LPMA were to achieve major party status it would indeed make it a simple matter to put our presidential nominee on the ballot, but it would make getting every other candidate on the ballot much more difficult. So for valid strategic reasons, the party will likely maintain its current status and focus on our efforts to rebuild the party from the ground up and have an impact on state and local issues.

Referendums

Massachusetts has public referendums, each needing around 100,000 signatures for the ballot. Several are underway that we voted to help, including (i) legalizing the use of marijuana, (ii) blocking the use of public funds for the Olympics, and (iii) stopping Common Core from dumbing down Massachusetts schools to the level of Mississippi.

We are considering several others, including (i) requiring the Attorney General to maintain a complete public list of persons shot by policemen, (ii) ending surveillance police state tactics, (iii) shall-issue firearms permits to adults with no criminal record, (iv) some of our historical Public Policy Questions, including Protect the right of a patient and her or his physician to purchase a medical drug from any source, so long as the patient's insurance company is not obliged to pay more than the price for which the medical drug is available for sale in Massachusetts.



Lawsuit

With the NHCLU we are suing the state in Federal court over the latest change to election law 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.

We lost in the Federal District court. Despite our brief demolishing the state's case, the judge sided with the state, citing several arguments from the RNC's amicus brief. We filed an appeal to the 1st Circuit. No timetable has been set. We are asking for amicus briefs from interested entities within the 1st Circuit. The case was mentioned at the NHCLU annual dinner, we had several conversations with people who didn't realize ballot access was such an issue.

General and Future Activity

We established a Platform Committee with the mission to propose a state-level platform for members to consider at our next general convention. A draft platform is in review.

The legislative submission period for 2016 has closed, we have submitted ballot access reform bills, and there will be a score of interesting pro-liberty bills up for discussion. A sizable bi-partisan liberty caucus is in the House, so we have lots of friendly legislators to work with.

One rather constant theme I've noticed is the larger liberty movement is trending away from politics, especially anything technocratic. One prominent speaker described it as "Less Rothbard, More Rand". So while the international movement very much looks to us for guidance, the American movement isn't so sure. Though I have heard several complements on our improved messaging of the past year.

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

A few candidates for 2016 have come forward, including 3 interested in being our US Senate nominee. We're currently recruiting, aiming for at least 16 state rep candidates. Petitioning will start immediately after nominations and get going in earnest in March.

We are evaluating having a presence at the NH Liberty Forum.

Social Networks and Website

Our website revamp team is evaluating WordPress and NationBuilder. Our Facebook Group has 656 members, our Page has 373 Likes. We have 1175 Twitter followers @LPNH.

2016 Convention

Planning is underway for our state convention in mid-January. On the agenda are adopting a state platform, confirming our nominee to the national platform committee, adopting changes to our party bylaws, electing new officers and nominating candidates for 2016. We'd love to have one or more presidential candidates attend so we can host a forum or debate, potentially to again pledge delegate votes.



2015 NJ Candidates

In the November 2015 election the NJ Libertarian Party ran these candidates with these results:

Peter Rohrman	Bergen County Freeholder	4,789	3.96%
Joseph Rafferty	Gloucester County Freeholder (write-in)	0	0
Joseph Dunsay	River Dell Regional School District	491	19.2%
Joseph DeLong	South Bound Brook Mayor	63	9.00%
Patrick Smith	South Bound Brook Town Council	65	5.2%
Damien Caillault	State Assembly 27th District	554	3.10%
Jeff Hetrick	State Assembly 27th District	603	3.40%

Libertarian Candidates Make an Impression in State Assembly Debate

The League of Women Voters held a debate for the State Assembly in the 27th district on September 30th in Livingston. Libertarian candidates offered refreshing fact-based solutions to economic concerns such as job creation, state budgeting and state pensions.

The Republican candidate promised to reach across the aisle, work hard and renegotiate pensions without mentioning any specifics. The Democratic incumbents, Assemblyman John McKeon of West Orange and Assemblywoman Mila Jasey of South Orange, were absent.

“If you re-elect these people you know what to expect,” said Libertarian Damien Caillault. “They will spend more, tax more, fund new projects, and in a few years, they’ll come back for more.”

Jeff Hetrick, the other Libertarian, offered a pragmatic approach to problem-solving: comprehensive, root cause analysis. Mr. Hetrick wants to use this analysis to determine why the NJ Election Law Enforcement Commission is running out of money. He expects to find overlapping expenses, outdated material and inefficient work practices. He proposed using the same methodology to evaluate school districts and the NJ Department of Transportation.

Discussing hunger in New Jersey, Mr. Caillault cited high property taxes. He explained that prohibitively high tax rates render agricultural use of land financially nonviable for many. This contributes to low in-state food production. He also mentioned that vertical growth was sometimes outlawed by zoning regulations in urban areas that stand to benefit from it the most.

Caillault also suggested that everyone joined the Livingston Sunrise Rotary and the LHS Interact Club next time they go to Hillside NJ to help the Community FoodBank of NJ.

The entire debate was repeated on Livingston TV up until the election.

The 27th District includes Chatham Township, East Hanover, Florham Park, Hanover, Harding, and Madison in Morris County and Caldwell, Essex Fells, Livingston, Millburn, Roseland, South Orange and West Orange in Essex County.

In Other News

As a result of pressure from the NJLP Preempted Ordinance Repeal project, several towns are looking to rescind or modify their curfew laws. Thanks to NJLP member and project volunteers Jim Tosone and John Paff for their work.

We seek an Editor for the newsletter. We seek an assistant Webmaster to assist with our website. The Bylaws Committee is also forming for the purpose of updating our Bylaws. If interested in any of these positions contact Patrick McKnight at chair@njlp.org

We continue to post news of government wrongdoing, cooking the books, violating your rights, excessive use of force, general incompetence and news of freedom fighters winning important battles to expose or correct these situations.

Show Me The Minutes!

Lumberton Township, whose officials lost a large batch of meeting minutes over the last six years, agreed to a court-approved settlement to implement stringent safeguards against a repeat loss. It will begin posting executive session minutes online, a rarity for municipalities.

Under the recent settlement, Lumberton Township also will pay the \$1,610 legal bill of John Paff, chairman of the New Jersey Libertarian Party's Open Government Advocacy Project, after he sued on the grounds the public was being denied access to township committee records in violation of state transparency laws.

2016 Calendar

We'll have a general post-election meeting on November 15th at Omega Diner in North Brunswick starting at 4:30pm.

We'll have our 2016 convention on March 12th in Hightstown.



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.

Local Candidates

We will have five candidates who petitioned their way on to the ballot as Libertarians. Most prominently, our long-time State Treasurer Gary Triestman is running for Town Justice in Woodstock (of the famous rock festival 45 years ago). We also will have Lisa M. Whitehead in Batavia (western NY near Buffalo) and a candidate for local legislature in Albany.

Gary Triestman won 145 votes, or 10.7%.

Lisa Whitehead won 30 votes, or 14%

Manhattan Libertarians at NYC Pride 2015

Despite the rainy start to the day, we gave Outright Libertarians' new "World's Gayest Political Quiz" to over 250 people at the NYC LGBT Pride Festival. When we ran out of those, we switched back to the standard "World's Smallest Political Quiz" published by the Advocates for Self-Government. As is usually the case at Pride events, the crowd split between the Left-Liberal and Libertarian quadrants, with a cluster of strong Libertarians due to the self-selection bias of who walks up to a Libertarian booth at a street fair.

As Outright Libertarians usually does in its Operation Politically Homeless booths, we used metal foil stars to indicate the quiz scores on the map, with Gold being Libertarian, Silver being Independent, Green being Green, Blue being Democrat, and Red being Republican. While we had a run of Blue stars like usual at Pride, we used more Silver stars than ever. Hear that, Libertarian candidates? Independents are, politically, what they call "low-hanging fruit."

A heartfelt thank-you to Alex, Richard, and Alton for volunteering at the booth.





Libertarian Party Caucuses

Vermont has perhaps a unique way to recognize political parties. It is tied to the New England traditions of local control and town meetings. All parties in Vermont need to form town committees via a local caucus. The Vermont Libertarian Party held its town caucuses in September with the goal of reorganizing by the end of the month.

We hoped to be adding some new towns, as we knew we'd be losing some town committees. Local member involvement is so vital in making sure we can easily put presidential, statewide, and local candidates on the ballot to give Vermonters a choice of lower taxes, less government and more freedom.

So far 8 towns have organized. We need 10 to be a recognized party. We've done this in the past and are reasonably confident in getting two more towns organized by December.

Caucusing is simple to do, there a few laws that must be followed. For example, you need to post a notice in two places in your town at least 5 days in advance of your caucus, and if you have more than 1000 people in your town, then the notice must also appear in your local paper.

If you are interested forming a town committee (or reorganizing your town committee), then email Jeremy at chair@vtlp.org ASAP so I can send you the forms you need and the instructions.

No Tanks for Burlington

Burlington Police department announced it will be withdrawing from the Pentagon's questionable 1033 military surplus program. This will mark the first time a police department has ever willfully withdrawn from program, according to the NY Daily news.

The controversial program is responsible for the militarization of local police departments across the United States, often arming them with left over war-time equipment including advanced surveillance technology, MRAP's, grenade launchers, and tanks.

The Burlington Police Department's official statement voices their concerns over the warlike training and gear:

"The militarization of local police departments is a genuine concern in our nation," said Burlington Chief of Police Brandon del Pozo. "There are times when military-style equipment is essential for public safety, but they are very rare. Between our partners... we have the resources to handle all but the most inconceivable public safety scenarios. Amassing a worst-case scenario arsenal of military equipment results in officers seeing everyday police work through a military lens... I concluded it was better to return the items and let our 1033 Program memorandum of understanding expire."

Will other local police departments begin to sever ties with the Pentagon's 1033 military surplus program?