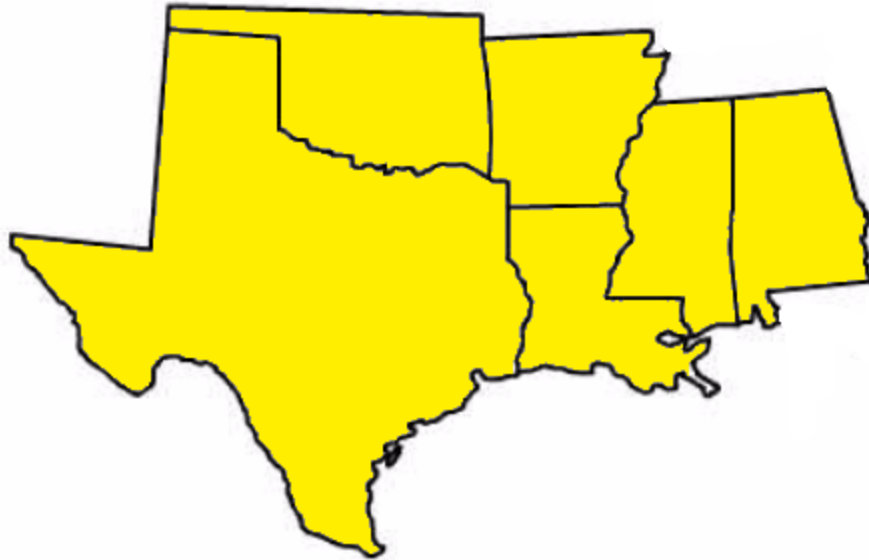


Libertarian National Committee Region 7

Region Representative - Whitney Bilyeu

Region Alternate - Danny Bedwell



APRIL 15-16, 2017

PITTSBURGH, PA

❖ **ARKANSAS - Michael Pakko**

➤ STATE ORGANIZATION

- The LP Arkansas state convention is scheduled for Saturday April 8, 2017. New officers and executive committee members will be elected.

➤ STATE LEVEL MEMBERSHIP

- State party membership is up slightly in advance of the convention.

➤ COUNTY NEWS

➤ ELECTIONS

➤ BALLOT ACCESS

- The ballot-access petition campaign is underway! Beginning March 27th, the LPAR has 90 days to collect 10,000 valid signatures in order to become a "New Political Party" (again). We appreciate the support of the LNC. We are mobilizing our volunteer resources and drawing on our accumulated financial resources to get the job done quickly and efficiently.

➤ ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

➤ FINANCE & FUNDRAISING

➤ MEDIA

➤ INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Our new website is up and running, thanks to generous help from Andy Burns. As part of our IT improvement project, we have also upgraded our database and will have the new version up and running by the end of the month.

➤ OTHER

❖ **MISSISSIPPI - Denise Cranford (Acting Chair)**

➤ STATE ORGANIZATION

- Denise Cranford - Vice-Chair (Acting Chair)
- Sheri Bedwell - Treasurer
- Joshua Hardy - Secretary
- Vance Justice - Dist. 1 Rep
- Jack Gannon - Dist. 2 Rep
- Jon Withers - Dist. 3 Rep
- Jeff Mortenson - Dist. 4 Rep
- Regina Brim - At Large Rep

➤ STATE LEVEL MEMBERSHIP

➤ COUNTY NEWS

- More counties are being affiliated currently.

➤ ELECTIONS

- Four (4) candidates in local elections
 - Mariner Durant - Mayor - Meridian
 - Charles Kimbrough - Meridian
 - Joey Counce - Booneville
 - Corinthian Sanders -Mayor - Jackson

➤ BALLOT ACCESS

➤ ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

- State Convention April 8th in Columbus

- FINANCE & FUNDRAISING
- MEDIA
- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- OTHER
 - Candidates from other Parties are showing interest in switching to the LP.

❖ OKLAHOMA - Tina Kelly

- STATE ORGANIZATION
 - Leadership
 - Tina Kelly, Chair
 - Bailey Betz, Vice Chair
 - Christina Wright, Secretary
 - Ron Phillips, Treasurer
 - Larry Kelly, Technology Coordinator
 - Zachary Knight, Legislative Advisor
 - Robert Lorrach, Volunteer Coordinator
 - This being the first time our state has passed the November vote test, a lot of focus in the last few months has been on Party infrastructure. Interpreting bylaws, forming new committees, getting finances in order, honing budgets, setting goals, etc...
 - Our Bylaws Committee has been busy proposing and discussing ideas for modernizing our out-of-date bylaws.
- STATE LEVEL MEMBERSHIP
- COUNTY NEWS
- ELECTIONS
 - We have a new Candidate Outreach committee. This committee is working on recruitment and support of Libertarian candidates at all levels of government. Candidates continue to step forward to run for office. We have at least one person running for governor.
- BALLOT ACCESS
- ACTIVITIES/EVENTS
- FINANCE & FUNDRAISING
 - Our finances are in good shape. Near future plans include an outreach campaign for the purposes of increasing visibility, growing Party membership (state and the national levels), and expanding our ability to support candidates.
- MEDIA
- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
 - Our I.T. committee has been working on getting the back end of our website working properly and transferring control of all aspects from personal accounts to Party accounts. At this point, we need to add someone with more experience to the team. We're working on a non-disclosure agreement for people with access to sensitive information. Future goals include analytics to help candidates and membership growth.
- OTHER

❖ **TEXAS - John Wilford**

➤ STATE ORGANIZATION

➤ STATE LEVEL MEMBERSHIP

➤ COUNTY NEWS

- Kudos to Denton County for their high-quality, informative, and consistently published newsletter.

➤ ELECTIONS

- A bill to end one-punch straight-ticket voting (HB 25) has been successfully referred out of committee to the Texas House. Political forces in the state seem to be aligning to end this option on Texas ballots. LP Texas testified in favor of this bill, and will be galvanizing our membership to contact their legislators as it moves along.

➤ LEGISLATIVE ACTION

- The Texas Legislature only meets from January through May (140 days) every two years. LP Texas' Political Action Department has been very busy this year opposing and supporting bills that further the cause of liberty. Over 8000 bills were filed in this session.

➤ BALLOT ACCESS

- Ballot access **legislation** has been a top priority for LP Texas and its various coalition partners. Texas has some of the stiffest ballot access requirements in the country.
- The Texas Voter Choice Act (HB 3068) is our highest priority this session. It is expected to be heard in committee by mid-April, and would make petitioning requirements for independent candidates, and alternative parties, more reasonable and on par with other states.
 - Perhaps most importantly for LP Texas, the bill would reduce the ballot retention requirement from 5% of a statewide vote to only 2%. Getting this bill passed would all but ensure that LP Texas could more easily retain ballot access in the future.

➤ ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

➤ FINANCE & FUNDRAISING

➤ MEDIA

➤ INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

➤ OTHER

- We would like to see the LP (national) push quick topic briefs on issues of the day. This will help us communicate information to our members about national/global matters that are of interest to Libertarians.