Libertarian National Committee

Region 7



JULY 17, 2016

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

# ALABAMA – Leigh LaChine, Chair

## State Organization

## State Level Membership

Approximately 250 members.

## County News

## Elections

## Ballot Access

Not enough signatures according to Jefferson County Probate and Board of Registrars. LNC is kicking in $15,000 for ballot access, and AL will be fine to get 5000 valid signatures.

## Activities

Efforts are underway to collect petition signatures to ensure Presidential ticket appears as Independent on AL ballot. So far, approximately 700 volunteer signatures and 700 paid signatures were collected, as of June 30, 2016.

## Finances & Fundraising

Utilizing $5,000 for Presidential ballot access.

## Media Coverage

Little to none.

## Information Technology

Andy Burns assisted with website/CiviCRM in January.

## Other

# ARKANSAS – Michael Pakko, Chair

## State Organization

We have been recently intensifying our efforts to organize county affiliates around the state. We are coordinating with the Arkansas for Gary Johnson organization to form interlocking statewide networks of activists and volunteers. We presently have 14 county affiliates with at least some provisional organizational structure, about 5 of which have regular monthly or quarterly meetings.

## State Level Membership

We haven’t seen a noticeable surge in membership since the convention, but the number of inquiries, requests for information and volunteer contacts has definitely picked up.

## County News

## Elections

The governor has called a special election for State House District 99. The election will be held on the same date as the general election, but the person elected will serve as a lame duck representative until January. The seat for next term is going to an unopposed Republican. We have planned a special nominating convention for July 30 to formalize our nomination of a member in that district. If we’re lucky, neither Republicans or Democrats will make the effort, and we will have bragging rights to having an elected Libertarian in the state legislature.

## Ballot Access

## Activities

We are actively planning to have booths at three county fairs and three state fairs in the fall. We are maintaining an information booth at the downtown Farmers’ Market in Little Rock each Saturday.

## Finances & Fundraising

## Media Coverage

We have received some very positive coverage in statewide newspapers and business magazines. The local NPR affiliate and a news site, Talk Business and Politics, ran features on the national convention and our prospects in Arkansas.

A recent statewide poll gave Gary Johnson 8% (Clinton 36%, Trump 47%): <http://wknofm.org/post/tbp-hendrix-poll-trump-holds-lead-over-clinton-arkansas#stream/0>.

A local columnist latched onto this wide gap to point out that the state’s electoral votes are not really in question, so voters should feel free to vote their conscience in casting a ballot for 3rd party candidates: <http://independentarkansas.com/?p=1633>.

One candidate in particular, Mark West for U.S. Congress District 1, has been getting good coverage (two way race against the incumbent Republican): <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10206157076638382&amp;set=p.10206157076638382&amp;type=3&amp;theater>.

We are expecting to see an article soon in the statewide paper of record, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette (phone interviews took place on Friday).

## Information Technology

We recently went through an upgrade of our website and database capabilities. Special credit goes to Andy Burns of the LNC Staff. His expertise was invaluable in executing the updates and in providing information to our local IT people to maintain the improvements going forward.

## Other

Our Federal lawsuit against the state’s election laws goes into a final hearing on July 11. At this point, a successful ruling would be that the deadline for registering our candidates (the first week of November 2015) was unnecessarily and unconstitutionally early. We are also seeking injunctive relief to put four additional candidates for the state legislature on the ballot. If successful, that would increase the number of partisan LP candidates on the November ballot to 27.

# LOUISIANA – Rufus Craig, Chair

## State Organization

The Libertarian Party of Louisiana had their 2016 state convention in Baton Rouge on April 16th-17th at the Belle of Baton Rouge Hotel. There were [70 – 85] Libertarians in attendance, with 69 voting members. Baton Rouge attorney Rufus Craig was elected as the new State Central Committee chairman. There are 118 Dues Paying Members, 14 lifetime recognized Members for the Libertarian Party of Louisiana. As of July 8, 2016 there are 12,139 Libertarians which is an increase of 508 from last quarter.

## State Level Membership

There has been outreach in Nola Brewery Outreach, Denham Springs Spring Fest, Austin Petersen Meet and Greet, Kenner Gun and Knife Show, Pridefest Parade in New Orleans, Jean LaFitte Gun Show in Tangipahoa, Avoyelles Arts and Music Fest, Bayou St John 4th of July Flotilla. Over 43 Libertarians were registered.

## County/Parish News

The Libertarian Party of Louisiana Calendar of Events has been updated to reflect scheduled Parish Executive Committee meetings.

## Elections

There is are currently 8 candidates in the Libertarian Party of Louisiana that have said that they will run for office this year and 6 Future possibilities:

[Thomas Clements](https://www.facebook.com/thomas.clements.908), Senate
[LeRoy Gillam](https://www.facebook.com/Dr.Gillam), Senate
[Jennifer Werther](https://www.facebook.com/jennifer.werther.5) “Hap” has withdrawn in support of [Howard Kearney](https://www.facebook.com/hkearn777) for CD1
[Samuel Davenpor](https://www.facebook.com/samuel.davenport1)t, for CD2
[Guy McLendon](https://www.facebook.com/guy.mclendon.7), for CD 3
[Randall Lord](https://www.facebook.com/randall.lord.1), for CD 4
[Thomas Borrel](https://www.facebook.com/thomas.borrel), for CD5
[Richard Fontanesi](https://www.facebook.com/richard.fontanesi), for CD 6

Future possibilities:

Keith Higgenbothem- school board 2018
[Luke Bihm](https://www.facebook.com/luke.bihm.3)- police jury, Calcasieu
[Austin Kowitz](https://www.facebook.com/kowitz.austin) (any state lvl Livingston)
[Garry Loper](https://www.facebook.com/garry.loper)- Mayor New O 2018 or city council
[Everett C. Baudean](https://www.facebook.com/everett.baudean) -city council maybe
[Fabio Della Santa](https://www.facebook.com/fabio.dellasanta) – House district 91

## Ballot Access

## Activities

The Libertarian Party of Louisiana Calendar of Events has been updated to reflect scheduled Parish Executive Committee meetings.

As Party representatives, members attended the Desiree Alliance Conference in New Orleans on 7/10.

On September 17th from 10am to 5pm Libertarian Leadership will have candidate training offered in New Orleans, LA and later that night there will be a fund-raising event hosted by the Libertarian Party.

The 2018 Libertarian National Convention will take place in New Orleans. Folks should plan to spend the week there, since crowds are expected to be light…summers in the South ☺.

## Finances & Fundraising

## Media Coverage

Press releases were sent out this quarter covering Austin Petersen’s visit to NOLA Brewing and covering our state convention. Additional coverage from the Gary Johnson campaign, Mary Matalin’s defection, and coverage from our legislative efforts, particularly those on the raw milk debate.

Several members of the media committee have been increasing efforts to call in to talk radio.

Media committee is working on designs for LPL brochures, door hangers, new fliers and banners.

## Information Technology

Keith Thompson has made a script to run on the server that takes the volunteer notifications from the national party, splits them up into useful data, and loads them into a search-able database. This is still under development, but functions well enough currently to use. Later additions will include the ability to leave notes for the volunteers, search by interest, and show if they’ve already been contacted.

## Other

The Libertarian Party Facebook traffic is currently 80.5% men with 18.5% from women and the majority of people are ages 30-45. There are currently 2, 864 Likes.

Libertarian Party of Louisiana spoke about a logo revision and consider one like the national Libertarian Party’s to further solidify our branding with Nationals.

# MISSISSIPPI – Aaron Barksdale, Chair

## State Organization

## State Level Membership

## County News

## Elections

Chase Wilson is running for Congressional District 1, and Ric Mccluskey is gaining groundswell in his run against Steven Palazzo for Congressional District 4.

## Ballot Access

## Activities

## Finances & Fundraising

## Media Coverage

## Information Technology

## Other

# OKLAHOMA – Tina Kelly, Chair

## State Organization

We are very excited about the future possibilities of the chapter program we have designed and are in the process of interviewing potential coordinators.  We are looking forward to announcing the historic milestone of our first affiliate very soon.  The OKLP bids a sad farewell to former Vice Chair Tim Krahling who resigned his position due to personal issues.  We are proud to announce Bailey Betz as his replacement.

## State Level Membership

## County News

## Elections

With a stunning turnout rate of 99%, Oklahoma Libertarians voted as Libertarians for the first time in 16 years on June 28th in a primary for US Senate.  The OKLP is pleased to announce Robert Murphy as the winner of that race. We now turns our attention to November where Robert joins 15 other candidates on the ballot including Governor Gary Johnson for president.

In the past month, the OKLP leadership continued its efforts to facilitate and support the development of strong candidates by sponsoring a candidate workshop.  The event held at the capitol was well attended and productive.

We are dedicated to meeting and exceeding the presidential vote test of 2.5% in order to maintain our official party status. The prospects look good for winning over the votes of those disenfranchised Rs and Ds who did not get their primary choices of Cruz and Sanders as eventual nominees and with whom Gary Johnson seems to be a popular alternative.

## Ballot Access

## Activities

The OKLP had a very well received float in this year's Pride Parade.  Around 42,000 people saw and cheered for our message "All Rights, For All People, All The Time".

## Finances & Fundraising

Several fundraisers are in the works including a t-shirt contest and a Punk Rock concert benefiting candidates.  That latter is being organized by the Punk Rock Libertarians who are in the process of becoming one of our first official chapters.

## Media Coverage

OKLP leadership and candidates are continually interviewed on the radio or quoted in the newspapers, everyone wants to know what we are doing!

## Information Technology

## Other

# TEXAS – John Wilford, Chair

## State Organization

We have been expanding our volunteer structure and are really excited about the level of involvement. We currently have 20 active volunteers and should be adding 5 more soon.

## State Level Membership

## County News

## Elections

## Ballot Access

## Activities

Ben Farmer represented LPTexas at a debate at Boy’s State, Galveston County just hosted a very successful candidate meet and greet, and Whitney Bilyeu was a guest on Houston Matters (Houston Public Media New), discussing the Libertarian Party in Texas.

## Finances & Fundraising

## Media Coverage

We have had quite an interest stirred up since Cruz dropped out. I have been on the phone with reporters from news outlets ranging from the Dallas Star to the Texas Tribune. The level of activity has been both exhausting and exciting.

## Information Technology

LPTexas has adopted and implemented NationBuilder as our website and data management system. We are still exploring the system, but we continue to find new and exciting ways to utilize the technology.

## Other