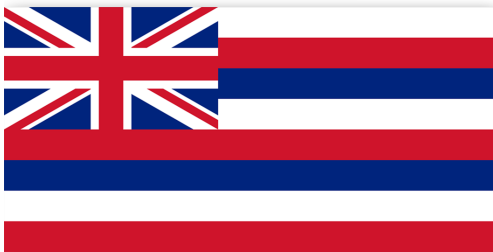


LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

REGION 1 REPORT



REGIONAL REPORT FOR REGION 1
ALASKA, ARIZONA, COLORADO, HAWAII, KANSAS,
MONTANA, UTAH, WASHINGTON, AND WYOMING

LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 15-16, 2017

Region 1 Representative

Ms. Caryn Ann Harlos, Colorado
Libertarian National Committee

T: 561.523.2250 E: Caryn.Ann.Harlos@LP.org

Region 1 Alternate

Mr. Steven Nielson, Washington
Libertarian National Committee

T: 253.329.0279 E: Steven.Nielson@LP.org

CONTENTS

Region 1 Overview	7
National Memberships	8
State Party Memberships	9
Ballot Access Requirements and Retention	10
State Conventions	12
Other	13
Libertarian Party of Alaska	14
State Organization	14
At a Glance Statistics	14
Board Meetings	15
State Convention	16
State Level Membership	16
Sub-Affiliates	16
Elections	16
Ballot Access	16
Activities	16
Finances & Fundraising	17
Media Coverage	18
Other	18
Statement from the Chair	18
Arizona Libertarian Party	19
State Organization	19
At a Glance Statistics	20
Board Meetings	20

State Level Membership	21
Sub-Affiliates	21
Elections and Ballot Access	21
Activities	23
Finances & Fundraising	23
Media Coverage	23
Other	23
Statement from the Chair	23

Libertarian Party of Colorado **25**

State Organization	25
At a Glance Statistics	26
Board Meetings	26
State Level Membership	27
Sub-Affiliates	27
Elections	27
Ballot Access	28
Activities	28
Finances & Fundraising	28
Media Coverage	28
Other	29
Statement from the Chair	29

Libertarian Party of Hawaii **30**

State Organization	30
At a Glance Statistics	30
Board Meetings	31
State Level Membership	31
Sub-Affiliates	32

Elections	32
Ballot Access	33
Activities	33
Finances & Fundraising	33
Media Coverage	33
Other	34
Statement from the Chair	34

Libertarian Party of Kansas **36**

State Organization	36
At a Glance Statistics	37
Board Meetings	37
State Level Membership	38
Sub-Affiliates	38
Elections	38
Ballot Access	39
Activities	39
Finances & Fundraising	39
Media Coverage	39
Other	40
Statement from the Chair	40

Montana Libertarian Party **41**

State Organization	41
At a Glance Statistics	41
Board Meetings	42
State Level Membership	42
Sub-Affiliates	42
Elections	43

Ballot Access	43
Activities	44
Finances & Fundraising	44
Media Coverage	44
Other	44
Statement from the Chair	45

Libertarian Party of Utah 46

State Organization	46
At a Glance Statistics	46
Board Meetings	47
State Level Membership	47
Sub-Affiliates	47
Elections	48
Ballot Access	48
Activities	48
Finances & Fundraising	48
Media Coverage	49
Other	49
Statement from the Chair	49

Libertarian Party of Washington 50

State Organization	50
At a Glance Statistics	50
Board Meetings	51
State Level Membership	51
Sub-Affiliates	51
Elections	51
Ballot Access	54

Activities	55
Finances & Fundraising	55
Media Coverage	55
Other	55
Statement from the Chair	55
Wyoming Libertarian Party	57
State Organization	57
At a Glance Statistics	57
Board Meetings	58
State Level Membership	59
Sub-Affiliates	59
Elections	59
Ballot Access	59
Activities	59
Finances & Fundraising	59
Media Coverage	60
Other	60
Statement from the Chair	60

REGION 1 OVERVIEW

The nine affiliates that comprise Region 1 are: Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Kansas, Montana, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Due to the geographical nature of this region, spanning five time zones and extending from 19 to 71 degrees north latitude (some 3,000 x 3,000 miles), in-person contact between the Regional and the Alternate Representative and the individual affiliates will be infrequent. The Regional Representative will attempt to attend as many affiliate conventions in 2017 as possible and so far has attended Arizona, Montana, and Colorado with Washington and Alaska planned. Hawaii and Wyoming have not yet scheduled their conventions and Utah and Kansas were on the same day as Washington; therefore, those states might need to be on the 2018 visiting schedule. Regular contact is maintained with the affiliates and members through email, phone, a dedicated Facebook discussion group, and informational website. Plans are being made for a regional teleconference to hear from members. Further, the Regional Representative has requested notice of affiliate Board meetings and will remotely attend as many as possible as well as having an ongoing request to be added to any electronic mailings.

National Memberships

All of the states in the Region experienced growth in membership numbers between October 2015 and October 2016.

April 2016 National Membership Summary

	Total Sustaining Members	Sustaining Membership Rank
ALASKA	55	42
ARIZONA	297	15
COLORADO	382	11
HAWAII	59	39
KANSAS	137	29
MONTANA	50	43
UTAH	103	34
WASHINGTON	361	13
WYOMING	35	47

April 2017 National Membership Summary¹

	Total Sustaining Members	Sustaining Membership Rank
ALASKA	90	40
ARIZONA	400	17
COLORADO	638	10
HAWAII	76	43
KANSAS	167	33
MONTANA	83	41
UTAH	146	35
WASHINGTON	618	11
WYOMING	37	51

YEAR OVER YEAR TRENDS

ALASKA MEMBERSHIP UP 38.8%
ARIZONA MEMBERSHIP UP 25.8%
COLORADO MEMBERSHIP UP 40.1%
HAWAII MEMBERSHIP UP 22.3%
KANSAS MEMBERSHIP UP 17.4%
MONTANA MEMBERSHIP UP 39.8%
UTAH MEMBERSHIP UP 29.5%
WASHINGTON MEMBERSHIP UP 41.6%
WYOMING MEMBERSHIP UP 54.1%

¹ The following Region 1 states earned automatic appointments to the Platform Committee based on their BSM numbers: Alaska, Colorado, and Washington

State Party Memberships

States with Partisan Libertarian Registration

	Total Registrations	Registered Voters	Percentage Libertarian	Growth Since 12/16 Report
ALASKA ²	7,595	535,621	1.4%	+.5%
ARIZONA ³	32,191	3,646,122	.88%	+2.6%
COLORADO	43,665	3,693,354	1.12%	-.32%
KANSAS	15,463	1,776,703	.87%	-.23%
UTAH ⁴	13,281	1,532,333	.87%	-2.4%
WYOMING ⁵	2,382	262,575	.91%	+32.9%

States without Partisan Libertarian Registration

	Total Members	How Determined	Growth Since 12/16 Report
HAWAII	83	Nat'l BSM	-9.2%
MONTANA ⁶	74	Nat's BSM	+10.8%
WASHINGTON ⁷	594	Nat'l BSM	+38.9%

² The LPAK Bylaws defines members as registered voters who pay dues (there is an ambiguity as to whether the registration must be Libertarian registration).

³ Percentage of active registered voters. The AZLP Constitution defines 3 classes of membership: registered Libertarians, county precinct committeemen, and state committeemen that are all defined statutorily. Only the committeemen have voting rights at the state convention.

⁴ The LPUT Constitution defines membership differently as including dues-payers and pledgers but not requiring partisan Libertarian registration.

⁵ The WYLP Bylaws provides for three classes of voting membership: statutory committeemen, partisan Libertarian candidate in the past two years, or dues-paying registered voters. This membership was only a handful at the time of this report.

⁶ The MTLP is re-organizing and has a larger voluntary membership than the BSM numbers.

⁷ The LPWA has about 385 dues-paying state party members.

Key Election Percentages

November 2016 Races

	Gary Johnson	US Senate	Other Statewide or Qualifying	Highest Any Race
ALASKA	5.77%	29.39%	10.14%	29.39%
ARIZONA	4.16%	N/A	N/A	31%
COLORADO	5.07%	2.55%	N/A	31.09%
HAWAII ⁸	3.7%	1.6%	3.2%	22.2%
KANSAS	5%	6%	8%	29%
MONTANA	5.7%	N/A	3% ⁹	14.97%
UTAH	3.5%	N/A ¹⁰	6.73%	23.86%
WASHINGTON	~5.2%	Pending	Pending	Pending
WYOMING ¹¹	5.3%	N/A	3.6%	3.6%

Colorado and Kansas candidates both had candidates with top US House vote percentages. Utah had a top gubernatorial candidate, and Washington had a top statewide non-gubernatorial candidate. In two-way state legislature races, Kansas, Hawaii, Colorado, Utah, and Montana candidates had top vote percentages.

Ballot Access Requirements and Retention

Alaska

In order to be a recognized political party, Alaska requires that the gubernatorial candidate receive at least 3% of the total votes cast or whose number of registered voters is equal to at least 3% of the total votes cast for governor. If the race for governor is not on the ballot, the race for US Senator is used to calculate the 3%, and if neither the governor nor the US Senate is on the ballot, the race for US Representative is used.

US Senate candidate Joe Miller achieved over 3% (he received 29.39%) thereby securing continued ballot access.

Arizona

There is no vote test needed. The AZLP needs to maintain .67% of registered voters (partisan) with the number currently at .87%.

Colorado

There is no vote test needed. The LPCO needs to maintain 1,000 registered Libertarians; the number is presently close to 30K in active voters and well over 30K if inactive voters are included.

⁸ Some percentages differ from the Hawaii Elections site as their percentages include "blank ballots" which are not counted towards their ballot access percentages.

⁹ There were three statewide races that all achieved 3%: Rick Breckenridge (US Representative), Roger Roots (Secretary of State), and Ted Dunlap (Governor).

¹⁰ There was a gubernatorial race which garnered 3.08%.

¹¹ Wyoming had one additional candidate, Lawrence Struempf for US Representative.

Hawaii

The vote test requirement is 10% in a statewide race or US House, or alternatively , 4% of all votes cast for state Senate, 4% of all votes cast for State House, or 2% of all votes cast for state Senate and state House combined. Adopting a strategy of attempting the lowest threshold (4% of votes cast in a US Senate races), the total votes for the five candidates in qualifying races was 8,293 out of 135,298 votes across eight races for a percentage of 6.1, enough to retain ballot access for an additional five election cycles, i.e. the next ten years.

Kansas

The vote test requirement is 1% of a statewide race, including the presidential race. The LPKS has had access since 1992, and report that between the US Senate and presidential races. This threshold has been met across several races.

Montana

The vote test requirement averages out to be 2.8% which can be met by any statewide candidate in about seven races. In this cycle, it turned out to be 12,542 votes needed. Three statewide candidates (Rick Breckenridge-US Representative, Roger Roots-Secretary of State, and Ted Dunlap-Governor) met this burden.

Utah

The vote test requirement is 2% of any statewide race. This was met by gubernatorial candidate Brian Kamerath (3.08%) and Attorney General candidate Andrew McCullough (6.73%).

Washington

1,000 signatures need. The LPWA will become ballot-qualified party if 5% in presidential vote is achieved.

Wyoming

The vote test requirement this race is 2% in a US House race which was met by US Representative candidate Lawrence Struempf (3.6%).

The vote test is limited in presidential years to just US House which must be achieved in order to remain on the ballot. If 10% is achieved, primary status would be retained, otherwise, nominations by convention would resume. In mid-term years, three offices count: US House, Governor, and Secretary of State.

Note on Major/Minor Party Designation

As per Richard Winger, there are 16 two-tier states and the other 34 states just have one category of qualified party. The two-tier states are Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

State Conventions

Alaska

The 2017 Convention date is May 6, 2017. I plan on attending.

Arizona

The 2017 Convention took place on January 21, 2017. I was in attendance.

Colorado

The 2017 Convention took place on March 24-26, 2017. I was in attendance.

Hawaii

The 2017 Convention date(s) have not yet been set but it will likely be in late Spring or early Fall.

Kansas

The 2017 Convention is set for April 21-23, 2017.

Montana

The 2017 Convention took place on March 11, 2017. I was in attendance.

Utah

The 2017 Convention is set for April 22-23, 2017.

Washington

The 2017 Convention is set for April 21-23, 2017. I will be in attendance.

Wyoming

The 2017 Convention date(s) have not yet been set.

Membership Growth

I have been obtaining the lists of Regional lapsed members for Region 1 and making calls to encourage renewal. I also have been promoting National memberships at the state conventions and have personally signed up about 35 new members between in-person and on-line renewals.

Other

Google alerts have been set up in order to monitor the Web for news and information about each affiliate and key candidates (when appropriate) in Region 1 as well as a feed to monitor the regional Facebook content.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF ALASKA



State Organization

Party Leadership Structure

ELECTED POSITIONS

Chair: Jon Watts, jon.watts@alaskan.com

Vice Chair: Randy Stevens, randywild@gci.net

Treasurer: Vacant/Cean Stevens, mermaidcean@yahoo.com

Secretary: Vacant/Cean Stevens, mermaidcean@yahoo.com

Membership: Stephanie Shaeffer, kgendeavors@gmail.com

Communications: Joel Hadley, joelhadley@hotmail.com

Website: <http://www.alaskalibertarian.com>

Office Space

The LPAK has office space available to them on a donated basis when needed.

Paid Staff/Contractors

They are exploring this option, and I gave Chair Watts encouragement to speak with Andy Burns.

At a Glance Statistics

Number of Libertarians	7,595. This represents 1.4% of the registered voters (535,621) which is up .5% since the 12/16 Region 1 report.
Method of Membership Determination	The LPAK Bylaws defines members as registered voters who pay dues (there is an ambiguity as to whether the registration must be Libertarian registration).
Partisan Registration?	Yes.

Ballot Access Status/Requirement/Retention	<p>The LPAK has ballot access.</p> <p>Access is obtained through nomination from state-recognized political party.¹²</p> <p>2016 US Senate candidate Joe Miller received 29.39% of the vote.</p>
Method of Determining Candidates	At convention or committee vote as per 2016 Bylaws. The prior Bylaws called for participation in the open primary.
Number of Candidates 2014/2016	4 / 3 for statewide races.
Estimated Budget	\$7K-\$10K yearly.
Website / Facebook Current?	Website is up and current. Facebook has improved dramatically with 3,614 likes and now up 7 places in affiliate ranking to number 7. I had shared the best practices with the affiliate which seems to have helped. The Facebook page is entitled "Alaska Libertarian Party" rather than the Libertarian Party of Alaska. The Chair was alerted to this naming inconsistency and let me know that the Board wished to leave it as it is.
Newsletter?	Yes. I subscribed. Last newsletter sent 2/16.
Database?	This is an area I need to discuss with the affiliate after their Convention.
BSM Members	90. This places Alaska at 40 nd in the affiliate rankings. This is the same ranking as my last report and up 38.8% over a one year period. Alaska has qualified for Platform Committee appointment.

Board Meetings

The current Board is scattered over a large geographic area so that meetings are attended in person in Anchorage by those who can and by teleconferencing for those who live further away. Meetings have been quarterly, but the affiliate is looking at moving to bi-monthly meetings. I have requested to be on the distribution list.

¹² A recognized political party in Alaska is an organized group of voters whose candidate for governor received at least 3% of the total votes cast in the preceding general election or whose number of registered voters is equal to at least 3% of the total votes cast for governor. In non-gubernatorial years, the US Senate (and then the US House of Representatives) race is used.

State Convention

The 2017 Convention is set for May 6, 2017. I am the keynote speaker. The entire Board is up for election. There will be Bylaws and Platform amendments considered.

State Level Membership

The LPAK Bylaws defines members as registered voters who pay dues (there is an ambiguity as to whether the registration must be Libertarian registration).

Sub-Affiliates

The state is broken down into burrows. Fairbanks (the Libertarian Party of Interior Alaska) has begun and needs to be re-started with new officers. The Joe Miller campaign was not favourably viewed by that more liberal demographic. Chair Watts is committed to having an active burrow group/affiliate in each of the population centers. This remains a work in progress since my last report.

Elections

Last Election Cycle (2016)

The LPAK ran two statewide candidates in addition to the Libertarian Presidential ticket as follows:

Gary Johnson/Bill Weld (Presidential/Vice-President): 5.77%

Joe Miller (US Senate): 29.39%

Jim McDermott (US House): 10.14%

Jon Watts ran in a contested primary against Jim McDermott. Also, Libertarian Mark Fish is the first Libertarian to serve on the Alaska Public Offices Commission, and a second Libertarian will be appointed in 2017.¹³

Upcoming Election Cycle (2017-2018)

Chair Watts is not presently aware of pending races for 2017 but this investigation is on the agenda to look into. He indicated that he believes the affiliate needs to focus more on local races rather than primarily on statewide slots.

There is an elected Libertarian on the Cordova City Council, Ken Jones. I alerted HQ to include this on LP.org. Tasha Hotch is running for the Anchorage School Board which is a non-partisan race.

Ballot Access and Party Status

In order to be a recognized political party, Alaska requires that the gubernatorial candidate receive at least 3% of the total votes cast or whose number of registered voters is equal to at least 3% of the total votes cast for governor. If the race for governor is not on the ballot, the race for US Senator is used to calculate the 3%, and if neither the governor nor the US Senate is on the ballot, the race for US Representative is used.

¹³ <http://amandacoyne.com/politics/unintended-consequences-libertarian-will-be-joining-the-apoc-commission/>

US Senate candidate Joe Miller achieved over 3% (he received 29.39%) thereby securing continued ballot access.

PRIMARIES:

Alaska is a blanket primary state.¹⁴

MAJOR/MINOR PARTY:

Alaska does not have this distinction but has recognized political parties and registered political groups.

Activities

Focus is presently on local affiliate building and the upcoming Convention.

Finances & Fundraising

¹⁴ From Richard Winger: A blanket primary puts all candidates on the same primary ballot. Then the top vote-getter from each party goes to the November ballot.

Washington state invented the blanket primary in 1934, and used it until it was declared unconstitutional in 2002. Washington state voters liked the blanket primary. After it was taken away from them by the courts, that set up a bad situation in which the top-two got a foothold. Washington voters passed the top-two initiative in 2004, because they resented that they had lost their blanket primary.

California had a blanket primary in 1998 and 2000. California voters had passed Prop. 198 for a blanket primary in 1996. It passed easily. Unlike Washington state's blanket primary, the California blanket primary did not include independent candidates. They did not participate in the blanket primary and petitioned for a place on the November ballot.

The California Dem, Rep, Libt and Peace & Freedom Parties filed a lawsuit in early 1997 to fight the blanket primary. We lost in US District Court and in the 9th circuit. But we won in the US Supreme Court. The decision, *Calif. Dem Party v Jones*, was 7-2. Scalia wrote it. He said the freedom of association part of the First Amendment protects political parties from having to let members of other parties help determine their nominees. His decision came out in June 2000. So California switched starting in 2002 to a semi-closed primary.

Although we were very happy with this decision at the time, in retrospect it has done more harm than good. Because of that decision, the top-two movement began. After Washington state passed the initiative for top-two in 2004, the US District Court struck it down, and the 9th circuit agreed. But then in March 2008, in a decision by Clarence Thomas, the US Supreme Court said that the top-two primary was not unconstitutional on its face, at least as to freedom of association. So then California top-two people saw their chance and got the California legislature to put it on the ballot in June 2010. That US Supreme Court decision of 2008 was called *Washington State Grange v Washington State Republican Party*.

Meanwhile, Alaska had a blanket primary, which survived, because the parties in Alaska liked it. The law permits a blanket primary if the parties agree to it. In Alaska, the Libertarian, Green, Alaskan Independence, and Democratic Parties all liked it. But the Republican Party doesn't like it. So Alaska has two primary ballots. One has the candidates of the Democratic Party and all the qualified minor parties. The other ballot just has Republican candidates. The Green Party is no longer qualified in Alaska, so currently the blanket primary ballot just has Libertarians, Democrats, and Alaskan Independence Party members. The Alaska LP likes the blanket primary because (a) there are virtually never two Libertarians running against each other for a single nomination so it really doesn't change anything for us; (b) it is easier to get people to register Libertarian because they are still free to vote for Democrats in the blanket primary. We need lots of registrations in Alaska to remain on the ballot, because we can't count on meeting the alternate vote test. Although we did pass the vote test in both 2014 and 2016.

This has been progressing and the affiliate is in healthy shape.

Media Coverage

None came across my newsfeed. I request that Chair Watts send me any that might be escaping my filters.

Other

I introduced a Resolution to the LNC on behalf of LPAK on the de-regulation of marijuana which unfortunately did not pass due to many LNC members feeling that the position was clear and no resolution was needed.

As noted in my past report, tension and rivalries between social conservatives and social liberals has been a source of dissension within the affiliate with platform issues resulting. Chair Watts has indicated a desire to see the affiliate indicate its support for the National Party Platform in its governing documents and further wishes that the affiliate maintain a traditional approach to appealing to issues from multiple spectrums without being weighted to favour liberals or conservatives. This continues to be a focus, and it is hoped that my presence at Convention will help to bridge any gap between the affiliate and the National Party.

Statement from the Chair

Over the last few months the Alaska Libertarian Party has been regrouping. The right-left paradigm has historically had a very firm grip on Alaska. This was very evident here in the northernmost land of liberty during the last election. Many of our Libertarian constituents hold that only certain persuasions on the political spectrum can be Libertarian. I believe that all are welcome, as long as they won't force others to be them. The challenge going forward is to retain LP core principles, while gaining appeal across the political spectrum. With our upcoming convention on May 6th, we look forward to doing just that.

Jon Briggs Watts, Chair

ARIZONA LIBERTARIAN PARTY



State Organization

Party Leadership Structure

ELECTED POSITIONS

Chair: Michael Kielsky, chairman@azlp.org

1st Vice Chair: John Buttrick

2nd Vice Chair: Jonathan Winder

Treasurer: Robert Allen Pepiton

Assistant Treasurer: Laila Aussie

Secretary: Matthew Rubo

Assistant Secretary: Mike Shipley

The AZLP has three statutory officers and four non-statutory officers and exists primarily to interface with the State of Arizona with the majority of the Party work being done at the County Affiliate level.

Website: <https://www.azlp.org>

Office Space

No.

Paid Staff/Contractors

No.

At a Glance Statistics

Number of Libertarians	32,191. This represents .88% of the registered voters (3,646,122) which is up 2.6% since the 12/16 Region 1 report.
Method of Membership Determination	Registered voters. ¹⁵
Partisan Registration?	Yes.
Ballot Access Status/Requirement	The AZLP has ballot access. .67% of active registered voters (2/3 of 1%). Currently has .88% of the registered voters.
Number of Candidates 2014/2016	18 / 26 (2 non-partisan)
Estimated Budget	\$1K year typical.
Website / Facebook Current?	Website is up and current. Facebook page likes are at 5,378. This would place Arizona about 17 th in the affiliate rankings.
Newsletter?	No.
Database?	No. Arizona has strict laws governing online storage of voter registration data which limit the AZLP's ability to have an online database.
BSM Members	400. This places Arizona at 17 th in the affiliate rankings which is a decrease of one rank since my last report and a 25.8% increase over a one-year period.

Board Meetings

The AZLP acts mostly as a "shell" to fulfill statutory requirements of the State of Arizona with the bulk of the Party work being done at the county level (see below). They meet only to the extent needed to fulfill this role and meet statutory requirements.

¹⁵ The AZLP Constitution defines 3 classes of membership: registered Libertarians, county precinct committeemen, and state committeemen that are all defined statutorily. Only the committeemen have voting rights at the state convention.

State Convention

The 2017 Convention was held on January 21, 2017, and I was in attendance as a featured speaker. New officers were elected, and a new Platform was adopted.

State Level Membership

The AZLP Constitution defines 3 classes of membership: registered Libertarians, County Precinct Committeemen, and State Committeemen that are all defined statutorily. Only the Committeemen have voting rights at the State Convention.

Sub-Affiliates

Arizona comprises 15 counties, and there are county level affiliates. Ballot access is not granted on a statewide basis across the board; individual counties also have to make the threshold of .67% of active registered voters within that county in addition to having an active county party.

The most active sub-affiliate is the Maricopa County Libertarian Party which meets monthly (<https://www.lpmaricopa.org>). 60-65% of the population of Arizona resides in this county.

In addition to Maricopa County, there are three other counties of note. Yuma County has an active affiliate and ballot access but needs to increase its number by October 2017 to avoid a petition drive (presently have around 520 voters but need 600 to avoid). Pima County has a somewhat active affiliate and has ballot access. Coconino County has qualified with the percentages but does not have an active affiliate. Efforts are starting up in Gila, Pinal, and Mohave Counties. Chair Kielsky is encouraging Party activists to adopt a county and help it move towards active affiliation.

Elections

Current Election Cycle (2016)

Gary Johnson/Bill Weld (Presidential/Vice-President): 4.16%

One other candidate made it past the primaries, Greg Kelly, candidate for Highlands Justice of the Peace, who garnered 31% of the vote in a two-way race.

Arizona's election laws very much intrude into the functioning of the AZLP. Their officers must be selected from amongst County Precinct Committeemen who then choose State Committeemen. Only these persons can vote at the State Convention though all Arizona registered Libertarians are members. These County Precinct Committeemen are elected by registered Libertarians in their precincts and are required to gather nominating petition signatures, but this number is small due to the small area and the fact that only registered libertarians are included in calculating the number of the signatures required, unlike the following issues that other candidates are facing.

The largest voting bloc in Arizona is independents/undeclared which outnumber the Republicans.

Upcoming Election Cycle (2017-2018)

The affiliate will be starting on petitions for the 2018 cycle early and plan to have a Libertarian on every single ballot access line. While the ballot access laws are oppressive, they have to work with them the best that they can. Chair Kielsky will be running for Attorney General and has started collecting signature.

Ballot Access and Party Status

The first hurdle in Arizona ballot access is having registered Libertarians comprise .67% of active registered voters. Right now, they have .88% of the active registered voters. In addition, in order to be on the Primary ballot (either printed or added as a write-in), candidates have to obtain a certain number of signed Nominating Petitions. This is particularly critical as the County Precinct Committeemen are included that are the pool from which the Party officers will be chosen. An open Primary would effectively be allowing non-Libertarians to chose the eventual Party officers. If the State Party ever fall off, they must petition and obtain about 21,000 valid signatures as any Party that loses qualification cannot get back on via registrations.

The issue of the Nominating Petitions is currently the subject of a lawsuit as Arizona has changed the requirements in a way that is calculated to deny access to minor parties. Previously, the Nominating Petition requirement was .5 % of the registered Libertarians in the candidate's district (or statewide). However, the new requirements cut the percentage in half to .25% but expanded the total pool from which the calculation is determined to include both Libertarians and independents/undeclared which are the most numerous voting bloc in the state. For example, using 2016 statewide figures (rounded for simplicity) of 25,000 Libertarians and 1,180,000 "others," the former rule would have required 125 signatures, while this new requirement totals 3,012 signatures. As a counter-example, using the statewide figures for Republicans of 1,125,000, and the same number of independents/undeclared, the former rule would have required 5,625 signatures, and the new one would require 5,762 signatures, a negligible difference. With this in mind, if a candidate does not obtain the required nominating signatures, they can be put in as a write-in candidate but still have to meet the same burden in write-in votes which puts the AZLP in a conundrum since their Primary is closed, yet the figures that the write-ins have to meet include independents/undeclared. In some areas, it would be mathematically impossible for the write-in to obtain the required number of votes from the pool of registered Libertarians.

The case is proceeding in the US District Court for Arizona and is at the point where summary judgments on both sides have/are being filed (<http://ballot-access.org/2017/04/02/arizona-libertarian-party-files-brief-in-ballot-access-case/>). Chair Kielsky sat in a day-long deposition. Oral arguments are expected, but not an evidentiary hearing.

Another issue effecting ballot access (as far as signature collection) is that petitioners must now be paid by the hour rather than by the signature as per a new Arizona law. This was passed somewhat in response to the minimum wage law that was passed.

PRIMARIES:

The AZLP has the choice of a closed or semi-closed primary and has chosen a closed primary.¹⁶

MAJOR/MINOR PARTY:

Arizona does not have that distinction, but only has "recognized political party."

¹⁶ A semi-closed primary is one in which registered Democrats must choose a Democratic primary ballot, ditto for Republican, but independents can choose whichever primary ballot they want. In an open primary, each party has its own primary and its own nominees, but on primary day any voter can choose any party's primary ballot. Generally open primary states' voter registration forms don't ask about political party choice. The question is missing. There are 19 open primary states. Most southern states are open primary states.

OTHER:

From Ballot Access News: SB 1307 eases the June deadline for a party to file presidential elector candidates. The bill sets the deadline in late August. Although an early deadline to file the presidential electors may seem a trivial barrier, it has been a problem in the past.

Activities

The majority of the party activities are conducted at the county level, particularly the population center of Maricopa County. Petition-gathering events are planned.

Finances & Fundraising

The AZLP gets an average of \$1,000 year from a truly voluntary state income-tax return check off in which taxpayers can voluntarily fund a political party that then increases or reduces the amount of taxes owed.

Media Coverage

Significant press mentions include:

<http://www.phoenixnewtimes.com/news/where-will-you-be-for-donald-trumps-inauguration-arizona-events-planned-for-both-critics-and-supporters-9001337>

<http://nevalleynews.org/7960/audio/the-millennial-manifesto-back-by-executive-order-with-barry-hess/>

<http://paradisevalleyindependent.com/news/grassroots-political-organization-calls-for-repeal-of-hb-2404-in-new-referendum/>

Other

The marijuana bill did not pass, and it will take another two years to get something else on the ballot. Many Libertarians opposed the bill due to the regulatory burdens imposed. Chair Kielskey hopes to focus the Party into doing one thing and doing it well. The future focus is uncertain at this point.

Statement from the Chair

Freedom Activism and Activists are under assault, a widespread psy-op to manipulate activists to abandon a unified call for increased Human Liberty, by focusing and leveraging minor differences, or while others make broad but false and malicious claims about Freedom Activist ends and goals.

Search your memory about how you felt about another member of our grand coalition in the past, and think about recent, perhaps unpleasant, disagreements on minor points of policy. You are the victim of psychological manipulation, turning you into a weapon against your allies, turning your generally positive feelings and thoughts about individuals you KNOW are advocating for dramatically more Liberty, into negative feelings focused on the trivial and aspirational which might, at some distant point in the future, be at issue.

If you permit yourself be so manipulated, you become a weapon of the enemies of Liberty. You are likely to alienate your former fellow-Liberty-traveler, and anyone who observes these petty disputes, and ultimately, one or both of you will abandon the fight for freedom.

We are still so far away from our mutual goals of Liberty in our Lifetime that these disagreements are illusory, amounting to fighting about numbers of angels on a head of a pin. These fractious disagreements ONLY serve the enemies of freedom by distracting us, distancing us, and increasing distrust among us.

Along side this, you probably have seen patently ridiculous assertions that equate the goals of Freedom Activists with completely incompatible ideologies including nationalism, fascism, communism, racism, and all other manner of 'isms which disregard the individual and lump everyone into collectives. The primary goal of these efforts is to draw the discussion away from individual rights and liberties towards false claims that the pursuit of Liberty obtains its opposite result. Any rational argument will always be met with non-sequitor responses disregarding logic and merely reasserting that Liberty destroys freedom and cannot solve every problem.

If you permit yourself be so manipulated, you also become a weapon of the enemies of Liberty. You are likely to be alienated to the further pursuit of Liberty, and away from your fellow-Liberty-travelers, while those who merely observe these rational argument vs. non-sequitor response discussions will likely avoid entering the fight for freedom. Do not let yourself be their pawn.

Remain strong, for these psy-ops are evidence of their fear of our growing numbers and influence. Stay the course, don't lose sight of the real goal, and continue to champion Liberty!

-Michael Kielsky, Chair

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF COLORADO



State Organization

Party Leadership Structure

ELECTED POSITIONS

Chair: Wayne Harlos (chair@lpcolorador.org)

Vice Chair: Richard Longstreth (vicechair@lpcolorador.org)

Treasurer: John Hjersman (treasurer@lpcolorador.org)

Records: Mike Spalding (recordsdirector@lpcolorador.org)

Membership: Steve Gallant (membershipdirector@lpcolorador.org)

Communications: Caryn Ann Harlos (communicationsdirector@lpcolorador.org)

Outreach: Kevin Gulbranson (outreachdirector@lpcolorador.org)

Regions: Daniel Lutz (regionsdirector@lpcolorador.org)

Campaigns: Kim Tavendale (campaignsdirector@lpcolorador.org)

Legislative: Michael Stapleton (legislative@lpcolorador.org)

Fundraising: Eric Mulder (fundraisingdirector@lpcolorador.org)

Website: <http://www.lpcolorado.org/>

Office Space

No. Meeting space is provided monthly by The Independence Institute.

Paid Staff/Contractors

No though this is something the affiliate is interested in.

At a Glance Statistics

Number of Libertarians	43,665. This represents 1.12% of the registered voters (3,693,354) but is down .32% from the last Region 1 report.
Method of Membership Determination	Registered voters.
Partisan Registration?	Yes.
Ballot Access Status/Requirement	The LPCO has ballot access. The access requirement is 1,000 registered Libertarian voters.
Number of Candidates 2014/2016	46 / 26
Estimated Budget	\$10K yearly
Website / Facebook Current?	Page likes are at 22,940. This would place Colorado about 4 th in the affiliate rankings. The affiliate has a dedicated social media volunteer team.
Newsletter?	No. Mailblasts are sent regularly. A regular newsletter is being planned with the election of a Membership Director and change to the affiliate Bylaws.
Database?	Yes through NationBuilder.
BSM Members	638. This places Colorado at 10 th in the affiliate rankings, and an increase of 40.1 % over a one-year period. Colorado earned an automatic Platform Committee appointment.

Board Meetings

The Board meets monthly at space offered by The Independence Institute. The meetings are open and streamed live for public viewing. Board reports and documents are available online in an effort to move towards greater transparency and interface with the membership.

State Convention

The 2017 Convention was held for March 24-26, 2017. Officer elections and governing document amendments took place. The Convention was a smashing success with outstanding ticket sales and fundraising.

State Level Membership

State party members are the registered Libertarians. There is no separate membership structure. However the Libertarian registrations have grown at a pace outpacing both old parties.

Sub-Affiliates

There are 64 counties in Colorado, and a structure of county affiliates and a “pre-affiliate” phase of development group. The LPCO is attempting to have development groups in every county that does not have an affiliate. Affiliates are currently established in Arapahoe, , Boulder, Delta, Douglas and El Paso counties. There are approximately nine Development Groups. This is a focus of the newly elected Regions Director.

Elections

Last Election Cycle (2016)

Twenty-six Libertarian candidates appeared on the ballot as follows, many of whom broke prior Libertarian records:

Gary Johnson/Bill Weld (Presidential/Vice-President): 5.09%

John Hjersman (State House District 16): 28.03% in a two-way race

Susan Quilleash (State House District 17): 9.08%

Norman “Paotie” Dawson (State House District 18): 7.43%

Judith Darcy (State House District 20): 5.79%

Mike Seebeck (State House District 21): 31.09% in a two-way race

Matthew Hess (State House District 28): 8.29%

Kim Tavendale (State House District 33): 6.04%

Roy Daktroub (State House District 50): 5.20%

Gilbert Fuller (State House District 54): 22.79% in a two-way race

Kevin Gulbranson (State House District 16): 4.11%

Glenn Ingalls (State House District 60): 6.38%

Joe Johnson (State House District 68): 8.26%

Manuel Quintel (State Senate District 12): 24.44% in a two-way race

Hans Romer (State Senate District 19): 6.13%

Michelle Poague (State Senate District 29): 6.37%

William Stuart Bartley (State Senate District 35): 3.97%

Darrell Dinges (US House District 1): 3.98%

Richard Longstreth (US House District 2): 5.86%

Gaylon Kent (US House District 3): 4.86%

Bruce Griffith (US House District 4): 4.73%

Mike McRedmond (US House District 5): 6.83%

Norm Olsen (US House District 6): 4.94%

Martin Buchanan (US House District 7): 4.68%

Lily Tang Williams (US Senate): 2.55%

Colorado was one of the state in which Gary Johnson's vote totals exceeded the margin between Trump and Clinton. Libertarians also had over 80% electoral participation.

Upcoming Election Cycle (2017-2018)

Feelers are being put out for major candidates for 2018 including Governor. Several Libertarians have indicated that they will be running for non-partisan local races. The affiliate Chair was been selected to Chair a Castle Rock Committee to petition to change the Town Charter to have an elected, rather than an appointed, Mayor.

Ballot Access and Party Status

Ballot access is secured with Colorado having the easiest ballot access laws in the country.

PRIMARIES:

With the passage of Propositions 107 and 108 creating semi-closed primaries, the LPCO, as a minor party, can easily opt out though a primary is required when multiple candidates for a single office have significant support at convention.

MAJOR/MINOR PARTY:

The LPCO is a recognized minor political party. Major party recognition requires 10% of the vote in the gubernatorial race.

Activities

The LPCO will continue to be very active at Outreach events. The suit and drive to overturn the illegality of "ballot selfies" was successful. The affiliate is considering an Issues Advisory Committee in order to strategize on winnable coalition-building issues to focus upon.

Finances & Fundraising

A former program of mailers to newly registered Libertarians is on the agenda for future implementation. The LPCO was without an active Fundraising Director for a lengthy period of time and is attempting to fire back up an active donor solicitation program.

Media Coverage

Significant media coverage included:

<http://www.coloradoindependent.com/162704/colorado-democrats-republicans-morgan-carroll>

<http://www.westword.com/news/libertarian-party-its-great-to-be-blamed-for-hillarys-loss-8486747>

<http://www.westword.com/news/strange-but-true-election-stories-of-2016-8635243>

<http://www.boulderweekly.com/news/third-times-a-charm/>

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/elioise-blondiau/donald-trump-is-even-dividing-american-pro-life-movement>

<https://libertarianvindicator.com/2017/02/05/libertarian-party-of-the-year-taking-place-in-colorado/>

<http://tomwoods.com/ep-844-after-2016-where-is-the-libertarian-party-today-and-where-is-it-going/>

<https://www.coloradostatesman.com/national-vice-chair-among-liberty-luminaries-set-speak-state-libertarian-party-convention/>

<http://www.westword.com/news/prostitution-the-argument-for-decriminalization-8893112>

<https://libertarianvindicator.com/2017/03/27/newly-elected-lp-of-colorado-board-is-a-powerhouse-of-colorado-libertarians/>

<http://www.coloradoindependent.com/164630/libertarian-colorado-convention>

<https://libertarianvindicator.com/2017/03/28/colorados-new-libertarian-state-chair-ready-to-propel-the-party-into-the-future/>

<https://303magazine.com/2017/03/colorado-libertarian-convention-2017/>

Other

Internal affiliate procedural building was given a mandate at Convention with the development of a Style Guide and Policy Manual. Members were encourage to “adopt a Board member” in order to increase volunteer support.

Also, in November a measure was passed which makes it more difficult for initiatives that amend the Constitution to make it on the ballot, requiring signatures from every state senate district and a 55% yes vote. The affiliate strongly opposed this measure.

Statement from the Chair

The Libertarian Party of Colorado (LPCO) just completed one of the best, if not the best, State Conventions from my history in the party. Many people at the convention commented at how great the convention was and how they really enjoyed it. The LPCO membership surged last year and with the new board in place, the plan is to continue to grow the party. The new board will be a fantastic group that will not only grow the party but be a pain in the rear to the Colorado State Government.

-Jay North, Outgoing Chair

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF HAWAII



State Organization

Party Leadership Structure

ELECTED POSITIONS

Chair: Tracy Ryan, tracyar@hawaiiantel.net

Vice Chair and Big Island Chair: Gregory Arianoff, info@arianoff.us

Treasurer: Kyle Varner, kylevarner@gmail.com

Secretary: Joe Kent, joe_kent@hotmail.com

At Large: Alan Yim, Michelle Tippens, Pat Brock (Maui Chair), Eric Weinert (ericdraheweinert@gmail.com), Anthony Higa (Oahu Chair, anthony.higa.hawaii@gmail.com)

International Ambassador of Liberty & Goodwill: Ken Schoolland, ken.schoolland@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.libertarianpartyofhawaii.org>

Office Space

No.

Paid Staff/Contractors

No.

At a Glance Statistics

Number of Libertarians	76 (BSM members).
------------------------	-------------------

Method of Membership Determination	National Membership BSM.
Partisan Registration?	No.
Ballot Access Status/Requirement	The LPHI has ballot access. Hawaii has a unique system. It requires 10% in a statewide race or US House or ~ 750 signatures (1/10 th of 1% of the number of registered voters), or alternatively, if the Libertarian candidates bring in at least 4% of all the votes cast for state Senate, 4% for state House, or 2% of the votes for state Senate and state House combined. After a party has either met the vote test or petitioned for three elections in a row, then they are automatically on for the next five elections.
Number of Candidates 2014/2016	17 /12
Estimated Budget	\$5K in odd years, and \$8-10K in even years.
Website / Facebook Current?	The website is current and professionally done. Facebook page likes are at 5,037. This would place Hawaii about 18th in the affiliate rankings which is up 7 places since my last report (when it was up 13 places).
Newsletter?	No.
Database?	Yes, but scattered over several locations and formats.
BSM Members	76. This places Hawaii at 41 st in the affiliate rankings which is a drop in two rankings since my last report, and a 22.3% increase over a one year period.

Board Meetings

The geography of an island state makes travel for in-person attendance difficult. The Executive Committee meets about 6 times a year with some members meeting in person at Chair Ryan's home in Honolulu and the rest appearing by Skype.

State Convention

The 2017 Convention date(s) have not yet been set but it will likely be in late Spring or early Fall. Because they are an island state, they are considering having two conventions teleconferenced in together.

State Level Membership

The LPHI has state level membership for dues-payers and life members. There are about 50 members combined in those categories, but they have several hundred lapsed that get back involved periodically. In addition there are 76 BSM members.

Sub-Affiliates

The Libertarian Party of Big Island (Hawaii County) is an active sub-affiliate. Maui County had an active affiliate, but it fell apart, and they are working on getting that going again. They are striving to be competitive in Hilo (settlement in Hawaii County) and Kona (district in Hawaii County).

Elections

Current Election Cycle (2016)

The affiliate provided a comprehensive update to LP News which is included, in part, here.

Several candidates did better than projected, led by Anthony Higa (State Representative, District 19). His 12.9% result in a three-way race was 5 points better than the pre-election projection of 8%. He has now run twice, both times being undermined by the presence of token Republicans in his race. Overcoming the public's entrenched bias to treat Republicans as legitimate challengers and Libertarians as irrelevant has been difficult. With news reporters continuing to promote Republicans as the legitimate opponents of Democrats, even in races where the Libertarian spends more time and money campaigning is a problem that the party must overcome. A similar situation affected first-time candidate Michelle Tippens (8.4%) in the 24th State House race. The candidate with the highest percentage of votes was Mike Last (22.2%) in the 5th State House district. His budget was under \$100. Only two candidates spent over \$10,000: Higa (12.9%), and Arnold Phillips (16.3%) in the 10th State Senate district (in a two-way race).

The party laments the defeat of Republican Sam Slom in his bid for a sixth term in the State Senate. Slom was an active LP member because deciding to join the GOP to help him get into office. Another libertarian-leaning Republican, John Carroll, was defeated in his attempt to become a U.S. Senator; Mike Kokoski, the Libertarian candidate in that race, got just 1.6%.

Anthony Higa (12.9%) and Michelle Tippens (8.4%) both were winners of some of the top state vote percentages in the entire country in races with both Republican and Democrat opponents.

Upcoming Election Cycle (2017-2018)

The affiliate wishes to start early recruiting candidates for 2018 and get a jumpstart on fundraising.

There also was word that Representative Beth Fukumoto (Republican) may be leaving the Republican Party and would be a good prospect for the Libertarian Party.

Open Primaries

This came out of Justia in the case of the Democratic Party of Hawaii v. Nago: Civil Rights. The panel affirmed the district court's summary judgment in favor of Scott Nago, in his official capacity as Chief Election Officer of the State of Hawaii, in an action brought by the Democratic Party of Hawaii challenging Hawaii's open primary system on the grounds that allowing registered voters to participate in any party's primary without formally joining or declaring support for that party, severely burdens the Democratic Party's First Amendment associational rights. The panel first noted that the extent to which Hawaii's open primary system burdens the Democratic Party's associational rights is a factual question on which the

Party bore the burden of proof. The panel held that the Party had not developed any evidence to meet this burden. The Party provided no evidence showing a clear and present danger that adherents of opposing parties determine the Democratic Party's nominees. Nor had the Party shown that Hawaii's open primary system causes Democratic candidates to moderate their policy stances. The panel concluded that absent evidence that Hawaii's system affects the Party's ability to select its nominees, the Party's facial challenge failed.

Ballot Access and Party Status

The vote test requirement is 10% in a statewide race or US House, or alternatively, 4% of all votes cast for state Senate, 4% of all votes cast for State House, or 2% of all votes cast for state Senate and state House combined. Adopting a strategy of attempting the lowest threshold (4% of votes cast in a US Senate races), the total votes for the five candidates in qualifying races was 8,293 out of 135,298 votes across eight races for a percentage of 6.1, enough to retain ballot access for an additional five election cycles, i.e. the next ten years. The affiliate, however, wishes to qualify each time as it grants even greater credibility to the Party.

Hawaii has mandatory open primaries.

PRIMARIES:

Hawaii has a mandatory open primary that the LPHI must participate in.

MAJOR/MINOR PARTY:

Hawaii does not have this distinction but rather simply has recognized political parties.

OTHER:

SB 824 to used ranked choice voting for all partisan elections is pending.

Activities

During 2016 most of the LPHI's activities were centered around candidate support and fund-raising. They do hold two general meetings per year in different locations to facilitate attendance. I am awaiting a 2017 update.

Finances & Fundraising

I am awaiting a 2017 update.

Media Coverage

Chair Ryan has been getting good coverage from her advocacy for the prostitution legalization measure. This is from the LPHI website:

Hawaii House Bill 1533 relating to Prostitution

Libertarian Party of Hawaii Chair, Tracy Ryan, has drafted and had introduced into the ongoing session of Hawaii's legislature a bill to decriminalize prostitution. The bill is supported by a coalition of local advocates. Other supporters are coming on board as the actual bill drafted language is made available to them. In addition to the Libertarian Party and libertarians everywhere, supporters of the decriminalization of prostitution include Amnesty International, The Global

Alliance Against Trafficking in Women, The United Nations, the ACLU, and numerous sex worker lead organizations around the world.

HB 1533 would eliminate penalties in Hawaii laws for adult consensual sex work. This applies to sex worker, client, and manager. It does not apply to the offense of sex trafficking which is defined in Hawaii law to include various abuses of sex workers by “managers” who are little more than criminals and to laws criminalizing those who manage underage persons doing sex work. HB 1533 leaves in place the current legal violation for minors themselves who do sex work. They would remain under the jurisdiction of the Family Court as they are now.

Some negative feedback has been received concerning the part of the bill that overturns a law prohibiting police officers from having sex with someone in pursuance of making a criminal arrest. This was deleted on the basis that the whole question would be moot if sex worker would no longer be subject to arrest to begin with. To be clear supporters of the bill do not believe the police should have the legal right to have sex with a sex worker and then arrest her based on that act. It is only because the entire law was being repealed that repeal of this clause was included in the bill.

Party Chair Ryan requested a meeting with Honolulu City Prosecutor Keith Kaneshiro In September of 2016 and has been waiting for his office to schedule it. The Prosecuting Attorney has objections to this bill that should be discussed, elaborated, and either accepted, rejected, or worked through. However, most of the mounting local opposition is coming from moralists, either of the traditional religious type or of the radical feminist sort. They simply object on moral principles that are not subject to change based on reason, logic, or evidence, it will be up to the larger Hawaii community to stand up in support of this bill and provide the political push for passage into law.

Persons wishing to look up the current laws or to read the text of this or any other bill can visit the Hawaii legislative website at www.capitol.hawaii.gov.

Other media coverage included:

<http://koin.com/2017/02/05/hawaii-to-legalize-prostitution/>

Other

Hawaii leans very Democrat, but not because the people support Democrats, but because they oppose Republicans. The demographic is primarily Asian-American with a solid history of voting Democrat but with views of being socially liberal and fiscally conservative that obviously track libertarian in philosophy. The Green Party is popular but is not doing anything of significance.

The key issues in Hawaii are marijuana legalization and unfunded liabilities that now run in the neighborhood of 19 billion dollars. The marijuana legalization issue deeply affects their agricultural economy and is supported by 70% of the population. Unfortunately the legislature would not even consider legalization in 2016 or cleaning up the dispensary regulations, particularly since sugar and pineapple are no longer viable industries. Other concerns include campaign matching funds (the LPHI wishes to move to a voluntary system), adding NOTA to unopposed candidates, homelessness (a large problem but the LPHI has not reached policy consensus), a proposed rail project (the LPHI has not reached policy consensus), and the Jones Act which puts tremendous economic burdens on the people of Hawaii through rank protectionism which would be ridiculous if applied to passenger air travel.¹⁷

Statement from the Chair

¹⁷ See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merchant_Marine_Act_of_1920 for more information.

Requested.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF KANSAS



State Organization

Party Leadership Structure

ELECTED POSITIONS

Chair: Rob Hodgkinson, chair@lpks.org

Vice Chair: Sharon DuBois, vice-chiar@lpks.org

Treasurer: Ric Koehn, treasurer@lpks.org

Secretary: Charlotte Underwood, secretary@lpks.org

1st District Coordinator: Joey Frazier, dist1@lpks.org

1st District Deputy Coordinator: Mike Wilson, dist1@lpks.org

2nd District Coordinator: Gerret Mentzer, dist2@lpks.org

2nd District Deputy Coordinatory: Vacant

3rd District Coordinator: Jeff Caldwell, dist3@lpks.org

3rd District Deputy Coordinatory: Mike Kerner, dist3@lpks.org

4th District Coordinator: Dillon Albin, dist4@lpks.org

4th District Coordinator: Maria Church, dist4@lpks.org

website: <http://www.lpks.org>

Office Space

No.

Paid Staff/Contractors

No.

At a Glance Statistics

Number of Libertarians	Approximately 15,463. This represents .87% of the registered voters (1,776,703) and is down .23% from the last Region 1 report.
Method of Membership Determination	Registered voters.
Partisan Registration?	Yes.
Ballot Access Status/Requirement	The LPKS has ballot access. The access requirement is 1% of statewide race including president (the Secretary of State has ignored precedent and intent in this interpretation). This threshold was met this year over several races.
Number of Candidates 2014/2016	10 / 14
Estimated Budget	\$6K yearly
Website / Facebook Current?	Website is current. Facebook pages likes are at 3,048. This would place it about 34 th in the affiliate rankings which is unchanged since my last report. Mentoring was offered to assist in their page growth including the best practices guide.
Newsletter?	No.
Database?	Yes, Nationbuilder.
BSM Members	167. This places Kansas at 33 rd in the affiliate rankings. This is down three rankings since my last report and up 17.4% over a one year period.

Board Meetings

The Board has quarterly in-person meetings and monthly teleconferences.

State Convention

The 2017 Convention is set for April 21-23, 2017. I will not be able to attend as it is the same weekend as Washington State. Chair Hodgkinson is not re-running and Vice Chair DuBois is not interesting in seeking the chairmanship; thus there will be a change in the head leadership.

State Level Membership

There is no dues-paying structure. The Gary Johnson campaign brought in a lot of interested and enthusiastic prospects.

Sub-Affiliates

There are four congressional districts, each of which has executive committees. There are 105 counties in Kansas, which are unevenly divided between the districts. The 3rd District is very active, and there are about eight active county groups. They are working on developing the Libertarians of Northern Kansas (LNK pronounced L-Neck) which is the area that contains the capital city so it is important they are active there.

Elections

Current Election Cycle (2016)

They are presently running 14 candidates with Rob Garrard as their US Senate candidate. The US Senate race typically garners between 7-10% of the vote.

The candidate tallies are as follows:

Gary Johnson/Bill Weld (Presidential/Vice-President): 4.7%

Robert D. Garrard (US Senate): 6%

Kerry Burt (US Representative): 7%

James Houston Bales (US House): 6.4%

Gorden J. Bakken (US House): 3%

Jason Conley (State Senate): 29%

Michael Kerner (State Senate): 7.2%

Patrick McMurray (State Senate): 24%

John Taube (State House): 6%

Frederick Caleb Christopher (State House): 7%

Joey Frazier (State House): 13%

James Pruden (State House): 8%

Upcoming Election Cycle (2017-2018)

Candidates have been recruited for local city council-level races in 2017, and the larger races in 2018 some of which are announced on the affiliate website.

US House Representative Pompeo is joining the Trump team as CIA Director, causing a Special Election to be scheduled for the 4th District. The LPKS had its special convention for this nomination on February 18, 2017 and nominated Chris Rockhold. The election will take place April 11, 2017.

Ballot Access and Party Status

The LPKS has had access since 1992, and between the US Senate and presidential races. This threshold was met this year over several races.

In order to obtain major party status, the LPKS needs to obtain 5% in the gubernatorial election.

PRIMARIES:

There is no Libertarian primary unless they obtain major party status, and at that point, it would be the Party's choice to have an open or closed primary.

MAJOR/MINOR PARTY:

Major party status is achieved by obtaining 5% vote in gubernatorial race.

OTHER:

From Ballot Access News: HB 2017 (signed into law) eases ballot access for Special US House elections. The old law required a petition of 4% of the registered voters for an independent in a special US House election (about 14,000 signatures in the typical district), even though in a regular election an independent needs exactly 5,000.

Activities

The LPKS participates in the multi-day (10 days) Kansas State Fair, and multiple local groups have meetings. The 3rd District hosts regular meetings as well as the Libertarians of South Central Kansas.

Finances & Fundraising

As there is no dues structure, fund-raising efforts involve simply asking for money. Up until 2008, the LPKS had a healthy monthly donor base that fell away, and now Chair Hodgkinson is working on rebuilding that base. They also hold fund-raising events. I am awaiting an update.

Media Coverage

Significant media coverage included:

<https://ivn.us/2017/01/18/kansas-bill-relax-ballot-access-barriers-independents-libertarians/>

http://www.kansas.com/news/politics-government/article130008004.html#eml=Afternoon_Headlines

<http://www.kansascity.com/opinion/readers-opinion/guest-commentary/article131079324.html>

<http://www.kake.com/story/34394066/more-candidates-enter-special-congressional-race>

http://www.ctnewsonline.com/news/article_310bdfc4-e81c-11e6-b545-73d8a1bbb934.html

<http://kmuw.org/post/4th-district-libertarians-plan-convention-choose-congressional-candidate>

http://www.fredericksburg.com/news/news-wire/democrats-elect-civil-rights-lawyer-as-nominee-for-us-house/article_67a25e5c-6079-5246-b767-80fbcaac81c9.html

<https://thesunflower.com/14149/news/state-parties-select-nominees-for-4th-district-special-election/>

<http://us.barujaja.com/topics/congressional-seat-dennis-mckinney-from-the-wires-jim-thompson-kansas-libertarian-party-mike-pompeo-ron-estes-special-election-u-s-house-news-politics-news>

Other

There are no single large issues that the LPKS concentrates on but rather Board members and candidates have their particular interests. Medical marijuana is an ongoing concern. Chair Hodgkinson focuses on eminent domain and civil asset forfeiture.

The LPKS feels it is important that the National Party conduct a strong candidate recruitment push.

Statement from the Chair

Requested.

MONTANA LIBERTARIAN PARTY



State Organization

Party Leadership Structure

ELECTED POSITIONS

Chair: Ron Vandervender, ron.vandervender@mtlp.org

Vice-Chair: Vacant

Assistant Treasurer: Michael Fucci, micheal.fucci@mtlp.org

Treasurer: Eleanor Swanson, eleanor.swanson@mtlp.org

Secretary: Connor Burns, connor.burns@mtlp.org

Website: <http://www.mtlp.org>

Office Space

No.

Paid Staff/Contractors

No.

At a Glance Statistics

Number of Libertarians	83 plus 110. The affiliate has been growing its state members.
Method of Membership Determination	National Membership BSM and sign-up (with voluntary dues).

Partisan Registration?	No.
Ballot Access Status/Requirement	The vote test requirement averages out to be 2.8% which can be met by any statewide candidate in about seven races. In this cycle, it turned out to be 12,542 votes needed. Three statewide candidates (Rick Breckenridge-US House Representative, Roger Roots-Secretary of State, and Ted Dunlap-Governor) met this burden. Montana has mandatory open primaries.
Number of Candidates 2014/2016	7 / 9
Estimated Budget	In flux as Party is re-organizing but they are getting regular donations and about \$50-60/month in in-kind donations.
Website / Facebook Current?	Website is modern and current due to recent efforts. Facebook is generally current and has instituted best practices and will grow. The affiliate has not been able to get control of its prior Facebook page.
Newsletter?	No, but updates are sent out through MailChimp.
Database?	Yes. Excel.
BSM Members	83. This places Montana at 41 st in the affiliate rankings. This is up 2 ranks since my last report and up 54.1% over a one-year period.

Board Meetings

This information has been requested. Formal meetings are being organized.

State Convention

The 2017 Convention was on March 11, 2017, and I was in attendance. This was their first convention in about twenty years and by any metric was a success. About 50 enthusiastic members attended (including seasoned and new members).

State Level Membership

The MTLP Bylaws provide for free memberships to those who certify in writing that they oppose the initiation of force to achieve social or political goals, dues are optional.

Sub-Affiliates

Chapters are established/starting in these counties: Broadwater, Cascade, Flathead, Gallatin, Highline (tri-county), Lake, Lewis and Clark, Missoula, Park, Pondera, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders, Silver Bow, Stillwater, and Yellowstone.

Elections

Current Election Cycle (2016)

Montana has a very low legislative filing fee (\$15). The following candidates ran and obtained these results:

Gary Johnson/Bill Weld (Presidential/Vice-President): 5.7%

Rick Breckenridge (US House): 3%¹⁸

Ted Dunlap (Governor): 3.3%

Roger Roots (Secretary of State): 3%

Ian Wheeler (House District 6): 5%

Andrew Forcier (House District 57): 14.97%

Josh Daniels (House District 43): 7.28%

Dick Motta (Senate District 39): 7.02%

Francis Wendt (House District 61): 4.07%

Pual Bonar (House District 84): 3.54%

Upcoming Election Cycle (2017-2018)

They are working on soliciting candidate for the open US House and US Senate seats coming up in 2018. There are also several libertarian-leaning Republicans already in office that are being courted for a Party switch. Joe Paschal is already actively campaigning for HD70

Also, at the March 11, 2017 Convention, Mark Wicks was nominated to run in the special election to replace US House Representative Ryan Zinke who was appointed as the Trump Administration's Secretary of the Interior. He has a campaign team and a website up.

Ballot Access and Party Status

The vote test requirement averages out to be 2.8% which can be met by any statewide candidate in about seven races. In this cycle, it turned out to be 12,542 votes needed. Three statewide candidates (Rick Breckenridge-US House Representative, Roger Roots-Secretary of State, and Ted Dunlap-Governor) met this burden.

PRIMARIES:

Montana has a mandatory open primary that the MTLP must participate in.

MAJOR/MINOR PARTY:

¹⁸ Replaced Mike Fellows after his passing.

Montana does not have that distinction but only qualified political parties.

Activities

The affiliate is in re-organization mode but is working rapidly to get back up to speed. Previously, the affiliate participated in booths at the Gallatin County Fair, Yellowstone County Fair, Ravalli County Fair and the Western Montana fair. They also hit the parade route as well with the Heritage Day Parade in Stevensville, Kalispell 4th of July Parade, Kalispell Fair Parade, and the Ravalli County Fair Parade.

There is a big outreach event planned for the summer.

Finances & Fundraising

The affiliate is in re-organization mode and is working on a fundraising base.

Media Coverage

Significant press mentions include:

http://billingsgazette.com/news/opinion/guest/guest-opinion-least-government-best-for-montana-u-s/article_e8d1433a-4830-5870-b497-2199eda139ce.html

<http://www.ktvq.com/story/34326703/zinke-confirmation-not-yet-scheduled-another-r-enters-race-to-succeed-him>

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/politics/montana-libertarian-party-to-convene-ahead-of-special-election/article_5df423bb-a41f-5bbo-8d91-9ac1bf6609gd.html

<http://www.greatfalls Tribune.com/story/news/local/2017/02/06/election-waits-zinke-shoe-drop/97479096/>

<http://newwest.net/2017/03/02/new-west-daily-roundup-for-mar-2-2017/>

<http://www.ktvh.com/2017/03/gianforte-chosen-as-gop-candidate-for-montanas-special-election>

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/montana/articles/2017-03-11/libertarians-pick-inverness-rancher-for-congressional-race>

<http://www.krtv.com/story/34731402/montana-libertarian-party-selects-wicks-as-nominee-for-us-house-seat>

<http://www.kpax.com/story/34949029/libertarian-congressional-candidate-campaigns-in-great-falls>

<http://www.krtv.com/story/34945966/wicks-makes-campaign-stop-in-great-falls>

http://billingsgazette.com/news/government-and-politics/a-mail-election-would-save-yellowstone-county-k-elections-administrator/article_8521b25c-1dac-502a-97f4-ef09cdfffege.html

<http://www.northernbroadcasting.com/index.php/voices-of-montana/13161/>

Other

Long-time MTLP Chair

Statement from the Chair

I am proud to report the continued growth in membership and county affiliates within the MTLP as we now have 16 chapters at various stages of organization. Our outreach and social media efforts have been more aggressive which is drawing more people to look into the LP. We are presently working to build a stronger communications division and a policy/political division to work with our state legislature on advancing LP policy within Montana. It is really encouraging that we have so many people stepping up and are more than eager to be a part of the MTLP.

Ron Vandevender, Chair

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF UTAH



State Organization

Party Leadership Structure

ELECTED POSITIONS

Chair: Andrew McCullough, chair@libertarianutah.org

Vice Chair: David Raine

Treasurer: Chelsea Travis

Secretary: Brian Kamerath

Website: <http://www.libertarianutah.org>

Office Space

Chair McCullough is a practicing attorney and allows the LPUT the use of conference space in his offices.

Paid Staff/Contractors

There are no paid staff, but the LPUT has a volunteer Scott Linsley who functions as an Executive Director and has been given a Board vote.

At a Glance Statistics

Number of Libertarians	13,281. This represents .87% of the registered voters.
Method of Membership Determination	The LPUT Constitution defines membership as including dues-payers and pledgers to its Statement of Principles, but does not require partisan registration.
Partisan Registration?	Yes.
Ballot Access Status/Requirement	The vote test requirement is 2% of any statewide race. This was met by gubernatorial candidate Brian Kamerath (3.08%) and Attorney General candidate Andrew McCullough (6.73%).

Number of Candidates 2014/2016	11 / 11
Estimated Budget	\$10-12K per year
Website / Facebook Current?	The website is current and professionally done. Facebook page likes are at 2,546. This would place Utah 37 th in the affiliate rankings, done one ranking since my last report. Mentoring was offered to assist in their page growth.
Newsletter?	No, but is in progress.
Database?	Yes, but type unknown.
BSM Members	146. This places Montana at 35 th in the affiliate rankings. This remains unchanged since my last report, and is up 29.5% over a one-year period.

Board Meetings

There are monthly open meetings.

State Convention

The 2017 Convention is set for April 22-23, 2017. I will not be able to attend as it is the same weekend as the Washington State Convention. Chair McCullough is not seeking re-election.

State Level Membership

Yes. There are about 250-300 dues-paying members. They have two operational classes of membership: pledged (to their Statement of Principles) dues-payers; and pledgers only. Only pledged dues-payers are eligible to vote in internal Party business at their convention but pledged members can vote on candidate selection.

Sub-Affiliates

The Vice Chair took development of sub-affiliates on as a personal project, and these have been started since the beginning of this year with about six active groups, four of which are actual affiliates, and the other two being in development. I am waiting for a 2017 update.

Elections

Current Election Cycle (2016)

Eleven Libertarian candidates appeared on the ballot as follows:

Gary Johnson/Bill Weld (Presidential/Vice-President): 3.50%

Brian Kamerath/Barry Evan Short (Governor/Lt. Governor): 3.08%

Andrew McCullough (Attorney General): 6.73%

Craig Bowden (US House, District 1): 5.87%

Jim Dexter (State Senate, District 6): 6.61%

Joe Buchman (State Senate, District 14): 9.4%

Lee Anne Walker (State House, District 46): 23.86%

Chelsea Travis (State House, District 35): 9.44%

Brent Zimmerman (State House, District 16): 8.45%

Chair McCullough broke previous records in his Attorney General run.

Upcoming Election Cycle (2017-2018)

The Vice Chair of Ogden County is putting together an informal candidate forum.

Ballot Access and Party Status

The vote test requirement is 2% of any statewide race. This was met by gubernatorial candidate Brian Kamerath (3.08%) and Attorney General candidate Andrew McCullough (6.73%).

PRIMARIES:

The LPUT does not participate in the primary system although they could opt in, but rather they nominate through convention, and primaries only become relevant when two candidates get 35% of the vote in a party endorsements meeting.

MAJOR/MINOR PARTY:

Utah does not have these distinctions but rather has registered political parties and qualified political parties.

Activities

There are monthly social activities and other special events.

Finances & Fundraising

In the Utah state tax laws, taxpayers are offered the opportunity to have a part of their taxes “refunded” in the form of a \$2 donation to a political party of their choice. The LPUT receives up to \$10K a year through this benefit, but the old parties receive a huge windfall. This public funding works very much like the Federal system in that selecting this option does not increase or decrease the amount of taxes owed.

Media Coverage

Significant media included:

<http://rare.us/story/utah-governor-hopes-to-tackle-the-public-health-issue-of-porn-by-proposing-what-hasnt-been-done-in-the-state-in-more-than-a-decade/>

<http://www.sltrib.com/home/4705065-155/utahs-guv-seeks-50k-from-taxpayers>

Other

The LPUT does not have particular focus issues though certain candidates do. Medical marijuana is a big topic as well as the fact that Utah is only of only 12 states that tax Social Security income. School choice is also a large concern.

Additionally, there is straight ticket voting in Utah, the only state in Region 1 to have this. Chair McCullough said there is no move to get rid of the straight ticket voting which certainly made a huge difference (negative) in his Attorney General run as the Democrat pretty much said he was dropping out (without officially dropping out) and still got 25.09% of vote though no campaigning done for a few months. The big parties love it too much. There was a bill in the last legislature to get rid of it but it went nowhere.

Statement from the Chair

Requested.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF WASHINGTON



State Organization

Party Leadership Structure

ELECTED POSITIONS

Chair: David Traynor, David.Traynor@lpwa.org.

Vice Chair: Don Myers, Don.Myers@lpwa.org

Treasurer: Sean Treasure, Sean.Treasure@lpwa.org

Secretary: Katherine Carter, Katherine.Carter@lpwa.org

The LPWA also has eight Regional Directors (Jacob Lamont, Benjamin Judah Phelps, John Brandmair, Adrian Wright, Curtis Hart, Gavin Keefe, James Apker, and Ryan Johnson) and the following divisions: Political, Communications, IT, Outreach, Events, and General Volunteering.

Website: www.lpwa.org

Office Space

No.

Paid Staff/Contractors

No.

At a Glance Statistics

Number of Libertarians	618 BSM members, and approximately 385 state Party dues-paying members.
Method of Membership Determination	National Membership BSM and Party Bylaws.

Partisan Registration?	No.
Ballot Access Status/Requirement	1,000 signatures. Will become ballot-qualified party if 5% in presidential vote is achieved.
Number of Candidates 2014/2016	13 /31 (their website does not yet have them all)
Estimated Budget	\$10K yearly
Website / Facebook Current?	Page likes are at 7,909. This would place Washington about 14 th in the affiliate rankings which is a decrease of one rank since my last report. Some implementation of growth practices would potentially skyrocket this page. I recommended that their page administrators watch my Facebook training video.
Newsletter?	No.
Database?	Yes, CiviCRM
BSM Members	618. This places Washington at 11 th in the affiliate rankings. This is the same ranking since my last report and up 41.6% over a one-year period.

Board Meetings

The LPWA meets quarterly in person and monthly via teleconference.

State Convention

The 2017 Convention dates are April 21-23, 2017. I will be in attendance as a speaker.

State Level Membership

Yes, as defined by the LPWA Bylaws. They have about 385 dues-paying members.

Sub-Affiliates

The LPWA has eight regions (with regional directors mentioned on site) and about 12-15 recognized county parties.

Elections

Current Election Cycle (2016)

The LPWA ran 31 candidates with eleven making it out of the Top Two Primary.

Primary Election Analysis and Commentary (from LPWA):

Josh Trumbull¹. Our Attorney General Candidate has officially received the most votes by a Libertarian in the history of Washington Libertarians in a Primary or General Election. Joshua B. Trumbull (L) has received over 275,000 votes and there are still 250,000 ballots remaining to be counted. Joshua will appear on the November Ballot as a statewide candidate, along with the Johnson/Weld ticket. Please support his campaign to help boost our exposure and his success!

2. Justin Murta, the Libertarian Candidate for State Insurance Commissioner received over 79,000 votes in a three way race, garnering 7.4% of the statewide vote. This was Murta's first campaign, and he received the endorsement of high profile Republican elected officials for the spot.

3. Our US Senate Candidate, Mike Luke, finished 6th in a 17 way race! The race for the US Senate was arguably the most crowded field in an overwhelming wall of names, and this was Mr. Luke's first political campaign. His campaign appealed to over 16,000 voters across the state. Mike ran a clean campaign and we look forward to his next step!

4. Congressional candidates across the state pulled in honorable numbers in similarly crowded races. Scott Stafne, CD1, finished 4th in a field of 5, with 3% of the total. Brian Luke, brother of US Senate candidate Mike Luke, finished 4th in a field of 5 in the CD2 race, with a 3.25% finishing. Krystal McGee ran a last minute campaign against Republican powerhouse Cathy McMorris Rodgers in CD5, his first campaign ever, and finished 5th in a field of 5 with about 2% of the vote. Collectively, these three candidates provided an alternate option on the ballot for over 10,000 Washingtonians who proudly cast their ballots for the LP.

5. Our candidate for the highest executive office, Paul Addis for Lt. Governor, received over 20,000 votes in an eleven candidate race, receiving 2% and beating all non-major party candidates. Mr. Addis ran a campaign for state representative in 2014 and has spent the past two years and two campaigns garnering very positive media attention for the Libertarian Party. He remains as a very positive figure for the face of the party and is an inspiration to those who will follow his lead in carrying the Libertarian banner.

6. In a three party, three candidate race, Mr. Tim Turner received over 63,000 votes for the Secretary of State position. Mr. Turner gained attention across the state on his strong libertarian positions as well as his retro campaign Delorean. Mr. Turner achieved nearly 6% of the vote in what will be the most hotly contested race in this state's general election.

7. Former chairman, Steven Nielson, handed off his gavel to seek the office of Public Lands Commissioner. With 300,000 ballots remaining to be counted, Nielson remains tied for 5th place in a race of 7 candidates, with 51,000 votes and 4.8%. Nielson has been tracking daily results and has noted that his campaign continues to narrow the margin with each round of counting, indicating that late voters (independents and undecided) tended toward the Libertarian campaign at a higher rate than the early voters.

8. There were 21 State Legislative candidates, running for Senate and Representative seats in the Primary Election. Of the 21, ten Libertarians will advance to the General Election. These candidates represented over 56,000 voters across their districts in the state, with more potential gains as the remaining 250,000 ballots are counted over the next several days. These 21 candidates ran a variety of campaigns, from fully active campaigns to paper candidates, buying the ballot real-estate for the party. All candidates and campaign types are equally important to our overall objectives of libertarian advocacy, political diversity in elections, and attaining major party status in Washington State through the Gary Johnson campaign. The candidates who will not advance deserve our thanks and congratulations. **Those who will be on the general ballot in November deserve our support.** They are the torch bearers representing the political alternative in our state and nation.

Candidate	Votes	Percent	Candidates	Advance?
Apker	4,988	26.59%	2	y
McGlenn	5,199	28.25%	2	y
Delaney	1,573	7.98%	3	n
Foster	4,421	21.69%	2	y
Cooper	3,109	14.14%	3	n
Scott	7,337	26.53%	2	y
Price	3,097	20.99%	2	y
Hels	3,615	22.32%	2	y
Guthrie	1,054	6.13%	4	n
Lyons	767	3.20%	4	n
Frostad	5,163	26.10%	2	y
Hart	581	2.73%	4	n
Schaefer	659	4.14%	3	n
Driscoll	868	4.60%	3	n
Simonson	824	3.64%	3	n
Jordan	426	1.90%	4	n
Lamont	920	3.06%	4	n
Burns	538	1.81%	4	n
Viskovich	3,124	11.72%	2	y
Darnell	4,424	25.55%	2	y
Phelps	3,786	22.06%	2	y
TOTAL	56,473	Advance to General:	10	

The following candidates were left in race:

1. Josh Trumbull for Attorney General (32.84%)
2. James Apker for state senate Wa3 (32.67%)
3. Randy McGlenn for SR-Wa3 (32.69%)
4. Dennis Price for State Senate wa11 (23.65%)
5. Alex Hels for SR-wa21 (27.8%)

6. Michelle Darnell SR-Wa48 (29.87%)

7. Mike Foster Sr-Wa7 (23.13%)

8. Michael Scott for SR-Wa10 (28.04%)

9. John Frostad SrWa-31 (28.4%)

10. Benjamin Phelps SrWa-48 (27.35%)

11. Stephanie Viskovich SRWA-46 (15.12%)

The vote totals are still being certified. Presently Johnson/Weld have over 5% but this may come down during counting and certified of mail-in and absentee ballots. The ultimate difference may come down to as few as 500 votes.

The Attorney General candidate Josh Trumbull got as many as a million votes.

For further details, please see "Statement from the Chair" below.

Addendum: As of 11/30/16, the Washington Secretary of State has taken the position that Presidential vote totals are 4.89% due to write-ins, undervotes, and overvotes. The issue with this is that the write-in votes are not legitimate under Washington law, and are not being tabulated, but the number of them is being used to calculate the percentages. Without these, the Johnson ticket would be at 5.01%, and the LPWA would qualify for major party status. The LPWA is considering exploring legal options.

Upcoming Election Cycle (2017-2018)

The LPWA has a goal of 100 candidates to run in 2017 local non-partisan races. They have about 50-75 soft commitments. For 2018 they have likely candidates for all of the Federal races and are working on the State races. There are candidates running in city council races this year.

Ballot Access and Party Status

At the end of June, the LPWA had collected about 800 signatures so far towards their goal of 2,000 signatures (1,000 are required). They have until 7/23/16 to meet this goal. It always remains insecure until accepted since the Secretary of State in reality can invalidate for any reason. One concern is that they do not yet have the signatures of Johnson and Weld for their nominations, and Washington requires that the signatures be before a Washington notary; thus a notary needs to go to them or they need to go to Washington to get this taken care of.

Unless LPWA becomes a major party, they are required to obtain 1,000 signatures in order to petition onto the ballot. Although at the time of this report Johnson and Weld have over 5% of the vote, the mail-in and absentee ballots have yet to be counted/certified, and the Secretary of State has advised these may push that percentage down, so the LPWA is in a waiting game until potentially after December 8, 2016 and are examining their recount legal options.

As Richard Winger noted, Washington should consider lobbying for a lower threshold to become ballot qualified which is presently 5% in the presidential race. The median vote test of the 50 states is only 2%.

PRIMARIES:

Washington is a "top-two" state in which only two candidates make it out of the primaries onto the general ballot.

MAJOR/MINOR PARTY:

In order to obtain qualified party status and have automatic ballot access (as well as other benefits including higher placement on ballots), the LPWA must obtain 5% in the Presidential race. The Washington Secretary of State does not appear to use the distinction of major and minor party status though that is the common parlance. Ballot status was denied in 2016 by the Secretary of State in a shocking break with precedent by including write-in votes in the total which lowered Johnson's vote result to under 6%; however, the write-ins were invalid votes.

Activities

The new Chair in April will need to be consulted about activities and visions for the next year.

Finances & Fundraising

The LPWA's primary source of funding is membership dues and voluntary donations.

Media Coverage

Significant media coverage included:

<http://ballot-access.org/2016/11/30/washington-secretary-of-state-wont-recognize-libertarian-party-after-all/>

<https://extranewsfeed.com/kim-wyman-is-cheating-the-washington-libertarian-party-9216da731874#.q5ot2xgts>

<http://reason.com/blog/2016/12/02/washington-state-denies-libertarian-part>

<http://www.seattleweekly.com/news/as-expected-libertarian-party-denied-major-party-status-in-washington/>

<https://ivn.us/2016/12/27/political-party-status-stolen-libertarian-party/>

Other

The LPWA does not have any specific issues they are focusing on as a party, but candidates have taken up several key issues such as foreclosure fraud, term limits for state legislators, industrialized hemp, as well as cannabis. Washington is so diverse that there are not issues that are common to a majority.

A minimum wage hike was passed as well Initiative 1491 which is an "emergency measure" for temporarily restricting the gun possession rights of persons determined through, amongst other factors, statement of family members that a person is going through a traumatic period and should not have access to firearms.

Statement from the Chair

The Libertarian Party of Washington is on a trajectory to success. Three straight years of growth in all measurable areas. Just 5 years ago, State Party Membership, had reached critically low levels due to apathy and Eeyore syndrome. Backlash from i-872 being upheld in the supreme court in 2008, which established the "top two" primary in Washington. From a high point, in the year 2000, which saw 53 candidates run on the LPWA ticket and "Major Party" status being achieved thanks to Ruth Bennett's Lieutenant Governor campaign; to 2010, and a candidate total of 0.

New Leadership and renewed spirit began building in 2012 and 2013. The party began running candidates again. Unafraid to fail, because the only way to grow is through trial and error. Testing new strategies, and recruiting new invigorated volunteers and activists the party ran 12 candidates in 2014. August of 2014 saw 8 of these 12 advance through the top two primary, and the race was on. In 2015 the party ran 14 candidates for local elections, and was able to achieve a number of wins at the city level.

2016 saw the LPWA propelled back into the spotlight. All told the LPWA ran 32 candidates with Johnson/Weld, including the first state executive slate since 2004. This group of candidates, some new, some battle tested; achieved the best results in history. 11 candidates(10 Legislative, 1 State Executive) made it through to the general election to join a Johnson/Weld presidential ticket, that had just identified Washington as a battleground state for their campaign. Despite not notching a win, the LPWA candidates averaged 28% of the vote in these races. Joshua Trumbull, LPWA Attorney General Candidate, received the highest vote total of any candidate in the history of the party. Even beating out the presidential ticket, Joshua Trumbull achieved approx 986,000 votes.

Despite a rouge decision by the Secretary of State, denying the Johnson/Weld ticket 5% and Major Party Status(See accompanying document), it is safe to say that the party has now trained almost 1 million Washington voters to cast their ballots for the "L".

'15, '16, and today; State Party Membership has grown from 106, to 148, to over 370. National membership has performed in kind, moving April State convention snapshots of 350, to 361, to 618 and in a battle with Colorado and the "Pink Recruiting Machine" for coveted 10th place on the overall members list.

New programs began catching hold this cycle. An emphasis on thinking and acting local that began 3 years ago has started reaping rewards. Numerous new County Affiliates will be chartered at this years convention, and if the trend continues we will be able to charter almost 2/3rds of the state by the end of 2017. An informal PCO system took hold with the development of new training tools. Almost 200 activists were recruited this way, hitting the pavement with their belt-hung rack card holder and newly developed manual to take control of their neighborhood. The Libertarian Party of Washington is now ready to rise to the challenge not only in 2020, but every election cycle to come.

This year has been another record year of growth for the LPWA; we are, and shall continue to be on a trajectory for electoral success. It has been one of the great pleasures of my life to serve alongside you.

Keep the flame of Liberty alive in Region 1.

David Traynor, Chair

WYOMING LIBERTARIAN PARTY



State Organization

Party Leadership Structure

ELECTED POSITIONS

Chair: Dee Cozzens, RCozzens@aol.com

Vice Chair/Treasurer: Kit Carson, cspoa@aol.com

Secretary: Larry Struempf, wyolibertarian@gmail.com

Website: <http://wyolibertarianparty.com/>

Office Space

No.

Paid Staff/Contractors

No.

At a Glance Statistics

Number of Libertarians	1,382 registered voters, up over 600 from my last report. This is .91% of the voters, up .24% from the 7/16 Region 1 report.
Method of Membership Determination	Dues-paying registered voters. ¹⁹

¹⁹ The WYLP Bylaws provide for three classes of voting membership: statutory committeemen, partisan Libertarian candidate in the past two years, or dues-paying registered voters. This number is just a handful.

Partisan Registration?	Yes.
Ballot Access Status/Requirement	<p>The WYLP has ballot access and earned major party status in 2014 when Kit Carson won over 10% in the secretary of state race.</p> <p>The access requirement is 2% of statewide race. In presidential years this test is limited to just US House. In mid-term years, three offices count towards this test: US House, governor, and secretary of state. This was met by US House Representative candidate Lawrence Struempf (3.6%).</p>
Number of Candidates 2014/2016	4 / 1
Estimated Budget	None at this time
Website / Facebook Current?	<p>Website was started and stalled. Extensive urging was given to have Andy Burns create a website for the affiliate. Facebook is currently being operated by one in-state volunteer and several out-of-state contributors, with page likes at 375. This would place Wyoming 49th in the affiliate ranking. There is an older page with more likes under "Wyoming Libertarian Party" which has not been updated since 2013, and it is unknown who has admin access.</p>
Newsletter?	No.
Database?	No.
BSM Members	37. This places Wyoming at 51 st in the affiliate rankings. But they have grown 54.1% in number.

Board Meetings

The Board meets regularly via conference call.

State Convention

The 2017 Convention dates have not yet been set but it needs to take place before July 1, 2017.

State Level Membership

The WYLP Bylaws do provide for dues-paying state level membership. They presently only have about 4 dues-paying members.

Sub-Affiliates

There are 23 counties in Wyoming but the affiliate is having difficulty starting active county groups.

Elections

Current Election Cycle (2016)

The Wyoming primary takes place on August 16, 2016. There is mandatory participation by the Libertarian Party since earning major party status. Presently there is only one candidate, Larry Struempf, who is running against Republican Liz Cheney (of Dick Cheney fame) for US House of Representatives.

Upcoming Election Cycle (2017-2018)

They have some candidates on deck to run, including Vice Chair Kit Carson who will be running for Secretary of State.

Ballot Access and Party Status

The vote test requirement this race is 2% in a US House race which was met by US House of Representatives candidate Lawrence Struempf (3.6%).

The vote test is limited in presidential years to just US House which must be achieved in order to remain on the ballot. If 10% is achieved, primary status would be retained, otherwise, nominations by convention would resume. In mid-term years, three offices count: US House, Governor, and Secretary of State.

PRIMARIES:

In Wyoming, parties that receive 10% in a qualifying race receive their own primary while other qualified parties nominate by convention. This threshold was met in 2014 for Secretary of State, but was not met this year so the WYLP will be nominating by convention, which is more economical to the taxpayers and didn't really give the Party any advantage at all.

MAJOR/MINOR PARTY:

The Wyoming Secretary of State lists the WYLP as a major political party but this will change as the Party did not obtain 10% for US House, Secretary of State, or Governor, which is the required threshold.

Activities

There is nothing currently planned, but the affiliate is in building/re-building mode.

Finances & Fundraising

Finances are virtually non-existent, and the WYLP is planning on ways to attract dues-paying members. The affiliate is struggling to come back from near-extinction but has a dedicated core.

Media Coverage

None.

Other

The issues that are of unique concern to the WYLP surround environmental issues and government intrusion. The oil, gas, and coal industries are crucial to the economy, and they have suffered from over-regulation and intrusion. This is an area in which the WYLP is planning on garnering attention in advocating for Libertarian solutions. Wyoming has medical marijuana, but does not have legal recreational use at this time; however, hemp is likely to be the next hot issue.

Statement from the Chair

Requested.