LNC Region 6 Report for July 17th, 2016 Las Vegas Meeting at Planet Hollywood

Submitted July 11, 2016 by David Pratt Demarest, LNC Region 6 Representative

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# Summary

The big news is that Illinois, with LNC financial assistance, was so successful in gathering and submitting over 53,000 ballot access petition signatures that the 5-day limit for Illinois to challenge the signatures has passed without a challenge.

Nebraska is now the second state with a Libertarian State Senator, Laura Ebke, who switched her registration from GOP to LP the week before the Orlando convention.

Both North Dakota and Illinois have candidates running in nearly all the major statewide races with Wisconsin close behind. Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota have large numbers of local Libertarian candidates.

Libertarian voter registration is on the move in Region 6 with Nebraska leading the charge at over 33% in the last 12 months and on track to double that percentage by year’s end.

LNC goals suggested by Region 6 state affiliates:

* LNC focus on helping Johnson/Weld ticket run a successful campaign
* Provide generic national LP branded yard signs at cost to state affiliates as requested by North Dakota
* Consider reinstating the LNC policy of funneling a percentage of new national LP membership donations back to state affiliates to incentivize state organizations to actively promote national LP membership. Based on a request by the Nebraska state affiliate and if justified by due diligence, I will submit a motion for consideration by the LNC after the November election.

# Illinois

Lex Green

Chair LPILLINOIS

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The Libertarian Party of Illinois is grateful for the support of the LNC in its recent efforts to get on the ballot. Both financial and logistical support were provided and without that help, we would not have been able to secure a spot for Governors Johnson and Weld on the November ballot.

 As of this morning, July 6th, the statewide slate of candidates for President, Vice President, Senator and Comptroller has not been challenged. Since the challenge window closed at 5pm on July 5th, we can safely say the ballot access drive has been a success. The 90 day process cost over $110,000, with the LNC providing $70,000 and the state party adding another $40,000.

Other candidates for Congress or General Assembly were not included in the statewide ballot access drive. All of them either failed to turn in the required signatures, or have pending objections. The party plans assist with volunteers to help defend those petitions that are challenged.

We now turn our attention to supporting our candidates. We have two very active candidates for Senate and Comptroller who have attended numerous parades and festivals already. With their spot on the ballot assured, they begin their real campaigns with a statewide team of volunteers.

We also are revisiting our internal review of procedures, with an eye for updating our policies. This process includes writing detailed manuals to assist any transition when new people are elected or appointed. We will continue to make sure our policies and bylaws are consistent with Illinois elections law, in the event we become an established party.

Membership in Illinois is up over 10% in 2016. Volunteerism is also up, with many more of our director positions filled. Our number of local or county chapters has almost doubled in the last two years, with several more forming now. We hope to take advantage of the large number of volunteers who have been inspired by Gov. Johnson. Those people swelled our delegate count to the highest number in over 8 years.

 ***“…the saddest epitaph which can be carved in memory of a vanquished liberty is that it was lost because its possessors failed to stretch for a saving hand while yet there was time." – George Sutherland 1921***

# Iowa

Keith Laube

LPIA Chair

We have 27 candidates running as a Libertarian that will be on the ballot in Iowa. This breaks the previous record of 18, which occurred in the in early 2000's. We also have 1 member running as an independent and 1 member running as a Republican. We will see how that works and what we can learn.

On July 2, over 20 people spent a day with Michael Pickens at his training session held in Des Moines.

Members and candidates spent the holiday weekend gathering ballot petition signatures for local candidates and to get Johnson/Weld on the ballot. We are getting close to the required 1,500 signatures needed by mid-August to get Johnson/Weld on the ballot. We cannot turn in the signatures until August 1st.

Gathering signatures reveal that about 2 in 10 people are for Clinton, 2 in 10 people are for Trump and the remaining 6 out of 10 do not know who they plan to vote for but say anybody is better than Clinton or Trump. This has remained relatively the same from February through July 4th.  Getting petition signatures at recent July 4th events revealed about 1 out of 20 people have heard of Gary Johnson.

Future events are being coordinated and driven by our many candidate campaigns.

# Minnesota

Chris Dock

Chair LPMN

2016 LPMN membership - 63% growth YTD

2016 LPMN Convention - largest attendance ever (200+)

Recent events - May Day, Grand Old Day, Twin Cities Pride

Upcoming events:

* July 4th - candidate Brian McCormick at Coon Rapids 4th celebration July 4th
* Candidate Shane Wernsing at St Peter 4th celebration
* July 13-17 - LPMN at Ramsey County Fair, with candidate Joe Weverka
* August 10-14 - LPMN at St Louis County Fair August 17-21 - LPMN at Mcleod County Fair
* August 25 - September 5 - LPMN at Minnesota State Fair

Candidates:

* Steven Zilberg - MN Senate District 14
* Shane Wernsing - MN Senate District 19
* Jay Nygard - MN Senate District 33
* Joe Weverka - MN House District 67B
* Brian McCormick - MN House District 37A
* Cara Schulz - Burnsville City Council
* Mary O'Connor - Hennepin County Commissioner District 1

Petition Status for Johnson/Weld - 1230 signatures obtained, 2000 required, 4000 goal, deadline is 8/23/16

# Missouri

Bill Slantz

Chair LPMO

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

Due to the hard work and planning of Chairman Bill Slantz and Executive Director Greg Tlapek, the Missouri Libertarian Party has 42 candidates running for federal, state and local offices this election season.

The Missouri LP has enjoyed ballot access continuously since 1992 and expects no difficulties retaining major party status for the next two election cycles by receiving at least 3% of the vote in any of five state-wide races in which the party has a candidate this fall. However, we are not expecting to eclipse our 2014 record vote total of 19.7% for a state-wide race.

For the first time in several years, the Missouri LP sent a full delegation to the national convention in Orlando. With the state being home to two presidential contenders — Austin Petersen and Cecil Ince — and two candidates for vice president — Alicia Dearn and Dan Hogan — several new party members with ties to the campaigns made Orlando their first LP national convention.

The Missouri LP has assembled a team of web developers and engineers from its ranks to give the party website and civiCRM installation a facelift. While well-constructed and maintained, the site was becoming a bit dated. The first month’s results show number of pages viewed per session has increased 19% from our two year average while session duration has increased 77%.

Across the state, interest in the LP is growing. The number of people contacting the party or having their contact details forwarded to the state by the national office this year has increased approximately five times over previous years. We have a whole new problem at the Missouri LP: finding work for our many volunteers!

# Nebraska

Scott Zimmerman
State Chair LPNE

In 2014, we had only 7 attendees at our state convention in the kitchen of past Chair Gene Siadek with our two Western Nebraska SCC members online via Google Hangouts. in only two years, the state central committee’s planning and execution achieved a profitable sell-out success of our 2016 state convention with over 50 in attendance and a great speaker slate that included Laura Ebke, C. Michael Pickens, Dr. Lee Hieb, Austin Petersen and Tony Stiles, plus Julie Borowski who had accepted but had to cancel at the last minute due to a short-term illness.

Nebraska Senator Laura Ebke switched to the Libertarian party, making Nebraska the second state with a Libertarian state senator and creating a whirlwind of media attention and a standing ovation for the announcement during the presidential ballot roll call at the 2016 national LP convention.

Libertarian Voter registration is up over 33% in the past 12 months and increased in June at an annualized rate of over 55%. We passed 7,000 registered Libertarians in April, will pass 8,000 in July and there is a good chance we will exceed 10,000 by the end of 2016. We have 4 Libertarians on the ballot in the November.

Our attendance at our First Tuesday Liberty meet-and-greet get-togethers has increased over 500%. We are working with neighboring Western Iowa LPIA members Dr. Lee Hieb (2012 candidate for Iowa Governor) and Jake Porter (2018 candidate for Iowa Governor), to jump-start collaborative Western Iowa/Eastern Nebraska get-togethers, perhaps on the Third Thursday of each month. Other local Libertarian groups will be joining us at our First Tuesday events in August. Our LPNE outreach has been extended to many local Liberty-oriented and volunteer events.

Our County State Affiliate list is growing rapidly with two added last month, Otoe County and Lancaster County. We have a rally scheduled for July 24th in Nebraska City, Ne. This is a Legalize Freedom rally dedicated to providing awareness for the Johns/Weld campaign. Additionally, we are working with the Libertarian Party of Iowa in planning a multi-state Libertarian event which we will host in early 2017.

Our state central committee has suggested an LNC goal of reinstituting the LNC policy of funneling a percentage of new national LP memberships back to the states, thus incentivizing state affiliates to actively promote national LP membership. After the November election, Nebraska is considering submitting a request to host the 2022 national LP convention in Omaha based on exponential growth in Nebraska Libertarian voter registration with strong collaboration support from neighboring states.

# North Dakota

Tony Mangnall

North Dakota Libertarian Party Chair

North Dakota has had an historic election cycle.  For the first time in our state's history, the Libertarian Party has had a candidate running for all contested positions, including Governor, U.S. House, and Senate, and we had our ticket full before the Democrats in our state were able to announce even one candidate.  In fact, the Democrats had to make a number of 11th hour registrations just to fill their ticket.

With the Democrats in decline, the race is now between Libertarians and establishment Republicans.  With a slew of radio and TV appearances by our candidates, as well as targeted social media activity, we're able to compete with the "big guys" when it comes to campaigning.  As a result, we've had more interest in the party than any year before, with people pledging to help us this year, and beyond.  Our state has a population of only 450,000, less than that of some cities, so the dollars we have to spend on campaigning can go a long way.  .

Next year we plan to "backfill" our party structure by establishing precinct and district chairperson positions across the state, calcifying our presence in North Dakota as a major political party.

However, right now our focus is on spreading the message of liberty, and reminding North Dakotans that they have a third option in the upcoming election.  It seems that the message is getting across!

Additional North Dakota information provided by Roland Riemers, Immediate Past Region 6 Representative from North Dakota:

* North Dakota Libertarian registration increased 6.7% in 2015 and is on course to increase in the range of 15% in 2016
* Upcoming events include a state fair booth and parade participation in late July and an upcoming $50/plate fundraiser for Johnson/Weld ticket
* North Dakota Libertarian candidates looking to make some serious noise this election cycle include Jack Seeman for Congress, Marty Riske for Governor and Roland Riemers for State Auditor

LPNORTHDAKOTA suggested LNC goals:

* Help run a successful Johnson/Weld campaign
* Provide a source for generic national LP branded yard sign (4x8 or2x8)

# *Wisconsin*

Joe Kexel

Chair LPWI

Information gleaned from LPWI website:

Candidates:

* Phil Anderson – U.S. Senate
* John Arndt – U.S. House of Representatives
* Andy Craig – U.S. House of Representatives
* Jason Lebeck - U.S. House of Representatives
* Matthew Bughman – State Assembly
* Jordan Hansen – state Assembly
* George Meyers – State Assembly

Events:

* David Boaz, Executive Vice President of Cato Institute, was the keynote speaker at the 2016 LPWI state convention held on April 16th at the Wisconsin Dells.
* LPWI Chair Joe Kexel spoke out about Republican Governor Scott Walker’s decision to sign a bill that eliminated the non-partisan Government Accountability Board in favor of tow commission to oversee elections and ethics selected by the Republican and Democratic parties.
* LPWI Chair Joe Kexel issued a statement regarding the incumbent Republican Representative Gwen Moore’s endorsement of Hillary Clinton.