

**Region 8 Report**

*Submitted on 4/12/17 by Regional Representative Patrick McKnight*

**Massachusetts:**

March state committee meeting was attended by Andy Burns from national who gave us good advice and left us feeling optimistic and enthusiastic about the future. We have started organizing local affiliates and have three scheduled local affiliate meetings and more leads. Membership has not skyrocketed just yet. We are having trouble figuring out whether there are any libertarians elected to municipal office.

Dan Fishman was invited to speak at a tax day rally, not really major. Convention is planned for October 14th and we have started planning.

We lose ballot status in 2018 without running a statewide candidate who gets 3% of the vote. We would probably need financial support for the ballot drive. Cost of the drive would be slightly higher than half of presidential ballot drive. The requirements for auditor, treasurer, etc. are 5000 valid signatures as opposed to 10,000 for president, governor, senator. We would like to run a candidate for auditor. If we can do this (we have in the past), then the presidential candidate does not have to petition in 2020 at all. The 2016 ballot drive cost about $44,000 of which we raised $14,000 in Massachusetts Cost of signatures would likely be higher because D and R signatures don’t count. State committee is dedicated to maintaining recognized status, which is a change from our past position.

Two state committee members have moved out of state and a third quit for personal reasons. We have one new member who actually doesn’t mind calling people on the phone. We are looking for a new treasurer. David Blau is tired of doing that job. Not having much luck though.

**New Hampshire:**

LPNH Convention earned $894.94

Election Results:

 i. Chair-Darryl W Perry

 ii. Vice-Chair – Rodger Paxton

 iii. Secretary – Jilletta Jarvis

 iv. Treasurer – Tom Kershaw

 v. Chair of Membership Committee – Brian McQuade

 vi. Membership Committee Members – Brian Shields, Robert Lombardo, Linda Keane, Sean Michalski

 vii. Chair of Judicial Committee – John Babiarz

 viii. Judicial Committee Members – Caleb Dyer, Rosalie Babiarz, Chip Spangler & Brian Chabot

63% Membership growth since September 2016

We are watching the election laws:

 i. HB218 – Relative to Activities at Polling Places

 ii. HB384 – Establishing a committee to study ballot access in New Hampshire – Voted INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE!

 iii. HB390 – Relative to parties on certain election forms and ballots and relative to the voter registration form used on the day of the general election – Passed/Adopted, Currently in Committee

 iv. HB465 – Relative to domicile for the purposes of voting or holding elective office – Retained in Committee

 v. HB533 – Relative to political advocacy organizations – Retained in Committee

vi. HB537 – Relative to campaign contributions – Passed/Adopted, Currently in Committee

vii. HR7 – Calling on the United States Senate and House of Representatives to consider a constitutional amendment prohibiting campaign contributions unless the donor is eligible to vote in that federal election – Passed/Adopted

 viii. SB33 – Relative to the definition of political advocacy organization – In Committee, Passed/Adopted

ix. SB47 – Relative to enforcement of election laws - ….., Consent Calendar Report Filed

 x. SB107 – Establishing an independent redistricting commission - …., report filed

 xi. SB114 – Prohibiting a candidate from receiving the nomination of more than one party – in committee, passed/adopted

Earned in 2016, have until 2018 election. Require 4% of Governor Vote against an incumbent who has already stated he will indeed be running for re-election. This will be tough.

New Committee! Candidate Support Committee headed by Moe Egan – still gathering committee members (2 interested so far)

Jilletta Jarvis’s speech from the convention was sent out to several media contacts on Saturday – we don’t know if any will do anything with it yet.

Need for Assistance from National:

Candidate Recruitment and Winning strategies that we can share with our candidates – any winning strategies used by any winners from other states? Any fundraising help would be beneficial as well – strategies that work, etc..

**Maine:**

We have 26 members, with 5616 registered Libertarians. The registered Libertarians can neither go up or down until legislation is passed for LPME's official Maine party status and thus, ballot access. We are now gearing up for our 2018 convention and hopefully, if the bill passes, we will nominate our candidates by convention. Pretty much everything is in a holding pattern until late April or May because of these bills

**Connecticut:**

Town committee meetings April 12, (Norwich) 20th(Plainfield) / Rally April 15th @ Capitol/ May 7 town committee formations (Vernon, Manchester, East Windsor)

South Windsor and East Windsor Manchester and Vernon Town Committees May 7th, South Windsor Library Friends Room 1-430PM.

- April 22nd Meriden Town Commitee - Meriden public library 2 pm to 4 pm

Several state rep district, Congressional District 2/ Senate/ President locked in.

Leadership Changes:

Dan Reale Chair, Paul Passarelli Vice Chair, Carol McMahon Treasurer, Heather Gwynn Secretary

**New Jersey:**

The NJLP sold out it’s 2017 Convention at Rutgers University with 103 paid attendees. Speakers included Larry Sharpe and Julie Borowski. The party nominated Peter Rohrman and Karesse Leguerre for Lt. Governor and the ticket has already achieved significant media coverage. They currently have about 500 of the 800 signatures needed for ballot access. The goal is 1600.

Membership continues to reach all-time highs and now stands at 460.

2017 Candidates:

Governor and Lt. Governor – Pete Rohrman and Karese Laguerre

12th District Assembly - Dan Krause and Anthony Storrow

 13th District: Assembly – Eveline Brownstein

22nd District: Assembly – Ryan Manville & Michael Brown

27th District: Assembly – Damien Caillault & Jeff Hetrick

37th District: Assembly – Claudio Belusic

39th District: Senate – Jim Tosone

39th District: Assembly – Jason McKenna

West Milford: Town Council– Michael Chazukow

Hunterdon County: Freeholder – Dan Heitkamp

Monmouth County: Freeholder – Brendon Maroney

Berkeley Heights: Town Council – Tom Maciejewski

Manalapan: Town Council – Hisham Hamed

Northfield City Council – John Ordille

Westfield: Town Council – Valerio Bruscianelli

New Board members elected include Jeff Hetrick, Rich Bowen, Dorit Goikhman and Kevin Lowery.

Patrick McKnight Chair

Jim Tosone Vice Chair

Hunter Romach Secretary

Richard Bowen Treasurer

Jeff Hetrick VP Marketing

Jay Edgar VP Membership

Kevin Lowery VP Programs

Joe Baratelli Central NJ Representative

Dorit Goikhman North NJ Representative

Tim O'Brien South Jersey Representative

**Vermont:**

No candidates this year.

**New York:**

While our LPNY new membership is still going up, a large number of people have yet to renew this year. This is a concern because it represents nearly 50% of the membership. My earlier assessment was that this growth was real and not a presidential year blip and attributed most of the growth to the growth in the number of chapters and TCC. Now I am wondering if there is some other problem or concern that I am overlooking.

LPNY membership

 April 27, 2016 April 7, 2017

271 current paid members 299 current paid members

 74 members lapsed 12/31/15 213 members lapsed 12/31/16

Chapters

 April 27, 2016 April 7, 2017

13 Chapters 18 Chapters

 7 Temporary Chapter Chairs 15 Temporary Chapter Chairs

Our registered voters affiliated with the Libertarian party still remains a mystery. We know for sure we have 6,619 individuals in NYS that are officially affiliated with the Libertarian Party on NYS Board of Elections files as of 2/27/17. This is about 1,000 over our all time high, but it is impossible to determine a trend because of the BoE database reformatting activity. We had over 5,000 active voters in December of 2015, but by January 6, 2016, we had dropped to 3,031 active voters. By April the active voters affiliated with the Libertarian Party rose to 4,519. The increase is due to the BoE in some counties capturing earlier corrupted records and to an actual increase in LPNY registrations. It is difficult to get a good count, but an estimate is that it is about 50/50.

 It has also been established that there are many, many more people whose records have been corrupted by the County BoE’s. This issue has to be addressed this year. I have been collecting specific examples of the problems. I plan to make an attempt to have the BoE in Albany address this issue voluntarily. I have met with several of the county commissioners of the BoE, but the wrongs are egregious and border on being deliberately fraudulent in nature. One of our attorneys don’t like the term fraudulent, but it is the only term that is appropriate. When I attempt to identify those individuals who filled out their voter registration forms with the intent to affiliate with the Libertarian Party and the report I get back does not show those individuals, and knowing that these people are being deliberately not shown, then the file I am getting is deliberately erroneous. To me, that is the definition of fraud. If I receive resistance on the part of the BoE to voluntarily fix this problem and change their policies I may request support from the NLP to take a more forceful course of action.